

Psalm 139

Resources : Memory stick with PowerPoint and relevant files, song CD, laptop (check cable), projector (check 2 cables), extension lead, 3 scripts, spare t-shirts, Big Bible with story script, black material, white t-shirt, book with white cover and 'My Life',

Passage: Psalm 139.1-22

Theme: Christians believe that God is always with us.

[Before you start, work out where you will go to "climb to the sky". Make sure whatever you climb on will be stable... Put black sheet out. Work out your hiding place]

Part 1 Intro / God / Quiz

Part 2: Person / Prayer

Part 3: Narrator / Talk

Intro Hello [name of School], we are so pleased to be back with you again! We're the Christ Church Schools' Team, I am _____, and this is _____ [Intro team].

Put your hand up if you have ever played Where's Wally? [PPT of Wally] To play Where's Wally, you have to find Wally in every picture. So, Where's Wally in these pictures? [Run through pictures of Wally in various places.]

In Where's Wally? Wally is always in the picture. He is around somewhere, though he might be hard to find sometimes. Here's a bit of the Bible which talks about God always being around...

Dramatised Reading

[Narrator to one side with Big Bible. Person holding My Book standing to one side of middle. God in white t-shirt smiling gently back, standing at the other. Person looks at God... Narrator, please keep the pace up.]

Narrator: God, investigate my life;
get all the facts first hand.

I'm an open book to you; [Person hands My Life book to God]
even from a distance, you know what I'm thinking. [Person
moves further away from God]
You know when I leave... [Person mimes walking through a door,
God looks round the door]
and when I get back.

[Person walks in. God smiles.]

I'm never out of your sight. [Person hides behind something, God
finds Person]

You know everything I'm going to say.

Person: [Thinking hard] Pa...

God: [Quickly] Parallelogram!

Person: ...rallelogram!?!

Narrator: Before I start the first sentence.

Person: Ger...

God: Geraniums are pretty awesome really!

Person: ...aniums are pretty [pause, shrugs] awesome really!

Narrator: I look behind me [Person turns away from God, Person looks over shoulder] and you're there,

[Person looks to audience knowingly. As they do so God goes round behind them.]

then up ahead

[Person quickly turns the other way, but God is already in place.]

and you're there, too—

your reassuring presence, coming and going.

This is too much, too wonderful—

I can't take it all in!

Is there any place I can go...

[Person starts wandering around with God following]

Narrator: to avoid your Spirit?

to be out of your sight?

[Narrator getting faster...]

Narrator: If I climb to the sky, you're there! [Person climbs]

If I go underground, you're there! [Person crawls under chair]

If I flew on morning's wings [Person soars (not flapping!) to
extremity of hall but God meets them there to welcome warmly]

to the far western horizon,

You'd find me in a minute— [Person looks surprised but not
scared]

you're already there waiting! [God shakes hand]

Narrator: Then I said to myself, "Oh, he even sees me in the dark!

[Person lays out black material and crawls under, God opens up
other side]

At night I'm immersed in the light!"

It's a fact: darkness isn't dark to you;

night and day, darkness and light, they're all the same to you.

[Person stands up. Put up ultrasound picture on PowerPoint. Person
points to it excitedly as if it was them. God points out some bits of the
picture...]

Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out;
you formed me in my mother's womb.

The days of my life all prepared
before I'd even lived one day.

Oh, let me rise in the morning and live always with you!

[Person and God hug]

[Freeze]

Talk

Summer is coming and September will soon be here. That will be a big time of change for many of us. It may be that you will be with a new teacher or moving to a new school. When big changes happen, they can be exciting, but we can also get nervous.

The bit of the Bible we've just heard read is a Psalm [PPT]. It's a song that was written about God over 2500 years ago. The writer talks about God being always there.

At the start of our assembly, we looked for Wally in the picture, we know that Wally is always going to be there somewhere, even though we can't always see him immediately. The writer of the Psalm says that God is always there. That God is ahead of him, showing him the way and behind him, keeping him safe! He says if he goes up, God is there. If he goes underground, God is there. He

can't hide from God. He is there in the dark. I wonder if anyone is afraid of the dark. Even if we're not, we might go through times in our lives that feel dark and a bit scary. The Bible says we don't need to be afraid because God is with us in the dark, and he is strong enough to keep us safe.

Christians believe that God always with us. Not only that, but he knows everything about us. He knows when we go out and when we come back in. He saw us when we were made and even knows what we are going to say before we say it.

So, as you look forward to the summer, and to the changes happening in September, you can remember this Psalm. The writer says we don't need to be scared, because Christians believe that God is always with us.

Song **You are in the city.**

Quiz

We've got a little quiz for you now, so put your hand up if you think you know the answer:

1. Where are some of the places that God would find the person? [sky, underground, horizon, in front, behind, dark]
2. What did God know about them? [going out, coming in, words they say, days of life]

3. What do Christians believe we can learn from this part of the Bible we heard today? [Christians believe that God is always with us]

Prayer:

To finish our assembly, I am going to say a short prayer for us all. Before I do that, let's spend a moment thinking about what this assembly means for us. As we pause, why don't you think the people who are always there for you. You may want to close your eyes, so you are not distracted or focus on the candle on the screen. If you want to agree with my prayer, you can say 'Amen' at the end with me....

[flickering candle on PowerPoint – wait for a minute]

Dear God, thank you so much for school. Thank you that we have learnt from this Psalm - that Christians believe that God is always with us. I pray that you would bless every child and every member of staff in this school. Amen.

Close:

Thank you for having us today and we will see you again soon.