

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: BOrd29x2018 (Proper 26, Pentecost +24)

Text [Job 38:1-7, \(34-41\)](#)

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:

2 “Who is this that **darkens counsel** by words without knowledge?

3 **Gird up your loins** like a man,

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

4 “Where were you when I **laid the foundation of the earth?**

Tell me, if you have understanding.

5 **Who determined its measurements—surely you know!**

Or who stretched the line upon it?

6 **On what were its bases sunk,**

or who laid its cornerstone

7 **when the morning stars sang together**

and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

[\[verses 8 - 33\]](#)

34 “*Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,
so that a flood of waters may cover you?*

35 *Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go
and say to you, ‘Here we are?’*

36 *Who has put wisdom in the inward parts,
or given understanding to the mind?*

37 *Who has the wisdom to number the clouds?
Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens,*

38 *when the dust runs into a mass
and the clods cling together?*

39 “*Can you hunt the prey for the lion,
or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,*

40 *when they crouch in their dens,
or lie in wait in their covert?*

41 *Who provides for the raven its prey,
when its young ones cry to God,
and wander about for lack of food?*

Word - I, Eye - B, Math - I, Body - B, Music - I, Nature - B, Self - I

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
<p>Word - Verbal/Linguistic</p> <p>D2</p>			<p>Here is an idea for a choral reading. Scroll to the bottom of the page!</p> <p>The Job reading and the Psalm could be combined with 2 voices - God and the Psalmist. God asks the question and the Psalmist answers, for example:</p> <p>Job 38:1-5 Psalm 104:5 Job 38:6-7 Psalm 104:3, 19 Job 38:39 Psalm 104:21 Job 38: 25-27 Psalm 104: 14</p> <p>It could also be 2 parts read by opposite sides of the congregation</p>
<p>Eye - Visual/Spatial</p> <p>MWD</p>		<p>God removes Job's close-up focus on his situation to the wide angle vision of the entirety of creation where God's own creative spirit holds everything together.</p> <p><i>There is some SELF smart in this, as well. Not only the visual image of zooming out to a wider scene, but how one's own situation is part of a much larger fabric. This does not lessen one's suffering but it certainly places it in a different perspective and under the care of a far bigger God.</i></p>	<p>⇐ Bring in a camera with a zoom lens to demonstrate the idea, and/or display a high resolution landscape photo, first zoomed in to a small detail, then zooming out to see the bigger picture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <p>To connect with the devastation of Job, have a look at these images and stories from people in MS, post-Katrina: Backyards & Beyond</p> <p>There are also plenty of images for more recent hurricane devastation.</p> <p><i>When Morning Stars Sang Together</i>, William Blake</p>

			<p><i>Job, Francis Gruber, 1944 - [Job looks emaciated, overwhelmed, and is nude. The year of the work makes me think of prisoners in concentration camps. - MWD]</i></p>
<p>Math - Logical/Mathematical</p> <p>D2</p>	<p>God’s response to Job comes after Job has pursued a linear appeal for the disaster happening to him. This comparison comes from an essay by Todd Wier at Blooming Cactus in 2012.</p>	<p>We tend to think of life in terms of Newtonian physics; cause and effect. But life is often more like sub-atomic theory or the theory of relativity; impossible things happening and two things being true at the same time. Making sense of suffering is often pursued as Newtonian - I hurt, what happened to make me hurt? But sometimes, the suffering is diffused and there is no clear point of origin or simple cure.</p>	
<p>Body - Kinesthetic</p> <p>MWD</p>		<p>How to gird up one’s loins.</p>	<p>Wear a kilt! Or a skirt!</p>
<p>Musical</p> <p>MWD</p>		<p><i>If I Were in Charge of the World, Judith Viorst</i></p> <p><i>“Paint with All the Colors of the Wind” from <i>Pocahontas</i></i></p>	
<p>Natural</p> <p>D2</p>		<p>The book Stars Beneath Us: Finding God in the Evolving Cosmos uses Job’s story as a way of exploring how our theology is connected with our cosmology. Unfortunately, our working cosmology comes from the European middle ages and based on Ptolemy’s work from about 150AD! Like Job, we have to reorient our understanding of God as</p>	<p>⇐ Get people in touch with their cosmological theology by asking them to point to different things: Where are the stars? Where is the moon? Where are the trees? Where are the people? Etc. End with Where is God? Likely, folks will point up for stars and moon, horizontally for trees and people, up for God. This belies a very localized flat-earth cosmology! The</p>

		<p>God has revealed a wider, more complex cosmos than we imagine.</p>	<p>stars are all around us, even under our feet. Trees and people are all around the globe, even under our feet. God is not just up, but all around us. We think we're so smart, but we don't even grasp the shape of the world.</p> <p><i>NATURE</i> for the natural elements and categorization, but also <i>EYE</i> for spatial relations and <i>BODY</i> for the pointing.</p>
People - Interpersonal			
<p>Self - Intrapersonal</p> <p>MWD</p>		<p>"Oh, my Lord! How true it is that whoever works for you is paid in troubles! And what a precious price to those who love you if we understand its value."</p> <p>Teresa of Avila, 1515-1582 (scroll to bottom)</p> <p>God's response to Job could be understood to be dismissive or trivializing of his suffering, and consequently listeners may hear that God is indifferent to their suffering. I don't believe this is the case! Even though God doesn't answer Job's complaints directly, Job seems to be entirely satisfied that God showed up and placed his suffering in context, as seen in next week's reading. So be mindful of the message you may unintentionally send with this passage.</p>	