

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: ALent2x2020

Text: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

The Example of Abraham

4 **What then are we to say** was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was **justified** by works, **he has something to boast about**, but not before God. 3 For what does the scripture say? “**Abraham believed God**, and **it was reckoned to him as righteousness**.” 4 Now to one who works, **wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due**. 5 But to one who without works **trusts** him who justifies the ungodly, such **faith** is **reckoned as righteousness**.

13 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but **through the righteousness of faith**. 14 **If** it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15 For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

16 For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, 17 as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
Word - Verbal/Linguistic <i>Strengths</i> <i>Characteristics</i> <i>Expression</i>	Definition of “ faith ” complete trust or confidence in someone or something		Make some hand held signs with synonyms of the word “faith” and have people hold them up. Explore how each of them is demonstrated by God as Paul writes about it in this letter.
Eye - Visual/Spatial <i>Strengths</i> <i>Characteristics</i> <i>Expression</i>			

<p>Math - Logical/Mathematical</p> <p>MWD</p> <p>Strengths Characteristics Expression</p>	<p>Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of verse 14:</p> <p>"[Inheritance] was based on God's decision to put everything together for him, which Abraham then entered when he believed. If those who get what God gives them only get it by doing everything they are told to do and filling out all the right forms properly signed, that eliminates personal trust completely and turns the promise into an ironclad contract!"</p>	<p>•Work = wages due Righteousness = wages given</p> <p>•For Paul, relying on the law is void of relationship. It is a contract that legally binds but holds no other connection between the party of the first part and the party of the second part.</p> <p>For Paul, Abraham relied on a promise which is much more in line with a relationship (and is PEOPLE smart).</p>	<p>How would this look written out as a flow chart?</p> <p>See below for an example.</p>
<p>Body - Kinesthetic</p> <p>D2</p> <p>Strengths Characteristics Expression</p>	<p>Peterson again:</p> <p>"God made something out of Abraham when he was a nobody."</p>	<p>Remember those old Charles Atlas advertisements? In the same way these ads would "make a man" out of someone, God made Abraham the progenitor of millions of people! Pretty good for a 75 year old guy!</p> <p>In <i>Captain America: The First Avenger</i>, Steve Rogers goes through a sudden and dramatic change, going from a skinny weakling to a buff and brawny superhero in a matter of minutes through no work or effort on his part.</p>	<p>Invite a dancer or an athlete to talk about how they have trained to become what they are. Do they feel the results are theirs alone? Or do they feel they have been led to become what they are? Are there any benefits for others from your training?</p>
<p>Musical</p> <p>MWD</p> <p>Strengths Characteristics Expression</p>		<p>My Life Flows on in Endless Song (or <i>How Can I Keep from Singing?</i>)</p> <p>The God of Abraham Praise</p>	

		<p><i>Not What These Hands Have Done</i></p> <p><i>Sizo Bambelela</i> (Never Give Up)</p> <p>What if God took someone with no musical training or practice and made that person a master of, say, piano or violin, asking only that the person believe it would happen? What might that person's reaction be? What might be the reaction of those who practiced for years to master their instrument?</p>	
<p>Natural</p> <p><i>Strengths</i> <i>Characteristics</i> <i>Expression</i></p>			
<p>People - Interpersonal</p> <p><i>Strengths</i> <i>Characteristics</i> <i>Expression</i></p>	<p>The synonyms for the word "faith" all suggest a relationship; trust, confidence, conviction. To "break faith" means to be disloyal.</p> <p>"[Paul is] arguing the quality of Abraham's response." ~ Bill Loader</p>	<p>In Scripture, God's relationship with us - while tested - has never broken.</p> <p>"No priestly manipulations, no religious powerbrokers, no secret or ceremonial rites, no works prescribed in biblical law are required. It just needs us to believe in this love." ~Loader</p>	<p>Discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it possible to trust something without testing it out first?
<p>Self - Intrapersonal</p> <p>D2</p> <p><i>Strengths</i> <i>Characteristics</i> <i>Expression</i></p>	<p>"Grace initiates and gives, faith responds and receives. Even in receiving we need help." ~ Imir Gashi, <i>A Plain Account</i></p>		<p>How do you receive gifts? Do you take it and put it aside to be opened later? Do you open it right away? Do you ask where it came from? Do you make a big deal over it and the person who gave it to you? Are you embarrassed to</p>

			<p>receive it, especially if it is in public and you weren't expecting it? Do you feel immediately put upon to reciprocate?</p> <p>How do you receive gifts? How do you receive God's grace?</p>
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