

## Holy Wow Kick-Start

Small-Group Bible Experience

#TheHolyWow

### MATERIALS

- Each student will need a Bible/Bible app and a copy of the student pages below.
- Optional: Whiteboard and markers.
- Optional: You may want to collect emoji's to represent the responses to the last question of the Open exercise. You would also need a computer or data projection.

### OPEN

After your group has gathered, share the questions below in your own words to lead a discussion on the concept of “wow.”

**When is the last time you experienced something that made you say “wow!”? And let’s clarify that we’re talking about a positive “wow” as opposed to a negative “wow” such as getting a surprisingly bad grade on a test.**

*Possible responses: something in nature, a concert, a video, a good grade*

**Why do we react this way? What causes this feeling?**

*Possible responses: a surprise find, seeing something we didn’t expect, a sense of wonder, a generating of enthusiasm*

Transition into study time with these questions:

**Have you ever had something in the Bible make you say “wow” or react in a “wow” way?**

**Which best describes your typical reaction after personal Bible/devotional time? (Ask students to circle their response on their journal page.)**

*Zzzzzzz*

*Hmmmmm*

*Owwwww*

*Wow*

Share that every opening of our Bible is a potential “wow” moment, whether it’s one verse, one chapter, or one book.

### DIGGING IN

Share in your own words:

**We’re going to look at some verses that show us what a Holy Wow moment can look like. As you read these passages, look for the things noted on your journal page under Digging In.**

Look for:

1. **Action:** Underline the action. How is the moment of Holy Wow experienced? What happens that leads to the Holy Wow?
2. **Results:** Draw a “wow” burst over the results of the Holy Wow or words used to describe the Holy Wow.

After a few minutes use these questions to discuss what was found (Option: jot students’ responses on a whiteboard):

**What happens that leads to the Holy Wow?**

*Matthew 13: hear and understand the Word*

*Luke 24: Listening to Jesus explain all the Scriptures*

*John 14: Having and keeping Jesus’ commands*

**What are the results of the Holy Wow, or how is it described?**

*Matthew 13: you produce a crop 30-100 times what was sown*

*Luke 24: hearts were burning*

*John 14: Jesus will show Himself*



## TAKING IT INWARD

Use the questions below to spend a couple minutes internalizing these actions and results.

### How can we replicate the actions in these passages today?

*Matthew 13: devote non-rushed time to "hearing and understanding" God's Word*

*Luke 24: Putting ourselves in the presence of Jesus, asking Him to explain Scripture to us*

*John 14: Taking Jesus' commands seriously by seeking to know them and do them*

### What would these Holy Wow moments look like today? How might we experience these results in our lives?

*Matthew 13: increased spiritual fruit and growth; impacting people around us*

*Luke 24: leaving our Bible time with a sense of awe and wonder that affects us physically as well as spiritually*

*John 14: experiencing a manifestation of Jesus, a true sense of His nearness*

### What's common in all of these situations?

*Jesus and God's Word.*

Share in your own words:

**The two guys in Luke 24 may have said it best: their hearts were burning as they listened to Jesus open the Scripture to them. We can have the same heart-burning experience—listening to Jesus as He explains the Scripture to us, opening up for us things we've never experienced before.**

## PUTTING INTO PRACTICE

Share that there are many ways to infuse our personal Bible experience with the actions shown in these passages. But let's hone in on Luke 24. Share that Jesus is still available to us today to explain all the Scriptures to us, just as He did with the two followers along the road. The three questions below can put us in a position to hear from Jesus. We can ask these questions of every verse in the Bible, and we should. Share these with your students and invite them to write the questions in the space provided on their journal pages.

### Jesus, what do you want me to see?

When you let Jesus lead the way you will see things you've never seen before.

### Jesus, what do you want me to learn?

Everything in Scripture has meaning. Jesus is the Master Teacher.

### Jesus, what do you want me to change?

This is a request that will always get an answer.

Invite your group to spend some time with a portion of two of Jesus' most involved teachings which are noted below. These are just a few verses, so challenge your students to explore the remainder of the teachings on their own.

**Matthew 5:25-34** (from the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7)

**John 14:25-27** (from Jesus' "farewell address," John 14-17)

Ask them to ask the questions of Jesus above, writing down what comes to their hearts and minds. Invite them to linger with the passages until something wells up in them that makes them go "Wow!" After a few minutes of solitude, ask for volunteers to share what Jesus showed them and taught them along with what they committed to change.

## SHARE THE WOW

Some baby steps toward more Holy Wow:

1. Create your personal Holy Wow Logo and post/tweet it with #TheHolyWow
2. Post/tweet Holy Wow thoughts from this exercise
3. Follow the Holy Wow experience at #TheHolyWow
4. Schedule your next personal Holy Wow Bible experience. Do this step every time.



## Holy Wow Kick-Start

Student Journal Page

#TheHolyWow

### OPEN

#### Bible Reactions:

Zzzzzzz

Hmmmmm

Owwww

Wow

### DIGGING IN

Look for:

1. Action: Underline the action. How is the moment of Holy Wow experienced? What happens that leads to the Holy Wow?
2. Results: Draw a “wow” burst over the results of the Holy Wow or words used to describe the Holy Wow.



#### Matthew 13:23 (NIV)

[Jesus speaking]

<sup>23</sup> “But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

#### Luke 24:27-28; 30-32 (NIV)

**Quick Backdrop:** *The day Jesus arose from the tomb, He sidled up to two of His followers walking along the road. They were downcast about the death of Jesus, and they didn’t know it was Jesus beside them. They talked about the events of the past few days—Jesus’ trial and crucifixion. After Jesus listened to their explanation, He connected all the events to Scripture. This is where we pick up the action.*

<sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. <sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

<sup>30</sup> When [Jesus] was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

#### John 14:21 (NIV)

[Jesus speaking]

<sup>21</sup> “Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

### PUTTING INTO PRACTICE

#### Three Questions:

1. **Matthew 5:25-34** (from the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7)
2. **John 14:25-27** (from Jesus’ “farewell address,” John 14-17)
- 3.