

# More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: COrdinary 18x2019

Texts: [Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23](#) • [Psalm 49:1-12](#) • [Colossians 3:1-11](#) • [Luke 12:13-21](#)

## NATURE Smart (MWD)

This is the ability to observe, investigate, experiment, and discover the natural world, including weather, animals, plants, and geologic structures. Scripture is full of stories where the geography of the land has played a role - think Mt. Sinai or The Red Sea or the Sea of Galilee as it was struck by a sudden windstorm while the disciples were out on it. Wind and drought and wildfires and persons being changed into pillars of salt as well as the natural treasures of the wonderful world being used to build temples and places of worship run throughout the Bible. As you prepare sermons or worship experiences, pay attention to the way the landscape or nature sets the stage.

**Text:** **Luke 12: 13-21**

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me."

14 But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" 15 And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."

16 Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man [produced abundantly](#). 17 And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to [store my crops](#)?' 18 Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have [ample goods laid up for many years](#); relax, eat, drink, be merry.' 20 But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'

21 So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
<a href="#">NATURE smart</a>	Abundant crops ⇒	•Here is <a href="#">a list</a> of the ten crops that feed the world. Wheat and sorghum may have been part of the crop the rich man stored in his barn.	⇐ National Geographic has <a href="#">an interactive map</a> with the geographical location of production for these foods.

		<p>•The <a href="#">Environmental Literacy Council</a> has some recommended resources and links to treaties and farm bills.</p> <p>•According to <a href="#">Visual Capitalist</a>, the most lucrative cash crop is marijuana. Colorado is raking in billions in taxes since legalizing. Cocaine and opium are also lucrative. The rich man may not have been growing narcotics in his fields, but using these examples could be an interesting update for the parable!</p>	
	Food storage ⇒	<p>The <a href="#">Food and Drug Administration</a> has tips for safe food storage.</p> <p><a href="#">What is Science Magazine</a> has a short article on the reasons for storing food. Among them are saving on grocery bills, maintaining a healthy diet, and reducing waste. Maybe even reducing waists!</p> <p>I also found an updated Tupperware system called <a href="#">Silo</a>. Tupperware still exists!</p> <p><a href="#">Alan's Factory Outlet</a> has 15 tips for storing food in a shed. He'll also sell you one.</p>	<p>⇐ bring in some food storage containers</p> <p>Although, I realized as I clicked through all these ideas that the parable has come to life! The primary reason for storing food is to save it for "later", having <a href="#">ample goods laid up for many years</a>. Many years may not come and then what happens to all that stuff in your barn? Will your kids eat the beans you worked so hard to can?</p>

**Text: Colossians 3:1-11**

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, 3 for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. 7 These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life.

8 But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have **stripped off the old** self with its practices 10 and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. 11 In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
NATURE smart		<p>Vs 9 - plants will <u>abscise</u> or cut away parts of themselves, such as leaves falling off deciduous trees in the fall.</p> <p>This is a part of the life cycle for some trees and shrubs, but <u>leaf drop</u> can signal a problem with a plant, too.</p> <p>It may be another bridge too far (as in the question of animal sentience in the Psalm), but dropping leaves is a defensive mechanism that plants use to protect themselves. It is a hard wired option for moving into the future. Dropping or stripping off our old practices of living is also a decision for how we will live going into the future.</p>	<p>⇐ bring in some fall leaves and talk about how plants no longer need them going into winter. Demonstrate how heavy snow could break a branch that is still leafed out - got any pictures of trees damaged by an early snow storm?</p> <p>Keeping their old "dressing gowns" on could be hazardous to their health - so why do we keep our old sinful natures wrapped around us?</p>

		Again, this is a stretch, but we sometimes have to reach to find an illustration for these intelligences!	
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**Text: Psalm 49:1-12**

1Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all inhabitants of the world, 2both low and high, rich and poor together. 3My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

4I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle to the music of the harp.

5Why should I fear in times of trouble, when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me, 6those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches?

7Truly, no ransom avails for one's life, there is no price one can give to God for it. 8For the ransom of life is costly, and can never suffice 9that one should live on forever and never see the grave.

10When we look at the wise, they die; fool and dolt perish together and leave their wealth to others. 11Their graves are their homes forever, their dwelling places to all generations, though they named lands their own. 12 Mortals cannot abide in their pomp; **they are like the animals that perish.**

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
NATURE smart		<p>Vs. 12b - the thought is that like the animals, we also die. What we have accumulated will be left behind. But do animals <u>have an awareness</u> of their own mortality? This changes the equation from</p> <p>Humans + animals = death takes everything</p> <p>To</p> <p>Humans + animals = know what's coming</p> <p>Raising this question may be more than this psalm is designed to address, but the author does equate our <u>bios life</u> to that of other animals. Is it too far to suggest that animals are cognizant of the <u>zoe life</u>?</p>	

**Text: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23**

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,  
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

12 I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, 13 applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. 14 I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a [chasing after wind](#).

18 I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me 19 —and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. 20 So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, 21 because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. 22 What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they [toil under the sun](#)? 23 For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
<a href="#">NATURE smart</a>		<p>•Vs 14 - I wonder if ol' Qoheleth would be so sour if he had known about <a href="#">this kind</a> of wind chasing! Whoa</p> <p>(Or wind chasing by <a href="#">running around in the Himalayas</a> which would make ME chase wind. oy)</p> <p>Of course, if the wind pushes you unexpectedly in either of this places, you could be hurt or killed. So, <a href="#">maybe Q is right</a>.....</p> <p>-----</p> <p>•v22 - toil under the sun A quick Google search for working in the sun returned so many articles and tips that I'm just going <a href="#">to link</a> to that page.</p>	<p>⇨ bring in a kite (smallish) and an electric fan</p> <p>Practice to figure out how best to fly the kite with the wind from the fan and see how you may need to struggle to get it aloft and keep it there.</p> <p>Once you've got it going, have someone start moving the fan or changing the speed or even turn it off.</p> <p>This demonstrates the capriciousness of air currents and why Q is so fatalistic about running after them.</p>