# More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: COrdinary30x2019

Texts: Sirach 35:12-17 • Psalm 84:1-7 • 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 • Luke 18:9-14

## **PEOPLE Smart - MWD**

Interpersonal = People Smart

This person likes to be with people, [empathize], interact, lead, teach. This learner learns best by working with others and is also very tuned to others' feelings and needs. Involve your students by inviting them to present and lead class activities. Outreach and service projects are other opportunities where these people thrive. ~Sharon Ely Pearson, Building Faith

#### Text: Sirach 35:12-17

12 Give to the Most High as he has given to you, and as generously as you can afford.13 For the Lord is the one who repays, and he will repay you sevenfold.

Divine Justice

14 Do not offer him a bribe, for he will not accept it;

15 and do not rely on a dishonest sacrifice;

for the Lord is the judge,

and with him there is no partiality.

16 He will not show partiality to the poor; but he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged.

17 He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan, or the widow when she pours out her complaint.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
mesome of the city's rich and powerful abused their station, offering worship for show while oppressing the poor and helpless. Others used the public arena of	This was a time of prosperity in Jerusalem. But the world was changing and many Jews were agitating for more Hellenization - adoption of the Greek way of life- that would bring more opportunities for trade	What keeps coming to mind is being in a dark room when the power goes out and everyone starts asking if anyone else has a flashlight. Everyone is in the dark but we all start looking for light.	This could take some doing but generate some smoke or some steam and then shine a laser through it.  Or, turn off the electric lights and light candles. This is more EYE smart.  Break into smaller groups

Temple worship to advance themselves and their agenda. Many of the underclass believed worship at the Temple had become merely a show ritual that paid lip service to Yahweh.

A Lectionary Resource for Catholics

and political interaction.

Ben Sira is writing when people are aware of Hellenization but still committed to their Jewish roots, including the study of the Torah. Given that his words are addressed to the youth, however, it is also likely that many of them were being drawn to the Greek way of life. Biblewise

If your congregation lights candles at Christmas Eve, remind them how the light of candles dispels the dark.

God's concern for the one who is wronged is like seeing that one light in the middle of mist or darkness.

and discuss:

•Is the repayment to God in verses 12-13 monetary? Or is there a different way to "repay" God?

•verse 16 states God shows no partiality to the poor. Does this sound like Good News?

•verse 17 states that God will listen to the one who is wronged. Reflect on ways you have seen this in action.

#### Text: Psalm 84:1-7

- 1 How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
- 2 My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.
- 3 Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
- 4 Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Selah
- 5 Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
- 6 As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.
- 7 They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
PEOPLE		Vs 4 - happy houses: Grandparents' sorority/fraternity Organizations that feel like family Experiences at camp GOOD workplaces	Use this psalm as a call to worship or a call to prayer. Have one person read the psalm and pause after each verse or group of verses to allow small groups to reflect on what images come to mind. After a couple minutes, close with a single word that had the most impact from each group.

## Text: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

6 As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

16 At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! 17 But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. 18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
PEOPLE		Marathon runners crossing the finish line  Verse 16 is an echo of Jesus on the cross	In groups:  Share times when you have "finished" something that took a long time to complete.  Share a time when you felt abandoned in your quest; share appropriately.  Could this be an opportunity for reconciliation in the Body?

### Text: Luke 18:9-14

9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:

10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.'

13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
PEOPLE		Is the Pharisee demonstrating Communal narcissism?  "Nevertheless, the results	•Present this Scripture reading as a Reader's Theater.
		of this investigation do not suggest that communal narcissists are intentionally deceiving the public. A communal narcissist's beliefs might reflect self-deception, not just public impression management. Perhaps	•Discuss:  What "group" of people are scorned simply for being?  How often do we behave like the Pharisee, comparing ourselves
		narcissists are trying to convince the public in order to deceive themselves. Subconsciously, they might be saying, "I desperately need to believe I am exceptional. If you all believe it, then maybe I can really believe	favorably to "others"?  How often do we call on God's mercy, honestly acknowledging the ways we are sinners?
		it too." Further research is required to shed light on communal narcissists' subconscious beliefs." ~ Arash Emamzadeh	