

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: CLent4x2019

Texts: [Joshua 5:9-12](#) • [Psalm 32](#) • [2 Corinthians 5:16-21](#) • [Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32](#)

NATURE Smart

Naturalist intelligence revels in the natural world of plants, animals, weather, rocks, and such. They love to be outside and are generally good with observation, characterization, and classification of natural phenomena. In the life of the Church, this intelligence has found most of its expression coupled with MUSIC Smarts to explore God's glorious creation through hymnody, or with EYE Smarts in production of art, such as stained glass windows depicting natural scenes. It is admittedly difficult to explore nature in worship when we hold worship inside. However, the scriptures are full of nature in stories and parables and psalms, and such avenues are certainly still open to the contemporary preacher. So using natural allusions and perhaps even poetic ones whenever possible is useful. Paint word pictures of outdoor scenes! Modern projection equipment provides a way to bring nature inside without too much dirt and pollen and mosquitos to bother the worshipers. Try offering prayerful meditation while looking at a natural object, such as a stone, plant, flower, or water.

Text: **Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." 3 So he told them this parable:

11b "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. 13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16 He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

17 But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."'

20 So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21 Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

25 "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27 He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' 28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

29 But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' 31 Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
<p>NATURE smart</p>		<p>The younger son behaves like a bit like a virus, consuming what it wants and needs, producing nothing but waste, and moving on to the next territory, often destroying its host in the process.</p> <p>The article about viruses on wikipedia says, <i>"... they use the machinery and metabolism of a host cell to produce multiple copies of themselves, and they assemble in the cell. ... Viruses can be released from the host cell by lysis, a process that kills the cell by bursting its membrane and cell wall if present: This is a feature of many bacterial and some animal viruses."</i></p> <p>The older brother may think of his younger as worse than a virus, perhaps a leech or tapeworm or other parasite! (Only search for images</p>	

		of parasites if you have a strong constitution!)	
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Text: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

5:16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. 17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
NATURE smart		Vs. 17 - A metamorphosis, as it were, like a butterfly or the less popular cicada. The cicada may be the better analogy, if less attractive. Here's a brief video from BBC's Sir David Attenborough about the life cycle of the cicada. After a long sojourn underground, they emerge, climb a tree, and shed their subterranean skins as an empty husk, freeing their wings. Then they begin to sing. And, well, copulate. Here's an article about them.	Bring in butterfly cocoons or cicada shells, or show pictures of such (as they are perhaps out of season or not indigenous to your location).

Text: Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

3 While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

6 Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. 7 You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah

8 I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. 9 Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

10 Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD. 11 Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
NATURE smart		Vs 3-5 – Physical effects of stress and guilt? <i>More BODY smart.</i> Vs. 6-7 – Consider the recent flooding in the U.S. Midwest or in Mozambique, Africa. What would a safe place look like for people in the midst of such disasters? Vs. 9 – temper of a horse or mule... Here's an interesting article about mules And here's one about horse temperament . Not surprisingly, the articles by mule and horse fanciers are quite	

		positive in their outlook on the animals. It is possible that we've learned a thing or two about how to relate to these animals differently in the 2500 or so years since the psalm was written.	
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Text: Joshua 5:9-12

5:9 The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

10 While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. 11 On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. 12 The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
NATURE smart		<p>Vs. 9 – God rolling away disgrace is perhaps like a storm rolling <i>out</i>. Describe watching the front move through, chasing the clouds away, revealing a bright, clear sky. How refreshing it can be when you've been under clouds for a long time to finally see some sun and blue sky.</p> <p>... crops of the land of Canaan: <i>"The main crops were wheat, barley, legumes, figs, grapes and olives."</i> Agriculture of Canaan & Ancient Israel</p>	← Here's a timelapse vid Here's another Here's a third