

## ‘Big Story’ poetry



### Bible verses:

Psalm 27:1-14

A song of trust in God



### Aim:

To realise that David shared his honest feelings in songs and poems



### Today’s fruit:

Gentleness



Gentleness is seen in the way David trusts God to help him overcome his enemies.

Today we are going to explore *Psalm 27* and learn how David decided to trust in God during difficult circumstances.

There is a lot of beautiful poetry in the Bible. Many different authors shared their joy, sadness and even anger with God through their poems. One of the most well-known poets of the Bible is David.

### Each child will need:

- *Psalm 27* handout – you may wish to enlarge to A3
- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Explore It ideas* handout

### You will need:

- Today’s fruit sign: *Gentleness*
- Flip chart or paper to make a group list
- To display the following headings: Verse 1: God’s greatness; Verse 2: Being thankful; Verse 3: Feelings about being thankful
- To write a poem in advance – see Action it (optional)



## Start it

As the children are getting ready for the start of the session, start playing this clip from *Aladdin*.

## Video

**Aladdin - Prince Ali by Disney** uploaded by DisneyiFan (stop clip at 2:47, Aladdin bowing before the sultan)

### Say:

In the film *Aladdin*, Aladdin is granted three wishes by the genie. In the clip we saw his first wish come true. His wish to become a mighty prince was fulfilled.

### Ask:

- If you had three wishes, what would you wish for?
- Do you know what happened when Aladdin was granted his wishes? Did everything turn out how he expected?
- Focus on one of your wishes. Can you think of anything that might go wrong if it was granted?

### Say:

Often, but not always, when we wish for something, we are focused on ourselves. This can sometimes be the case when we pray to God as well.

### Ask:

In what ways do we treat God as if he is a great genie in the sky granting our wishes?

### Say:

Today we will discover more about how we can share our true feelings and hopes with God and ensure that our prayers are focused on living our lives for him and not for ourselves.



## Sing it

### Say:

Our memory verse for this month reminds us that all Scripture is inspired by God. Let's share it together.

## Memory verse

**'All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching us how to live correctly.'**

(2 Timothy 3:16 ICB)

### Say:

Our song for today is based on our memory verse. Two weeks ago, we looked at some of the words including different versions of this verse.

### Ask:

Can you remember what the words 'teaching', 'rebuking' and 'correcting' meant within this verse?

## Alternative translation

**'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.'**

(2 Timothy 3:16 *NIV*)

**Say:**

Let's sing the song together.

## Song

**'2 Timothy 3:16' official lyric video** by JumpStart3 (1:50)



## Tell it

**Say:**

Around five per cent of The Big Story is filled with wonderful poetry. There are many poems scattered throughout the Bible. One poetic book, Song of Solomon, is found in the Old Testament and is full of love poetry shared between a man and woman. Some readers believe this can be a metaphor, and it is about God's love for his Church.

**Ask:**

Which book of the Bible do you think contains the most poems?

**Say:**

Poems can be found in many books, especially in the books of *Job*, *Psalms*, *Proverbs*, *Ecclesiastes* and *Song of Solomon*. However, the book of *Psalms* has the most, with 150 poems. The word 'psalm' means a sacred song or hymn, so perhaps these poems may have been sung.

**Say:**

Many of the psalms in the Bible are believed to be written by one person, David.

**Ask:**

We've met David before: what do you remember about him?

**Say:**

David was the shepherd boy who played the harp and became king after Saul. Saul used to like David – and his harp playing – but when he found out that David was to be the next king, Saul tried to kill him.

**Ask:**

Out of 150 psalms, guess how many David may have written?

**Say:**

These days we think David wrote at least 73 of the poems in the book of Psalms! That's a lot of

poetry, where David shares his frustrations, his joy, and at times his anger. The Psalms are a perfect example of how we can share with God everything we are feeling. Our poem – or psalm – for today is *Psalm 27*. It is likely that David wrote this psalm when he was facing challenging circumstances.

## Psalm 27

Give each child a copy of the *Psalm 27* handout, ideally A3 size. Divide the fourteen verses among the children who are comfortable reading out loud and read through the psalm. Afterwards give them time to annotate it with drawings and notes that represent what the psalmist is trying to say. For example, they may draw a little house with a number one on the top next to verse four to help them remember that David wants to dwell in the house of the Lord.

The aim is to encourage the children to dive into the poetry of *Psalm 27* and to think about what David is trying to communicate. This will also enable you to have a discussion with the children about the different aspects of these verses.

### Ask:

Now that we have spent time looking at this psalm in more detail, what do you think it is about? What is David trying to communicate to God?

### Say:

We mentioned earlier that David was facing a challenging situation when he wrote this psalm. It could well have been written when David was being chased by King Saul who wanted to kill him.

Display the *Gentleness* sign.

### Ask:

In what ways did David show the fruit of gentleness in his response to his enemies?

### Say:

*Psalm 27* is about trusting God. David doesn't want his life to be ruled by fear and anger. He wants to know that God hears him, and although he has people against him as enemies in his life, he wants God to help him cope with them.

## Action it

### Say:

Today we're going to follow in David's footsteps and write a poem of thanksgiving.

### Ask:

What kinds of things fill us with gratitude for God's goodness?

Compile a list of the children's gratitude ideas. This will serve as an ideas bank when they come to write their poem. They can work individually or as a group to write their poem.

Ask the children to create a poem with three short verses; they can decide whether it needs to rhyme or not.

## Verse 1: God's greatness

The children can look for examples in the psalm if they are struggling to know what to write.

## Verse 2: Being thankful

What are the children thankful for? They can use ideas from the bank they created earlier.

## Verse 3: Feelings about being thankful

What are the children's feelings about being thankful? How do they feel about what they are thankful for?

It would be great if you could share an example you have written yourself to show the children how it's done.

When the children have completed their poems, they can share them together.

## Pray it

Ask the children to find a place to sit or lie down where they feel comfortable. Ask them to close their eyes and explain that we are going to take a moment to totally concentrate on David's poetry. Encourage the children to listen carefully to *Psalm 27* and find one line that stands out for them. The clip uses a different translation from the one they've been exploring.

## Listen

*David Suchet NIV Bible 0505 Psalm 27* by Hear God's Word (2:31)

When the psalm has finished, ask the children to think of the one thing they would like to ask God. Encourage them to spend time praying and asking God to answer their prayer, and then bring the session to a close.

## Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



*Explore It* is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaueiv)

## 'Big Story' poetry

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



### Bible verses:

Psalm 27:1-14

A song of trust in God



### Aim:

To think about what faith means to you



### Today's fruit:

Faithfulness



### Worship

Take a moment to be calm and still and listen to the words of this song inspired by *Psalm 27*. Make them your own prayer as you listen to the song.

*Psalm 27* official lyric video by Jonathan Ogden



### Watch

Have a movie night with your family and watch the film *Aladdin* or watch clips together from the movie on YouTube.

Share with your family what you discovered about prayer. Explain to them how prayer is different from making a wish list for God to fulfil.



### Song for the week

'2 Timothy 3:16' official lyric video by JumpStart3



### Memory verse

'All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching how to live correctly.'

(2 Timothy 3:16 ICB)



# 'Big Story' poetry

**Bible verses:**

Psalm 27:1-14

A song of trust in God

**Aim:**

To learn about David who liked songs and poems

**Today's fruit:**

Gentleness



## Memory verse

'All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching how to live correctly.'

(2 Timothy 3:16 *ICB*)

## Start it

Who knows a song we can sing together? Who likes making up their own songs to sing? Today we are going to hear a song by someone who loved to write lots of songs – David.



## Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Psalm 27:1-14.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

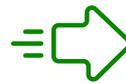
- What is your favourite song?
- Does anyone have a favourite poem?
- Who do we talk to about how we feel?
- Which people do we trust?
- How many feelings can we name? David felt these too.



## Sing It

'Shine! (from the inside out)' by Nick Jackson uploaded by Tangy Crayfish (2:20)

'Holy Spirit' for children by Aji and her friends. Sing only the chorus (0:44-1:15)



## Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- David wrote poems and songs as a way of talking to God. Draw a face to show how you feel today.
- David had worries which he turned into trust. Using a small bucket as a target, think of a worry and use a scrunched piece of paper to throw it into the bucket as a sign of trust in God.
- Pair up and blindfold one person; their partner has to direct them towards a target, as David had to trust in God.