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## EXPLORERS

Seeking God in the Great Outdoors

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NIGHT SKIES

## WEEK 5: NIGHT SKIES

**BIBLE VERSE:** *He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. Psalm 147:4 (NKJV)*

**BOTTOM LINE:** God knows the names of the stars, and He knows your name too!

### SUPPLIES

- Pack of paper plates and a Sharpie
- Music to play during the Opening Activity
- Black Construction paper and chalk (one for each kid in Lower Elementary Small Group)
- Copies of *What do you know?* (one for each kid in Upper Elementary Small Group)
- Copies of WEEK 5 – Take Home Sheet

### LEADER NOTES

*God knows everything!*

*Our minds can't even begin to fathom knowing all things, from all time but God knows it all. It reminds us of how amazing God is, and how human we are.*

*Use this lesson to teach kids that because God knows everything—the beginning and the end—and we can trust Him. We have limited understanding, but God has no limits.*

*Pray that students will understand that, because God knows what will happen in our lives, we can trust Him to lead us in His ways, every day.*

### WELCOME

**Say:** We are in an awesome series called EXPLORERS.

We are seeking God by studying the Great Outdoors—God's creation!

Today, we are talking about NIGHT SKIES: the moon and stars.

**Read Genesis 1:1.**

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

God created everything, everything in the universe—the planets, sun, moon, stars—out of nothing. That is really amazing!

So, EXPLORERS, let's start our study of the Night Skies with a fun opening activity that is going to take us into Outer Space... well, at least in our imaginations!

Before we jump into our lesson, let's start by going over some guidelines that will help us have an awesome day together.

### **THINGS TO REMEMBER**

- Unless we ask you to stand up, please stay in your seats.
- We will give you time to talk, but when a leader is talking, please listen.
- We want to keep your personal items safe, so keep your phones, toys, and fidget toys under your seat.
- And most of all, we want to take a moment to pray and ask God to help us learn something about Him that we've never known before.

If you don't know God at all, today will be your day to hear who He is.

*Ask a leader or student to open in prayer.*

### **WORSHIP**

*This would be a great time to open with a time of praise and worship.*

### **OFFERING**

*Encourage students to give their offering willingly and with a grateful heart.*

### **OPENING ACTIVITY: STAR JUMPERS**

#### **GAME SET-UP**

Separate paper plates and draw a star on each plate.

Clear an open space and place one plate, per student, all over the floor. Be sure to spread them apart.

#### **HOW TO PLAY THE GAME**

Have each student stand on a plate and begin the game.

As you play the music, have students jump up and down, going from plate to plate.

When the music stops, have everyone stand on a plate.

Remove a couple of plates and then, start the game (and music) again.

When the music stops, have students jump onto a plate.

This time, there won't be enough.

The students that are left without a plate to stand on are out of the game.

The students that are out can cheer for the other students that are still in the game.

Keep playing until there is only one student left or until there are just a couple left that can be declared the winners.

*Just for Fun: Have students crawl, hop on one foot, or skip as they go from plate to plate.*

*After the activity, have each team pick up their paper plates and throw them away. Then, have students return to their seats for the large group lesson.*

## **TEACH**

**Say:** All of you were really great Star Jumpers!

Today, is all about the Night Skies.

**Ask:** How many of you have ever gone outside at night, and looked at the stars?

*Allow a few responses from students.*

Stars are beautiful and majestic.

They were formed by our awesome God who created everything!

I have some fun facts about the Night Skies that we're going to take a look at right now.

*Show the "Night Skies Slide Show," either on TV/projection, or even print the slides and show them to the students.*

**Slide 1:** Title Slide

**Slide 2:** There are over 500 references to the sky, sun, moon, stars... in the Bible.

**Slide 3:** There are 9,096 stars visible to the naked eye in the entire sky.

**Slide 4:** One million Earths could fit inside the Sun.

**Slide 5:** The moon's surface is covered with craters from meteorites crashing into the surface from space.

**Slide 6:** "Moon bows" are rainbows that appear at night.

**Slide 7:** The star, Sirius, is 20 times brighter than the sun.

**Slide 8:** God knows the names of the stars, and He knows your name too!

**Slide 9:** Title Slide

**Say:** I hope you learned a couple of fun facts. The night skies are super cool!

Now, I want us to take a look at a verse in the Bible.

**Let's read Psalm 147:4 NKJV.**

*He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name.*

We just learned that there are about 9,000 stars that we can see with our eyes.

But did you know that astronomers actually do not know how many stars are in the universe?

That's true! There could be billions or trillions of stars—or even more than that—but our Bible verse says that God not only knows how many stars there are, but He calls them by NAME! God is amazing!

People used to believe that we only use 10% of our brains, but we actually use all of the parts of our brain.

**Ask:** What do our brains help us to do?

*Allow a few responses from students.*

Your brain is the boss of your body!

It controls just about everything you do.

It contains BILLIONS of nerve cells that operate thought, emotion, behavior, movement, and sensation (what you feel).

The nerves communicate to the rest of your body and tell it what to do.

Think about how intelligent God must be if He can create something like a brain!

**Ask:** So, why is it important to know that God is intelligent and He knows everything?

*Wait for responses.*

Here's why: Because God knows everything, we can trust Him!

God knows what's going on right now, what has already happened, and what will happen in the future.

No one else knows those things.

Since God can see what will happen in the future, when we pray and ask God to lead us, we know that He is going to lead us down the best path.

God created you and He wants good things for your life.

He wants you to have an amazing life, as you follow Him.

It doesn't mean that you will never feel sad, or go through hard times, but you can know in your heart that God—the one who knows the name of every star in the entire universe—know exactly who you are and He cares for you!

We're going to talk about that some more in our small groups, but first we are going to take some time to pray.

If you feel like God doesn't know what's going on in your life, I want you to know that He does!

If everything is going great in your life, you still need to know God knows that too.

Let's thank God for being with us and loving us, even though He knows all the good things about us, as well as our weaknesses—the areas that we need to rely more on God and allow Him to work in our hearts.

*Take a few minutes to pray and then, divide into small groups.*



NIGHT SKIES

**SMALL GROUPS: LOWER ELEMENTARY****SUPPLIES**

- Black Construction paper and chalk (one for each kid)

**Say:** God knows everything! We've said that a lot today.

We're going to read a couple more Bible verses that tell us how much God knows.

**Read Proverbs 2:6.**

*For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding..."*

**Read Romans 1:20.**

*For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky.*

*Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature.*

*So they have no excuse for not knowing God.*

**After reading the Scripture, ask:**

- How does looking at the earth and sky show us who God is?
- Before today, did you know that God knows everything?

*Give each kid a piece of black construction paper and a piece of chalk.*

Our bottom line was "God knows the names of the stars, and He knows your name too!"

I would like for you to use your piece of chalk to cover your piece of paper with stars.

Then, take it home and put it someplace where you can see it.

Every time you look at your art think about all of the stars in the sky and remember that God knows who you are and cares about you.

*Close in prayer.*

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NIGHT SKIES

## SMALL GROUPS: UPPER ELEMENTARY

### SUPPLIES

- Copies of *What do you know?* (one for each kid in Upper Elementary Small Group)

**Say:** God knows everything! We've said that a lot today.

We're going to read a couple more Bible verses that tell us how much God knows.

### Read Proverbs 2:6.

*For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding..."*

### Read Romans 1:20.

*For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky.*

*Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature.*

*So they have no excuse for not knowing God.*

### After reading the Scripture, ask:

- How does looking at the earth and sky show us who God is?
- What are the invisible qualities of God?
  - *Those are the things we can't see. He is powerful. He is all-knowing. He can be everywhere at one time.*
- Before today, did you know that God knows everything?
- How are you encouraged by knowing that God sees everything in your life?

### SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

*Hand out copies of "What do you know?"*

*Have students pair up in groups of two.*

*You can give students a set amount of time to complete the activity, or you can just let them take their time.*

*After everyone has finished filling in answers, read the correct answers out loud.*

*You can give candy to the team with the most correct answers, or you can just congratulate everyone for a job well done!*

## **BONUS: BIBLE QUIZ QUESTIONS**

*If you have extra time, use the following questions at the end of the lesson.*

*Call two students to the front. Hand each student a KJV Bible, read the question, and then give the Bible reference.*

*The first person to give the correct answer wins that round.*

*The winner remains up front, and a new “challenger” takes the other student’s place.*

**1. What did he appoint the moon for? Psalm 104:19.**

He appointed the moon for **seasons**: the sun knoweth his going down.

**2. What color is mentioned in Job 8:16?**

He is **green** before the sun, and his branch shooteth forth in his garden.

**3. How many stars did He have in his right hand? Revelation 1:16.**

And he had in his right hand **seven** stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

**4. What did the stars fall like? Revelation 6:13.**

And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely **figs**, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

**5. What will happen to the sun and moon in Joel 3:15?**

The sun and the moon **shall be darkened**, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.

**6. What happened because they had no root? Matthew 13:6.**

And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, **they withered away.**

7. **What did His face shine as? Matthew 17:2.**

And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as **the sun**, and his raiment was white as the light.

8. **What color is mentioned in Matthew 16:2?**

He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is **red**.