

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: CAdv4x2018

Texts: Micah 5:2-5a, Psalm 80:1-7, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-55

NATURE Smart - MWD

This intelligence is more recent than the others, having been added last to the list by Dr. Howard Gardner. People who are NATURE smart have expertise in the recognition and classification of the numerous species—the flora and fauna—in an individual's environment. This also includes sensitivity to other natural phenomena (e.g., cloud formations, mountains, etc.) and may express itself in herbal lore, folk taxonomy, hunting rituals, or animal spirit mythology. Use lots of examples from nature to engage these people in your preaching.

Text: Micah 5:2-5a

2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are **one of the little** clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. 3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is **in labor** has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. 4 And he shall stand and **feed his flock** in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; 5 and he shall be the one of peace.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
nature	This passage may have been written to people about to be placed under siege by the Assyrian army. It is a word of hope to people looking at an uncertain future.	<p>1) ← Being under siege means that one's existence is dependent upon what is stored in an immediate area. There may also be tunnels or channels that allow access or ways to find water. It may be like an ant hill or colony. Of course, the outcome depends on whose resources give out first, the besiegers or the besieged.</p> <p>2) It may seem like the</p>	<p>€ Bring in an ant farm and talk about how ants build tunnels and rooms using the network to store food and raise young'uns. (Find out if any educators in your congregation have one unless you plan to tend an ant farm after purchasing it.)</p> <p>Vs 4. Do you have anyone in your congregation who raises sheep? Do you know anyone in the area who does? The hope of</p>

		<p>Judeans in tiny Bethlehem are caught between a rock and a hard place, but that is where some trees grow! Through a process called "physical weathering", plant roots can break rock apart and flourish. Bethlehem is small - like a seed that in the right conditions can grow in an impossible place.</p> <p>3) Another small thing with a big influence is dust falling through earth's atmosphere as a shooting star. Most meteors that make it into our air space are very small and break apart with a bright burn.</p>	<p>this passage is that God will provide a shepherd for the besieged flock; or maybe provide a guard dog, donkey, or llama!</p> <p>⇐ Do you know anyone with space rocks? You can purchase one on Amazon, if not.</p>
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Text: Psalm 80:1-7

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, [shine forth](#) 2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! 3 Restore us, O God; [let your face shine](#), that we may be saved. 4 O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. 6 You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves. 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
		<p>1) Ultraviolet light is used as a way to purify water by killing harmful bacteria. Does God's brilliant shine purify us of our sin?</p> <p>2) On a related note, sunshine nourishes plants through photosynthesis. God's shining glory feeds our souls by nourishing hope!</p>	<p>Bring in an ultraviolet light bulb or for lots of fun, a black light. They are not the same, but a black light will make anything fluorescent glow. Try writing "Shine, O Lord!" on a poster and then light it up with the black light.</p>

Text: Hebrews 10:5-10

5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, **he said**, "**Sacrifices** and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; 6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." 8 When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), 9 then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He **abolishes the first in order to establish the second**. 10 And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
		<p>1) vs. 5 - Christ's "first words" coming into the world - are they like a child learning to speak?</p> <p>2) Jesus is quoting Psalm 40 in verse 5. The psalmist says: "... you have given me an open ear". In having this open ear, the psalmist (and Jesus) receive God's word and will and then go out and do them. It's like a see opening up its hull in order to sprout. The process is called imbibition; the seed soaks up enough water to make it swell and burst its covering. We get enough of God's word in us, we burst our protective covering and start growing!</p> <p>3) There are some options for the verb in verse 9, including the given word "abolish" or "take up". Taking up may suit our sensitivities better; we trust that Jesus built on his own</p>	<p>€ bring in some seeds! You can also find pictures of seeds in various states of germination. As an extra SELF or PEOPLE smart sfx, invite people to consider where they are in the process; still a seed, beginning to absorb the Word, starting to swell with it, beginning to burst your covering, setting down roots and sending up leaves, growing out of the ground, establishing roots, bearing fruit?</p> <p>€ Bring in a basket of these items and place it on the communion table. If you are serving the Lord's Supper this Sunday, invite people to come forward for intinction and take a nut, berry, or</p>

		<p>tradition and added to it as he did God's will. He did not "abolish" the law but fulfilled it. As a NATURE smart illustration, consider Jesus' action here as gathering food; herbs, nuts, mushrooms, berries, or garden produce and adding it to the table he sets for us.</p> <p>4) A Killdeer will attempt to distract a predator away from its nest by faking a broken wing. It "sacrifices" itself in an effort to protect its young.</p>	<p>'shroom, as well. If you are not serving communion, invite people to sample the fruits on their way out of worship. Or put them on a table for sharing at fellowship.</p>
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Text: Luke 1:39-55

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, [the child leaped in her womb](#). And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, [the child in my womb leaped for joy](#). 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
52 [He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;](#)
53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
		1) Do Mary and Elizabeth (and for that matter, John and Jesus) have an emotional symbiotic relationship ? When Elizabeth hears Mary, John jumps, which prompts Elizabeth to sing a song of praise. 2) Mary is speaking politically and theologically in verse 52, but maybe the task of evening out a lumpy lawn	⇐ Crocodiles and Egyptian plovers have a symbiotic relationship. Bring in some pictures and talk about how the plover gets a nice meal from the crocodile's teeth, while the crocodile gets a nice dental cleaning from the plover. Win, win!

		<p>might be illustrative. One of the things recommended is removing the thatch. Thatch is matted dead grass that has clumped together and is preventing water and sunlight from getting through to the ground (sin and or injustice?). The second step is to add scoops of fresh topsoil where the low places are and re-seed (repentance and studying the Word of God?).</p> <p>3) Maybe Mary and Elizabeth are quantumly entangled? This is more MATH smart, but I wanted to include it, anyway.</p>	
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