

# More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: CLent3x2019

Texts: [Isaiah 55:1-9](#) • [Psalm 63:1-8](#) • [1 Corinthians 10:1-13](#) • [Luke 13:1-9](#)

## WORD Smart

WORD smart is - essentially - what the church has done very well for a couple centuries. Since the Reformation, we have had (especially in Protestant traditions) very word heavy worship services with a great deal of emphasis on the sermon as the focus of the experience. While that isn't always a bad thing - some people are very gifted wordsmiths and storytellers - if the preacher has an axe to grind or worse, doesn't \*have\* a point, the sermon can be either a bludgeon or a snooze fest. If, however, the preacher is aware of how WORD smart reaches people, then the sermon can be presented in a wide variety of different formats with an abundance of illustrations and special effects from the other seven intelligences. Stories and references to literature and poetry will still play a part in a WORD smart sermon as well as clever word play and well written prose.

**Text:**            **Luke 13:1-9**

At that very time there were some present **who told him** about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 4 Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

6 Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7 So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be **wasting the soil**?' 8 He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
	Vs 1 - "who told him" Information travelled differently and it's possible Jesus is just now hearing about this.	Vs 5 - repent = <a href="#">present tense subjunctive</a>  This is the difference between a one time	The fate of the Galileans and those killed in the tower collapse have a tabloid like reporting about them. They seem to

	<p>But he hears the subtext just fine and calls out the “us” and “them” dichotomy.</p> <p><a href="#">Mark Davis</a>: “ As an alternative, Jesus offers a parable that invites digging, cultivating, dunging, and doing everything one can to give a fig tree a chance to bloom. It is a plan of action to assist the one who is failing, not a passive hope that they get what’s coming to them.”</p>	<p>event and a lifetime of continual choices to stay on the path that follows after God’s lead. Think of it as a STOP sign on the road; you stop for this written instruction and then - when it’s safe - you go on. Then, when you come to the next one, you stop again. Maybe you will continue straight on through the intersection or you will turn. You will keep coming to stop signs (or other traffic instructions) and need to make decisions about your direction.</p> <p>Vs 7 - wasting the soil What a unique insult! Akin to waste of space, mouth breather, or any other type of insult that suggests someone is just a lump of clay. But the gardener is not ready to give up; lots of dung and digging may make the difference.</p>	<p>have been sensational stories, so write a click bait headline for them.</p> <p>⇐ Get a stop sign and post it prominently for the sermon.</p> <p><i>This borrows from EYE smart for the visual aid, but the symbol is what is important for WORD smart.</i></p> <p>OR, find some stop sign stickers and pass them out to the congregation. Invite them to put them somewhere where they will see them for the coming week.</p> <p>OR, simply pay attention to how many stop signs you will see this week and remember that this is what Jesus is asking us to do; stop and think about the path we’re on and adjust accordingly.</p>
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**Text: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

6 Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. 7 Do not become idolaters as some of them did; **as it is written**, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." 8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. 10 And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 These things happened to them to serve as an example, and **they were written down to instruct us**, on whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. 13 No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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	<p><a href="#">Bill Loader</a>: "Paul does not espouse the view: "once saved, always saved", because he sees salvation as something focused not on getting into heaven and escaping hell, but on a relationship with a person. That relationship is either intact and growing or it is not. The wedding does not guarantee the marriage. That's Paul's message here."</p>	<p>The Corinthians had placed too much trust in the gift of salvation than in the one who gave it to them. The gift replaced the giver.</p> <p>My brother in law's mother told a story about a beautiful bowl prized by her mother. One day, she was helping her mother clean and broke the bowl. Her mother was devastated and tried not to make Martha's guilt even greater by blaming her but she was not entirely succeeding at it. Her father, seeing her devastation and the way her mother was piling onto it, said to his wife, "If you loved that bowl so much, then it's a good thing it's gone."</p>	<p>Find a way to include this relationship of grace in the liturgy; use <b>verse 12</b> as a basis for a prayer of confession and use <b>verse 13</b> as an affirmation of forgiveness.</p> <p>Going back to the worksheet from three years ago, what other kinds of words are written for instructions?</p> <p>Bring in: owner's manuals, cookbooks, dictionaries, textbooks, maps, contracts, etc.</p>

**Text: Psalm 63:1-8**

O God, you are my God, I seek you,  
my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.

3 Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.

4 So I will bless you as long as I live;  
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

5 My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

6 when I think of you on my bed,  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

7 for you have been my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

8 My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me.

9 But those who seek to destroy my life  
shall go down into the depths of the earth;  
10 they shall be given over to the power of the sword,  
they shall be prey for jackals.  
11 But the king shall rejoice in God;  
all who swear by him shall exult,  
for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

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	<p><a href="#">Katie Langston</a> refers to CS Lewis in her devotion at God Pause.</p>	<p>1) "He [Lewis] pursued and yearned for this Joy as "that sharp, wonderful stab of Longing ... [that] dashes in with the agility of a hummingbird claiming its nectar from the flower, then zips away. It pricks, then vanishes, leaving a wake of mystery and longing behind it."</p>	<p>These verses are not only a wonderful Call to Worship, but a great way to begin the prayers of intercession.</p> <p><a href="#">Joan Stott</a> has some great ideas!</p>

		<p>2) "If we fail to acknowledge truthfully who [our enemies] are and what they are doing, then we cheapen forgiveness and, indeed, may perpetuate or exacerbate the cycle of violence and vengeance. The path of forgiveness cannot be authentic unless there is truthful moral and political judgment. Of course, that means, in the first instance, acknowledging the senses in which all of us have been, and to some extent still are, enemies of God. That is what it means to repent daily, to continue to unlearn the patterns of sin and evil as we seek to become holy people." <i>Jones, Gregory, Embodying Forgiveness: A Theological Analysis, Eerdmans, 1995, p. 263</i></p>	
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**Text: Isaiah 55:1-9**

Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
 come to the waters;  
 and you that have no money,  
 come, buy and eat!  
 Come, buy wine and milk  
 without money and without price.  
 2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
 Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
 and delight **yourselves** in rich food.  
 3 **Incline your ear, and come to me;  
 listen, so that you may live.**  
 I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
 my steadfast, sure love for David.  
 4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
 a leader and commander for the peoples.  
 5 See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
 because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
 for he has glorified you.

6 Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
 call upon him while he is near;  
 7 let the wicked forsake their way,  
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
 let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
 nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
 so are my ways higher than your ways  
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
	<p><b>nephish</b>, "soul",) נַפְשׁ (Isaiah 55:2-3) For those of us living in a world formed by Greek ideas, <a href="#">we hear soul</a> and we think the wispy part of our lives that floats up to heaven. But actually, the word "soul" here in</p>	<p>"... without price..."            Remember the old <a href="#">MasterCard commercials</a> that listed a variety of objects and their prices then ended with something that was one of a kind and entirely unique called "<a href="#">priceless</a>"?</p>	<p>Verse 2 - a bottomless hunger that can only be satisfied by God.</p> <p>U2 "<a href="#">I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For</a>"</p> <p>I have climbed the highest mountains</p>

	<p>Hebrew means living being. This is clearly identified by the context here that includes eating, drinking and listening. The soul, even if one wants to move into Greek territory of a distinct soul from body, is not separate but .intimately connected</p>	<p>This is the gift God is promising - something that is so unique, so special and one of a kind that it is priceless.</p> <p><a href="#">Samuel Wells</a> commentary at The Christian Century: ⇒</p> <p>“Christianity isn’t simply about satisfying people’s hunger. It’s a huge gamble on the hunch that what people are really hungry for is something they don’t know the name of and wouldn’t initially recognize even when they found it.</p> <p>And what is that mysterious discovery, that extraordinary food? It’s the wondrous truth that there’s something even deeper, even more long-lasting, and even more insatiable than our hunger. And that’s God’s hunger for us.”</p>	<p>I have run through the fields Only to be with you Only to be with you.</p> <p>I have run, I have crawled I have scaled these city walls These city walls Only to be with you.</p> <p>But I still haven’t found What I’m looking for.</p> <p>The entire passage - but especially the first 3 verses - sound like an OxyClean commercial or any other kind of infomercial. At some point in your sermon, you could try quoting the first few verses as though this was a sales pitch.</p>
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