

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: AOrd5x2017

Text: Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. 2 Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

3 “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. 4 Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. 5 Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? 6 Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? 7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. 9 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, 10 if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. 11 The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. 12 Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Eye - I/S, Math - I, Music - I/S, People - I/S

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
Word - Verbal/Linguistic	Vs. 1 This passage is supposed to grab attention.		Blow a trumpet before this passage is read! Or SHOUT this first line.
Eye - Visual/Spatial	Vs. 3 The people contend that they have done	In God’s perspective, the people are like [bad] actors in a play	Puppets, toy soldiers, dolls, chess pieces, masks - use any of these to

	what is required of them for God but God has not responded. (At least the way they wish. And God actually sees the intention of their hearts, not the actions of their bodies.)	[<i>hypocrites</i> in Greek, which this isn't]; saying the proper lines and moving to their marks on set, but they are not living the drama in their lives.	portray the woodenness of the people's worship.
Math - Logical/Mathematical		It's as if worship needs to be combined with justice to produce any effect. Mathematically, it might be an equation, like $w * j = r$ where w is worship, j is justice, and r is righteousness. In order to produce r, both w and j must be non-zero. If j=0, as seems to be the case in this passage, then it doesn't matter what value w has, the result is 0.	
Body - Kinesthetic		Healing will spring up quickly - like the paralytic getting up from his mat when Jesus forgave and healed him. Like the widow of Zarapheth's son rising after Elijah healed him.	Develop interpretive movement for the piece? If you choose to do so, pay special attention to the words that display interaction among people and the people and God. You will need at least six people to make this happen effectively. God can be portrayed by the reader and the people by those moving.
Musical		Trumpet Fanfare Medieval Blowing the Shofar	Vs 1 - Blow a trumpet! Or a shofar if you have one. Either way, it'll get their attention!
Natural		Vs 5 - What purpose does the bulrush have in bowing its head in the wind? About as much as the people of Judah had in offering their prayers?	

<p>People - Interpersonal</p>	<p>Vs. 3b-7 God's response to the people's complaint that God is ignoring them. God isn't ignoring them; God sees exactly what is going on.</p>	<p><i>Mom has eyes in the back of her head.</i> As young children, my siblings and I were always amazed at how our mother just *knew* what we were up to and could call out our action from another room. What we did not understand is that our mother has a lot of experience of 1) being a kid herself and knowing what we would be getting up to, and of 2) US and what we would be likely to do. God knows the people and even though they think they can go through the motions of proscribed worship without changing a thing about their lives outside the temple, God knows better and calls them out.</p> <p>On the flip side, are the people like kids pulling on Mom's hand/skirt/apron strings/belt loops/whatever, saying, "Mom, Mom, Mom, Mom, Mom, Mom," while she is talking to someone else. Then she squares on the kid and says/growls, "Aren't you supposed to be cleaning your room?"</p>	<p>Gather in groups and discuss these questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If God is in fact paying attention to us and our lives, but we perceive no interaction, where is the disconnect? 2. Is it God not being "God" enough to get our attention? 3. Is it that we have not looked for evidence that God is acting? 4. Is it because we expect something specific and are not looking for subtle interpretations or shades of our desires? (Can't see the forest for the trees kind of thing.) 5. Is God very busy but we have other influences distracting us from what God is doing? What are those influences? Internal or external?
<p>Self - Intrapersonal</p>			<p>What stands in your way of doing justice as described by the prophet? What would keep you from sharing your bread with the hungry, bringing the homeless into your house, covering the naked? What tools does the Lord</p>

			provide to overcome these obstacles?
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