

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: CEpiphany x2018

Texts: [Isaiah 60:1-6](#); [Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14](#); [Ephesians 3:1-12](#); [Matthew 2:1-12](#)

EYE Smart

Those who exhibit EYE smart tendencies have the ability to perceive the visual-spatial world accurately and are very aware of their environments. (e.g., as a hunter, scout, or guide). They also think in terms of physical space perform transformations upon those perceptions (e.g., as an interior decorator, architect, artist, sailors, or inventor). This intelligence involves sensitivity to color, line, shape, form, space, and the relationships that exist between these elements. It includes the capacity to visualize, to graphically represent visual or spatial ideas, and to orient oneself appropriately in a spatial matrix. They like to draw, do jigsaw puzzles, read maps, daydream. They can be taught through drawings, verbal and physical imagery. Tools include models, graphics, charts, photographs, drawings, 3-D modeling, video, videoconferencing, television, multimedia, and texts with pictures/charts/graphs.

Text: **Isaiah 60:1-6**

Arise, shine; for **your light has come**, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 2 For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. 3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 4 Lift up your eyes and **look around**; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons **shall come from far away**, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. 5 Then you **shall see and be radiant**; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. 6 A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
<p>Mental images Actual images Movement from place to place</p>		<p>1) Vs. 1 - "your light has come" makes me think of the headlight of an approaching train. While the image is pretty common, I think the excitement and relief of an arriving train is what Isaiah may have in mind. Similarly, the glory rising makes me think of a sunrise or a cloud moving away from the sun.</p>	<p>1) Do you have a real bright flashlight? Do you have a spotlight in your worship space? Shine this around as this passage is read. Or, simply raise the lights in your sanctuary or lift the blinds on your windows.</p>

		<p>2) Vs. 5b - 6 - This makes me think of supply trains or cargo ships or delivery trucks arriving. Since we are just past Christmas, an image of a UPS or FedEx truck pulling into the driveway works. Of course, Isaiah is talking about a long stream of deliveries!!</p>	<p>2) Enlist a group of people to bring in lots of packages as these verses are read! Set them around the communion table.</p> <p>3) Sparklers!! (Be careful, though.)</p>
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Text: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

- 1 Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.
- 2 May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.
- 3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
- 4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.
- 5 May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
- 6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
- ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.
- ¹¹ May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.
- ¹² For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.
- ¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.
- ¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
<p>Mental images Actual images Movement from place to place</p>		<p>As in the Isaiah passage, we again have people bringing tribute.</p> <p>1) Vss. 12 & 13 - has anyone from your congregation done any relief work? See if you can use their pictures of the work they've done.</p> <p>2) images of rainfall, the stars and moon, mountains, harvests - images of God's bounty in nature piled up</p>	<p>If you don't use the idea with the passage from Isaiah above, try it here!</p> <p>This is not quite the kind of tribute parade the psalmist has in mind, but I think the spectacle is the same.</p>

Text: Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— 2 for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, 3 and how the mystery was **made known to me by revelation**, as I wrote above in a few words, 4 a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 5 In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: 6 that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 7 Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power.

8 Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, 9 and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 10 so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

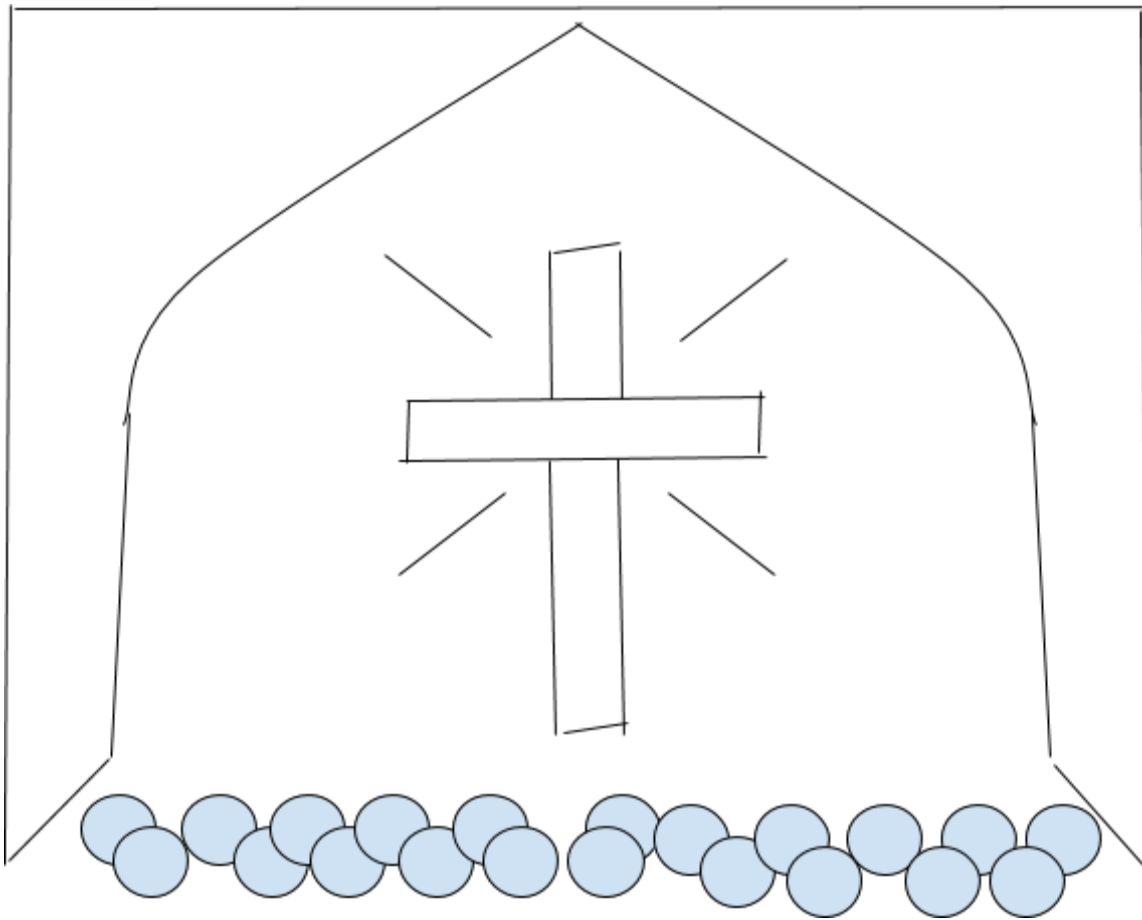
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<p>Mental images Actual images Movement from place to place</p>		<p>The “revelation” theogram! (see below)</p> <p>Or, an Agatha Christie novel! There is always a “reveal” in her works that only Hercule Poirot or Miss Marple noticed based on an obscure item lying about or a bit of information thrown away by another character. (This is a bit of WORD smart for extra measure).</p>	<p>⇨ Bring a box into worship and make a big deal about what’s inside. Invite suggestions from the congregation - you could even play a type of 20 Questions with it. After you’ve built it up for a bit, you can then pull a cross out and talk about how God has revealed God’s remarkable generosity by giving us Jesus.</p> <p>⇨ If you have one of those coffee mugs that changes when hot liquid is added, bring that in and talk about how God added Jesus to our lives in order to make God’s intention for humanity appear. Check out this link to make your own!</p>

Text: Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and **have come to pay him homage.**" 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" 7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
<p>Mental images Actual images Movement from place to place</p> <p>This scene has been depicted in art for centuries. Artists have chosen to be as representative of the supposed era and place as possible or have instead placed their own situation on the story.</p>	<p>Jesus' story is meaningful in one's cultural context. ⇒</p>	<p>A series of paintings done from posed pictures - Jesus Mafa. Included in this series is one of the Magi visiting the family outside an African hut.</p> <p>Luca Amendola - Adoration of the Magi</p> <p>For a challenging interpretation, check out this painting done in 1996 (found at The Tehran Projects).</p> <p>A painting by Tai-Shan Schierenberg, 2012</p> <p>And a blog post by Tamara Hill about the same!!</p>	<p>What is your specific context? Do you have a congregation full of military members and families? How would that visit look to them? What gifts would they bring to the Christ child?</p> <p>A congregation full of professors in a college town?</p> <p>A congregation full of small town business owners? Farmers? Blue collar workers?</p> <p>What gifts would YOU bring to the baby in Bethlehem?</p>



An audience is in a theater wondering what is behind the curtain. They make some guesses based on information at hand; playbills, word of mouth, sounds and smells coming from backstage, etc. But only when the curtain is drawn back does the audience "know" what they've come to see. In verse three, Paul writes that "*the mystery was made known to me by revelation*". For Paul, God has drawn back the curtain on God's plan for humanity and the first, second, and last act are all about Jesus Christ.