

**LESSON AIM:** Creation from a telescope: God is awesome... and really BIG! No one can deny that there is a marvelous design in creation. If there is design, then there must be a Designer!

**KEY SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1:1

**REVIEW QUESTIONS:** ("Ok, who remembers from last week's lesson...")

- 1) What is sweeter than honey and better than money?
- 2) Why is the Bible so unique? (*Review some Bible facts from last week*)
- 3) What was last week's Bible verse? What does it mean?

## I. INTRODUCTION

- Bring to class with you several household objects that were designed (or "created") with a specific purpose. (*A watch, a smart phone, a painting, a specific fancy article of clothing, or something you have made with your hands, etc...*)
- Explain to the class that each item began as an idea or thought in someone's mind and then became a working model (often with a lot of "trial and error") and finally a fully functional "gadget". In the example of the painting or hand-crafted item explain that as the item was being made it wasn't easy to tell at first what it was, but the *maker*, or *creator*, knew what it was going to be all along, and he or she knew exactly what it would look like when it was completed.
- After you have explained the preceding, ask the kids if any of these items just "accidentally" happened. What will really make this question effective is to have a box of small watch parts from a completely dismantled watch (or parts from an old phone you can take apart) and ask the class if these parts could "accidentally" be "shaken" together into a perfectly working smart phone. After you have established the fact that nothing is "accidentally" created, then tell the class that each one of them were intricately designed and created by God. We are not accidents, we are divine creations!

Creation—the earth, sky, universe, everything—is amazing! Just as amazing as the universe we can see with a telescope, so are our amazing bodies under a microscope! Today we are going to turn our eyes up to the universe and look at creation through a telescope...

*(\*Note: this lessons discusses the universe and galaxies; there are many pictures you can download and print as visual aides, or even 3 minutes YouTube videos you can download and save and show if you have an iPad or tablet. Also online look up Louie Giglio "How Great is Our God" and see his presentation on the stars and planets and the visuals he uses. Explore some of the images online and get inspired to inspire awe!)*

## II. LESSON

*"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit Him? (Psalm 8:3-4)*

*"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard." (Psalm 19:1-3).*

*"He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. Great is our Lord, and might in power; His understanding is infinite." (Psalm 147:4-5).*

Read **Genesis 1:1** (*Have the class to read it out loud with you*). Briefly explain that God created the earth, the sun, moon and stars and everything in the plant and animal kingdoms. Everything from the smallest microscopic insect to the behemoth dinosaur to the billions of stars, God created it. Explain to them that word “create” means “to make something out of nothing”.

We know so much about the universe, but even with all of our amazing technology and pictures from space, we haven't built a big enough telescope yet to see all that is out there in this great big universe! But every time we build a bigger telescope, we're "wowed" once again as we see that the universe is WAY bigger than we thought!

How BIG is the universe? If it cost a penny to travel a thousand miles, it would cost less than a dime to go all the way to China, and if you want to travel to the moon, it would cost you \$2.38 (ask the students how many miles that is = 238,000). But if you wanted to go to the sun, it would cost you.... \$930.00! (How many miles is THAT?) But wait... if you wanted to travel to the nearest star, paying just a penny for every thousand miles, it would cost you... \$260,000,000.00!

With the naked eye, we can see about 5,000 stars. With a telescope you can use at your house, about 2 million stars come into view. The Hubble Telescope enlarges our vision to billions and billions of stars! Sir James Jeans said that there are probably as many stars as there are grains of sand on all the beaches of the world. Wow!

Astronomers can see objects 10 billion light years away. A light year is the distance light travels in a year. Since it travels 186,282 miles a second, light covers six trillion miles a year. When we look into the heavens at night, we are seeing history, not current events. For example, we see the star Rigel where it was 540 years ago. It has taken that long for its light to reach our planet. Our planet itself is very insignificant; it is like a speck of dust of cosmic dust. A thousand earths could fit inside Jupiter, and it would take 1,300,000 earths to equal the size of one sun!

The Milky Way contains 300 million suns; and some of those stars could hold 500 million suns the size of ours! And that's just OUR galaxy; it is estimated that there are 100 billion galaxies and 100 billion stars in each galaxy!

Let's just think about our little planet, the third from the sun, planet earth:

- It is *exactly* the right distance from the sun--93 million miles. If it were even just a tiny bit more or less, life could not survive!
- The earth itself is just the right size; if it were even just a tiny bit bigger or a tiny bit smaller, its blanket of atmosphere would be too dense or too thin, and all life would become extinct.
- The *tilt* of the earth is what causes the four seasons, and makes the cultivation of the land possible. Without it, most of the surface of the earth would be a vast desert.
- The earth's *rotation* is not accidental. Finely tuned to just the right speed in its orbit around the sun, it disburses the warmth of the sun uniformly and generates winds and ocean currents.

The works of the Lord are wonderful beyond description. Everything that He has created is a marvel. Through even the most powerful telescope we can only get a glimpse of how amazing our Creator God is!

At the heart of everything we struggle with in life is longing to be valuable, to be accepted, to be prized, to be worth something, and to have a life that matters. God says to us, "**You** matter! I didn't make a reprint or a lithograph; you are a one-of-a-kind original of God!"

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”**

**Genesis 1:1**