

Sunday 23rd August

Psalms with a WOW



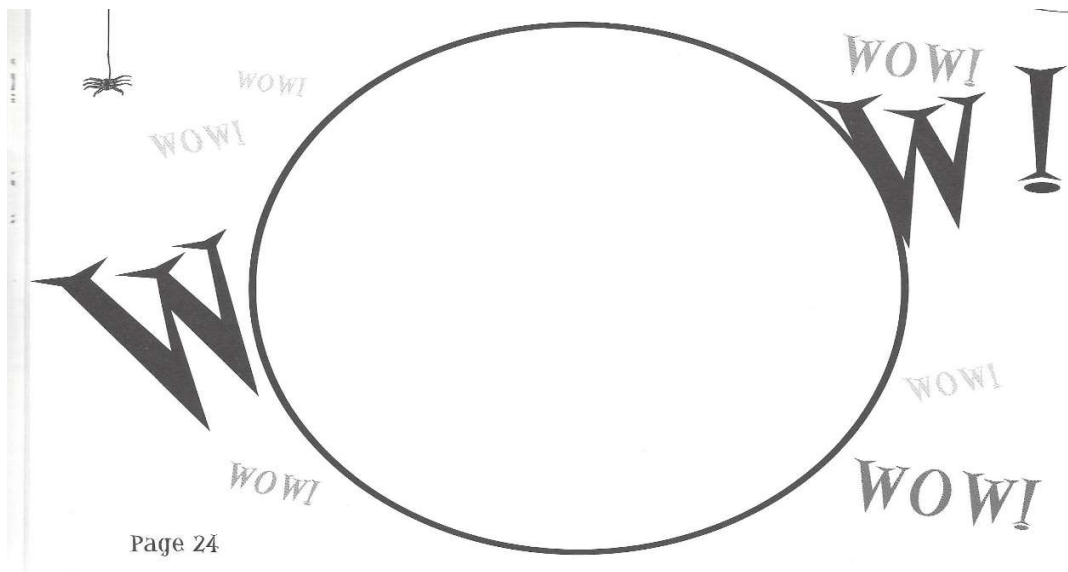
Perhaps you know this already - but if you take a Bible, judge where to open it so that when it falls open it is in the middle of the book, with about the same number of pages on each side, you should find yourself in the book of Psalms. The book of Psalms is in the Old Testament part of the Bible.

Check out the books on either side, in case another time you need to turn some pages to get to the right place for the book of Psalms. Job is immediately before Psalms whilst Proverbs follows on after. Guess how many psalms there are in the book of Psalms. Hint – there are more than one hundred.

Psalms are poems, songs and prayers composed centuries ago by the Jewish people reflecting the ups and downs of their life experiences in Old Testament times and the central part God played in that story. Psalms are still used today by Jewish and Christian congregations in their worship.

Psalms have different moods and reflect different emotions. One of these is what you could call a WOW experience where the words : amazing, fantastic, brilliant, life changing, out of this world or exciting might be used to describe what someone feels if it happens to them.

What are your WOW experiences?



If your sheet has been printed out use the shape on the paper, if not, just get a piece of paper and make your own big WOW picture.

Now think of a time or times that you have experienced a WOW moment and how special that was and draw it in your shape. It could be one picture or several smaller

ones. Ask what other people at home might choose as their WOW moment and why.

Image used with permission. © RE Today Services 2020, Registered in England and Wales as a Company Limited by Guarantee No. 4192501. Registered Charity No. 1086990. Registered Office: 5-6 Sovereign Rd, 12 Imperial Court, Birmingham, B30 3FH <https://www.retoday.org.uk/>

Sunday 23rd August



David's WOW

A well known story in the Old Testament is about David and Goliath. David was the young shepherd boy who slew the enemy giant and later became a king renowned for his good and bad deeds. However David is also remembered for composing many beautiful psalms often with music. He expressed many of his inner feelings in his psalms. David had, like everyone, WOW moments. Psalm 8 is one where David records his amazement at the heavens above and the glory of God. You can also find it in the Sparks Story Bible as "Praise God."



Look at the questions under the psalm and see if you can find a verse for each answer. Psalms are often divided into verses with numbers at the side.

Psalm 8

1. Our Lord and Ruler

Your name is wonderful

Everywhere on earth

You let your glory be seen

in the heavens above.

2. With praises from children

And from tiny infants,

You have built a fortress.

It makes your enemies silent,

And all who turn against you speechless.

I often think of the heaven

your hands have made,

and of the moon and stars

you put in place.

3. Then I ask "Why do you care

about us humans?

Why are you concerned

for us weaklings?"

4. You made us a little lower
than you yourself,

and you have crowned us
with glory and honour.

5. You let us rule everything
your hands have made.

And you put all of it
under our power---

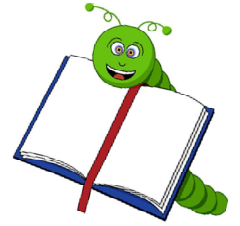
6. the sheep and the cattle
and every wild animal,

7. the birds in the sky,
the fish in the sea
and all ocean creatures.

8. Our Lord and Ruler,
your name is wonderful
everywhere on earth!

CEV

Sunday 23rd August



- ❖ Can you find places where David praises God?
- ❖ Find David's WOW moment looking up.
- ❖ What question does David then ask and who is he asking?
- ❖ What place has God given to people on Earth?
- ❖ What responsibilities do people therefore have?
- ❖ David's WOW moment was when he looked up into the night sky and saw the awesome majesty of the heavens which made him ask questions as to what God might be like and what responsibilities God had placed on people, including himself, to look after creation.
- ❖ The WOW moment filled David with wonder, praise and thankfulness.

Why not take a look at.....

Present day scientists have had in the last few months their own WOW moment. They were looking at stars just like David, but at a very particular star - our biggest star the sun.



View the clip and see what they found: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=g67s63OAZ0k>

Prayer

Dear God

Thank you for the WOW moments in our lives that help us to be amazed at your wonderful world and its peoples. May we never take these moments for granted.

Amen