

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: CEaster6x2019

Texts: [Acts 16:9-15](#) • [Psalm 67](#) • [Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5](#) • [John 5:1-9](#)

SELF Smart

Self aware people understands strengths, are often a pioneer, or an entrepreneur, or a risk taker - sorta sums up Jesus, doesn't it? Self-reflective exercises of prayer, meditation, and silent imagination benefit these types. According to the Gospels, Jesus spent a lot of time in prayer and I imagine his teaching left many people contemplating their own lives and relationships.

Text: Acts 16:9-15

9 During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and **help us**." 10 When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

11 We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We **remained** in this city for some days. 13 On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where **we supposed** there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. 14 A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. 15 When she and her household were baptized, she **urged us**, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, **come and stay at my home**." And she prevailed upon us.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
SELF smart	Vs 13 - following a hunch? Jill Duffield points out that water is in all the readings (implied in the	Here are some stories about people encountering unusual things on their travels. I liked this short story	How do we know where God is sending us? Are we willing to respond when we sense that God is instructing us to go to

	<p>earth's increase in the Psalm). In what way is water presented and how does that fit with your own personal discipleship?</p>	<p>about an impromptu English lesson in Vietnam.</p> <p>And this one about a surprising night sky in Morocco.</p> <p>Lydia hears about Jesus and it re-directs her life; not by much, she seemed to already be on a path. This experience simply sends her further down the road.</p>	<p>unplanned places?</p> <p>Do we take the time to talk and listen to God through regular prayer and silent Holy listening? If and when we sense that God is leading us in a certain direction, do we test out that direction, seeking affirmation from church, family, friends and other trusted sources?</p>
--	--	---	--

Text: Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

10 And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and **showed me** the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

22 I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. 25 Its gates will never be shut by day--and there will be no night there. 26 People will bring into it the **glory and the honor of the nations**. 27 But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

22 Then the angel **showed me** the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3 Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; 4 they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
SELF smart	A list of things that will not exist in this new Jerusalem: No temple No sun No moon No shut gates No night No unclean thing No practice of abomination/falsehood No tree of knowledge of Good and Evil Nothing accursed No need of light/lamp	What contemporary images could be substituted for those mentioned? Temple - work, home, sports arena - a place where one's devotion is directed ETC	Make ⇐ this list available in the bulletin or as a hand out. Encourage people to consider how each of them lays a claim on their attention. Then, consider how their absence frees us to focus on God's presence. Try doing this for a week (or three) and see how this may shift your attention in your daily life.

	<p>How do these things make claims on our lives now?</p> <p>For those of us who live in unholy cities pervaded by evil, sin, and death, vulnerable to the invasions of terrorists, this is a glorious imagining of a complete and perfect safety - a safety guaranteed not by walls and gates and homeland security, but by the full reality of the presence of God in Christ.</p> <p>~ Angela Askew, Sermons that Work, 2004</p>	<p>⇨ Safety in numbers</p> <p>Security in one's home or among family</p> <p>Comfort in the presence of those who love you - church family surrounding you in a difficult time?</p>	<p>⇨ This safety comes from presence; think of times when "presence" has provided you with a feeling of security and comfort.</p>
--	---	--	---

Text: Psalm 67

1 May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us, Selah

2 that your way **may be known** upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.

3 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you **judge** the peoples with equity
and **guide** the nations upon the earth. Selah

5 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

6 The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.

7 May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
SELF smart	Vs 6 - the earth has yielded its increase - "A potent antidote to fear and anger is to look at the ways in which God has blessed us."	Psalm 67 is a " good day "! The psalm itself and the linked essay ring with celebration and joy. Consider other joyful days when you celebrate (e.g. Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries, etc) - and encourage people to think of those settings as the Psalm is read. <i>[This is a WORD and PEOPLE smart exercise but done in a SELF contained experience!]</i>	Vs. 6 - make a list of your blessings; the things you <i>know</i> God has given you that have made your world bigger. Keep that list with you in your car, at work, by your bed, next to your morning mirror, on the refrigerator - any place you are likely to see it. When you are stressed or angry or not feeling well, look at the list and remember how God has blessed you already.

Text: John 5:1-9

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. 3 In these lay many invalids--blind, lame, and paralyzed.

Other ancient authorities add, wholly or in part, waiting for the stirring of the water; 4 for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and stirred up the water; whoever stepped in first after the stirring of the water was made well from whatever disease that person had.

5 One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" 7 The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." 8 Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." 9 At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
SELF smart	<p>Debi Thomas - <i>Journey with Jesus</i></p> <p>"I know what it's like to cling to brokenness because it's familiar."</p> <p>Also:</p> <p>"For me, the question stings because the very idea that God cares about what I want — that he's curious about my desires, that he wants me to recognize and articulate them — blows me away."</p> <p>Plus:</p> <p>"[Jesus'] desire to heal is intrinsic to his</p>	<p>How many of us are making do with something that is not entirely busted but is not working properly?</p> <p>A car? A bathroom? A commute to work? A relationship? A Dream?</p>	<p>Think about the things in your life that are broken - a little or a lot - and listen to Jesus ask you if you want them to be made whole.</p> <p>What is your answer?</p> <p>Especially since Jesus will never stop asking?</p>

	<p>character — it doesn't depend on me. In other words, "Do you want to be made well?" is a question he will never stop asking, because his heart's desire is for my wholeness, my freedom, and my thriving, and he understands that there is painful, surgical power in the question itself."</p>		
--	--	--	--