

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: C Baptism of the Lord x 2019

Texts: [Isaiah 43:1-7](#); [Psalm 29](#); [Acts 8:14-17](#); [Luke 3:15-17](#); [21-22](#)

Don't forget: [CBaptx2016](#)

PEOPLE Smart

In his book, *Multiple Intelligences in the Classroom*, Dr. Thomas Armstrong writes that those who utilize people smarts, or *interpersonal intelligence*, are those who have an

“...ability to perceive and make distinctions in the moods, intentions, motivations, and feelings of other people. This can include sensitivity to facial expressions, voice, and gestures; the capacity for discriminating among many different kinds of interpersonal cues; and the ability to respond effectively to those cues in some pragmatic way.”

Some occupations where highly developed People Smart skills are put to use include counseling, politics, and sales.

Stories that demonstrate meaningful, subtle, humorous, or absurd interactions between people can be used as People Smart illustrations.

Drama is considered a People Smart technique, so skits and dramatic readings will fire those neurons.

Activities that encourage interaction with two or more people are effective methods for special effects. Low risk games, questions for small group discussion, and “homework” projects where people work in teams and/or intentionally engage others who are not in your church family are good ways to engage your congregations’ people smarts.

Text: Isaiah 43:1-7

But now **thus says the Lord**, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: **Do not fear**, for **I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.** 2 **When you pass through the waters**, I will be with you; and **through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you**; **when you walk through fire you shall not be burned**, and **the flame shall not consume you.** 3 For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. **I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.** 4 Because **you are precious in my sight**, and **honored**, and I love you, I give people in return for you, **nations in exchange for your life.** 5 **Do not fear**, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring **from the east, and from the west** I will gather you; 6 I will say **to the north**, "Give them up," and **to the south**, "Do not withhold; bring my sons **from far away** and my daughters **from the end of the earth**— 7 **everyone who is called by my name**, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
<p>PEOPLE smart</p>		<p>Vss. 1-2 – TSA Precheck lets you bypass the trials of the security line after you receive the right credentials - background check and fingerprinting involved. Being called by the Lord offers even stronger benefit and protection! The relationship makes all the difference.</p>	<p>Vss. 5-6 – Gather your people from the four corners, literally. Depending on your space, invite some or all who are sitting in the north and south and east and west of your sanctuary – calling out those cardinal directions – to come together, either around the communion table or around the sanctuary. Make a circle, holding hands. Maybe do this for the prayers of the people or for benediction. PEOPLE for interactions, but also EYE for use of space, and BODY for movement</p>

Text: Psalm 29

A Psalm of David.

1 Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.

3 **The voice of the Lord** is **over the waters**;
the God of glory **thunders**,
the Lord, over **mighty waters**.

4 **The voice of the Lord** is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

5 **The voice of the Lord** breaks **the cedars**;
the Lord breaks **the cedars of Lebanon**.

6 He makes Lebanon **skip like a calf**,
and Sirion **like a young wild ox**.

7 **The voice of the Lord** flashes forth **flames of fire**.

8 **The voice of the Lord** shakes **the wilderness**;
the Lord shakes **the wilderness of Kadesh**.

9 **The voice of the Lord** causes **the oaks** to whirl,
and strips **the forest** bare;
and in his temple **all say, "Glory!"**

10 The Lord **sits enthroned** over **the flood**;
the Lord **sits enthroned** as king forever.

11 May the Lord **give strength** to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
PEOPLE smart	Recognizing that the psalm understands storms and floods and such as direct effects of the voice of the Lord, which we generally do not.	Can you think of an authority figure [or maybe just a friend] in your life whose bearing is such that it feels like a flood or thunderstorm when they come into the room? Maybe a parent, teacher, or coach? Or perhaps someone who was usually of calm demeanor that could	Invite your congregation to take a few moments to converse with one another to come up with modern images that would demonstrate the power of the voice of the Lord for an urban / suburban audience. After a few minutes, ask them to call out what they came up with.

		<p>become a tempest under the right (or wrong) circumstances. Sometimes this can be an endearing characteristic, especially if the person's temperament remains positive while forceful. Sometimes it can be traumatic, as with an alcoholic mood swing or someone who is abusive.</p> <p>So what might God's motivation be here? <i>Assessing another's motives is PEOPLE Smart</i></p>	<p>If you have trouble coming up with things, why? Does it have to do with our understanding of cause and effect? Do we have trouble thinking of God as expressing God's power in physical manifestations? If so, what does that mean for our faith? <i>A bit of SELF in this last bit</i></p>
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Text: Acts 8:14-17

14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit 16 (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). 17 Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
<p>PEOPLE smart</p>			<p>Invite your members to... Think of a specific person you know who isn't a believer or who doesn't seem to have had an experience of the Holy Spirit. Envision that person as God might (see Isaiah 43 above), and pray for the person to receive the Holy Spirit. Perhaps also pray for guidance on how you might speak with that person to share your faith and witness.</p> <p>BONUS: Pair with someone you didn't come with today to be prayer partners for this project for the coming week.</p> <p><i>PEOPLE for the relationship with the person, but heavily SELF, too, for the reflective, internal activity</i></p>

Text: Luke 3:15-17; 21-22

15 As **the people were filled with expectation**, and all were **questioning in their hearts** concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 John answered all of them by saying, **"I baptize you with water**; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; **I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals**. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and **fire**. 17 **His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary**; but **the chaff** he will burn with unquenchable **fire**."

21 Now when **all the people were baptized**, and when **Jesus also had been baptized** and **was praying**, **the heaven was opened**, 22 and the Holy Spirit **descended upon him** in bodily form **like a dove**. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

[See [FBL 01/2016](#) for EYE Smart SFX of baptism by fire]

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
PEOPLE smart		<p>Vss. 15-16 – Have you ever had to modify people’s expectations of your abilities or performance? “I appreciate your confidence in my abilities, but really we should call a plumber / accountant / mechanic / messiah, etc..”</p> <p>The time in the intramural football season when I, a lineman, in a trick play, caught a pass for a touchdown, and then was made a wide receiver in the next game to terrible effect. I kept saying, “I’m a lineman!” but they insisted, and sadly I proved my point.</p> <p>Dr. McCoy on ST:TOS – “I’m a doctor not a...!”</p>	<p>Perform the passage as a reader’s theatre piece. It doesn’t lend itself to such very well, since there isn’t much dialogue, but there are several characters - John, Jesus, the people, the voice from heaven, and the narrator. Performing the action would be as key as the dialogue.</p> <p><i>See below for an example</i></p>

Reader's Theatre Version of Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (NRSV)

Arranged by David A. Douthett for the [More Than Hearing](#) podcast, 2019

NARRATOR As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

[PEOPLE mill about talking with each other and point furtively at JOHN]

John answered all of them by saying,

JOHN "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

[JOHN "baptizes" several people, including JESUS, who then goes to one side to pray]

NARRATOR Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.

OPTIONAL SFXs *Sound effect of a thunder clap*
Use a "DOVE" - artificial or origami - on a pole or on a string descending on JESUS
If you have projection screens, show video of a DOVE in flight

[PEOPLE stare and point at the DOVE]

NARRATOR And a voice came from heaven,

VOICE (OFFSTAGE) "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

[PEOPLE are astonished!]

[JESUS either looks up and raises hands OR continues to pray OR spreads hands wide, looking at the audience]