

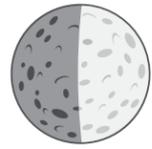
MOON PHASE PHRASES



He is the image of the invisible God,



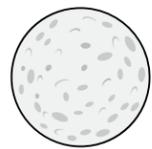
the firstborn over all creation.



For everything was created by Him,



in heaven and on earth,



the visible and the invisible,



whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities —



all things have been created



through Him and for Him. *Colossians 1:15–16*

DAY 1: THE RELATIONSHIP BEGAN

BIBLE STORY:

The Relationship Began (Genesis 1:1-2,26-31; John 1:1,14)

TODAY'S POINT:

The God who created everything wants a relationship with us.

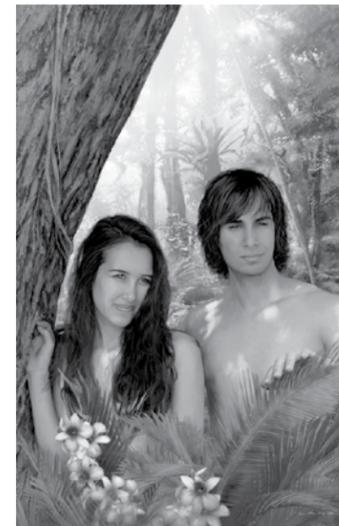
CHRIST CONNECTION:

God gave Jesus power over creation. All of creation was created through Him, by Him, and for Him. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus fulfilled God's plan of redemption that God had planned from the beginning of time.

BIBLE VERSE:

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. *Colossians 1:15-16*

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him. *Colossians 1:15-16 (KJV)*



START IT (5 MINUTES)

1. Play "Galactic Starveyors" (track 1) as you welcome kids to the Starveyors Clubhouse. Explain that they can use their eyes, telescopes, binoculars, and other research tools to learn more about the universe and about God, the Creator of everything. Say: "It is an amazing and wonderful thing to know that the God who created everything wants a relationship with us."
2. Tell kids that they are going to learn some tips to be good beginner Galactic Starveyors. Read the statements below.
 - Start by looking up at the sky. Study the constellation names and patterns.
 - Read books, magazines, and websites to learn more about the moon, stars, and planets.
 - Read and study sky maps and guidebooks to discover more things to look for in the sky.
 - Begin to look at the sky through binoculars.
 - Keep a journal of what you see each time you look at the sky.
 - Join clubs and attend star-watching parties to learn from others who enjoy the hobby.
 - Use a telescope to see and learn more about the planets, moon, and star constellations.
 - Be patient and flexible on nights with clouds or other obstacles to viewing the sky.
3. Say: "You just heard some ways to be starveyors. Now, we are going to hear a story about the beginning of the world and how a relationship between God and man began."

START IT PREP

- Choreography DVD
 - Track 1

LEARN IT PREP

- Kit items 6, 7, 8
- Envelopes
- "Moon Phase Phrases" (on page 4 of this session). Fasten a moon phase picture to the outside of each envelope. Seal the corresponding Bible verse phrase inside.
- Bible

LEARN IT (13 MINUTES)

1. Display the "Bible Story Picture 1" (kit item 6).
2. Open your Bible to Genesis 1 and tell the story in your own words.

THE RELATIONSHIP BEGAN

The Bible begins with these words, "In the beginning." In the beginning, there was nothing ... only God the Father, His Son Jesus, and God's Holy Spirit. But "the beginning" was only the beginning for us. God never began ... He has always been and will always be. That is one way God is different from us. It's impossible to understand completely, but it's absolutely true!

In the beginning, God created the world. He made a beautiful world with a sky, oceans, land, plants, sunshine, moonlight, and all kinds of fish, birds, and animals.

STARVEYOR KIT OPTIONS

- One Starveyor Kit: Grades 1-6 was included in the Backyard Kids Club® Kit.
- You may choose to supply one per kid and keep the kits in the Bible study area all week.
- Or supply one for every three to four kids.

God saw all He had created was good. Then God decided to make something different from anything else He had created. God made people to live in His world. God made a man, Adam, and a woman, Eve. God put Adam and Eve in charge of everything He made. It would be their job to take care of everything God created.

God made people “in His image,” which means He gave people some of the characteristics that He Himself has—things like creativity, compassion, and the ability to think and to choose. He also made people able to have and to enjoy relationships with each other and with God. That is an important part of His plan for every person.

God wanted Adam and Eve to love one another and work together as a family. God planned for them to have children. God was pleased with everything He had made. God loved and cared for the people He had created.

Genesis 1:1-2,26-31; John1:1,14

1. Lead kids to identify things God created that are illustrated in the “Bible Story Picture 1” (kit item 6). Ask: “How does observing God’s creation help you know how much He loves you?” Remind kids that God allows people to appreciate, enjoy, and explore the universe He created.
2. Direct kids to read Colossians 1:15-16 silently from the “Bible Verse Poster” (kit item 7). Explain that the verse describes Jesus, who was with God from the beginning. Define dominions, principalities, powers, and authorities (based on your choice of Bible translation) as all spiritual things and those who control them.
3. Say: “The moon is one of the easiest things for a beginning starveyor to find! Its position changes as it moves around the earth.” Call attention to the “Moon Phases” poster (kit item 8).
4. Distribute prepared “Moon Phase Phrases” envelopes (page 4 of this session). Explain that when kids arrange the envelopes in the correct moon phase order, the Bible phrases sealed inside them will also be in order. Provide guidance as needed while kids arrange the envelopes, then reveal their contents.
5. Guide kids to stand looking up to the sky. Encourage them to silently finish this prayer prompt: “God, I praise you for creating _____. Thank you for creating me!”

LIVE IT PREP

- Pennies or beads (1 per child if each has a Starveyor Kit)
- Optional: super bounce balls (2 different colors)

LIVE IT (7 MINUTES)

1. Say: “The God who created you wants to have a relationship with you!” Invite volunteers to define relationship (*the way two people are connected*). Continue: “When two people have a relationship, they talk together, laugh together, and spend time together. When you have a relationship with God, you can do exactly the same things!”

FINISH IT (5 MINUTES)

1. Invite a volunteer to read the Day 1 “Starveyor Silly” (kit item 9).
2. Call attention to the Cosmic Challenge on Card 1 from the Starveyor Kit.
 - Day 1 Cosmic Challenge: Choose a way to spend time with God today.
3. Hand everyone a cupcake cup or star cutout. Guide kids to write one way to pursue a relationship with God on the cupcake cup.
4. Pray, thanking God for creating us and wanting to have a relationship with us.

EXPLORE DEEPER

(ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY TO EXTEND TIME IF NEEDED)

SUNSPOTS (APPLICATION ACTIVITY—10 MINUTES)

Prep

- Yellow and orange sticky notes of various sizes
- Pencils or pens
- Enlist a leader for each team to be covered in “sunspots.”

1. Tell kids that sunspots are darker and cooler areas of the sun’s surface. Some sunspots can be very large. Explain that you will create some pretend “sunspots” to stick on a BKC leader.
2. Form a team for each leader you have enlisted. Distribute pencils or pens and sticky notes to each team. Tell the boys and girls to write a way to strengthen their relationship with God on a sticky note and then stick it on their team’s leader.
3. Give teams about seven minutes to list their ideas on the sticky notes and place them on their leaders. Then ask teams to read their “sunspots” to the other teams. Note the similar ideas and the different ways to strengthen our relationship with God that are named.
4. Ask kids to repeat today’s point with you: “The God who created everything wants a relationship with us.” Challenge the boys and girls to spend time with God and share with their friends and families ways to strengthen their relationship with God.

FINISH IT PREP

- Kit item 9
- Cupcake cup or star cutout (1 per kid)
- Markers or pens

DAY 1: THE RELATIONSHIP BEGAN

BIBLE STORY

Genesis 1:1-2,26-31; John 1:1,14

MOTTO

Searching the Visible
Discovering the Invisible

TODAY'S POINT

The God who created everything
wants a relationship with us.

BIBLE VERSE

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the
invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—
all things have been created through Him and for Him. *Colossians 1:15-16*

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:
For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in
earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or
principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.
Colossians 1:15-16 (KJV)

OPENING RALLY (15 MINUTES)

1. **SONG:** "Galactic Starveyors" (Track 1) – Words and motions available on Choreography DVD.

2. OPENING SKIT

Luna: (*Enters with backpack and flashlight*) This is a perfect night for surveying the stars. The sky is clear and the stars are so bright I don't even need my flashlight!

Cosmo: (*Enters with backpack*) Sorry I'm late. I almost walked out without the supplies. Did you remember yours?

Luna: Yep! (*Opens backpack and takes items out one by one*) I brought the telescope, star chart, compass, and I got this cool app on my phone that shows you all of the star names when you point it at the sky. So what did you bring?

Cosmo: (*Dumps out backpack*) Snacks! Let's see, we've got gummies, chips, cookies, and a slice of leftover pizza.

Luna: (*Sarcastically*) One slice of cold pizza? Gee, thanks.

Cosmo: Oh you can have it if you want it. I'm good at sharing! (*smiles broadly*)

Luna: Thanks ... I think. Well I think it's time to officially call the first ever meeting of the Galactic Starveyors Club to order. And what is the motto of Galactic Starveyors? (*Lead kids to say motto together, dramatically*) "Searching the Visible, Discovering the Invisible!"

Cosmo: Hey isn't there a Bible verse that talks about that? Let's read it together. (*Leads kids to read Colossians 1:15-16.*)

Luna: Well, Cosmo, ready to check out some stars?

Cosmo: (*Points phone at stars and checks app*) Hey look! There's the Big Dipper! Whoa, cool, I never knew that the Big Dipper was part of a larger constellation. I thought it was a constellation by itself.

Luna: Technically it's called an asterism, which is just a fancy name for a star pattern. The whole constellation that the Big Dipper is a part of is called Ursa Major.

Cosmo: I see it! And there's Ursa Minor ... that has the Little Dipper in it. And there's Mars ... and Venus ... and Orion. Wow! There are gazillions of them!

Luna: Yeah, the universe is HUGE! But God is even bigger. It seems like we'd be so easy to forget about over here on this tiny little planet in this great big universe. But God knows each of us ... right down to how many hairs are on our heads. He cares about us that much! (*Both exit, continuing to look together at the stars.*)

3. **SONG:** "Who You Are" (Track 2) – Motions available on Choreography DVD.

Under the light of a million stars
I'm looking up just to see how far they go
They seem to go on forever
Just like the love that You have for me
It's been around long before I breathed a breath
Lord, You put me together

Hallelujah
I am made by You
And I know who I am
Because of who You are
(REPEAT)

You are the keeper of the galaxies

And still You know every part of me because
You created me in Your image

REPEAT CHORUS
You're the Alpha, Omega
Beginning and the End
My Lord and my Savior
Creator, my Friend
(REPEAT)

Hallelujah
I am made by You
And I know who I am
Because of who You are

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4. PRAYER

Pray, thanking God for loving us more than anything else. Thank Him for creating us and wanting a relationship with us. Ask God to help the kids learn more about Him at Backyard Kids Club®.

CLOSING RALLY (15 MINUTES)

1. SONG: "Galactic Starveyors" (Track 1)

2. CLOSING SKIT

Luna: OK, I think I got it. Let's try it one more time.

Cosmo: The official Galactic Starveyors secret handshake!

(Both do an elaborate made-up handshake. If time permits, teach the secret handshake to the kids, too.)

Cosmo: I'm glad we started this club. The other kids at school might think we're nerds because we're obsessed with space, but I don't care. I think it's cool.

Luna: I do, too. And I'm glad to have friends who like the same things as me. Even if nobody else gets it.

Cosmo: How can you look at the stars and not want to know more about them? I mean, there's like a million-billion-gazillion of them!

Luna: How can you look at the stars and not want to know more about the One who made them ... and us? It makes you want to praise Him.

3. SONG: "Who You Are" (Track 2) – Motions available on Choreography DVD.

Under the light of a million stars
I'm looking up just to see how far they go
They seem to go on forever
Just like the love that You have for me
It's been around long before I breathed a breath
Lord, You put me together

Hallelujah
I am made by You
And I know who I am
Because of who You are
(REPEAT)

You are the keeper of the galaxies
And still You know every part of me because
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REPEAT CHORUS

You're the Alpha, Omega
Beginning and the End
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Creator, my Friend
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4. CONNECTION QUESTIONS

- He is the _____ (*image*) of the invisible God, the _____ (*firstborn*) over all creation. For everything was created by Him, in _____ (*heaven*) and on earth, the visible and the _____ (*invisible*), whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been _____ (*created*) through Him and for Him. *Colossians 1:15-16*
(NOTE: Use the version that your kids are memorizing throughout the week.)
- True or false: In the beginning, there was nothing ... only God the Father, His Son Jesus, and God's Holy Spirit. (*True.*)
- True or false: God made us able to enjoy relationships with each other, but not with God. (*False.*)

OPTIONAL: If time permits, consider using a game from the *VBS 2017 Recreation Rotation Leader Cards* for Day 1 (such as "Galaxy Group Up"). Be sure to add the "Make the Point" listed with the activity to tie the game to today's session.

Galactic Kaleidoscope

DAY 1: THE RELATIONSHIP BEGAN

BIBLE STORY: Genesis 1:1-2,26-31; John 1:1,14

TODAY'S POINT: The God who created everything wants a relationship with us.

CRAFT CONNECTION

Ask the kids if they have ever looked through a kaleidoscope before. Point out that when you look through a kaleidoscope all the colored pieces refract the light and form different patterns. Read Colossians 1:17. Remind kids that God holds all things together. Explain that when we try to see things from God's perspective they are not fragmented like the colors in a kaleidoscope.



GATHER SUPPLIES

- Everyday Supplies
- 6-inch square mirrored paper (1 per child)
- Tracing paper
- Clear plastic
- Thin cardboard
- Translucent seed beads or plastic confetti
- Clear and decorative tape
- Awl or ice pick (leader use)
- Foil star stickers or *VBS 2017 Theme Stickers* (005790527)

ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Score the mirrored squares every 2 inches.
- Cut the tracing paper, clear plastic, and thin cardboard into 2-inch equilateral triangles. You need one of each per child.
- Use the awl or ice pick to poke a hole in the center of each cardboard triangle.
- Make a sample kaleidoscope.

GALACTIC TIPS

- Make funnels from scraps of paper for kids to use to pour the beads into their triangles.
- Cut corners from plastic ziplock bags in place of using the plastic and tracing paper. You will already have a pocket to pour the beads into.
- Materials for a similar craft can be found in the *VBS 2017 Kaleidoscope Craft Pack* (005791179) for only \$.59 per child.

ASSEMBLE

Step 1: Fold the mirrored paper along the scored lines to make a triangular tube. The mirror should be on the inside.

Step 2: Use the stickers and markers to decorate the sides of the tube. Suggest kids print *God holds all things together.* on one side.

Step 3: Tape the sides together with the decorative tape. Tape the cardboard triangle to one of the open ends of the tube with decorative tape. This will be the eyepiece.

Step 4: Tape two sides of the tracing paper triangle to the plastic triangle with clear tape. Pour the beads into the open side of the triangle and tape closed.

Step 5: Attach the pocket of beads to the open end of the tube with tape with the tracing paper facing in. Show the kids how to look through the eyepiece with the end containing the beads pointing towards a light.

GALAXY GROUP UP

DAY 1

The Relationship Began

Bible Story

Genesis 1:1-2,26-31;

John 1:1,14

Bible Verse

Colossians 1:15-16



GALAXY GROUP UP

Make the Point

In the beginning, there was nothing. God created everything, including the stars in the sky. God had a plan for everything He created. He made Adam and then Eve to take care of everything. Stars in the sky are a wonderful reminder of how amazing God is, and now He wants a relationship with you.

Prep

- Cones or saucer field cups
- Use the cones to create a playing area for the game.

Play

- Share with kids that stars sometimes appear in groups called galaxies or constellations and in this game kids will pretend to be stars.
- Explain you will call out a number, and all the “stars” (or kids) must quickly get in the galaxy grouping you’ve called out and connect arms.
- Explain that you will call time after 10 seconds. Any stars who didn’t find a galaxy to group with will become shooting stars, running around the different groups of kids until the next number is called.
- Call out different numbers of groupings as you play the game.
- End the game by calling out the entire number of kids playing the game, so they become one giant group of stars.

PLANET PASS

DAY 1

The Relationship Began

Bible Story

Genesis 1:1-2,26-31;
John 1:1,14

Bible Verse

Colossians 1:15-16



PLANET PASS

Make the Point

God created the world and everything in it. God made the universe, and He had a design and plan for everything you see around you. All the planets are a part of God's ultimate design. The fact that the planets orbit around the sun is not an accident. If God has a plan for the planets, He has a plan for you, too! God wants to be in a relationship with you.

Prep

- Balls of different sizes and colors, at least one ball per team. For this game, a total of 8 balls per team would be ideal to represent 8 planets. The size and color of the balls or "planets" does not matter. If you only have one ball per team, the ball must travel around the sun eight times.
- Cones or saucer field cups
- Create a playing zone, with lanes for each team to use to travel down to the designated "sun" (a cone), around the sun, and back to the team.

Steps

- Form at least two teams. This game may be played with as many teams as needed.
- Announce the teams must complete one orbit around the sun for each planet in the solar system. Remind kids there are eight planets, so eight trips will need to be taken.
- Explain teams must send two players with the planet, using only their arms, no hands, to complete the orbit walking back-to-back with the planet in between them.
- Announce the first team to orbit the sun eight times wins the game.

SHOOTING STAR CATCH

DAY 1

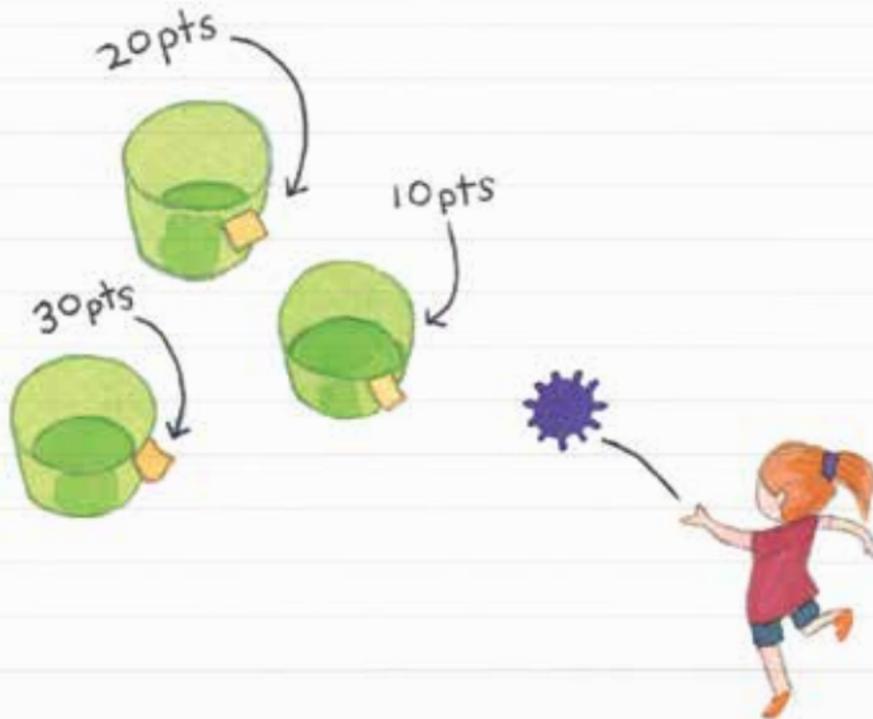
The Relationship Began

Bible Story

Genesis 1:1-2,26-31;
John 1:1,14

Bible Verse

Colossians 1:15-16



SHOOTING STAR CATCH

Make the Point

At certain times of the year, up to 100 shooting stars are visible in an hour. The shooting stars are more visible when there are no clouds or bad weather in the area. God makes it very clear He wants a relationship with you. He created the heavens and the earth. You don't have to wonder if God wants to be a part of your life. God wants you to be clear about your decision to learn more about Him.

Prep

- Balls (with “spikes” preferred)
- Buckets to collect the stars
- Sticky notes or paper and tape
- Marker
- Assign different point values to each bucket. Write the number of points on

the sticky note and attach the paper to the catching containers. Choose values for the points in ten point increments, for example: 10, 20, 30.

- Place the catching containers on the ground, positioning them from the lowest amount of points to the highest being the most difficult to toss the balls.

Steps

- Form two teams. (This game can be played individually as well.)
- Demonstrate how teams will toss their shooting stars at the catching containers.
- Challenge teams to set a goal for each round for how many points they want to earn.
- Explain that a team will take turns shooting the stars while the other team will help retrieve the stars and return them to the team.
- Play several rounds, allowing an equal number of tosses for each team each round.