

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: CEaster4x2019

Texts: [Acts 9:36-43](#) • [Psalm 23](#) • [Revelation 7:9-17](#) • [John 10:22-30](#)

SELF Smart

Intrapersonal intelligence is the awareness of one’s own self – one’s emotional state, motivations, strengths, weaknesses, and interactions with others. These may be your contemplatives, counselors, or prayer warriors. They may also be folks who are quickly moved by the music or prayers in worship. We don’t always do well to provide opportunities for SELF Smart folks, because the internal work they do, which is critical to a healthy spiritual life, is hard to recognize or direct. Allowing time for silent prayer and either silent or guided meditation will help them engage in the worship service more completely. They are likely to do it anyway, so why not make it explicit?

Text: John 10:22-30

22 At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. **It was winter**, 23 and **Jesus was walking** in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. 24 So **the Jews gathered around him and said** to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, **tell us plainly.**” 25 Jesus answered, “**I have told you**, and **you do not believe**. The works that I do **in my Father’s name** testify to me; 26 but **you do not believe**, because **you do not belong to my sheep**. 27 **My sheep hear my voice**. **I know them**, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. **No one will snatch them out of my hand**. 29 What my Father has given me **is greater than** all else, and **no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand**. 30 **The Father and I are one.**”

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
SELF		<p>Describe a time when someone [esp. someone you cared for] didn’t believe you, even though you were telling the truth.</p> <p>A woman accused me of leaving my dog’s poop on the sidewalk, even though I was holding it in a bag in my hand. It was an upsetting experience. It probably isn’t the best example for this passage, but it still gets me riled to</p>	<p>Invite people to make a list of what makes a person believable. Is it words, actions, attitudes, or something else? What is the balance if it is more than one at a time? Maybe give them a slip and ask them to rate each as a percentage.</p> <p><i>See below</i></p>

		<p>think about it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation bias → The tendency to interpret data in a way that supports one's expectations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [In these polarized days,] to what extent are you more likely to believe someone who agrees with what you already believe about a given situation?
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How much do each of these figure into making a person believable to you?
 Choose a percentage for each. (Ideally, your total for the five should add up to 100%)

Their words	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
Their actions	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
Their attitude	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
Their appearance	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
My beliefs and attitude	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100

Text: Revelation 7:9-17

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” 14 I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

16 They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
SELF	The dynamics of worshiping - recognizing another as greater than yourself and offering your allegiance to that one as a result	We are commanded to worship only the Lord God, but we don't always use the right internal dynamic. It sometimes becomes recitation and expectation of benefit, rather than heartfelt offering. Can you think of a time when you were honestly	Give people time to meditate on the ascription of praise in verse 12. Consider each of the seven (again) attributes assigned to our God. What do they entail? What would it mean to you to give or attribute each to God? (Is there a difference between giving them and

		<p>impressed with someone's skills that so surpassed your own that you were stopped in your tracks?</p> <p>Maybe it was a sports figure, like young Tiger Woods, or a singer like young Kathleen Battles, or some other virtuoso in a field you dabble in.</p> <p>Think of Maestro Saliari in <i>Amadeus</i>, who was enthralled by the brilliance of Mozart. (Forget for the moment his repulsion at the character of same).</p> <p>Or maybe just meeting an idol in person and being starstruck.</p> <p>[Or maybe think of a cult member's devotion to the leader, like Lynette Fromme toward Charles Manson.]</p> <p>These in the white robes with palms are so starstruck by the Lamb that they gave their lives in the tribulation to be loyal to him. And unlike our other idols, the Lamb is worthy of such devotion.</p>	attributing them to God?)
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Text: Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

3 he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
SELF		<p>I wonder if being alone in the wilderness was such a powerful experience that it brought David (or whomever) through a sense of fear to a place of peace.</p> <p>Here's a video on the topic of confronting the wilderness alone.</p> <p>Here's an article about the benefits of being alone in the wilderness.</p> <p>Here's another.</p> <p>Here's info about a show called <i>Alone in the Wilds</i>.</p>	<p>Reflect: Where do you feel safe and secure? Why?</p> <p>With whom would you feel safe, even in the valley of the shadow?</p>

		<p>Here's a page about privileged white people paying to go meditate in the wilds to get connected with themselves.</p>	
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Text: Acts 9:36-43

36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. 37 At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. 38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay."

39 So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. 40 Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. 41 He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive.

42 This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. 43 Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
SELF		<p>Of four articles I read on belief in miracles, this is the best of them, by Richard Gunderman, Chancellor's Professor of Medicine, Liberal Arts, and Philanthropy, Indiana University, writing at www.theconversation.com. The others tended toward flawed logic on either side of the question of miraculous happenings, mischaracterizing miracles or their effect on nonmiraculous existence, or simply poo-pooing opposing arguments without any serious consideration of their merit. Nevertheless, this article from Psychology Today includes some enlightening statistics about belief in miracles in</p>	<p>The text says many people believed in the Lord because of the news of this happening. Many people in our day have a hard time believing in such miracles at all. Where are you on that spectrum?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you believe this story is true, do you believe that Jesus' followers can still perform miracles? If so, why don't we hear more about it? If not, why not? • If you don't believe this story is true, what do you believe about Jesus' resurrection? If God is not able to perform miracles through people, what sort of god is that? • Is there a point on the spectrum where a person can believe in God while not believing in miracles

		the U.S.	and still be called a believer? • Is it better to believe in miracles and not seek them or to trust in Christ but not believe in miracles?
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