



# 7. Heart's desire

**Age range:** Primary

**Theme:** We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. *This is part of our new series 'Songs from the heart'. You may need to tailor this script to suit the needs, age range & levels of concerns of your school community, which of course includes adults as well as children. We are thinking today about our heart's desire – the things we really long for. For David, this was God himself, and during our time together this week, we will be reflecting on what this might be for us, giving children space to articulate their deepest longings. These might be both happy and/or sad, and some children might not feel that they can talk about this, so it's important to respect this if this is the case. It's also sensible to point out that although we are using the story of Aladdin, where a genie grants Aladdin's wishes, this is not quite how David understood his heartfelt prayer to God – who is no genie! As with other scripts this term, it's no accident that we are using questions to probe children's thinking throughout this series, as questions are very much at the heart of David's words in the Psalms!*



## How does this link to your school's Christian vision & values?

Use this section to reference your school's values and the things that are a part of your school's unique vision. Today, we will use some words from Psalm 27 in which David shares his deepest longings. It's important to give children plenty of space this week to move from thinking about wanting material possessions, to things that are harder to grasp, but may be expressed through your school's vision statement.

## Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation.
- You will need to pause and give space for children to think (and maybe talk, if you think it would help them) about David's words. This is expressed in some 'wondering' questions through slides 11-13.
- For your reflective areas this week, you will need heart-shaped paper (or sticky notes) – and if you can find one (left over from Valentine's Day perhaps?), a heart-shaped gift box to collect the notes in.

## Gathering:

**Slides 1-3:** Use these new gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer. The greeting comes with BSL signing; you can view the demos using links under the slide.



**Leader:** As we gather together,

**ALL: ...we bring our hearts.**

**Leader:** As we gather together,

**ALL: ...we share our thoughts.**

**Leader:** As community together,

**ALL: We serve one another.**

*Signs for greeting: click on links*

Hearts: [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - heart](#) (or you could use your hands as shown in the image)

Thoughts: [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - thought](#)

Serve: [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - serve](#) (or you could just open your hands in front of you)

## Engaging:

### • Slide 4: Songs from the heart

We're now well into our term's set of themes 'Songs from the heart' – and today we're going to find out about another of David's most famous songs. In this psalm, he talks about the things that he really wishes, so we're going to do the same for ourselves first.

### • Slide 5: What would you wish?

Many of you might know the story of Aladdin *[go through it very briefly, in case anyone is unfamiliar]*

In the story, the genie grants Aladdin 3 wishes – no more, no less.

If you were Aladdin, what would you wish for? *[allow pupils to share their answers]*

Now what if you could only wish for one thing?

**What's your 'heart's desire'?**

You might have to think a bit harder.....



Think quietly to yourself now about these ideas [slides 6-8] – we'll come back to these at the end of our time together today.

- **Slide 6: What about if your wish was for someone else....?** [leave a pause for children to think silently]
- **Slide 7: ....or for your school?** [leave a pause for children to think silently]
- **Slide 8: ....or for our world?** [leave a pause for children to think silently]

We'll be thinking some more about these questions in our reflection time later, so do keep hold of your ideas!

- **Slide 9: Songs from the heart**

It might not surprise you to know that the Psalms tell us what David's heart's desire was! Now although we talked about Aladdin and the genie earlier, this is not how David saw God – as some kind of heavenly genie! The heartfelt prayer we'll hear in a moment is deeper than a mere 'wish'.

Before we think about this, using some words from Psalm 27, let's recall some of the things we know about David from our time together this term so far....[ask pupils to tell you what they remember e.g. he was a shepherd, a King, a brave warrior etc.]

In Psalm 27, David writes this....

- **Slide 10: I ask only one thing from the Lord. This is what I desire [want]....**

I wonder what you think David's 'heart's desire' was? [ask pupils to share their ideas, based on what they know about him from previous weeks]

Now let's hear what David actually said [you might want to comment on how close children got in their ideas]

**'let me dwell [live] in the Lord's house all my life. Let me see the Lord's beauty. Let me worship him in his Temple.'** [slightly adapted from the ICB version that's linked from the overview, to make it easier to understand.]

- Spend a few moments unpacking with children what it is that David is asking, using slides 11-13. You will also use David's ideas to help you wonder together today.

**Slide 11: Responding (and words for worship):**

David wanted to be with God, in his 'house'. It may seem strange to think that God has a 'house', but this was a word that God's people used to talk about the 'tabernacle', where God would meet with his people. You might remember this picture from our series travelling with Moses and God's people across the desert (Autumn 2023!) – and that it was a special tent that went with God's people wherever they travelled. By the time David writes these words, this 'meeting place' was Jerusalem.

**I wonder if you have a special place that you go to, a place where you like to be still and feel cosy and 'at home'?**

**Or someone you would like to be with all the time?**

....

- **Slide 12: 'let me see the Lord's beauty'**

This is a very bold request, as in David's time, no-one was supposed to 'see' God!!

**...I wonder how David saw God's beauty.....?**

**...I wonder where we might see God's beauty?**

- **Slide 13: 'let me worship him in his temple'**

David believed that worship of God was at the very centre of his life – this was *his* heart's desire.

**...I wonder how David did this in his own life?...**

**...I wonder how we might do this in our school?...**

- **Slide 14: Prayer**

Now I'm going to pray, using some of the ideas we thought about earlier – the desires of our own hearts. If you'd like to join in praying with me, then there are some words you can join in with each time you see this slide:



- **Slide 15: 'We bring you the desires of our hearts'**
- **Slide 16:** Earlier, we thought about our desires for other people. Bring this idea back into your head now..... [*leave a pause for children to think silently*]
- **Slide 17: 'We bring you the desires of our hearts'**
- **Slide 18:** Bring into your mind now your desires for our school community [*leave a pause for children to think silently*]
- **Slide 19: 'We bring you the desires of our hearts'**
- **Slide 20:** Bring into your mind now your desires for our world [*leave a pause for children to think silently*]
- **Slide 21: 'We bring you the desires of our hearts'**
- **Slide 22:** And lastly, we bring into our minds our desires for ourselves.... [*leave a pause for children to think silently*]
- **Slide 23: 'We bring you the desires of our hearts'**
- **Slide 24: Amen**

Just before we leave our time together today, let's remember that sometimes, we can help to be the answer to our own prayers in the way that we treat others and care for each other in our school family!  
So....

### **Sending: Slide 25**

**Leader:** As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead,

**All:** ....may we serve one another in our **thoughts** and **words** and **actions**.



*Signs for response: click on links*

*Thoughts: [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - thought \(signbsl.com\)](https://www.signbsl.com/words/thought)*

*Words (use 3<sup>rd</sup> definition): [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - word \(signbsl.com\)](https://www.signbsl.com/words/word)*

*Actions: [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - action \(signbsl.com\)](https://www.signbsl.com/words/action)*

### **To sing / listen to:**

[Shine](#) (NBD) or [God is watching](#) (BBC)

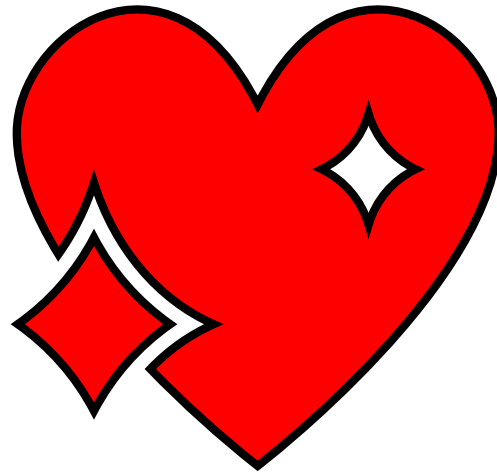


#### **Ideas for classroom reflection: Heart's desire**

Provide paper hearts on coloured paper, or sticky note shapes if you have them. On these, children can write or draw their 'heart's desire'.

If you have a heart-shaped gift box, leave this out as well, to collect the heart shapes.





*In Psalm 27, David wrote about his heart's desire: to love and serve God, and be with him always*



**I wonder what your 'heart's desire' is today – for yourself, your family, our school or our world?**



**Talk together about your ideas.**



**Take a piece of heart-shaped paper and draw or write your thoughts. As you put it into the special box, you might want to turn your thoughts into a prayer, like David did.**