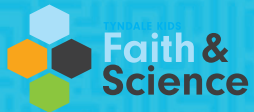


Elementary Children's

LESSON PLAN



Emphasis/Theme

By studying God's world, we learn more about who he is and how much he loves us. God is so big and powerful that he has created **GINORMOUS** things like planets and galaxies. He also has created even the **SMALLEST** things like atoms and quarks and knows exactly how they work. How much more does he love, know, and take care of you—his best creation!

Materials and Leader Preparation

■ REQUIRED:

- *The Size of Everything* book
- Scripture cards

■ OPTIONAL:

- Paper and drawing utensils (for the Size Comparison Art Project)

Welcome

■ PRAYER:

- Dear God, you are amazing and so powerful. You have created so many wonderful things. We pray that you would be with us as we learn more about you and your world today. Thank you for how much you love us. Amen.

■ TRIVIA QUESTIONS:

- Did you know that everything that exists is made of atoms, including people? How many atoms do you think make up an average adult person?
 - 7 octillion atoms—that's 7 with 27 zeros!
- What is the **LARGEST** living thing on earth?
 - A fungus called Humongous Fungus. It eats the roots of trees and spreads out underground.
- What is the **SMALLEST** thing in the universe that we know of?
 - A quark. Quarks are so small that they can't be seen with a microscope. We only know they exist based on experiments where atoms are smashed together in super long tubes called particle accelerators and quarks pop out!

- Where is the **TALLEST** volcano in our solar system located?
 - The planet Mars. It is called Olympus Mons, and it is three times taller than Mount Everest.
- VY Canis Majoris is one of the **LARGEST** stars. How many of our suns could fit inside of it?
 - 9.3 billion

Introducing the Story

The trivia questions come from the book *The Size of Everything: Ginormous Galaxies, Itty-Bitty Quarks, and Me*.

The Size of Everything is filled with tons of other cool facts like these. It talks about some of the things that God has created and what these things can teach us about him and ourselves. Let's read it together.

Telling the Story

- Read *The Size of Everything: Ginormous Galaxies, Itty-Bitty Quarks, and Me*.
- Read the introduction and then start the book in the middle. Let the children choose if they would like to read about **BIGGER** things or **SMALLER** things first. After you read one half of the book, go back to the middle, and read the other half!

Discussion Questions

- Did you learn anything about God's world from *The Size of Everything* that you didn't know before? If so, what did you learn?
- What is one of your favorite things that God created? Why do you like that thing?
- Which idea is more amazing to you: that God created such **TINY, ITTY-BITTY** things like quarks or that he created **GINORMOUS** things like nebulae and the **BOSS** Great Wall? Why?

Bible Connection

- Use the included Scripture cards to read as many of the following verses with the children as you would like. If you have older children, you could ask them to read the cards.
- Ask a few reflection questions (see below) after each verse and discuss what the Bible has to say about who God is and what he has created.

- Scripture Cards: All passages are from the NLT unless specified otherwise.

Jeremiah 32:17

O Sovereign Lord! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you!

Psalm 19:1-4

The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world.

Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, 'Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. . . . So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Psalm 139:13-14

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.

Job 12:7-8, 10

Just ask the animals, and they will teach you. Ask the birds of the sky, and they will tell you. Speak to the earth, and it will instruct you. Let the fish in the sea speak to you. . . . For the life of every living thing is in his hand, and the breath of every human being.

Psalm 36:5-7

Your unfailing love, O Lord, is as vast as the heavens; your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the ocean depths. You care for people and animals alike, O Lord. How precious is your unfailing love, O God! All humanity finds shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Colossians 1:15-17

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see. . . . Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.

Job 38:4-5, ESV

Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?

Psalm 8:3-5

When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you set in place—what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor.

Matthew 6:26

Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?

Matthew 6:28-30

Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you.

Psalm 139:17-18

How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me!

■ REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- What does this verse teach us about God?
- What does this verse teach us about ourselves?
- How does it make you feel when you think about how big God is?
- Why can it sometimes be hard to trust God to take care of us?
- What does it mean to be made in God's image?
- How does it make you feel to know that you, and all people, are God's best creation?

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for all you have made! Thank you for animals, mountains, oceans, planets, and galaxies. Thank you for atoms, quarks, and DNA. We praise you for your creativity and power! We praise you that out of all the incredible things you made, you chose us before the beginning of the world to be your most special creations. Thank you for seeing us and loving us all the time. Help us remember that you will always take care of us. We trust you and worship you today.

Amen.

Extension Activities

■ SIZE SCAVENGER HUNT:

- Ask each child to find an object in the room that is **BIGGER** or **SMALLER** than a particular part of their body. See examples below.

Find something in the room that is **LARGER** than your foot.

Find something in the room that is **SMALLER** than your head.

Find something in the room that is **LARGER** than your hand.

Find something in the room that is **SMALLER** than your thumb.

Find something in the room that is **LARGER** than your body.

Find something in the room that is **SMALLER** than your fist.

Find something in the room that is **LARGER** than your arm.

Find something in the room that is **SMALLER** than your pinky fingernail.

Find something in the room that is **SMALLER** than your nose.

Find something in the room that is **LARGER** than your leg.

Find something in the room that is **SMALLER** than your foot.

Find something in the room that is **SMALLER** than your body.

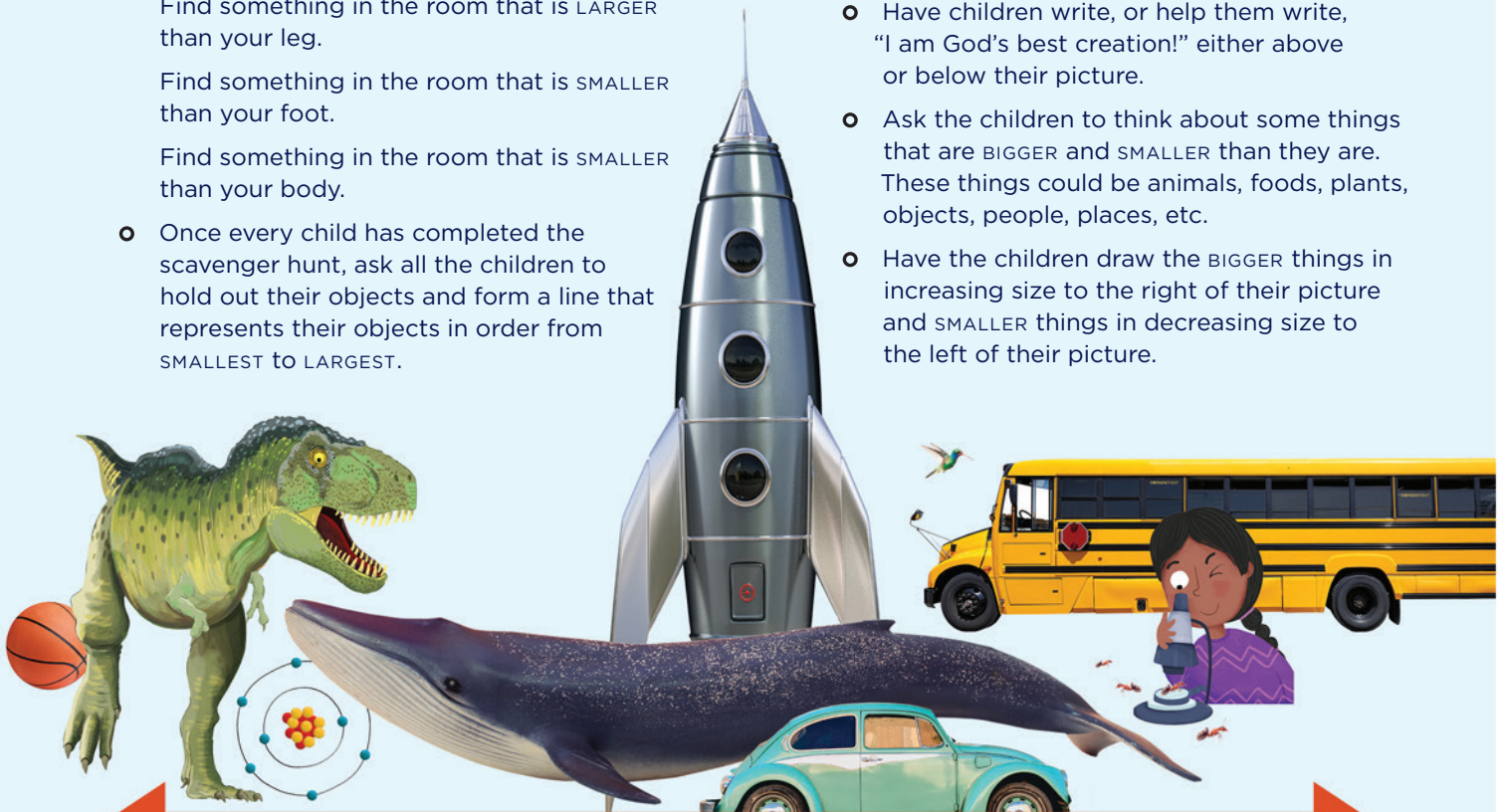
- Once every child has completed the scavenger hunt, ask all the children to hold out their objects and form a line that represents their objects in order from **SMALLEST** to **LARGEST**.

■ CHAIN TAG:

- Play tag and make a human chain just like the chain of Humongous Fungus, the largest living thing on earth!
- Every child starts as “it” and tries to tag someone else.
- Once one child tags another, they link arms, becoming one chain, and try to tag other children. If one chain tags another chain, they join up together into one big chain.
- Play until all the children are part of the same huge chain!

■ SIZE COMPARISON ART PROJECT:

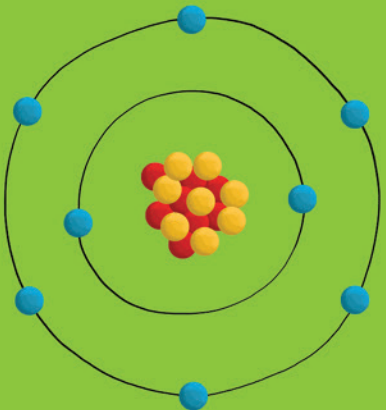
- Materials:
 - Paper (legal size works well)
 - Markers, crayons, colored pencils, or other colored drawing utensils
- Give each child a piece of paper.
- Have each child draw a dark line horizontally across the middle of their paper.
- Above the middle of their line, have them draw a picture of themselves. This point on the line represents their size, just like in *The Size of Everything*.
- Have children write, or help them write, “I am God’s best creation!” either above or below their picture.
- Ask the children to think about some things that are **BIGGER** and **SMALLER** than they are. These things could be animals, foods, plants, objects, people, places, etc.
- Have the children draw the **BIGGER** things in increasing size to the right of their picture and **SMALLER** things in decreasing size to the left of their picture.



SMALLER

A START IN THE ((MIDDLE)) BOOK

LARGER



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O Sovereign Lord! You made the heavens and earth
by your strong hand and powerful arm.
Nothing is too hard for you!

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So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God
he created them; male and female he created them.'



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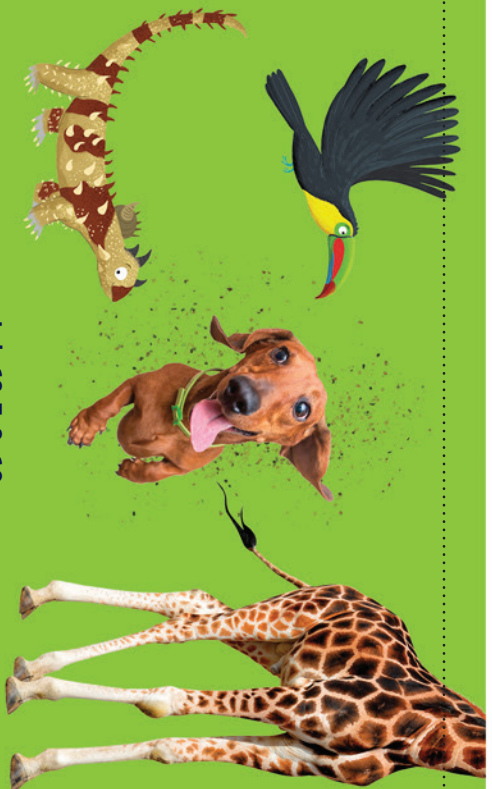
The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship.
Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known.
They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. Yet their
message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world.



Psalms 139:13-14

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together
in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!
Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.





Job 12:7-8, 10

Just ask the animals, and they will teach you. Ask the birds of the sky, and they will tell you. Speak to the earth, and it will instruct you. Let the fish in the sea speak to you. . . . For the life of every living thing is in his hand, and the breath of every human being.

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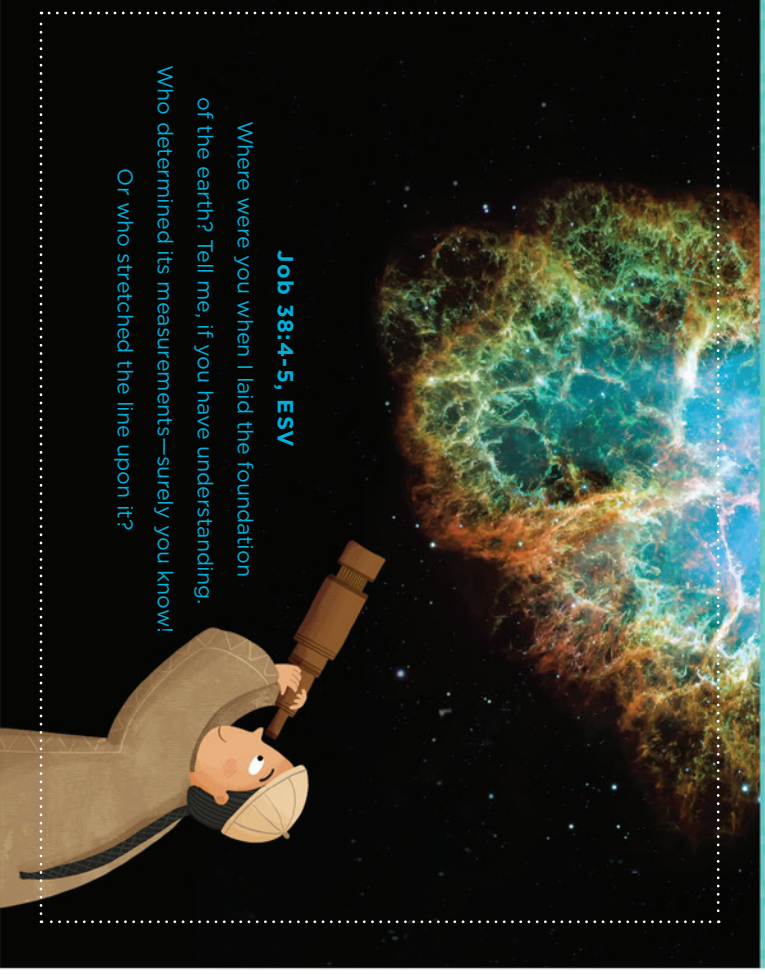
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