WONDER LEADS TO WORSHIP

TREASURING GOD ABOVE ALL ELSE

Wonder shifts our perspective, leading our hearts into worship (an intimate expression of gratitude for God's overwhelming mercy and grace) as we learn to treasure Him above all else.

When we bring our hearts to God in worship, He doesn't return the same condition. He renews our hearts and restores us to a right relationship with Him. No matter how we come before Him (exhausted, overwhelmed by pain, lost in grief, feeling dejected, defeated by shame, restless, angry, or not even sure we believe anymore) God tenderly and compassionately meets us right there. He knows us completely and loves us unconditionally. He is doing a good work in us, one that He will carry on to completion in His own time and way—and for His perfect purpose. That may be the greatest wonder of all.

21 VERSES FOR 21 DAYS

Explore wonder and its synonyms in Scripture over the next 21 days. Choose one of the following verses to read, ponder, and pray about.

- Deuteronomy 10:21
- Exodus 15:11
- Job 5:9
- Psalm 9:1
- Psalm 40:5
- Psalm 86:10
- Psalm 96:3
- Psalm 118:23
- Psalm 119:18
- Psalm 136:4-6
- Psalm 145:5
- Isaiah 9:6
- Isaiah 25:1
- Matthew 8:27
- Matthew 22:22
- Mark 1:22
- Mark 5:20
- Mark 5:42
- Mark 7:37
- Mark 9:15
- Hebrews 12:28

QUESTIONS FOR EACH DAY

- Does anything surprise you about the verse you read?
- Did you learn something new?
- Did you experience wonder, awe, or astonishment today?
- Did you feel a gentle nudge toward gratitude or worship?

Earth's crammed with heaven, and every common bush afire with God, but only he who sees takes off his shoes.
(Elizabeth Barrett Browning)

CAPTIVATED BY WONDER

Then, right in front of their eyes, the man stood up, picked up his bed, and left to go home—full of praises for God! Everyone was stunned. They couldn't help but feel awestruck, and they praised God, too. People: We've seen extraordinary things today. (Luke 5:25-26)

WONDERSTRUCK

When was the last time you were wonderstruck? How long has it been since something took your breath away? Wonder invites us to be surprised by God, to stand in awe of His holy mystery, and to recognize His extraordinary in our ordinary.

This world is shot through with wonder, yet we glimpse only a tiny fraction of it. G.K. Chesterton wrote, *This world will never starve through lack of wonders, only through lack of wonder.*

WHAT DAMPENS WONDER?

- illness
- anxiety
- depression
- shame
- pain
- fear
- grief
- fatigue
- loss
- broken trust
- disappointment
- too much time indoors

HOW DO WE REDISCOVER WONDER?

- **IN HUMILITY:** Acknowledging the immensity of God primes our hearts for wonder.
- **THROUGH GRATITUDE:** Thanking God (for who He is, who He created us to be, all we have, and those we love) opens our hearts to wonder.
- **BY SLOWING DOWN:** Taking the time to notice what is around us (sunlight through an open window, a chickadee at the birdfeeder, a hug from someone we love) opens our souls to fresh wonder.
- **BECOMING CURIOUS:** Curiosity invites us to ask questions. St. Augustine wrote: *Question the beauty of the earth, question the beauty of the sea . . . question the beauty of the sky. Who made them if not the beautiful one who is not subject to change?*
- **LISTENING ATTENTIVELY:** Listen to learn more, connect more deeply, and see God's image shining through others.

I will display wonders in the heavens and on the earth...
(Joel 2:30 CSB)