# THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY

## CHILDREN’S MEETING LESSON

**DATE:** July 15, 2018

**SUBJECT: CREATION: The Triune God Created the Sun, the Moon, and the Stars (Part 3 of 3)**

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1:14-19; Psalms 8:1-4; Psalms 19:1; Job 22:12; Isaiah 40:12, 26; 1 Corinthians 15:41

**AIM:** To see the greatness, glory and wisdom of God in His creation of the stars.

**MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM:** Psalms 147:4 (He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by their names.); Psalms 136:9 (The moon and the stars for ruling the night, For His lovingkindness is forever;); Isaiah 40:26 (Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls all of them by name. Through the greatness of His might and the strength of His power not one of them is missing.); 1 Corinthians 15:41 (There is another glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.)

**SONG SUGGESTIONS:** 4611 (My God is so Great); 61 (Who Made the Twinkling Stars?); 9014 *Bible Story Songs God’s Design* *Song #14* (God Put Them There); 105 (Fairest Lord Jesus!); 9515 *BSS Wonderful CD Song #15* (In the beginning God created); 9508 BSS Wonderful CD Song #8 (We’re ninety-three million miles from); 9010 *BSS God's Design Song #10* (You Are Mindful of Man); 9603 *BSS The Heavens Declare Song #3* (Oh, the Heavens Declare); 9617 *BSS The Heavens Declare Song #17* (God Made the Universe);9618 *BSS The Heavens Declare Song #18* (Great is Thy Faithfulness); 25 (I Believe God)

**CRAFT IDEAS:** 1) Use black construction paper as the night sky and add stars drawn with white chalk, white or yellow crayons, or use gold and silver star stickers to create the starry scene. Children may also add constellations (Big Dipper). 2) Using popsicle sticks, glue 5-6 sticks in a star pattern. Add a string for hanging the star. Decorate with markers or stickers. 3) Purchase glow in the dark self-adhesive plastic stars. Adhere two stars onto a wooden dowel or popsicle stick to create a star wand.

**APPROACH:** Ask the children: Have you ever looked up at the stars in the night sky? Have you ever tried to count the stars? Have you ever visited a planetarium? What impression did you have sitting under the dome in the planetarium? Consider showing pictures or videos of galaxies and stars. The bibletellsmeso.com has some high quality videos.

**CONTENT:** When we see the multitude of stars in the heavens, they declare that indeed, there is God, and the stars declare the glory of God.Our famous former president Abraham Lincoln wrote, “I never behold the stars that I do not feel that I am looking in the face of God. I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how he could look up into the heavens and say there is no God.” God made the stars to express Himself to man and to declare His glory (Psalms 8:1; 19:1).

**I. God created the stars of heaven.** Our great Creator made all the stars in the heavens. There are so many that we can never count them. What we see is only an extremely tiny part of the stars of heaven. We cannot even come close to understanding how many stars are actually out there in the entire universe. But there is One who knows exactly how many stars there are. The Bible tells us that God not only counts the number of stars, but He knows them all by their names! (Psalms 147:4; Isaiah 40:26) They all hang in the night sky on nothing. Who holds up all the stars? It is God. Isaiah 40:26 tells us, “Through the greatness of His might and the strength of His power not one of them is missing.” Our God is awesome and amazing!

**II. Some amazing facts about the stars.** The stars are best seen from a mountain on a clear night, away from the glare of street and city lights and from the dust of pollution which veils the night sky. What are the stars? Like the sun, the stars shine from their own light. They are glowing balls of very hot gases, emitting tremendous amounts of light and heat from nuclear reactions in their core.

* **Stars are very far away.** The Sun is the closest star to Earth, and it is already so far away, about 93 million miles away. To help us understand how far away that is, think of this example: If a car was driving 93 miles per hour, which is way above the normal speed limit of 65 mph on the highway, the trip would take 1 million hours. Do you know how long 1 million hours is? One year is 365 days times 24 hours per day, or 8,760 hours. One hundred years would be 876,000 hours. So if you drove at that high speed for 100 years, you would still NOT be enough to reach the Sun. The Sun is extremely far away.

After the Sun, which is part of our solar system, the next closest known stars are the Alpha Centauri triple-star system, about 4.37 light-years away. One of these stars, Proxima Centauri, is slightly closer, at 4.24 light-years. One light year is about 6 trillion miles. So the next closest star is about 25 trillion miles (40 trillion km) away from Earth—nearly 300,000 times the distance from the Earth to the Sun! The New Horizons spacecraft traveling at 36,373 miles per hour (58,536 km/h) reached Pluto in nine-and-a-half years. If that spacecraft were aimed toward the Alpha Centauri system, which it isn’t, it would take this spacecraft about 78,000 years to get there! And that’s the closest star after the Sun!

The farthest star in our own Milky Way galaxy is estimated to be about 775,000 and 900,000 light-years from Earth. The distance between stars is SO VAST that it is extremely difficult for us to fathom and understand.

* **How many stars are there?** We have only one Sun and only one moon, but there are many stars. The number of stars that actually can be seen at any time with the naked eye is only a little over two thousand. With a small telescope, we can see about a million stars. Some stars exist alone, but some exist in systems of two or more. Some are in clusters. The very large groupings are called galaxies. The stars we can see all belong to our galaxy, the Milky Way galaxy. When we look closely at the dark sky, we will discover that our stars are not uniformly distributed. There is a bright band of light which is called the Milky Way because of the large numbers of stars concentrated here. There are more than 200 billion stars here! Yet our galaxy is not the only galaxy in the universe. There are tens of millions of galaxies known to exist! Some scientists use a very rough estimate to come up with 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars, or a “1” with 24 zeros after it (1 septillion in the American numbering system; 1 quadrillion in the European system). This is likely a gross underestimation as the universe goes well beyond what is observable to man and modern technology. Wow! There are so many stars, no one can really count them except God. Counting the stars in the sky is like counting the grains of sand at the beach! For our God the Creator, “the extent of the heavens” is merely the width of His hands. “Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, Who has calculated the extent of the heavens with a handspan…” (Isaiah 40:12).
* **Do stars stay in one fixed position?** In the night sky, the stars look like they are not moving. They seem to stay in a fixed position. We see various constellations, which are groups of stars that seem to form a certain shape. The Big Dipper, for example, is an easily recognizable pattern of seven stars which is part of a constellation, a group of stars known as Ursa Major or Great Bear. But stars actually are not fixed in place. They move at various speeds, and travel in their own separate orbits. Yet to us they seem to be stationary because of their great distance. You will also see different constellations in the winter night sky and the summer night sky.
* **Why do they twinkle?** The stars twinkle because when they shine their light passes through different layers of air (some thick and some thin). This constantly changes their brightness (the refractive and interference effects).
* **Sizes of stars.** The Sun is so big that it would take well over a million Earths to fit into the Sun. Yet the Sun, which is a star, is actually not the largest star! Supergiants can be 1500 times the size of the sun. Neutron stars are smaller than the sun and dwarf stars are about the size of Earth. Just about every star we see in the night sky is actually bigger and brighter than the Sun! Since they are so far away, they just look like bright lights in the night sky.

Our God is so amazing! Only He could create this many bright and beautiful stars, with such vast distances in between them, following orderly orbits! The heavens indeed declare the glory of God.

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:** *Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover. Covering one or two applications may be sufficient depending on the age group.*

* **God is so great!** In the Bible, King Solomon said, “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, the heavens and the heaven of heavens are not able to contain You, how much less this house which I have built.” (1 Kings 8:27; *see also* 2 Chronicles 2:6; 6:18). The universe and all the stars it contains is so, so BIG. Yet they cannot contain our great God, who created them.
* **God is so powerful!** Jeremiah 32:17 tell us “Ah, Lord Jehovah! It is You who have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm. Nothing is too wonderful for You,...” Only God is so powerful to create such a vast universe with so many things in it, and hold them all together.
* **God is infinitely wise!** We may remember the names of all the children in our class at school, but do we know all the names of the saints in the meeting hall? Sometimes we learn people’s names, and then we forget them if we do not see them for a few months or a few years. But our God is infinitely wise. He not only knows the number of stars in existence, but He knows them all by *their names!* He knows all of us by name, and He knew us before we were even born!

References:
*Night Sky* by G. Sparrow, published by Scholastic

<https://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap981212.html>
[https://www.space.com](https://www.space.com/18964-the-nearest-stars-to-earth-infographic.html)
<http://earthsky.org/space/alpha-centauri-travel-time>; <http://earthsky.org/space/ten-things-you-may-not-know-about-stars>

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/review/dr-marc-space/constellations.html>

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