

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: AOrd28x2017

Text: Exodus 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” 2 Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” 3 So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. 4 He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” 5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.” 6 They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

7 The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; 8 they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” 9 The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. 10 Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

11 But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. 13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” 14 And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Word - I, Eye - B, Body - B, Music - S, Self - B

| Smarts | Images in the text/ interesting exegesis | Illustrations | SFX |
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| Word - Verbal/Linguistic MWD | Verse 11 - a pivotal (and potentially dangerous) point for Moses | Characters in literature who make a pivotal decision: •Scarlett O’Hara deciding | |

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| | <p><i>Decisions that affect the way a story goes are plot points and ways that story moves along. The internal workings of characters in literature are windows into the world of the novel.</i></p> | <p>to go to Atlanta to become Rhett Butler's mistress in order to save Tara in <i>Gone with the Wind</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Samwise Gamgee following after Frodo when Gandalf tells him about the ring his Uncle Bilbo left him in <i>The Lord of the Rings</i>. •Hermione Granger breaking the rules by using a Time Turner in <i>The Prisoner of Azkaban</i>. •The title character in The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry decides in a moment to walk the length of England in the fool's hope that it will somehow keep his old friend from dying of cancer, at least until he gets there to see her. <p>Similar to Plot Pivot Point</p> | |
| <p>Eye - Visual/Spatial D2</p> | | <p>The golden figure is visible and tangible and the people give their gold freely to Aaron to make it. I think of Margaret Mitchell's <i>Gone with the Wind</i> and the scene at the charity ball where soldiers come around seeking gold for the confederacy and Scarlett sees an opportunity to be rid of her past - tossing her wedding ring on the heap without a thought.</p> <p>Did the Hebrews give up their attachments to Egypt readily like Scarlett or with great grief like Melanie?</p> <p>The bull is a common symbol for deity and</p> | <p>Two different scenes play out simultaneously - Moses and God on the mountain and Aaron and the people down below. Present the reading as a Reader's Theater with each group in different places in the worship space. This could be the entire sermon if you allow it full range of motion! See also PEOPLE for drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have some images of bulls on hand, maybe? (A Google image search brings many up!) There's always this one. <p>And the response to the above.</p> |

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| | | <p>fertility/strength. Ba'al was depicted as a bull and the bull is also associated with rain. (see NATURE)</p> <p><i>Photos, paintings, sculptures - all visual images that engage the imagination through vision.</i></p> | <p>You might be able to find one at WalMart, as one colleague did:</p>  |
| <p>Math - Logical/Mathematical</p> | | <p>The logic in this story is working at cross purposes. Maybe God expects the people to be “getting it” by now; they’ve seen the mighty works in Egypt and at the edge of the water and now in the wilderness. But let Moses go away for a bit and they freak out and want to metaphorically return to Egypt and be like the nations around them. They just don’t have the old mindset reset yet.</p> <p><i>LOGIC smart because God and the people are working from two different assumptions that are clashing.</i></p> | <p>Multiple choice question on who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Moses (b) Golden calf (c) The Lord <p>Also: One of these things is not like the others (same set) See also EYE if you do it with pictures (<i>see below</i>)</p> |
| <p>Body - Kinesthetic MWD</p> | <p>Vs. 1 Make gods for us...</p> | <p>In a way, the things we make, especially with our hands, hold a part of us. (I’m looking at the bookcase my father made for me as I type this.) (Hi, Dad!)(<3) When God made humanity in God’s image, we were imbued with some of what makes God God. So, what we make holds a bit of us.</p> <p>The way this story turns out and God’s wrath at what the people have done shows that while we may be able to make</p> | <p>Bring in something you have made, or invite people in your congregation to bring in their handiwork. Talk about what it is, why you made it, how you made it, where it “lives” in your life, whether you would gift it or sell it or not.</p> <p><i>BODY smart because objects are things that we have fashioned with our imaginations and hands.</i></p> |

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| | | <p>things, we can't make gods. It just doesn't work that way; we can't make something "bigger" than we are. (like a Horcrux?)</p> | |
| <p>Musical MWD</p> | | | <p>Sounds like a good passage to turn into a blues song or a country song or an aria, from everyone's perspective, too.</p> |
| <p>Natural</p> | | <p>See EYE above.</p> <p>The "god" was a bull - a deity associated with rain which is important in an arid climate. Powerful forces could be manipulated by their symbols.</p> | |
| <p>People - Interpersonal</p> | | <p>Have you ever gotten into an argument with a friend or family member trying to remember who did what to whom when, each remembering it a different way? That seems to be what's happening here wrt who brought whom out of Egypt.</p> <p>(It was always a Speedway.)</p> <p>Have you ever had to nudge someone into remembering their promise?</p> | |
| <p>Self - Intrapersonal D2</p> | <p>Vs. 11ff. - Can you imagine teaching God a thing or two? It's a bit terrifying, because both "fear the Lord" and what does that do to your theology of omnipotent, omniscient, unchanging</p> | <p>Many parents, when their kids have signed up for an activity, insist that they stick with it through the whole season once they've started. There are a lot of lessons to be learned, including dealing with the consequences of</p> | <p>End of verse 10: "... of <i>you</i> I will make a great nation." If God were to come to you - frustrated with recalcitrant humanity - and offered you this boon, what would you do? Humanity will be (mostly) wiped out and <i>you</i> will be</p> |

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| | <p>God? But there it is.</p> | <p>your decisions and learning persistence. Moses seems to be teaching those lessons to the Lord (!!!) -- “You picked these people, so now you have to see this through!”</p> <p><i>Self for lessons learned, building character, etc.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am reminded of an experience when I went down to Gautier, MS, after Katrina went through. We were camped out on the lawn at the Presbyterian church there and a woman who lived in the neighborhood was attempting to find an heirloom quilt in the mess that was once her house. One of our team worked with her on this fruitless exercise and it wasn’t until later that we realized she was acting much more as a counsellor and allowing the woman to work through her grief for losing that handmade object passed down from ancestors. > Both the woman and the Hebrews are looking for a physical anchor, because they are still reeling from the emotional impact of having their world yanked out from under them. | <p>the new progenitor. What would you say?</p> <p>← Do you have something someone else made for you that holds a lot of emotional charge? How much charge and how would you feel if something damaging happened to it?</p> |
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One of these things is not like the others.
Only one of them led the people out of Egypt with a mighty hand.



The LORD