

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: AAdv2x2019

Text: Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” 3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” 4 Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 9 Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 10 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Eye - S, Math - B, Body - B, Music - I, Nature - B, Self - B

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
Word - Verbal/Linguistic			
Eye - Visual/Spatial D2			[baptism of fire!]
Math - Logical/Mathematical MWD	Vs. 3 = “Any engineer would tell you what my grandfather learned: it’s no small thing to build a highway, let alone through a wilderness. High places have to be made low, the rough places a plain. In the process, some people will lose and some will gain. For some the	This video shows some basic needs and plans for building a road. It takes a lot of time, material, energy, and resources to “make the paths straight.” My father would love these videos since he once built a road outside Hot Springs, SD!	

	<p>highway will seem like salvation. Others aren't going to like the way things turn out.</p> <p>And yet, we still build highways.” ~ Katie Hines-Shah, The Christian Century</p>	<p>Here is another video that recycles old tires! (first 2 ½ minutes of the video)</p>	
<p>Body - Kinesthetic</p> <p>D2</p>		<p>The Judean wilderness is desert scrubland, mostly rolling hills with very little vegetation. Have you ever walked in the desert? (The U.S. west and southwest has similar terrain, so maybe so.) I have walked a little bit around Qumran. I have walked in Arches National Park, UT. I have walked in White Sands, NM. Having grown up in western PA with trees everywhere, the absence of plants and dryness of earth and air is remarkable. I became aware of my breath, my skin, my tongue, my legs. All of these were affected by the dryness and heat.</p>	<p>← Invite people to imagine themselves in the desert wilderness, becoming aware of their breath, tongue, skin, leg muscles. [If you live in a desert region, this may not be very interesting!] Imagine coming to a stream of water and getting into it. How might this contrast be like repentance?</p> <p>See also SELF, NATURE</p>
<p>Musical</p> <p>D2</p>		<p>A folk song about Ein Gedi, the oasis along the Dead Sea</p>	
<p>Natural</p> <p>MWD</p>		<p>Discuss the importance of going to a wilderness place for spiritual retreat, reflection, and renewal. To be out in the elements is to be in the midst only of what God has made, and not what humans have made. It reconnects us with our primal nature as creatures, and vulnerable creatures at that.</p> <p>Vs. 10 - In an arid climate</p>	<p>← Open this discussion with the trailer for Bear Grylls' new Netflix show, "You vs. Wild"</p>

		like Judea, it is imperative that plants bear fruit. The ax lying at the root of the tree indicates the gardener is about to do some pruning; this tree is not productive, so it is about to be thrown into the mulch pile.	
People - Interpersonal			
Self - Intrapersonal D2	<p>The warnings and metaphors (chaff and grain) urge the people to consider their lives and turn (<i>metanoia</i>) to God.</p> <p>“What the wind and fire remove are the impurities: the anxieties, self-absorption, apathy, or greed that make us less generous, less just, or less respectful of others. Alexandr Solzhenitsyn has it right: there is a line between good and evil, but it doesn’t run between groups; it runs through the heart of each person.” ~ Elizabeth Myer, The SALT+ Project</p>	<p>Traffic fines are supposed to keep drivers in order.</p> <p>Food labels are supposed to help us make good decisions about what we eat.</p> <p>Laws and statutes are in place to give us limits for behavior in society.</p>	<p>What winnowing forks, winds, fires, and axes have worn away your outer hull and provided opportunities for you to more fully be the person God intends you to be?</p>