

XTREME ENCOUNTER

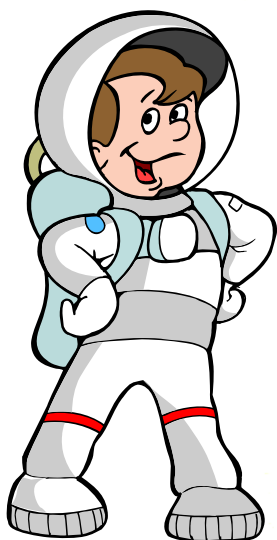
A SALVATION SPACE JOURNEY...
...THIS TIME IT'S PERSONAL



Close Encounters
Ministries

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XTREME ENCOUNTER...A SALVATION SPACE JOURNEY



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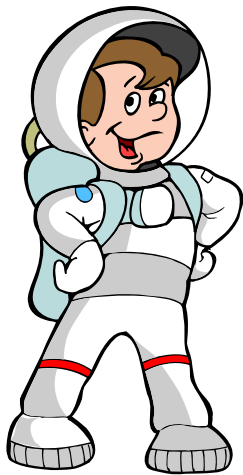
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XTREME ENCOUNTER ...A SALVATION SPACE JOURNEY This Time It's Personal!

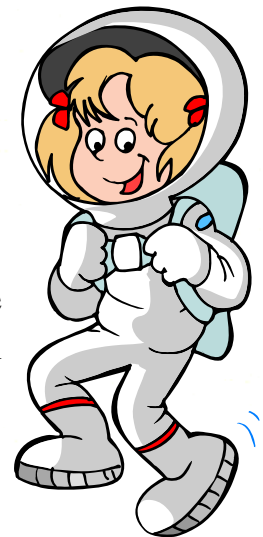


Climb aboard our N.A.S.A. (Needing A Savior Always) Space Shuttle and head to the galaxy and beyond. It's a glorious trip to mysterious planets.

Join the long line of courageous astronauts who have escaped earth's atmosphere and experienced the joy of God's extreme universe.

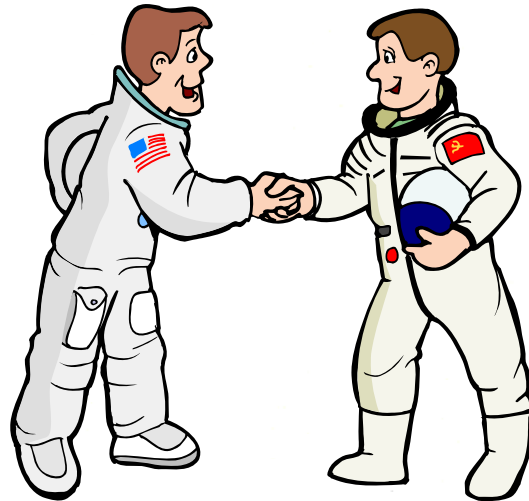
**One Giant Leap Into Fun!
The Future Begins Today!
Believe in Jesus! Blast Off for Heaven!**

This five day space journey is an XTREME ENCOUNTER with the Creator of the Universe. God came to Earth to offer personal salvation to each person.



*O LORD our Lord,
how excellent is thy name in all the earth!
Who hast set thy glory above the heavens...
When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers,
the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;
What is man, that thou art mindful of him?
And the son of man, that thou visitest him?
Psalm 8:1, 3-4*

ALL SYSTEMS GO!



XTREME ENCOUNTER is a Christ centered five day Vacation Bible School for Preschool and Elementary children. Our Space theme is unique so enjoy the company of friends in an exciting “*techie*” futuristic environment.

XTREME ENCOUNTER students visit five Bible Space Stations on separate days. Costumed leaders treat the children as rookie astronauts on their first space journey. Bible stories, space activities and a craft project are part of these areas.

XTREME ENCOUNTER features an variety of fifteen minute daily activities. Blast off at **N.A.S.A. Launch Pad Opening**. Dine at **Ration Station** and play games with the **Bubble Scientist**. Listen to a Conley twin adventure story called “*The Rocket Man*”. Salvation songs ring out at **Song Quest**. Learn about salvation in the daily **Mission Control Center**.

XTREME ENCOUNTER offers curriculum ideas for a preschool group named **THE ALPHA CREW**. Students (Ages 4-5) participate in the same activities as older students with a special teaching team. Suggestions are included for **ROCKET TOTS** nursery (Birth-Age 3) to arrange a safe, fun spot for toddlers of staff leaders and helpers.



GET WITH THE PROGRAM!

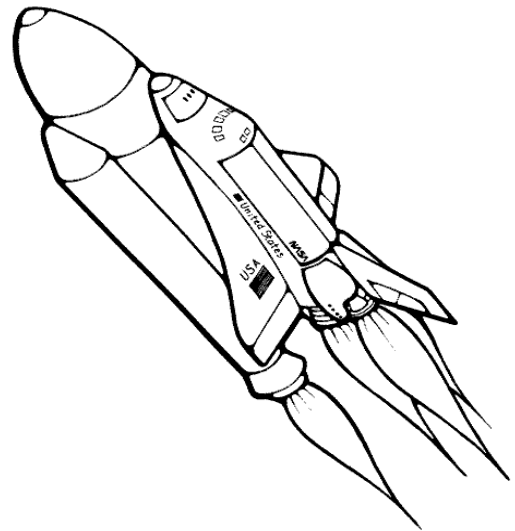
*Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.
Matthew 3:3 (NIV)*



***THESE SUGGESTIONS ARE A GUIDELINE.
Build an exciting Vacation Bible School using
XTREME ENCOUNTER Bible stories and activities.***

**XTREME ENCOUNTER IS AN ACTIVITY BASED
EVENT FOR PRESCHOOL THROUGH GRADE SIX
STUDENTS.** Involve Grade 7-12, Youth and College
students as helpers, team leaders and teachers.

**SPACE CADET-STUDENT
GROUPS.** This journey to space
and salvation is not threatening.
Individual groups display COLOR
CODED name tags and wear crew
hats. Space Cadets stay in the
same group all week.



SPACE STATION TEACHERS DECORATE AND PREPARE THEIR AREA. The same Bible lesson is repeated daily to a new group. Adjust teaching activities as needed. A new Space Cadet group arrives each day. Accompany your assigned group wherever they go. Groups must have a leader with them at all times.



FIFTEEN MINUTE ACTIVITY TEACHERS SEE ALL STUDENTS EACH DAY. Groups travel to music, snack and special fifteen minute activities. Activity teachers prepare five separate daily activities.

PURCHASE SUPPLIES AS NEEDED. Give bills to the CREW CHIEF/DIRECTOR or ask for a check in advance. Look for sales, discounts, theme catalogs and scrap materials from backyards. Craft projects from **S&S arts and crafts** catalog may be purchased at reasonable prices. Use your church tax exemption number when purchasing materials.

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Make as many copies as needed for local church use. Give interested folks our order form, mailing address and toll free telephone number (1-888-236-5433) 888-CEM-LIFE. Your cooperation allows CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES to continue production of exciting, inspiring, positive Christian programs as a low cost to churches across the nation. Copyright-All Rights Reserved protected.

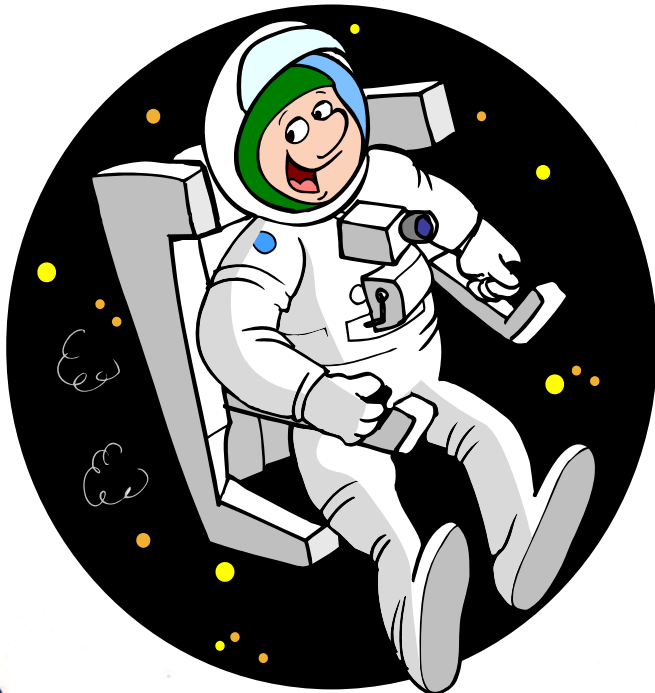


CREW CHIEF BLUEPRINTS

The Main Booster!



...Has not the Lord anointed you leader over His inheritance?
I Samuel 10:1b (NIV)



Lead students in amazing salvation space journey adventures. This Vacation Bible School, divided into reasonable sections, is completed by people other than the **Crew Chief**.

CHARACTER AND COSTUME: When watching a shuttle launch from Cape Canaveral, you see men and women dressed in white coveralls and white baseball caps.

*Wear white slacks or shorts, white t-shirt or medical lab coat and a white cap.
(S&S catalog offers inexpensive painters caps.)*

Clip a name tag to the front of your outfit and, if available, appropriate cloth patches. White or light bib overalls with a white shirt work well too. Carry a clipboard with the launch checklist attached.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Direct your team with focused determination and cheerfulness, helping them prepare specific activity areas. Be available to answer questions, order materials, make copies and secure props and costumes.



DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITY. Vacation Bible School is a team effort. Never apologize when asking for help. Trust your staff to carry out their assigned tasks. Check in with them occasionally as their supportive leader.

PRACTICE A POSITIVE APPROACH. Statements like “*We can’t do it*”, “*We never did it this way*”, “*There is no money*” or “*No one will teach*” serve no purpose. If the Crew Chief’s attitude is right, even the grouchiest saint responds cheerfully.

PRAY! Pray for staff, students and the entire event. Take each detail before the Lord and then—Relax!!

PLAN! Read **XTREME ENCOUNTER** and note areas requiring special attention. List details you must handle personally. Meet with the staff **six weeks** before Vacation Bible School begins.

ADAPT! Complete program adaptations to accommodate your local church during preliminary planning to avoid staff confusion.

SET UP! Give adequate set up time. Decorate during the week prior to Vacation Bible School making sure everything is in place for Day #1.



STAFF PRAYER. Plan a five minute session one half hour before the day begins. Those who attend will appreciate the “*upward boost*”.

ALPHA CREW PRESCHOOL PREPARATION. Give preschool leaders copies of decorating ideas, teacher information and lesson plans designed for older students.

Speak to individual activity leaders to be sure projects are appropriate for preschool students. Do away with complicated or frightening activities.



Choose age appropriate craft projects from S&S arts and crafts catalog or create your own projects using local craft supplies.

OPTION: Preschool children become one of the five major groups. They can travel to activities like everyone else.

Benefits: Less staff, easy planning, less expense and the “grown up” feeling preschoolers get when they become big kids.

Home Base: Provide a room where students rest and enjoy age appropriate crafts and stories if activities seem difficult. Think about the best way to organize this group of motivated students.

PURCHASE OR MAKE STAFF THANK YOU GIFTS. This “*God given*” team is vital to children’s ministry in your church. There is nothing like appreciation to keep teachers coming back. Pray for them sincerely and thank them privately and publicly.



CLEAN UP. When **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED OPEN HOUSE** is over, clean up begins. **XTREME ENCOUNTER** is not complete until the church is in order. Encourage the staff to remove props immediately. Stay to help!

CHOOSING THE STAFF

Staff choice will make or break XTREME ENCOUNTER!

Do NOT be satisfied with “any warm body”.

Aim for the best people to fill each teaching spot.

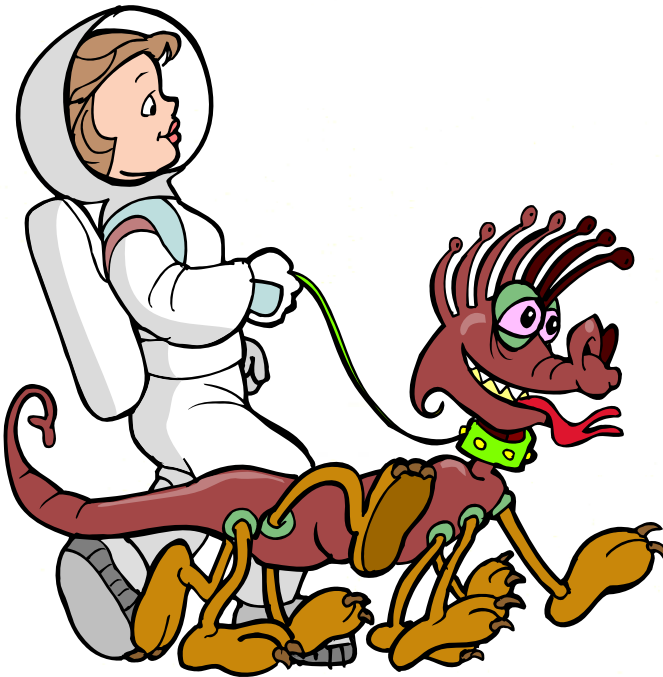


RECRUIT

Approach people personally with a specific task. Explain the job fully. No sugar coating allowed!!!

BULLETIN INSERT

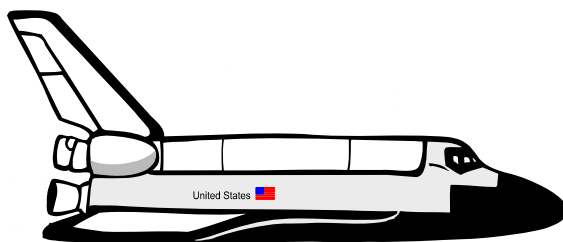
Include a worship folder bulletin recruitment insert for two or three Sundays. Give people with specific requests their assignment immediately. Explain the insert during worship announcement time dressed in costume.. Give this introductory effort the personal touch. **See Bulletin Insert Sample.**



PICK AND CHOOSE

For remaining positions, call people you know will do a good job. The Lord honors your attempt to have the best staff possible. Pray about staff choices and if someone says “No”, assume another person is waiting to fill that place. Use teens, men, women and senior citizens as staff members.

GATHER THE CREW



PLAN ONE STAFF EVENING TO EXPLAIN EXACTLY WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED

Stress 100% attendance so no other meeting will be necessary.

SEAT STAFF ACCORDING TO WORK AREAS

Distribute specific lesson plans. Build in “chatter” time to create excitement as teachers and helpers plan their week.

PREVIEW THE ENTIRE PROGRAM

The staff needs an overview of all events taking place throughout the church.

BE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, ASSIGN CLASSROOMS, GIVE INSPIRATION

Be the person in charge—The **CREW CHIEF!**

AFTER THE MEETING, THE CREW CHIEF TURNS ATTENTION TO OTHER AREAS

Trust the staff to carry out their specific activity assignments.

THE TELEPHONE IS THE CREW CHIEF/STAFF LIFELINE

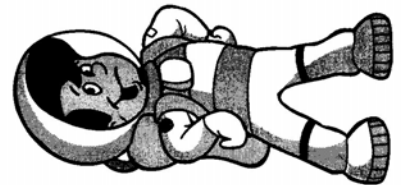


XTREME ENCOUNTER...A SALVATION SPACE JOURNEY

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| STUDENT GROUPS | 9:00-9:15 | 9:15-9:30 | 9:30-9:45 | 9:45-10:00 | 10:00-10:15 | 10:15-10:30 | 10:30-10:45 | 10:45-11:00 | 11:00-11:15 | 11:15-11:30 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| ALPHA CADETS ages 4-5 | N.A.S.A. OPENING | W O R K S H O P | | | RATION STATION SNACKS | BUBBLE PROFESSOR GAMES | SONG QUEST MUSIC | SPACE PLACE STORY | MISSION CONTROL | CLOSING |
| SPACE CAT CADETS Kindergarten | N.A.S.A. OPENING | SONG QUEST MUSIC | MISSION CONTROL | W O R K S H O P | K S H O P | | RATION STATION SNACKS | BUBBLE PROFESSOR GAMES | SPACE PLACE STORY | CLOSING |
| AIR HEAD CADETS Grade 1 | N.A.S.A. OPENING | MISSION CONTROL | SONG QUEST MUSIC | SPACE PLACE STORY | W O R K S H O P | K S H O P | | RATION STATION SNACKS | BUBBLE PROFESSOR GAMES | CLOSING |
| MOON UNIT CADETS Grade 2-3 | N.A.S.A. OPENING | SPACE PLACE STORY | W O R K S H O P | R K S H O P | H O P | RATION STATION SNACKS | BUBBLE PROFESSOR GAMES | MISSION CONTROL | SONG QUEST MUSIC | CLOSING |
| OMEGA CADETS Grade 4-5 | N.A.S.A. OPENING | BUBBLE PROFESSOR GAMES | SPACE PLACE STORY | RATION STATION SNACKS | MISSION CONTROL | SONG QUEST MUSIC | W O R K S H O P | | | CLOSING |

DAILY GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

| | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| BIBLE WORKSHOPS | | | | | |
| COLD PLANET | ALPHA CADETS | SPACE CAT CADETS | MOON UNIT CADETS | OMEGA CADETS | AIR HEAD CADETS |
| GROUND Z-er-O | SPACE CAT CADETS | ALPHA CADETS | OMEGA CADETS | AIR HEAD CADETS | MOON UNIT CADETS |
| SHUTTLE MISSION | AIR HEAD CADETS | OMEGA CADETS | ALPHA CADETS | MOON UNIT CADETS | SPACE CAT CADETS |
| LUNAR CAMP | MOON UNIT CADETS | AIR HEAD CADETS | SPACE CAT CADETS | ALPHA CADETS | OMEGA CADETS |
| ANGEL SKYLAB | OMEGA CADETS | MOON UNIT CADETS | AIR HEAD CADETS | SPACE CAT CADETS | ALPHA CADETS |





XTREME ENCOUNTER

... A SALVATION SPACE JOURNEY

*“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers,
the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained...” from Psalm 8*



NASA ASSIGNMENTS

| | | |
|----------------------|--|----------------------|
|REGISTRATION | Help Students Sign In | LEAD/HELP |
|ART CREW | Make and Set Up Decorations | LEAD/HELP |
|PHOTOGRAPHY | | VIDEO/SNAPSHOTS/DISK |
|SONG QUEST | Space Praise Music | LEAD/HELP |
|RATION STATION | Astronaut Snacks | LEAD/HELP |
|BUBBLE SCIENTIST | Bubble Games | LEAD/HELP |
|SPACE BASE | “The Rocket Man” Conley Twin Adventure | STORY TELLER |
|MISSION CONTROL | Salvation Station | LEAD/HELP |
|ALPHA CREW | Preschool Fun (Ages 4-5) | LEAD/HELP |
|ROCKET TOTS | Staff Nursery (Birth-Age 3) | LEAD/HELP |

NASA BIBLE SPACE STATION ASSIGNMENTS

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
|COLD PLANET | Life Without Jesus–Lost! | LEAD/HELP |
|GROUND ZerO EARTH | Pick Up The Crew–Saved! | LEAD/HELP |
|SHUTTLE MISSION | Trouble In Space–Sin! | LEAD/HELP |
|LUNAR CAMP | Moonlight--Growing In Faith | LEAD/HELP |
|ANGEL SKYLAB | Countdown To Heaven–Heading Home | LEAD/HELP |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
|I HAVE PROPS YOU CAN BORROW! | JUST ASK ME! |
|I WILL DONATE SNACKS! | I LOVE TO COOK! |
|I WILL GIVE A FINANCIAL DONATION! | IT IS WORTH IT! |
|I WILL PRAY FOR THE CREW! | I CAN DO IT! |

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____
 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DATES: _____ TIME: _____

“FLY” YOUR CHOICE TO THE CREW CHIEF! GOD

SPEED!

GROUPING SPACE CADETS!

XTREME ENCOUNTER is broadly graded.

The goal is to provide a preschool program and five Bible Space Station groups of equal size.



ROCKET TOTS (BIRTH-AGE 3): Two choices are apparent when planning the nursery. Will we open this for the community? Will we provide a staff babysitting service?

ALPHA CREW PRESCHOOL (AGES 4-5): Give youngsters free time and optional involvement in daily activities. OR—Include these children as one of the basic five groups.



COLOR CODE FOR EASY IDENTIFICATION

ROCKET TOTS (BIRTH-AGE 3) NO COLOR
ALPHA CREW PRESCHOOL (AGES 4-5) WHITE
SPACE CATS (KINDERGARTEN) YELLOW
AIR HEADS (GRADE 1) BLUE
MOON UNIT (GRADE 2-3) GREEN
OMEGA CREW (GRADES 4-5) RED
GRADE 6 MAY BE ADDED AS DESIRED.

Overlap ages in any group. If twenty students are in one group and five students in another, switch students regardless of grade. Visiting cousins and friends appreciate joining familiar faces in an unfamiliar situation.



GROUPING OPTION FOR SMALL CHURCHES

With twenty or less students and a few faithful teachers, consider running one daily **BIBLE SPACE STATION** with all students in one group. The same teaching team presents a different station each day in the same teaching area. Crafts can be adapted and offered in a separate area using the same teachers or a craft crew. Smaller groups have the luxury of treating students to craft projects carried over from day to day. Students may travel to each activity together.

REGISTRATION TEAM

Make name tags and lead the Registration Table the first day. This job is too big for one person. If there is a tangle at registration, the first day could be delayed as much as thirty minutes.



**Identify individual group colors, group names and grades.
 Students line up to receive a name tag/flight cap.**

PRE REGISTRATION. Registration cards simplify the first day by having name tags/flight caps prepared. Utilize church newsletter, bulletin, special mailing and take home forms. Telephone neighborhood families. Visit nearby neighborhoods. Record name, grade/age, emergency telephone and emergency contact person, environment or food allergy information. If cards are the basis for church growth, add address, parent names.

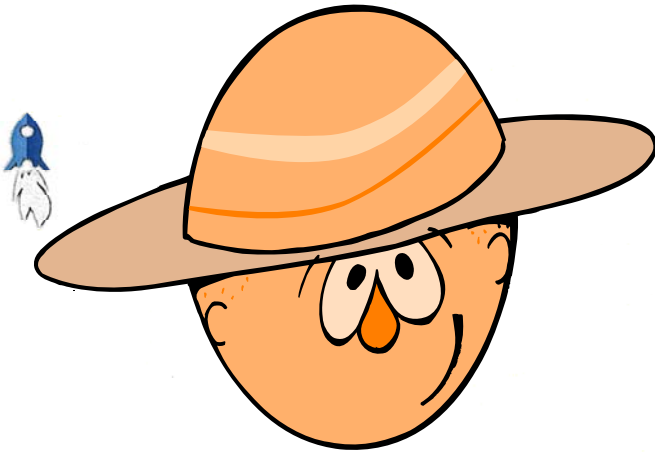
FLIGHT PATCHES give each group a name and color identity. Purchase name tag covers from a catalog or local office store. Slide student name into the sleeve on the appropriate group color. Pin tags to students. Collect tags at the end of each day and place them in **NASA LAUNCH PAD OPENING** area.

FLIGHT CAPS. Purchase inexpensive white painters caps from **Oriental Trading Company** or **S&S arts and crafts** catalog. Print student names in permanent fabric marker across the front. OR—Print NASA across the front of each cap highlighted in group colors. The caps become memorable take home keepsakes!



CREATING OUTER SPACE ATMOSPHERE

For everything God created is good.... I Timothy 4:4a (NIV)



Create a simple, colorful space environment. Students and guests enter a make-believe universe complete with earthbound control centers, astronauts, strange planets and spaceships.

Discuss decoration at the beginning of the planning process. Follow curriculum suggestions or develop your own style.

Leaders in individual activity areas decorate their rooms.
Special attention is given to NASA LAUNCH PAD Opening area.

ALUMINUM FOIL! Foil gives a futuristic appearance and it sparkles. Tables, walls and doors become interesting when given the foil treatment!

SIGNS! Display signs outside each activity area. Cover cardboard in aluminum foil before attaching printed words. Decorate the signs with sun, moon, stars and planets. Silver glitter sprayed or sprinkled add to the effect.

ROCKETS! Make large rocket ships using appliance boxes or plywood. These ships represent the vehicles taking students on their salvation space journey. Purchase plain kites and draw pictures of rocket ships on them. Place kites in all areas of Vacation Bible School.

LIGHTS! Be creative with lighting. Place floor spot lights shining upward. String miniature white lights around ceilings and floors and along hallways. Purchase, borrow or rent a Disco Ball. Colors spin around the room. Use black light bulbs in dark areas. Any spot where students congregate is appropriate for a lighting treatment.



BALLOONS! Purchase gold and silver star shaped helium balloons. (*Oriental Trading Catalog*) Intersperse star balloons with jumbo round balloons in various colors. Fill NASA Opening, hallways and some activity centers with balloons.

STARS! Make large glittery stars in all sizes and colors. Hang stars from the ceiling and tape to walls. Stars with messages are fun. Create a star studded "Stairway To Heaven" in the halls and stair wells..



**DON'T LOOK TO THE STARS TO SAVE YOU
...LOOK TO THE ONE WHO MADE THE STARS!
WORSHIP THE SON
HEAVEN...JUST AROUND THE BEND
JESUS...THE WAY OF X-CAPE!
IF YOU'RE SAVED AND YOU KNOW IT, TELL A FRIEND!
BLAST OFF FOR HEAVEN!**

MOON ROCKS! Collect rocks at a lake, creek or farm. Ask church families to bring rocks from their yards. Spray rocks silver and gold and top off with glitter spray. Some rocks may be left natural. Print Bible verses on a few.

POSTERS! Web sites like Ebay and art.com offer inexpensive prints of moonscapes, earth from the moon, moon from the earth, Mars, etc. Real astronauts and shuttles may be featured. Assign one person the task of finding and purchasing posters.



PROPS! Display items appropriate to each activity center. Follow specific directions for each area.

MUSIC! Purchase the classical music *THE PLANETS* by Gustav Holst. This is great background music as students arrive and leave. Also play Christian worship music, especially during RATION STATION.

DRESSING FOR AN XTREME ENCOUNTER

Bring the XTREME ENCOUNTER theme to life with costumes. This does not have to be difficult or expensive. Follow a few tips and let your imagination run wild!



WHITE COVERALLS: Become a NASA technician in a one piece coverall. Attach a pin or patch to the sleeve.

FLIGHT CAP: Wear a white baseball style flight cap. Painters caps are available in S&S arts and crafts catalog at reasonable prices. **Attach a name tag to the cap.**

WHITE SHOES: Wear comfortable white shoes.

Wear white shorts/slacks, plain white t-shirt or dress shirt and a white flight cap. Also appropriate are white t-shirts with Christian messages, stars, sun, moon, clouds.

NASA shirts are available online: Search www.nasa.gov and other sites for the Kennedy Space Center to find appropriate and authentic gear. Some shirts read NASA and are perfect for this theme! Caps, keychains, patches and other items are also available at the NASA web site.

PLANET WEAR: If you are on the moon, skylab or snack area, use metallic silver and gold fabric. Wear a simple tunic and pant set. Consider a pantsuit, long dress or helmet.

ASTRONAUT: Look at curriculum graphics to recreate the astronaut look. White coveralls, backpack, and round helmet give the astronaut look. Check costume rental stores! Patterns may be available for homemade versions.

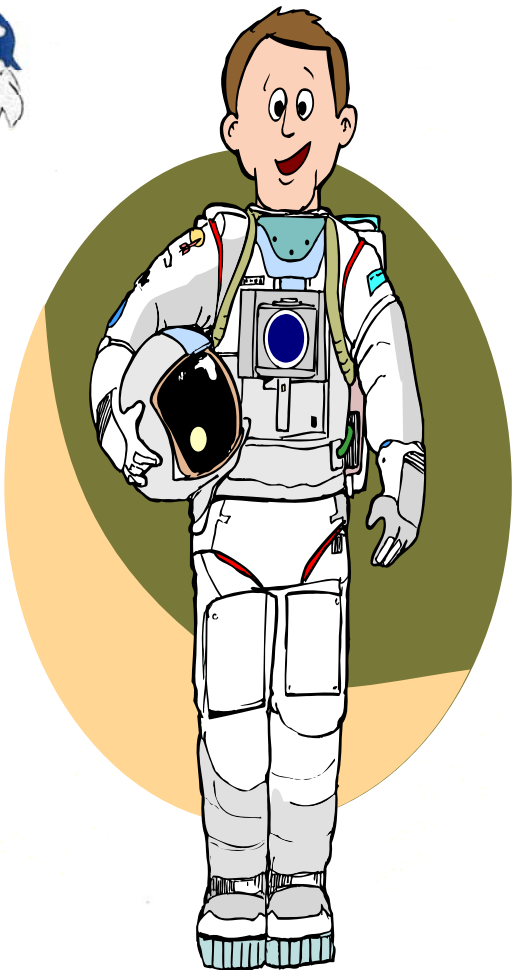
STYLES OF THE FUTURE: Imagine futuristic clothing and have fun creating your costume. Patterns are available that recreate STAR WARS and television's STAR TREK designs. Have fun!

PUBLICITY

Publicity is vital to Vacation Bible School.

Be clear and concise.

Request a specific publicity team.



CHURCH BULLETIN. Begin by advertising for CREW MEMBERS. Include VBS reminders in the weekly church bulletin until **XTREME ENCOUNTER** begins. Include registration forms when appropriate.

CHURCH NEWSLETTER. Print quick, catchy announcements and include registration forms in the monthly church newsletter.

WORSHIP SERVICE GREETERS. Greet people coming into church for worship. This is a great reminder that **XTREME ENCOUNTER** is coming. Dress in costume. Place a student near the door. Give Registration Forms and basic information.

LOCAL NEWSPAPER. Take black and white photographs of your people in costume. Send a news release several weeks before **XTREME ENCOUNTER** begins to insure publication. Invite a local news reporter and photographer. **XTREME ENCOUNTER** makes a great feature story!

COLORING CONTEST. Sponsor a Sunday School coloring contest. Choose one picture. Display completed pictures. Award prizes to create excitement.

VISIT THE PULPIT. Visit the pastor during announcement time. Give this your best effort so the congregation becomes excited about the event. Play space music as you enter the sanctuary. Wear a costume and give basic information.



LETTERS. Send a letter to potential students. Fold the letters like paper airplanes before placing them in envelopes.

LOCAL TELEVISION. Ask your local television station to tape a feature story. This is great publicity and encouragement. Do not assume a crew will NOT come. Call and ask! Use the local television cable advertizing station to print a few lines about your event. This is free or inexpensive.

LOCAL RADIO. Radio stations are required to dedicate air time to local events. Send an announcement to be broadcast several times a day. Christian radio stations also announce Vacation Bible School.

NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES. Does your denomination have a communication network? Send pictures and a well written article. You may be pleasantly surprised to find your church featured in the next edition.

SIGNS AND POSTERS. These are the most common forms of publicity. Although considered the least effective, placing signs and posters in stores, offices and other well traveled spots brings attention to your program. Attach tear off sheets stating basic information.

CHURCH SIGN. Place a large sign outside the church announcing dates and times. Use the Space theme to draw attention to the sign. Fly colored flags and pennants. Make the sign in the shape of a space ship. Light the sign at night.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

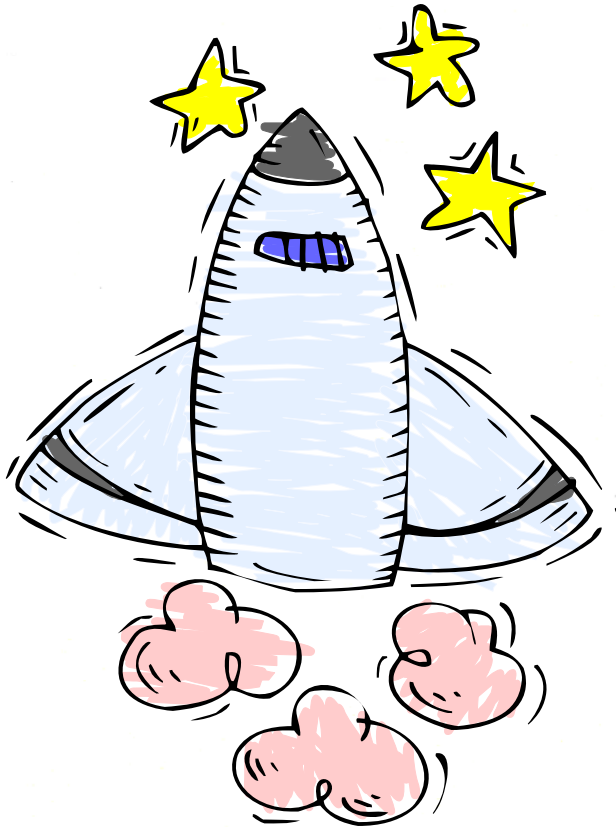
**XTREME ENCOUNTER
SALVATION SPACE JOURNEY**

THIS TIME IT'S PERSONAL!

**N.A.S.A.
(Needing A Savior Always)
XTREME ENCOUNTER**

**LAUNCH DATES:
T MINUS __ AND
COUNTING!
BLAST OFF!**

One Giant Leap Into Fun!



PHOTOGRAPHY

Pictures are a unique way to remember the work and the rewards of a bright, visual week. Ask the church photographer to wear an appropriate costume and to enter each activity with enthusiasm.



ENCOURAGE VISITORS TO BRING CAMERAS. This is a great way to involve parents and church members who visit decorated areas. Amateur photographers usually stand at one side to take pictures and should not disrupt events.

ASSIGN A PHOTOGRAPHY CREW to take pictures. Underwrite the cost of film and developing from Vacation Bible School resources.

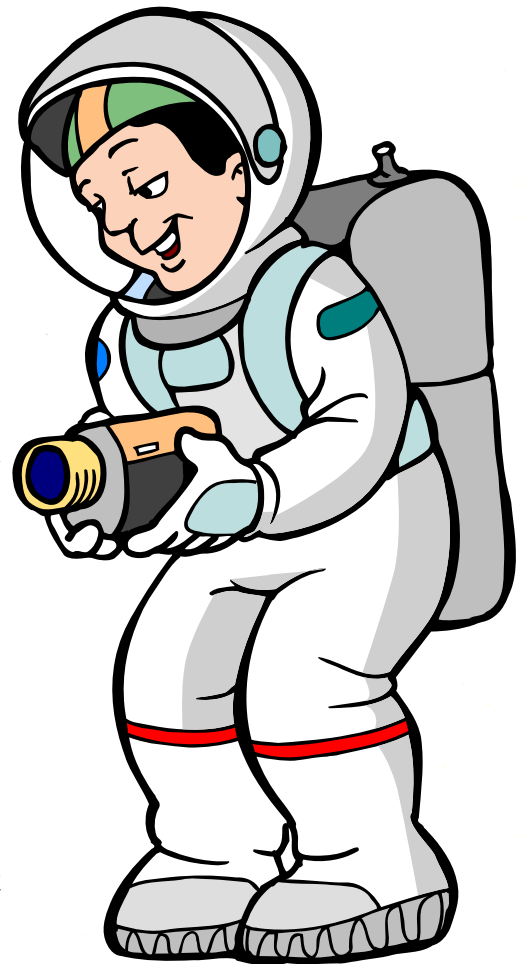
35 MM COLOR PRINTS. Take pictures early in the week. Facial close ups are the most popular shots. Develop film at a fast developing center. Display all pictures at OPEN HOUSE.

DISK PHOTOGRAPHY. Make CD's that can be offered to families. Place pictures on the church internet site.

VIDEO. Delegate one person to video tape all events. Some activities can be staged for filming but it is fun to record events as they develop.

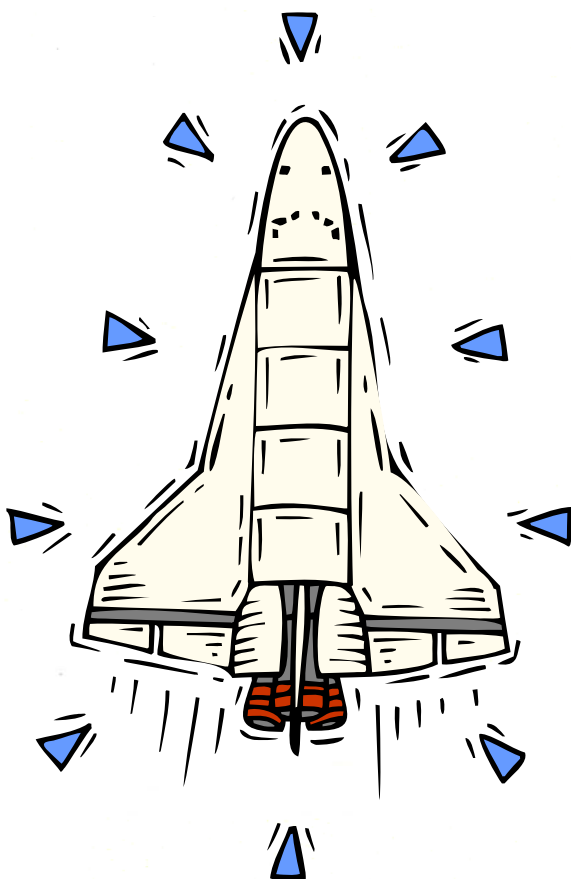
SELLING PICTURES. Be prepared to quote prices. Do you want to cover the cost or defray Vacation Bible School expenses? Print a sign up sheet and display pictures so families may choose at OPEN HOUSE.

DISPLAY PICTURES. Consider viewing pictures during OPEN HOUSE. Prints may be placed on a wall/bulletin board and video may be shown in the RATION STATION snack area.



N.A.S.A. LAUNCH PAD...THE OPENING (NEEDING A SAVIOR ALWAYS)

Introduce daily events, pray, make announcements, collect offering, spark enthusiasm and sing. NASA LAUNCH PAD skits establish a launch pad site with interesting characters in an imaginary Space Center location.



DECORATIONS: Design a visual focal point for the space theme. Use our suggestions or create your own launch pad using supplies available.

SIGNS: Print an official sign **NASA-NEEDING A SAVIOR ALWAYS** and place it on stage or on a background wall. Hang large, fluffy clouds across the background.

Crew Signs: Identify each group with a large star in the group color placed where the crew will sit. Cover the star with clear contact paper and attach firmly to pew or center aisle seat.

Star Signs: Tape stars in bright colors around the room. Print memory verses on some of the stars, leave some plain and print space quips on others.

**DON'T LOOK TO THE STARS TO SAVE YOU!
LOOK TO THE ONE WHO MADE THE STARS!
SALVATION SPACE JOURNEY.
UP, UP AND AWAY!
FLY WITH JESUS!
YOU'LL LOVE THE WAY WE FLY!
THIS TIME IT'S PERSONAL....**



SHUTTLE: Create a free standing shuttle ready for take off. Use two appliance boxes stacked together or cut from plywood. The bigger the better!!! Use our graphic as a pattern. On the wings of the shuttle print the words: ALPHA AND OMEGA—TO SALVATION AND BEYOND! Spot light it from the floor.

TELESCOPE: Place one large, real telescope on stage.

STAR STUDDED WALK: Make large stars from posterboard, cover them with clear contact paper and place them in a straight line down the center aisle. As children enter, they should literally “walk on the stars”.

HELIUM BALLOONS: Fly star shaped balloons throughout the seating area. Place the balloons on long strings. If available, use balloons resembling Planet Earth or other planets to complete the theme.

MICROPHONE STAND: Decorate the microphone stand with a posterboard astronaut attached to the length. Use one of the curriculum graphics for the pattern.

COLLECT OFFERING: Place money in large silver hubcaps before students find their seat. Before Vacation Bible School decide where to donate the offering. If a special mission is designated, let families know. If a contest between groups or boys vs. girls is desired, communicate this to the students.

GROUP CHAIRS/NO CHAIRS: If meeting in a gymnasium or fellowship hall, consider allowing student groups to sit on the floor. Mark the seating area with star signs in group colors.



NASA MASCOT: Make a large posterboard version of this dog. His name is "Moon Rover". **OPTION:** Have fun bringing in a real dog mascot.



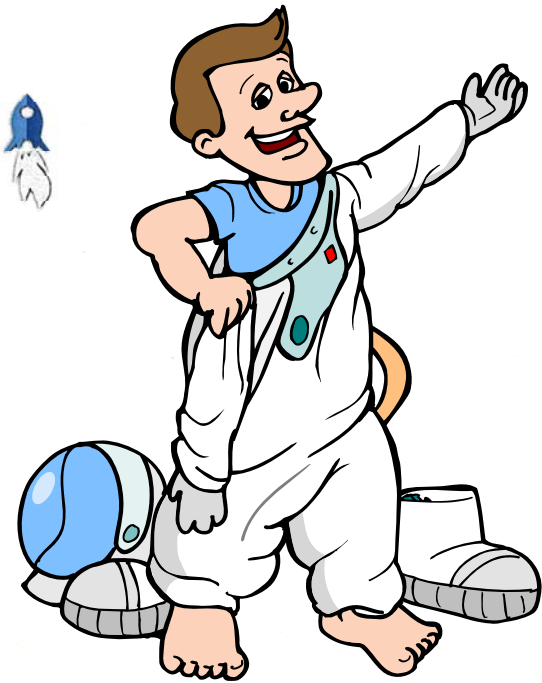
Synchronize Watches!

Begin on time even if students are gathering. Welcome everyone, sing songs, make announcements, perform one skit and dismiss.



End on time to guarantee groups move to their first activity on time. Direct latecomers to their first activities.

CREW CHIEF'S WELCOME!



Welcome to the NASA LAUNCH PAD. NASA stands for **NEEDING A SAVIOR ALWAYS**. You are on a **SALVATION SPACE JOURNEY** and this time...It's Personal! It is from this spot that you will blast off for your daily salvation space journey. As **SPACE CADETS**, your assignment is to discover a safe flight path to heaven.

Sometimes your adventure will take you to bright, interesting planets. Other times you will be challenged to survive dark journeys to uncharted places. Never fear! Mission Control is based at the Throne of God and you will never be alone. Astronauts who rely upon their Heavenly Father chart their path successfully and complete the course. God holds the future no matter where our flight takes us.

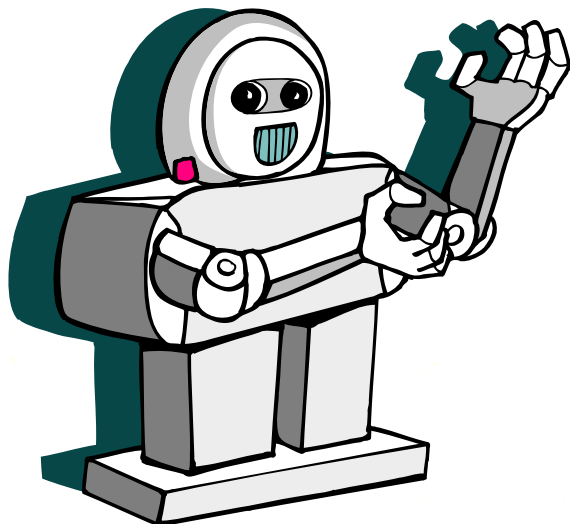
The Space Age began October 4, 1957 when the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first man made Earth satellite. One year later the United States Congress passed the **National Aeronautics and Space Act** to promote and coordinate an effective US space program. This started a new federal agency we commonly refer to as NASA.

People who follow the space program are familiar with the Houston Space Center and the John F. Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida. Houston is a command control center and Cape Canaveral is the primary launch site.

Get ready for an amazing XTREME ENCOUNTER. For the next five days you will be the personal guests of God's Space program. It's out of this world! I hope you like space travel because it's time to take off!

NASA LAUNCH PAD SKITS BEYOND TOMORROW!

*Rehearse before the week begins.
Do NOT memorize the scripts. Speak clearly.
Dress in costume for your character.*



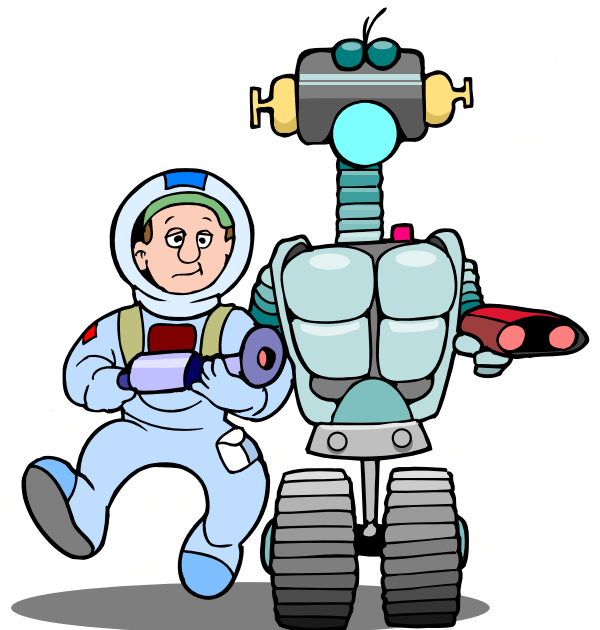
CHARACTERS

One person portrays the **ASTRONAUT** and one person portrays **L.A.R.S. (LUNAR AERONAUTIC ROBOT SYSTEM)**. The parts may be played by male or female actors. These characters appear at the Opening in a continuing story line. This could be done with puppets but is most effective when performed by real people.

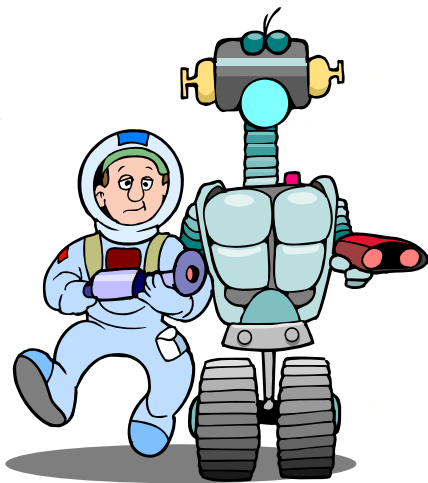
COSTUMES

The **Astronaut** dresses in white coveralls or all white work clothes and white cap like other crew members. Carry a clipboard with script. Carry a tool kit/backpack with small tools.

LARS dresses like a robot. Since some robots look amazingly like humans, a simple box covered in aluminum foil may be attached to front and back chest. Speak in monotone and move with jerky motions. Or, design a stationary robot made of boxes, flashing lights and machinery parts with a hidden actor speaking through a microphone.



MONDAY AT NASA LAUNCH PAD BEYOND TOMORROW!



LARS is in place on stage. If necessary, walk in stiffly and sit or stand with no facial expression or body movement. Become a “machine”. The Astronaut strides in from the rear of the room, clipboard and pen in hand.

ASTRONAUT: I see our NASA Space Cadets have assembled for our final briefing. Pay attention. There is important data to gather before boarding the shuttle. We must have “All Systems Go”. Are you ready? *(Group responds.)* I don’t have time to play games.

Let me introduce LUNAR AERONAUTIC ROBOT SYSTEM... or LARS, your traveling companion. You will find LARS to be an extremely intelligent robot. Well, most of the time. He may have glitches in his current program incompatible with this shuttle mission. I must enter the necessary data so LARS becomes the perfect shuttle traveling companion.



LARS: *(Monotone...)* I am LUNAR AERONAUTIC ROBOT SYSTEM. I am LUNAR AERONAUTIC ROBOT SYSTEM. Feed me. Feed me.

ASTRONAUT: Feed you? You don’t eat food. You are a robot. Robots don’t eat. Robots are machines that serve their masters without question.

LARS: Nobody told *me* I am a robot. Feed me. Feed me. I am hungry.

ASTRONAUT: Oh, alright. What do you eat?

LARS: Information. I eat information. Feed me information. And maybe a little oil. I like oil. Glug, glug. And maybe an egg. I like omelets.

ASTRONAUT: Information is exactly what I have in mind. I have a clipboard filled with the kind of information you need to help each shuttle mission specialist this week. *(Use screwdriver or drill.)* Let me adjust your page-in-ator for data acceptance. And forget about eggs. That does not compute.



LARS: Aah, that feels good. A little to the left. No, right. Aah. I am ready for data input. Make it a ham and cheese omelet—no onion, please.

ASTRONAUT: *(Checking clipboard....)* No eggs, LARS. My pre flight checklist includes spiritual preparation for shuttle mission assignment.

(Reading) **STEP ONE: BECOME A TEAM MEMBER.** *(Push imaginary buttons on LARS back).* No mission is accomplished unless mission specialists work toward a common goal. Be friendly to all mission specialists and focus on the success of the space mission.

LARS: Team member. Friendly. Success. I am disappointed about the egg.

ASTRONAUT: Compute this. John 15:12, 13 TLB “I demand that you **love** each other as much as I **love** you. And here is how to measure it, The greatest **love** is shown when a person lays down his life for his friends.”

LARS: Got it. Team member. Friendly. Success.

ASTRONAUT: No, LARS. Compute **love**. A person lays down his life for his friends. You know, like Jesus did when He died on the cross for us.

LARS: *(Shouting....)* Does not compute. Does not compute. Reject. Reject.



ASTRONAUT: (*Checking LARS buttons....*) There seems to be a problem with LARS. Robots do not have the choice to reject data. When we enter the shuttle for our space mission, we must be willing to love each other like God loved us.

LARS: Reject. Reject. No one loves like that. Does not compute. Give me an egg!



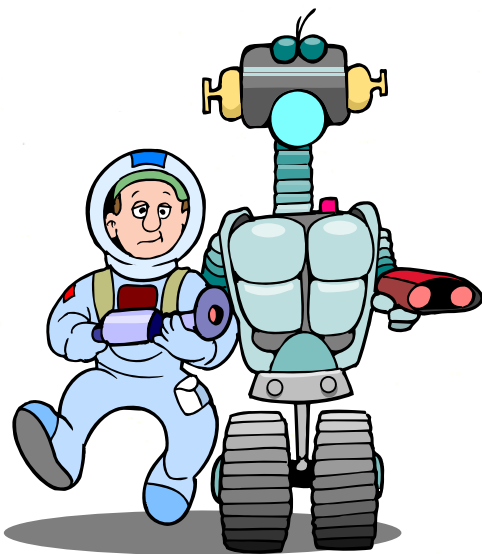
ASTRONAUT: We cannot blast off until LARS understands how to love. Maybe you should travel with your crew leaders today. I'll work on LARS. Tomorrow this LUNAR AERONAUTIC ROBOT SYSTEM will accept data.

LARS: Cannot compute God's love. Cannot compute God's love.

ASTRONAUT leaves area scratching head while making notes on clipboard. Robot follows stiffly or just turns around and stands still until group is dismissed.



TUESDAY AT NASA LAUNCH PAD BEYOND TOMORROW



ASTRONAUT: (*Working on LARS with tools....*) There! Fixed. I'm sorry we experienced a glitch in LARS computer program yesterday. I am certain this robot understands God's love now.

LARS: (*Monotone....*) God's great love...lay down one's life. Concept is difficult for robot to compute but I will communicate it to human mission specialists.

ASTRONAUT: Lunar Aeronautic Robot System, you are the perfect shuttle companion. My checklist contains data to be entered into your system. Give me one moment with this screwdriver and you will be ready.

LARS: (*Monotone....*) Call me LARS. All systems go. Continue.

ASTRONAUT: (*Checking off clipboard list....*) **LAY DOWN LIFE FOR FRIENDS BECAUSE OF GOD'S LOVE.** Check!

(*Reading....*) **PRAY.** Check! Mission specialists must establish contact with Mission Control. The flight radio humans use is our mind. We close our eyes, fold our hands and immediately we are in the presence of God. Ask and He will hear and will answer our prayer.

LARS: This God humans serve is a great presence in your life. He wants to talk to you and you want to talk to him. Robots compute communication. Data is my life. I process data twenty four hours a day, seven days a week.



ASTRONAUT: That's it! God's Word says, "Pray without ceasing." I Thessalonians 5:17. Mission specialists must remain in constant contact with God. Prayer is a great way to communicate with our Heavenly Father.

LARS: Next.



ASTRONAUT: **READ THE MAP.** Check! To get ready for launch mode, read the map. The Christian's map is the Bible. If I press this button on LARS, he will say words from the map. (*Press imaginary button on LARS.*)

LARS: "Work hard so God can say to you, 'Well done'. Be a good workman, one who does not need to be ashamed when God examines your work. Know what his Word says and means." II Timothy 2:15 TLB

ASTRONAUT: It works! (*Reading....*) **LIGHT THE CONTROL PANEL.** Check! The light control panel must work perfectly. Loss of light will abort the mission. LARS, you are in charge of light sensors.

LARS: Light sensors-on! "Jesus said, 'I am the Light of the world. So if you follow Me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, for living light will flood your path.'" John 8:12 TLB

ASTRONAUT: Astronauts must seek the light. Faith in Jesus begins with one point of light and grows because that is how faith grows—one step at a time.

LARS: (*Winding down....*) Danger! Danger! Oil pressure low. Fainting. Fainting. Nauseous, Nauseous. Get the bucket! Get the bucket!



ASTRONAUT: Hold on, LARS. I'll help you, friend. (*Work on LARS with tools.*) There. Is that better?

LARS: Next.

ASTRONAUT: (*Checking off clipboard list....*) **CHOOSE CO-PILOT.** Check! You are a good friend, LARS, but you lack...ummm....well...you lack **warmth.** I need a co-pilot who understands me.

LARS: And that would be?

ASTRONAUT: The only co-pilot for me is **Jesus.** I choose the perfect friend to help me face this space journey and guide our shuttle to heaven.



LARS: “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved and your entire household.” Acts 16:31 TLB

ASTRONAUT: Thank you, LARS. Let’s keep working together to get this bucket of bolts in the air.

LARS: Yes sir! This LUNAR AERONAUTIC ROBOT SYSTEM awaits your orders. Are you sure I can’t have a ham and cheese omelet?

ASTRONAUT: I’m sure. Follow me.

WALK OFF STAGE TOGETHER.



WEDNESDAY AT NASA LAUNCH PAD BEYOND TOMORROW

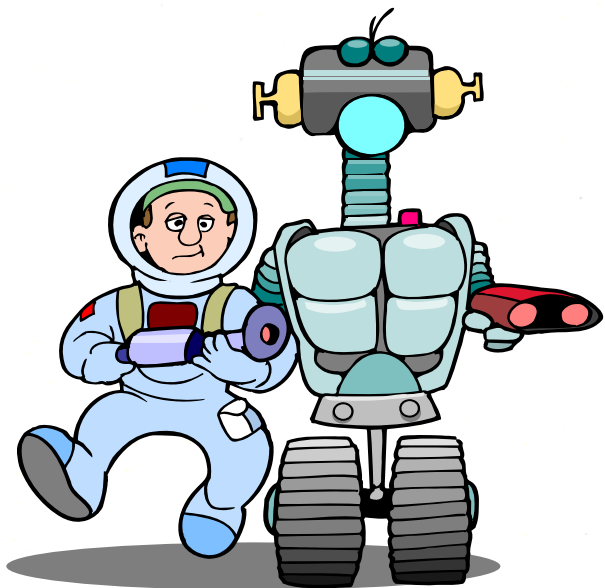
LARS IS ON STAGE ALONE.

Insert a large black paper heart into LARS before the skit.



LARS: Welcome to NASA LAUNCH PAD. Welcome to NASA LAUNCH PAD. Welcome to NASA LAUNCH PAD. Welcome to NASA LAUNCH PAD.

ASTRONAUT: *(Run in from back of room....)* LARS, I'm sorry I'm late. Are you ok?



LARS: Welcome to NASA LAUNCH PAD....

ASTRONAUT: Hang on, LARS. I'm here to help! *(Work with screwdriver anywhere on the robot.)* Oh, oh. We have trouble. LARS is experiencing a black hole. His computer system reads G.I.G.O. –Garbage In–Garbage Out

LARS: Welcome to NASA LAUNCH PAD....

ASTRONAUT: These parts are delicate. If there is a problem, the computer tells us to abort the mission. I must figure out what went wrong. I'm sure you won't mind waiting. Can you imagine how much worse it would be if we discovered a problem with LARS while in flight?

**WORK ON LARS AND FIND A BLACK HEART INSIDE.
SHOW THE BLACK HEART TO THE STUDENTS.**



LARS: (*Burp!*) Ahhhh, that's better. All systems go! All systems go!

ASTRONAUT: Look what I found! It's a black heart. I must have programmed SIN into LARS. I'm sorry, friend. This never should have happened.

LARS: (*Stretching...*) S'All right. I feel much better now. Sin certainly hurts. I'm glad to get rid of it.



ASTRONAUT: Sin breaks human lives just like this part. When we feel broken, everything stops. We cannot move forward until we take care of the sin break. (*Press imaginary button on LARS.*)

LARS: I am programmed with God's Word: "Come unto Me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

ASTRONAUT: Jesus understood sin and how it destroys life. Jesus promises to give us peace and rest when we turn to Him.

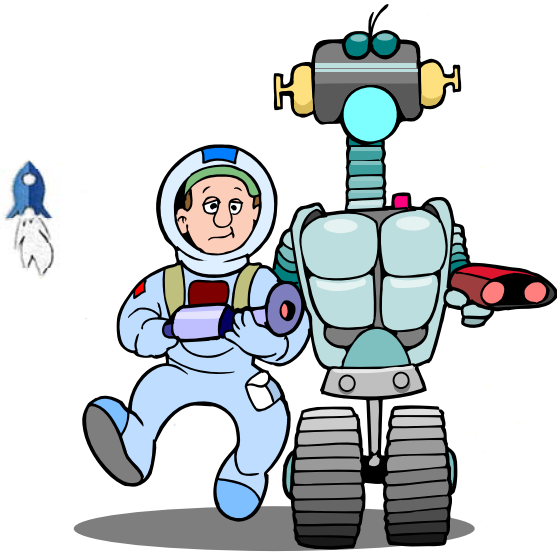
LARS: (*Turn in a circle...*) LARS is turning. LARS is turning.

ASTRONAUT: (*Press button on LARS to stop turning....*) Oops, not that kind of turning. I still have a bit of work to do on LARS. I think I better take him to my workshop for **Sin Delete**. Some people never figure out how to fix sin. Turn your troubles over to Jesus, The Great Problem Solver and then—Get ready to fly!

LARS: (*Leaving the area....*) To the workshop!



THURSDAY AT NASA LAUNCH PAD BEYOND TOMORROW!



LARS: Welcome to **NEEDING A SAVIOR ALWAYS LAUNCH PAD!** I am **LUNAR AERONAUTIC ROBOT SYSTEM**. Call me **LARS**. You are space pioneers this week. Your journey is nearly over. Every Space Cadet needs a Savior.

ASTRONAUT: We are ready for the countdown to take off. At **NASA LAUNCH PAD** astronauts do not perform their mission alone. What if there were no mechanics to fix the shuttle? Without scientists and engineers, there would be no shuttle. If electricians and computer experts didn't do their jobs, we would not be flying today.

LARS: Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10b Jesus is our Main Booster. Jesus is our Main Booster.

ASTRONAUT: LARS! That's a great reminder of what Jesus does. I think your mapping systems are perfectly tuned and ready for space flight.

LARS: Correct. LARS can fly. LARS can fly. "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16 LARS can fly. All systems go.

ASTRONAUT: When humans are born, we are given a gift. That gift is freedom of choice. God knows that forcing someone to love Him is not love at all.

LARS: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

ASTRONAUT: Yes. Sin separates us from God. Whether humans know it or not, we are **NEEDING A SAVIOR ALWAYS**.

LARS: Choose Jesus. Depend upon your Main Booster.

ASTRONAUT: Good point, LARS. People try to get to God in many ways.

LARS: Good works fall short of God's glory.

ASTRONAUT: Being religious falls short of God's glory..

LARS: Brain power falls short of God's glory.

ASTRONAUT: Obeying laws and....

LARS: Being good. All these good things still fall short of God's glory.

ASTRONAUT: None of this gets us to God. Humans must choose to believe Jesus is the answer to earth's sin problem. Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave to pay for human sin. Jesus is the fuel we need to get to heaven.

LARS: "God shows His own love for us in this: Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

ASTRONAUT: Let's get some high octane rocket fuel in this shuttle so we can blast off for heaven!

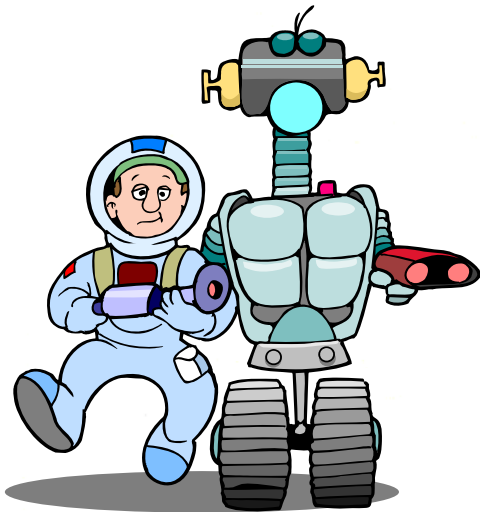
LARS: LARS is ready for blast off. T-Minus one day and counting.

ASTRONAUT: Come with me, friend. *(Walk to back of room.)* I think we're going to enjoy this space journey as long as our Main Booster travels with us!

WALK OUT OF THE ROOM TOGETHER.



FRIDAY AT NASA LAUNCH PAD BEYOND TOMORROW!



ASTRONAUT: (*Singing....*) “Get on board, little children. Get on board, little children. Get on board, little children. There’s room for many a more.”

LARS: (*Singing in monotone....*) “Get on board, little children. Get on board, little children. Get on board, little children. There’s room for many a more.”

ASTRONAUT: Oh, that sounds awful. I didn’t think about programming a good singing voice into your system, LARS.

LARS: I am insulted. I sing as good as any robot in the space program.

ASTRONAUT: You are not programmed to be insulted. You are LUNAR AERONAUTIC ROBOT SYSTEM. You have no emotions.

LARS: I have emotions. E-M-O-T-I-O-N-S. See?

ASTRONAUT: I don’t mean you can spell the word. I mean you cannot *feel* like humans feel.

LARS: Transmit feelings into my program. I *want* emotions. I want to feel love and peace and all the good things humans feel.

ASTRONAUT: Sorry LARS. I cannot do that. I need you to be my logical robot on this space journey.

LARS: That computes. I will be logical but I will always wonder what it means to be a believer in Jesus.

ASTRONAUT: Humans pray and ask God to change them inside out. A heart change happens. Suddenly we want to serve God and honor Him all our days. We know our final mission is a journey to heaven. And it is going to be exciting!

LARS: "...confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead and you will be saved." Romans 10:9



ASTRONAUT: That's right. God's mission is laid out before us. We have flown the wild blue yonder together and today we must bid farewell to these talented Space Cadets. LARS and I must begin plans for our next shuttle mission. You must decide if you are ready to head for heaven with Jesus as your Main Booster. (*Salute the crowd.*)

LARS: LUNAR AERONAUTIC ROBOT SYSTEM reporting for duty. All systems go. (*Salute the crowd.*)

ASTRONAUT AND LARS LEAVE THE ROOM TOGETHER.



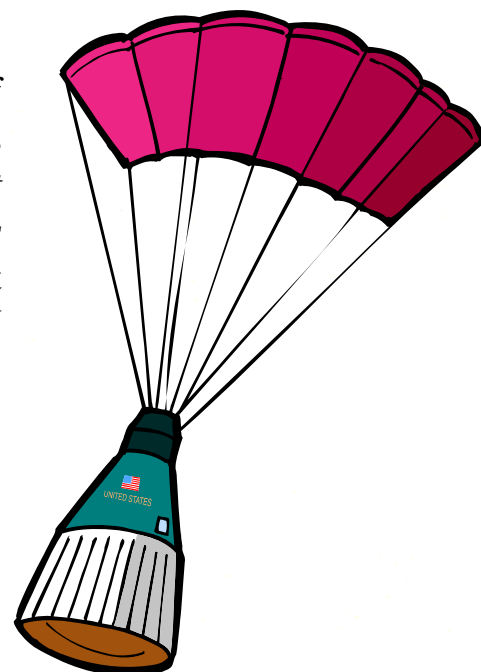
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED...OPEN HOUSE

*Students and teachers show off decorated workshops,
sing songs and display crafts at OPEN HOUSE.
Families tour, sampling rations at the Ration Station
and enjoying the space atmosphere.*

**All costumed teachers and helpers are responsible
to be in their work area during OPEN HOUSE.**



Choose OPEN HOUSE time so a high percentage of parents and friends may attend. If the week ends Friday, plan a Friday evening program. *(Do not eliminate students' last day of programming if VBS is taking place in the evening.)* Some churches present OPEN HOUSE on Sunday morning. Eliminate OPEN HOUSE if no common time can be found.



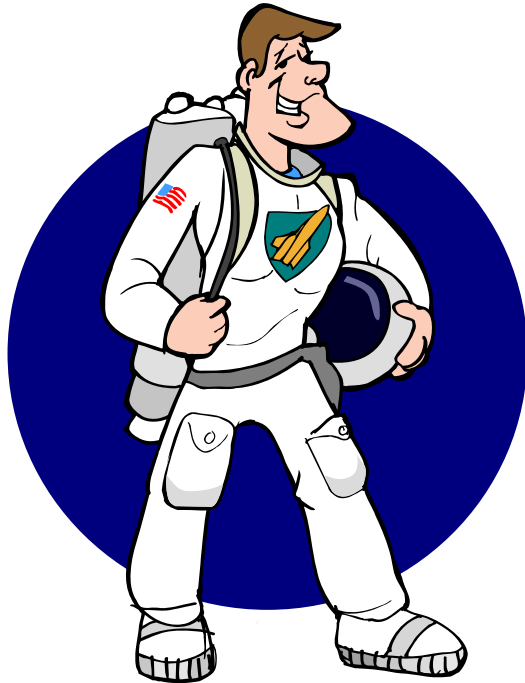
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED SCHEDULE

- 7:00 P.M. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER
- 7:02 P.M. INTRODUCE SPACE THEME
- 7:07 P.M. STUDENTS SING _____
- 7:10 P.M. RECITE MEMORY VERSES
- 7:15 P.M. STUDENTS SING _____
- 7:20 P.M. OFFERING
- 7:25 P.M. TEACHER APPRECIATION AND GIFTS
- 7:35 P.M. STUDENTS SING _____
- 7:38 P.M. CLOSE IN PRAYER
- 7:40 P.M. DISMISS GROUP TO TOUR
- 8:30 P.M. STAFF BEGINS CLEAN UP



SPACE BASE...THE STORY TELLER

This fifteen minute segment offers rest and a delightful story adventure



WHAT IS SPACE BASE? The Story Teller greets everyone cheerfully and tells a story with great enthusiasm. Choose a quiet room . **SPACE CADETS** hide away and hear a great five day story in fifteen minute segments.

HOW SHOULD I DECORATE? Place a large, comfortable chair in a completely bare room. If a leather executive desk chair or a futuristic styled chair is available, place it in the center of the room. Attach white twinkle lights around the edges of the room at floor and ceiling level. If desired, string lights vertically on the walls. Go for the “wow” factor of filling the space with as many twinkles as possible. Long mirrors behind twinkle lights give the double sparkle effect.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR? Wear a simple caftan made of white or metallic silver. Men story tellers wear plain white shirts and slacks. Follow other suggestions in the curriculum.

WHO HEARS THE STORY? All Space Cadet groups visit fifteen minutes each day. **ALPHA CREW** Preschoolers are scheduled to visit but if the continuing story does not interest them, substitute other stories. Choose five separate preschool stories from your local Christian Book Store or from a private collection. It may be desirable to choose another activity for their group. Discuss choices with the preschool team before Vacation Bible School.

WHAT STORY SHOULD I TELL?

Our suggested story is *The Rocket Man*, a five part Chip and Clare Conley adventure with complete script and line drawings from **CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES** (1-888-236-5433). As in other Conley twin stories, our Christian kids face excitement and mystery as they meet famous astronauts and a few bad guys.

SONG QUEST

...Space Praise Music

I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Psalm 9:1, 2



This is a fifteen minute daily music session for individual groups. They sing Christian praise choruses filled with the praise and joy of heaven. Choose upbeat contemporary songs. Lead with enthusiasm and good humor!

THE MUSIC. We have songs from GLORY SOUND STUDIOS! Purchase sheet music, words only and Split Channel CD. You may have praise songs that fit the theme in your personal collection.

Another suggested collection offers two books, **GREAT BIG PRAISE FOR A GREAT BIG GOD** (Book 1 for Younger Students and Book 2 for Older Students) complete with books for piano and words with options that include audio cassettes and CD's. There are many more songs than can be used in a five day program but can be used for other children's ministry efforts! Call or check out our website for current prices! **1-888-236-5433 (CEM-LIFE).**

DECORATION. Meet at **NASA LAUNCH PAD** Opening. No additional decoration is needed. When using a separate room, follow decorating ideas from the curriculum.

METEOR SINGERS. Choose teens and adults to help lead songs with microphones and music stands. They become the praise team. This appealing contemporary style is enjoyed by all.

COSTUMES. Follow our costume suggestions to dress appropriately. Futuristic and sleek costumes in the form of silver metallic fabric add visual interest. Consider draping long silver tinsel garland around your neck.



GREAT BIG PRAISE FOR A GREAT BIG GOD, Book 1—Younger Kids,
117 Fun, Exciting, Singable Songs for Younger Kids (Ages Preschool-Third Grade),
compiled by Tom Fettke and Ken Bible, Lillenas Publishing Company, Kansas City, MO
64141. *CD/audio cassettes available*

Make A Joyful Noise Unto The Lord, all the Earth, Page 5

My God Is So Big, Page 14

Praise The Lord, All Creation, Page 19

He's Got The Whole World in His Hands, Page 21

I Often Think Of God , Page 25

(When I see a star twinkling in the night...

When I see the moon so big and bright....)

That's Good, Page 26

(...He put the twinkle in the star and blue in the sky....)

Everything Was Made by God, Page 30

Into My Heart, Page 62

A Special Place Called Heaven, Page 65

Anytime, Anywhere I can talk to God, Page 81

+ Many More Great Songs For Younger Kids!



GREAT BIG PRAISE FOR A GREAT BIG GOD, Book Two—Older Kids,
100 Fun, Exciting, Singable songs For Older Kids (Fourth-Sixth Grades), compiled by
Tom Fettke and Ken Bible, Lillenas Publishing Company Kansas City, MO 64141.
CD/audio cassettes available

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High, Page 1

Awesome God, Page 2

What A Mighty God We Serve, Page 3

How Majestic Is Your Name, Page 14

We Will Glorify, Page 19

(...He is Lord of heaven, Lord of earth...Lord above the universe....)

No Other Name, Page 26

(His Name is exalted far above the earth...high above the heavens....)

Can You Imagine, Page 27

(...God who made the earth and sky and sea?

When He crated all the universe, His mighty plan included you and me.)

The Heavens Are Telling, Page 29

A Great Big God, Page 31

(You hung all the stars....rolled out the moon and lit the sun...)

God Knows Your Destination, Page 39

Jesus Is the Light Inside of Me, Page 57

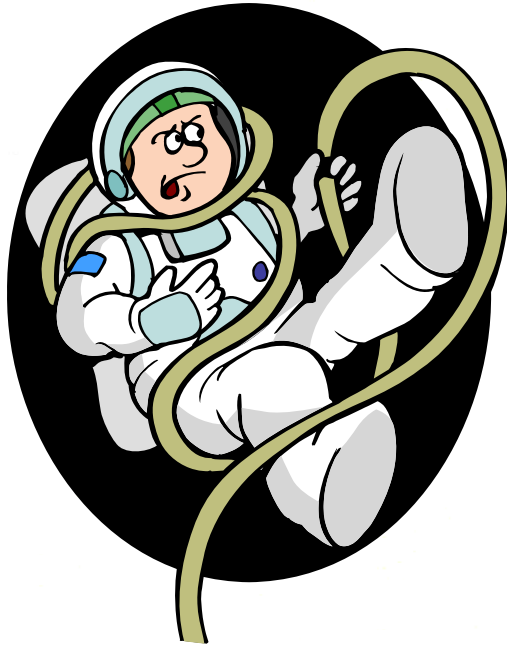
(God made the sun and the moon, and God made me....)

+ Many More Great Songs For Older Kids.



FUN WITH BUBBLE SCIENTIST

...Games



FUN WITH BUBBLE SCIENTIST is a daily fifteen minute game time. Create unique fun featuring bubble games. OR, design your own games that are favorites for your gang.

CHARACTER AND COSTUME. Become a **Bubble Scientist** wearing a white lab coat over street clothes seriously teaching the art of “bubbology” or become a “wild and crazy” guy with multicolor wig, whistle and lab coat!

DECORATION. Choose an indoor or outdoor area large enough for running, jumping, ball playing and circle games. If outdoors, select a grassy spot away from traffic. Encircle the area with brightly colored vinyl pennants available in Oriental Trading catalog or at their web site: www.orientaltrading.com Music: The louder and livelier the music, the better.

Sing the old song, “I’m Forever Blowing Bubbles”. Use it as your silly theme song. *Sheet music available online: Google search the song title.*

I’m forever blowing bubbles
 Pretty bubbles in the air.
 They fly so high,
 Nearly reach the sky,
 Then like my dreams they fade and die.
 Fortune’s always hiding,
 I’ve looked everywhere,
 I’m forever blowing bubbles,
 Pretty bubbles in the air!

EQUIPMENT. Collect supplies. Practice each game and adjust event rules for your group. Print the description for each game on a 4 x 6 card for easy daily organization. Place equipment within easy reach in moveable covered tubs.

REWARDS. Award stickers to winning students/ teams. At the end of each session, treat everyone. Pieces of soft candy are popular prizes. Gather a variety of candies like Hershey Kisses, Twizzlers or other small treats that will not become lodged in small throats. (No peanuts in case allergies are present in some children.) End the week with a bubble gum blowing contest.



LET SPACE BUBBLES FLY!

Practice making homemade bubble solution and become the Bubble Scientist. This system is just about foolproof but as you know—Anything that can go wrong will go wrong if you haven't worked out problems ahead of time. If making bubble solution doesn't seem possible, purchase large plastic containers filled with bubble solution from Dollar Stores, Wal-Mart, K-Mart or children's toy stores.

SOAP SCIENTISTS

WHEN STUDENT GROUPS VISIT YOU, THEY BECOME SOAP SCIENTISTS. INTRODUCE EACH ACTIVITY WITH THE WONDER AND AWE OF DISCOVERY. THEY ARE GOING TO LOVE THIS ONE!

EQUIPMENT

1. Large bowls and/or flat pans for bubble solution.
2. Mirrors
3. Anything that forms a circle: Plastic 6 pack of circles, coat hangers, straws, string in a circle (any size), bubble wands.
4. Experiment with a plastic sand sifter made with many tiny holes and a kitchen colander is a riot when dipped and hundreds of bubbles fly at the same time.
5. Check toy stores for inexpensive bubble blowers run by battery. They make perfect bubbles every time. Many stores also sell books that tell about bubble making and may offer other bubble want ideas.



BUBBLE FORMULA

Soap Mixture Ingredients: The best detergents suggested by bubble experts are **Joy** and **Dawn** (blue) liquids. Ivory and Palmolive are just “ok”. When colorful, sturdy bubbles are desired, add **glycerine** to the mix. It is available at most drug stores but it is expensive!

Glycerine sold in rose water or other solutions is pretty much worthless. A much more practical and less expensive additive is white **Karo Syrup** available at the grocery store.



Water: Water varies widely in its quality. **Soft water** is good for bubbles. Hard water, well water and water containing high levels of iron is bad for bubbles. To get the best mixture, use **distilled water** available at the grocery store.

BUBBLE SOLUTION

1 PART REGULAR DAWN OR JOY

15 PARTS WATER

.25 PARTS GLYCERINE OR WHITE KARO SYRUP (Optional)

STRONGER BUBBLES

1 PART REGULAR DAWN OR JOY

10 PARTS WATER

.25 PARTS GLYCERINE OR WHITE KARO SYRUP (Optional)

SUPER BUBBLES (STRONG AND LONG LASTING)

2 PARTS REGULAR DAWN OR JOY

4 PARTS GLYCERINE

1 PART WHITE KARO SYRUP

FUN FACTS FOR THE BUBBLE SCIENTIST

Just for fun become an expert in Bubblology. Use these interesting facts to introduce each day's activities. Choose a few tidbits to share each day.

Introduce yourself as the BUBBLE SCIENTIST and show students how to make homemade bubble solution. Make it in front of them. Give each student a printed Bubble Solution recipe to try at home.



What is a bubble? A bubble is a thin film of liquid surrounding a pocket of air. Water is not flexible enough to hold the air, so soap is added to make the water more elastic. The surface does not burst when air is forced inside.

How were bubbles invented? Bubbles, being a phenomenon of nature, have always been around, but playing with bubbles didn't exist before soap. The Pear Soap Company in England was responsible for popularity of soap and bubbles in the 1800's. Until about 1950, the only bubble toys available were bubble pipes. Now, there are as many bubble toys as the imagination can handle!



Why are bubbles round? Bubbles and balloons have a lot in common! They always hold gas or liquid inside of them with the least possible surface area. The shape with the least surface area is always round, never a pyramid or a cube. One exception to the rule is when one bubble is surrounded by other bubbles. It can take an odd shape and look like a cube or triangle. If the other bubbles pop, our bubble becomes round once again.

Why do bubbles pop? There are lots of reasons. Evaporation of the water content, air movement and dryness or contact with a hard object are the top reasons. When you make bubbles in the sun, they evaporate quickly. Where there is a strong wind or gentle breeze, bubbles are harder to create and are popped by the wind's force. If the air is very dry, like in the desert, or if a bubble touches a dry finger, piece of clothing or the ground, it pops instantly.

What are the best bubble making conditions? Work in shady areas. Try bubble making right after the sun sets. Make bubbles when the air is still or only slightly breezy. Play with bubbles after a rainstorm. When the air is full of moisture, bubbles seem to last forever. Stay in open areas where your bubbles won't run into dry objects. Keep bubble tools really wet with bubble solution.



What kind of bubble tools and toys are the best? There are lots of things around which can be used to make bubbles. String formed into a loop, the plastic which holds a six pack of pop together, cookie sheets, aluminum oven pans, plastic bowls, empty milk containers, buckets, old pieces of hose, garbage can lids and even just your hands held in the right position. (*Soak both hands in bubble solution. Form a triangle shape by holding both thumbs and pointer fingers together. Dip in solution ...and blow gently!*) Soak all bubble blowing toys so they are dripping and wet with bubble solution.

TIPS FOR BUBBLE PLAY

Use our suggested bubble games. We know they work! OR—purchase a bubble book from your local bookstore and get more bubble information online by doing a Google search on BUBBLES or BUBBLE MAKING. It may be possible to play more than one game so plan accordingly.

It is better to over plan in case a particular game falls flat or in this case, “pops”! Don’t forget to plan a few rainy day activities. You never know when a stray cloud will chase your gang indoors.



Establish rules to protect all students. No bubbles may be blown into the faces of others. Break the rule and sit out for the rest of the activity.

Bubbles are messy but so much fun! Hands get slimy and wet. Provide a bucket of clear water to rinse at the end of the session. Dry off with paper towels. Bubbles will not damage clothing but try to keep students as dry as possible. Students must be rinsed and dried before returning to their activities. Equipment may get slippery so rinse when necessary.

Choose activities according to age relatedness. Don’t be afraid to repeat favorite bubble games as the week continues. Practice makes perfect.

If students want to bring bubble toys from home, let them! They will enjoy sharing and you get the benefit of more “stuff”!

Challenge your SOAP SCIENTISTS to create bubbles of all sizes. Practice technique for game playing later in the week. Practice seriously to get good at it for team work later. Teach them to blow slowly and evenly. If waving a wand, they must use an even, slow arm motion to get great bubbles.



For mini versions, have them dip plastic straws into the solution and gently blow. They can use just one straw or, for connected bubbles, tape half a dozen together and flow through them all at once. A wand for small, individual bubbles can be made by bending a short length of wire (a large paper clip works fine) into a lollipop shape with a 1" diameter loop and wrapping the handle with duct tape. For larger spheres, bend a hanger into a circle with a short handle and wrap pipe cleaners around the loop. This enables the wand to hold more solution. TIP: Do not swirl the wand in the solution too much.

To measure their lung capacity, have your SOAP SCIENTISTS take a deep breath and slowly blow through a straw on the surface of a pan of solution, pulling the straw up as they blow. The stronger their lungs, the larger the bubble will be.

FROZEN BUBBLES

RAINY DAY? Challenge them to make frozen bubbles by blowing a few on a plate and slipping them carefully into a freezer.

BUBBLE STATIONERY

Supplies: Paper (any light color-any size), bubble solution, small cups with bubble solution and drops of food dye in each one, straws, newspaper for table covering.



RAINY DAY? Dip paper in water to soak it for a few seconds. Place it on a wet surface. Students dip their straw into various colored solution cups and blow a gentle bubble onto their paper. When it bursts, it will leave a unique design. When dry, these beauties make interesting pieces of stationery. Be sure to pencil in student names on each piece of stationery for easy identification.

BUBBLE IN A BUBBLE

Supplies: Mirrors or glass, straws, bubble solution.

RAINY DAY? Seat students on the ground or at a picnic table with mirrors or flat pieces of glass. Give each student a straw and bubble solution. Wet the smooth surface with bubble solution and ask students to blow bubbles onto the surface. When the bubble is on the glass, stick the straw inside and blow another bubble. Continue to make as many bubbles inside each other as there is space. This activity takes patience and skill building. Try this every day with those who want to play around with the concept.

BUBBLE RACE

Supplies: Wands, bubble solution in cups for half the group.

Divide group into teams of two. One student blows bubbles and the other student forms a circle with their arms to allow the bubbles to fly through. Line up the teams at one end of a race course. Establish a finish line. Each blower must blow one bubble directed at their team mate's circled arms. The bubble must flow through the arms. The team mate may move as far as possible down field to catch the bubble. Step to the area the bubble went through, blow again and continue until the teams work their way down the field. When bubbles break, try again from that spot.



The first team across the finish line wins—BUBBLE GUM! Team members

exchange jobs and move back to the starting line for another try.

BUBBLE BREAK

Supplies: Wands, blindfolds, cups and solution.

Seat two teams in straight lines leaving a center area where two players compete to break as many bubbles as possible. The trick? The two students are blindfolded and do not know where the bubbles are.

Seated students blow as many bubbles toward them as possible while the players try to break them. Team members may help by shouting location of bubbles. Two counters keep track of the broken bubble totals. The most bubbles broken determine the winner. Try the game with new players as many times as possible during the session. If desired, do not use blindfolds on preschool students.

Option: Blindfolded players move down the line trying not to break any bubbles. The fewest bubbles broken determine the winner. Team members may warn their player of bubble locations.

BUBBLE TAG

Supplies: Bubbles, wands, blindfolds.

Choose one team who become "It". They must try to tag other students with bubbles. All other players are blindfolded and do not know where the bubbles are. They keep moving to stay out of the way...if they can!

BUBBLE STORM

This is not a game, just a fast, furious and fun activity. Seat the group in a circle with individual cups of bubble solution or large containers for every few kids. The object of the activity is to make as many bubbles as possible fly into the air for a 30 second time period. They must blow as fast as possible without breaking their bubble in their excitement. Assign a photographer to take a picture when there are hundreds of bubbles in the air!

BUBBLE GUM CONTEST

Players chew bubble gum and make the largest bubble. They may chew as many pieces as possible at one time to make a bigger bubble. It takes time to get the gum chewed. Allow them to practice and come to you with their choice of contest bubble. Winners receive bubble gum prizes.


BUBBLE RELAY



Place one impartial helper for each team at the end of a course. Two teams line up. One team member runs to their helper who is blowing bubbles. All bubbles must be broken before the player runs back to tag the next runner. Sometimes there will be a lot of bubbles and sometimes very few bubbles to be broken. Tell helpers to blow as many as possible to make the relay as fair as possible.

BALLOONS CAN BE USED AS BUBBLES FOR FUN ACTIVITIES.

WATER BALLOON WAR



Fill lots of small balloons with water. Do not over fill. Keep filled balloons in buckets and garbage bags and laundry baskets. Divide the group into two teams defending their "fort" area. The driest team is the winner!

WATER BALLOON TOSS

Divide the group into teams of two. Teams line up across from their team mate in single line. Each duo tosses a filled water balloon to each other. After each toss, back up on step. The winning team is the duo who can toss the farthest without breaking their water balloon.


BALLOON BASKETBALL

Use an inflated balloon for the ball and boxes or wastepaper baskets for goals. Score as in basketball except that a broken balloon counts five points off the offending side. Be sure to provide plenty of replacement "balls".

BALLOON BATTLE ROYAL

Arrange players in a large circle, each with an inflated balloon hanging from a string tied to the ankle. On signal, each player must try to break all other balloons by stomping on them. When a balloon breaks, it's owner leaves the circle and the game continues until only one player remains and declared the winner.

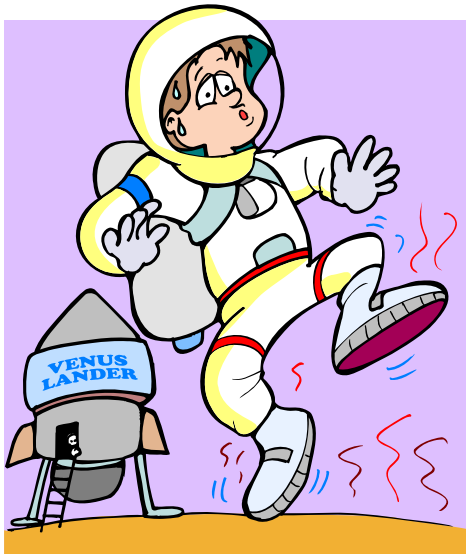
A Word To The Wise



Young students are afraid of this game and hate breaking their balloons. The noise frightens them and they take ownership of their personal balloon and cry when it breaks. (Save this game for grades 1-6.)

RATION STATION

...Astronaut Snacks



This fifteen minute snack break is a fun space experience. The simplicity of space food and unique packaging make this a popular daily activity.

DECORATION. Serve snacks in an imaginary space shuttle. Light the area with white twinkle lights and “windows” on two sides of the area.

Use professionally made space posters as window views or draw planets and misty areas on black paper. Frame black drawings with poster board frames painted silver to resemble shuttle windows.

Seat student groups in chairs lined two by two just as if they are seated in a narrow jet plane. Flight attendants may serve rations from a rolling serving table. Shuttle guests may watch a short “In Flight” Christian video while enjoying their rations.

COSTUMES: Leaders dress in white NASA outfits with white painter’s cap (*available through S&S arts and crafts*) with NASA RATION STATION hand printed on the front of each cap.

MUSIC/VIDEOS: Place a television at one end of the “shuttle”. Play portions of Christian music videos or cartoons that become in flight movies.

ATMOSPHERE: Lower the lights. Shuttle seating may be placed in a narrow hallway to get the feel of a narrow airplane.

RATION CONCOCTIONS

Each snack ration is served in a zip lock sandwich bag. Purchase lots of sandwich bags. These bags resemble the actual way astronauts eat while in space. Use plastic spoons and straws as utensils.

GENTLE SUGGESTION TO THE RATION STATION TEAM

Do not provide alternative “safe” snacks for students who refuse to try unique foods. Most students try a “No Thank You” helping. Refill when students want more. Do not be held hostage to bad attitudes. Complainers often become enthusiastic telling everyone they tried something new. The only exception should be for those with health concerns. Parents must make desires known when their child arrives.



Fill zip lock bags. Choose from our list or create your own space foods. Don't forget to fill the bags with a few “messy” snacks. Digging it out just makes the experience more fun! Serve several choices each day.

- | | |
|--|---|
| PUDDING (Squirt whipped cream on top) | APPLESAUCE (Add raisins) |
| CHOCOLATE CAKE | FRUIT SALAD |
| COOKIES | CHIPS AND PRETZELS |
| CEREAL (Add milk/sugar to bag) | CHEESE AND CRACKERS |
| PIZZA | SPAGHETTI-O'S |
| | JELLO/WHIPPED CREAM |
| | ANGEL FOOD CAKE/BERRIES |
| HOT DOG/BUN | ICE CREAM/TOPPINGS |
| MACARONI AND CHEESE | POPSICLE |
| | SLUSHY (Freeze juice beforehand) |
| | MILKY WAY CANDY BARS |

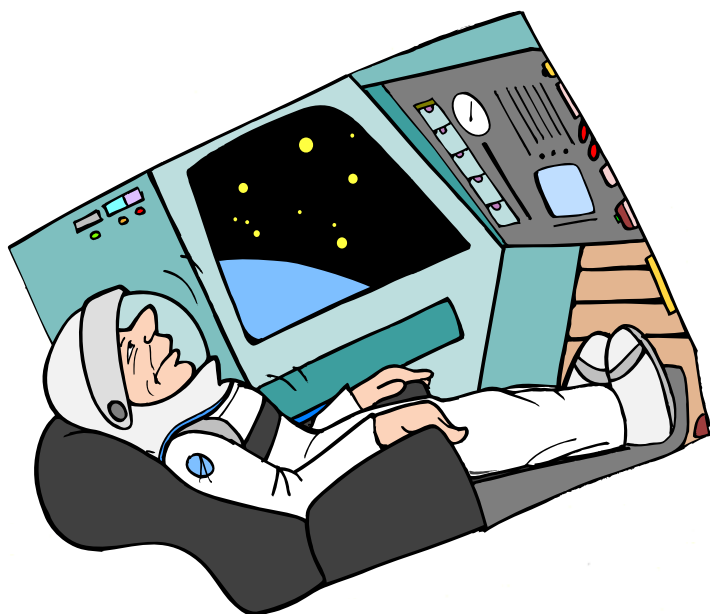
Choose one beverage each day. Some may be placed in zip lock bags and sipped with straws and others may be served from their small containers. When serving beverage in a bag, fill the bag half full. Open the bag far enough to place a straw inside to sip the drink. Hold the bag until all beverage is gone.



- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| SODA POP IN CANS | MILK IN SMALL CONTAINERS |
| KOOL-AID | CHOCOLATE MILK |
| LEMONADE | ICED TEA |
| ORANGE JUICE | FRUIT JUICES |

MISSION CONTROL

...Salvation Station



Mission Specialist SPACE CADETS discover they are never alone when they visit **MISSION CONTROL** fifteen minutes each day. When connected to our Heavenly Father, He helps chart our path and complete the journey. God holds the future no matter where our flight takes us.

DECORATIONS. Re-create a mission control room. Long tables with chairs facing the same direction, a few computers

placed on the tables and a large control panel on the wall facing the students.

Computers: If real computers are available, scroll messages across the screens. These can be old, non working items. Small televisions may be used as monitors. Use a working tv to show videos of space liftoffs. (Find videos at the local movie rental shop.) Print signs:

**MISSION CONTROL
I KNOW WHO HOLDS THE FUTURE
IN THE BEGINNING...GOD CREATED!
KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE PRIZE!
SAVED AND KNOW IT!
NOT TO DECIDE IS TO DECIDE!
JESUS-THE ONLY WAY TO FLY!
HEAVEN IS A WONDERFUL PLACE
YOU'LL LOVE THE WAY WE FLY!**

FLYGOD.COM

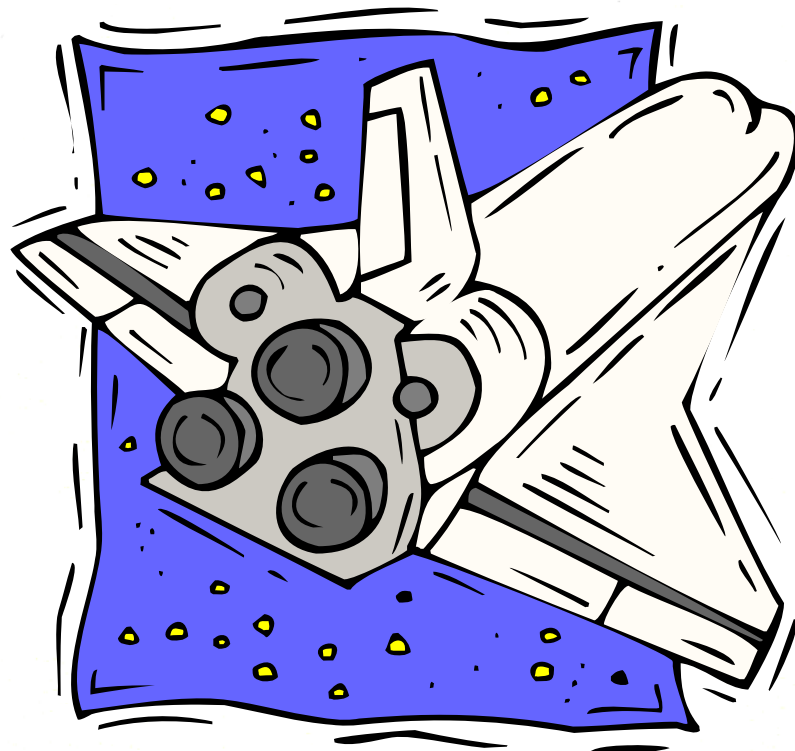
**FLIGHT STATUS-FLIGHT CONFIRMATION-FREQUENT FLYERS
BEST CARE IN THE AIR!**



Lights: Attach rows of white twinkle lights to the walls around the edges of the room. Place spot lights on one wall (floor to ceiling).

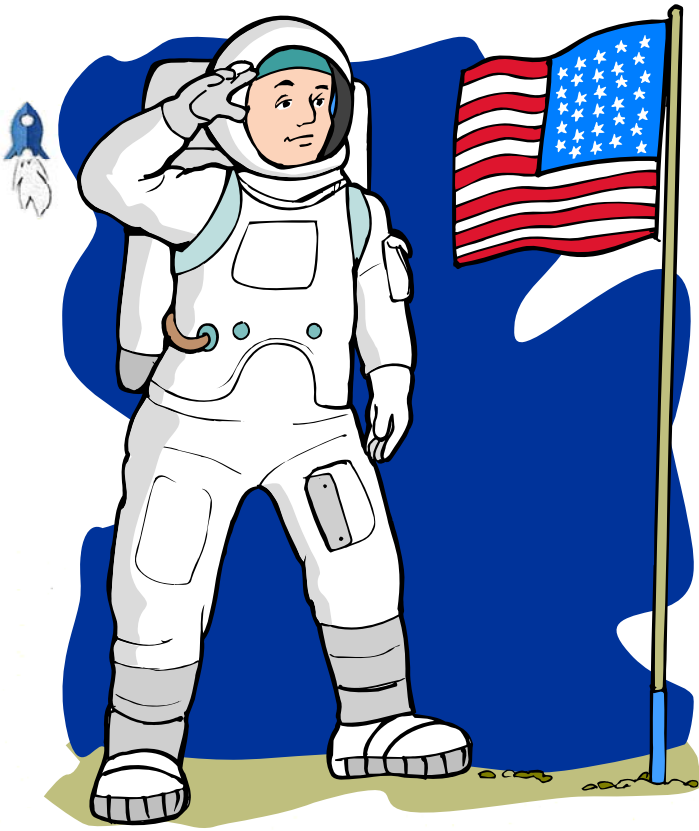
Space Posters: Check online sites for posters of shuttle lift offs, planets, earth from space, astronauts, etc. Fill each wall with these colorful posters.

Each day, students arrive at MISSION CONTROL to discover something new about NASA's (NEEDING A SAVIOR ALWAYS) space program and GOD'S space program—Salvation. They make a small project to take home or experience a fun astronaut activity . Use the daily activities suggested or design your own projects.



MONDAY AT MISSION CONTROL

WELCOME TO MISSION CONTROL: This is our personal Salvation Station for N.A.S.A.—NEEDING A SAVIOR ALWAYS Space Program. This is the place all astronauts depend upon for a safe journey to heaven. We cannot make mistakes. This is where the journey begins.



FYI (For Your Information): With the words “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind, United States astronaut Neil A. Armstrong stepped from the lunar landing vehicle “Eagle” onto the surface of the moon. Minutes later he was joined by Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr. They were the first men to land on the moon on July 20, 1969. A third astronaut, Michael Collins, remained in orbit above them in the command module “Columbia” of the Apollo 11 spacecraft.

Moving with unexpected ease over the lunar surface, Armstrong and Aldrin took pictures, set up experiments and collected samples of moon soil and rock. After 21 hours and 42 minutes on the lunar surface, they rejoined Collins for a safe return to Earth. MISSION CONTROL watched with satisfaction and joy at the culmination of many years of hard work.

GOD’S TEAM!

XTREME ENCOUNTER’S MISSION CONTROL is based at the Throne of God. Every Space Cadet mission specialist who begins their journey of personal faith in Jesus depends on us to get the facts straight. Be assured you are never alone in space. God watches over every part of your mission with a perfect eye. Christian Astronauts rely upon their Heavenly Father to successfully chart the path and complete the course. God holds the future no matter where our flight takes us and Jesus is our Main Booster.

COMPLETE THESE PHYSICAL TESTS TO PROVE YOU HAVE THE PRECISE COORDINATION TO BECOME GOD'S ASTRONAUT.

SUPPLIES: "Moon" Rock (Medium sized rock spray painted gold or glittered. Ball of Yarn with spoon attached to one end, Saltine Crackers in Zip Lock Bag

Divide into two teams. Complete this series of tests as quickly as possible. The goal is to complete the simple team tasks faster than the opposing team.

MOON ROCK TOSS: As soon as the Moon Rock is handed to you, toss it in the air once and hand it to the next person in line.

MOON WALK STRING ALONG: When the yarn is handed to you, string the spoon end down through your clothing and pass the yarn and spoon to the crew member standing next in line who will string it up through their clothing. Unwind the yarn as you go and pass it to the next who will continue in the up and down pattern until all crew team members are attached by the yarn. Reverse the process by taking the yarn out of each team member's clothing.

MOON FOOD: Pass the Zip Lock bag of crackers along the team line. Each member must chew one cracker square and attempt to whistle before passing the bag to the next person. (Snack options include, pretzels, peanut butter crackers.)

MOON WALK MESSAGE FROM GOD

TEACH THE TEAM THIS MESSAGE: Jesus said, *"Love each other as much as I have loved you. The greatest love is shown when a person lays down his life for his friends."* John 15:12, 13

Just like Neil Armstrong took one small step on the moon, God asks us to take one step that leads us into His kingdom. Are you ready to become part of God's team? You have proved your worth as an astronaut team. Watch out for each other on your space journey this week. Prepare to face adventures in XTREME ENCOUNTER. The only safe way to fly is knowing Jesus as your Savior.

Knowing God wants us to become part of His family is a fine beginning. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10

CLOSE IN PRAYER.

TUESDAY AT MISSION CONTROL

WELCOME TO MISSION CONTROL: Yesterday we bonded as God's Team. Today Space Cadets learn how to establish contact with Mission Control. Communication is vital to survival!



FYI: *(Make this information sound as complicated as possible.)* Communication is vital at Mission Control. Our communication sub system transmits and receives information by radio. Information transmitted includes data from scientific, biological and engineering instruments. Commands are received from Mission Control stations on Earth to start or stop various functions of the spacecraft. Information is received from and transmitted to spacecraft through elaborate networks of tracking stations on Earth. This is a safety net necessary for all manned or unmanned space flight. **Got it?**

GOD'S COMMUNICATION SYSTEM—PRAYER

SUPPLIES: Portable radio, notebook or supplies to make a small prayer notebook. S&S arts and crafts offer supplies www.ssw.com

God has established a communication system called prayer that is much easier than N.A.S.A.'s sub system transmission. This is how prayer works:

STEP 1: Close eyes

STEP 2: Fold hands

STEP 3: Think or say words to the Lord.

Most of the time you can eliminate steps One and Two move directly into the presence of God. Establish communication with your Heavenly Father. He hears and answers your prayer.

LOOK AT THE AIR!

Look closely at the air in front of your nose. What do you see? Feel? Hear? Smell? Taste? At first glance, there isn't much going on in the air in front of your nose!



Wrong! There are all kinds of things happening in this air and I can prove it using this radio.

1. If I turn it on and tune the dial, what happens? (*We hear music and talking.*)
2. Where does the noise come from? (*The radio has found invisible radio waves floating in the air.*)
3. Can you feel radio waves when you lift your arms in the air? (*No*)
4. Does that mean radio waves are not there? (*No*)

Just because we cannot see radio waves does not mean they do not exist and the music on my radio proves it.

GOD IS LIKE A RADIO. The Bible says God is Spirit. He is not tied down to a human body and grounded by gravity like us. God's Spirit is all around us even though we cannot see Him in the room.



How can we feel Him? We have a faith antenna sort of like my radio. FAITH is the attitude that helps believers know God is here even when we cannot see him. God could appear and disappear if He wants to but He wants us to believe in Him because we want to believe.

ESTABLISH CONTACT. To feel God close, put up your prayer antenna and have faith in God. That way God becomes real. This is how we establish contact with God at Mission Control.

PRAYER AND FAITH SCRIPTURE

Pray without ceasing.

I Thessalonians 5:17



**Now faith is being sure of what we hope for
and certain of what we do not see.**

Hebrews 11:1

PRAYER PROJECT

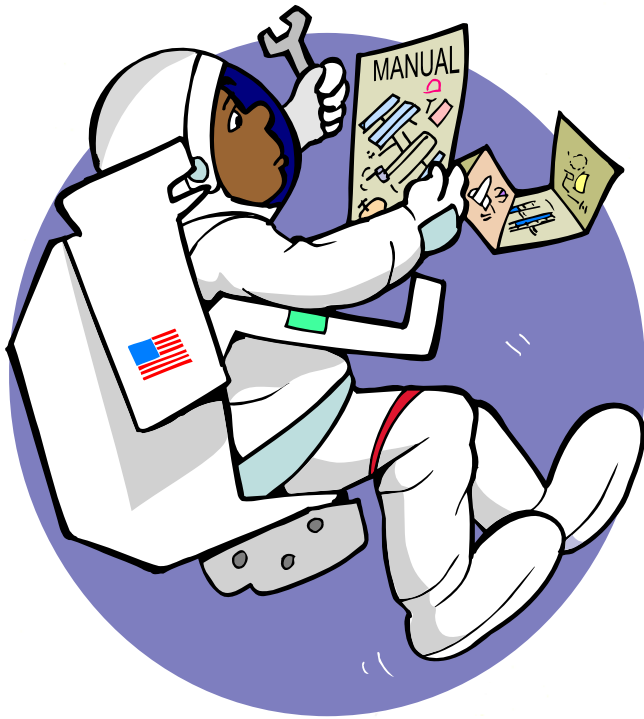
Help students make a small prayer notebook and give each guest a pencil or pen to remind them to pray with faith believing God will answer. Older students may print the Prayer and Faith Scripture on the first page to get them started.

Encourage students to record each prayer and leave room to record and date how God has answered their prayers. They will be amazed at God's gracious and creative answers!

Notebooks may be purchased locally or obtained from S&S arts and crafts catalog or at their website: www.ssw.com



WEDNESDAY AT MISSION CONTROL



WELCOME TO MISSION CONTROL:

We have joined God's Team and know how to pray with faith.

What else is there to learn before we head on our space journey? I cannot imagine going on a trip without reading a map. Can you imagine leaving earth's atmosphere on NASA's space shuttle thinking we can reach the moon by aiming at it? There is much more navigation involved. We have to read and understand the map.

FYI: Shuttle maps don't look like paper maps at all. The **attitude-control subsystem** keeps the space craft oriented with respect to outside landmarks. Solar cells must be pointed toward the sun, communication antennas point toward earth and cameras pointed toward their subjects. Small rockets keep everything moving in the proper direction. There are onboard sensors such as gyroscopes or sun/star trackers. Space maps are sure different from the maps of Columbus or Magellan journeys!

GOD'S MAP—THE BIBLE

SUPPLIES: Bible, Bible Verse Pocket supplies

CHRISTIANS HAVE A MAP TO READ! Our map is God's Word, the Bible. When we are young, the words are hard to read. As we grow older, the words and thoughts become easier to understand. God provided this map to guide us to Him. The Bible is our guide when the world is telling us to go the other direction. David the Psalmist said, *"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."*

MAKE A BIBLE VERSE POCKET! Let's get started by making a Bible Verse Pocket for your bedroom door. We'll fill the pocket with scripture verse. When you get home, pick one verse each day to read. If you cannot read, ask your mom or dad to read it to you.



BIBLE VERSE POCKET

SUPPLIES: Two small (cake) paper plates for each student. The plates may be in bright colors available in most stores. Staples, stickers, paper punch, yarn or ribbon, scripture verse strips.

1. Cut one small paper plate in half across the middle.
2. Staple the half plate to the whole plate in such a way as to form a pocket.
3. Punch two holes in the top of the full plate.
4. String ribbon through holes for hanging.
5. Decorate the pocket with a variety of stickers.
6. Fill with scripture verse strips.



SCRIPTURE VERSE STRIPS

**IF ANY MAN BE IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATION.
THE OLD HAS PASSED AWAY...THE NEW HAS COME.
II CORINTHIANS 5:17**

A small blue rocket icon with white flames, positioned to the left of the second scripture strip.

**I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, NO ONE CAN SEE THE
KINGDOM OF GOD UNLESS HE IS BORN AGAIN.
JOHN 3:3**

**I WILL PROCLAIM THE NAME OF THE LORD, OH,
PRAISE THE GREATNESS OF GOD. DEUTERONOMY
32:3**

-
**LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART
AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL
AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.
DEUTERONOMY 6:5**



-
**...IF YOU HAVE FAITH AS SMALL AS A MUSTARD SEED...
NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU.
MATTHEW 17:20**

-
**WE LOVE HIM BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US.
I JOHN 4:19**

-
**...WE HAVE PUT OUR HOPE IN THE LIVING GOD.
I TIMOTHY 4:10**

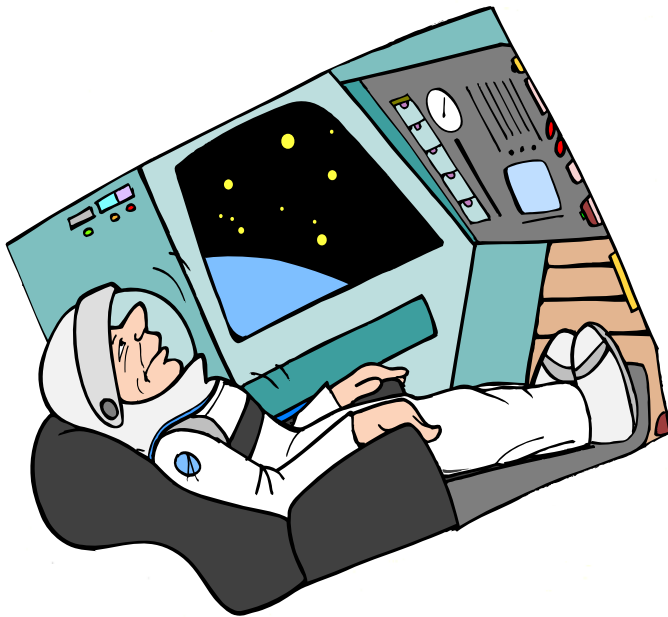
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**TRUST IN HIM AT ALL TIMES...FOR GOD IS OUR
REFUGE. PSALM 62:8**

-
**THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH.
NEHEMIAH 8:10**



-
**BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS...
FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU.
JOSHUA 1:9**

THURSDAY AT MISSION CONTROL



WELCOME TO MISSION CONTROL: We have become God's Team, learned to pray with faith and discovered God's map. The control panel in Mission Control and the control panel in the space shuttle must work perfectly. All computers must be online. Any loss of light will abort the mission.

FYI: The onboard computer subsystem provides computing service for other subsystems. It may sometimes store engineering data, commands for other systems and scientific data. The computer also serves as a clock.

JESUS GUIDES THE WAY

JESUS IS THE LIGHT! The light we seek is Jesus. Our faith may begin with one point of light and grow. Jesus said, *"I am the Light of the world. If you follow Me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, for living light will flood your path"*. John 8:12 TLB

JESUS OFFERS PEACE! Jesus wants us to have peace in our lives. Paul said, *"...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"*.
Romans 5:1

JESUS OFFERS LIFE! Jesus Himself told us about the wonderful life in store when we believe in Him. *"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."* (Like they've never had life before)
John 10:10

JESUS OFFERS SAFETY! Becoming a believer is easy. Just decide to do it! Paul said, *“If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”* Romans 10:9

Space is filled with tiny points of light we call stars. When we draw them, we often give them five points to remind us of their sparkle. If we could travel to a real star, we might be disappointed. A star is shaped more like a small, rocky planet. Star light we see from earth is reflected from the sun. When you see a star think of God’s light...Jesus!



JESUS IS THE LIGHT STAR

SUPPLIES: Make a few star shaped patterns (*not included with curriculum*) on posterboard. Any size works but bigger is better. Trace on white posterboard or color of your choice. Scissors, glitter, white glue, paper punch, ribbon or yarn, markers, pencils.

1. Students trace and cut their star. One hole may be punched at one star point so the star can be hung as a decoration.
2. Color with markers, decorate with glitter.
3. One large star should be sufficient.
4. Attach brightly colored yarn or wide, colorful ribbon.

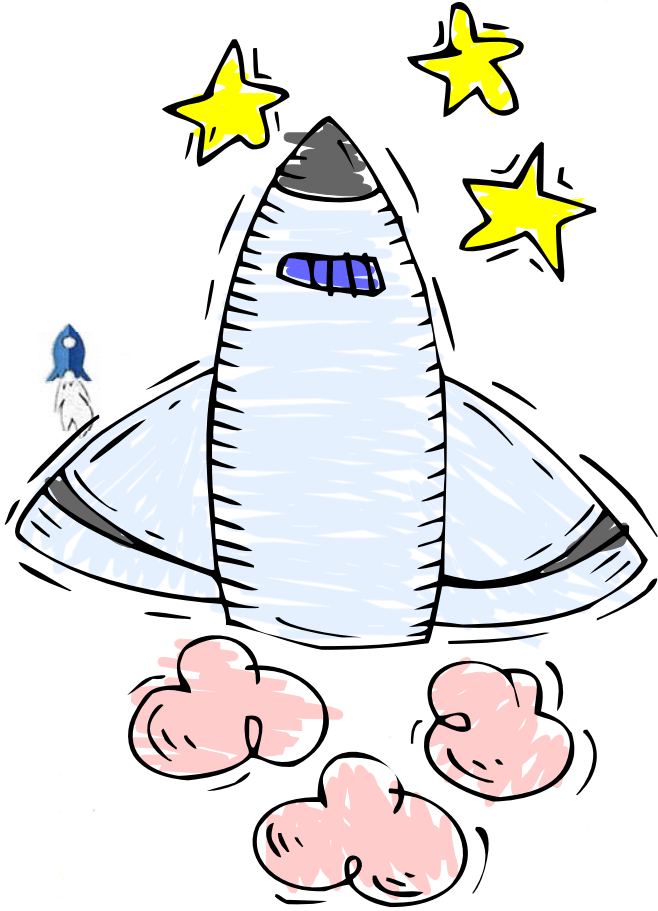
YOUNGER STUDENTS: IF CUTTING IS TOO DIFFICULT FOR YOUNG STUDENTS, CUT THE STAR AND PUNCH HOLE BEFORE CLASS. STUDENTS THEN DECORATE AND STRING WITH YARN OR RIBBON.

Fast workers may make as many stars as they can within the time allotted. Be sure each student has at least one to take home. Make a few to hang in the area.



FUN OPTION: If there are willing wood workers in your church, have them cut stars with one hole each from thin plywood. Stars may be painted, stained or even sanded and left plain with a bit of glitter. If painted, spray a fixative for long lasting beauty. Sprinkle or spray glitter as the last step. Allow projects to dry before sending them home. This could be a great “take it home at Open House” project.

FRIDAY AT MISSION CONTROL



WELCOME TO MISSION CONTROL: Now that we are on God's Team, pray in faith, read God's map and follow Jesus the Light, it is time to launch into space. Everything can look ready for a perfect flight into space and yet one missing part will ruin the launch. We check and recheck every detail to be certain we have a "Go For Launch".

FYI: Pre-launch operations are carried out according to a schedule known as the **COUNTDOWN**. This is similar to a checklist followed by an airline pilot but more complex and involves lots of crew members.

The countdown checklist is designed to keep everyone safe, avoid wear on the shuttle, permit the launch to take place on time and guarantee that tracking and recovery systems are working properly and are coordinated.

Time before the launch is known as **MINUS TIME** or **T-MINUS**, **TIME-ZERO**, **T-TIME**—the time scheduled for lift-off. After that point time is counted in **MISSION ELAPSED TIME (MET)**.

The Launch Director may **HOLD** a countdown if there is a problem. The space shuttle has 10 minute holds built in at T-20 minutes and T-9 minutes to allow time to correct minor malfunctions (failures) that may occur.

The final countdown is normally controlled by computers because the systems respond faster than humans. Some countdowns take a few hours but space shuttle countdowns take several days.



COUNTDOWN TO HEAVEN

CHECKLIST! Have you checked your life to be sure you are heading for heaven? Good person–Check! Helpful person–Check! Friendly person–Check! Smart person–Check! It seems as if you are all you should be! But wait! We must put a HOLD on the COUNTDOWN TO HEAVEN!

CO-PILOT! Did you choose a co-pilot? Is there a qualified expert in the cockpit helping you make the difficult maneuvers? No? This mission is aborted!!! Stop the launch!!! The astronauts need more preparation.



THE PERFECT CO-PILOT! Jesus is the perfect co-pilot. He is the Friend who helps face life's journey and guides our shuttle into heaven. Do not choose anyone else to assist with navigation. This is crucial for a successful mission.

CHECKLIST! Let's go over our checklist. We cannot be too careful.

1. BELIEVE! BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND YOU WILL BE SAVED. Acts 16:31 This verse does not say, "Be a good, smart, helpful, friendly person and you will be saved." All those qualities and wonderful but this is HEAVEN we are talking about. God's plan is for each person to believe in Jesus. He is our co-pilot.

**DON'T LOOK TO THE STARS TO SAVE YOU!
LOOK TO THE ONE WHO MADE THE STARS!**

2. REPENT! "FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD." Romans 3:23 Saying "I'm sorry for my sin" to God is the first step to heaven.

3. TRUST JESUS! "HERE I AM! I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK. IF ANYONE HEARS MY VOICE AND OPENS THE DOOR, I WILL COME IN AND EAT WITH HIM AND HE WITH ME." Revelation 3:20 We must trust Jesus as our Lord and ask Him to come into our lives. No one else can do this. God's plan is that each person decides to follow Jesus personally.

4. HOW TO PRAY!

"Dear Lord Jesus: I know I'm a sinner. Please forgive me. I believe you died for my sin. I ask you to come into my life and my heart. I want to trust you and I want to follow you as Lord and Savior. Be my co-pilot. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

PAPER AIRPLANES: Make homemade paper airplanes, decorate them and fly them. S&S arts and craft catalog and web site offers:

Zing Wing Gliders: An excellent activity for sight and flight. Paint and fly these durable white foam gliders. Quick, easy and fun! 6" x 6 1/2". RME-GP148 \$24.99 per pack of 50 (price may change). **Gliders only: RME-SY620 \$19.99 per pack of 50.**



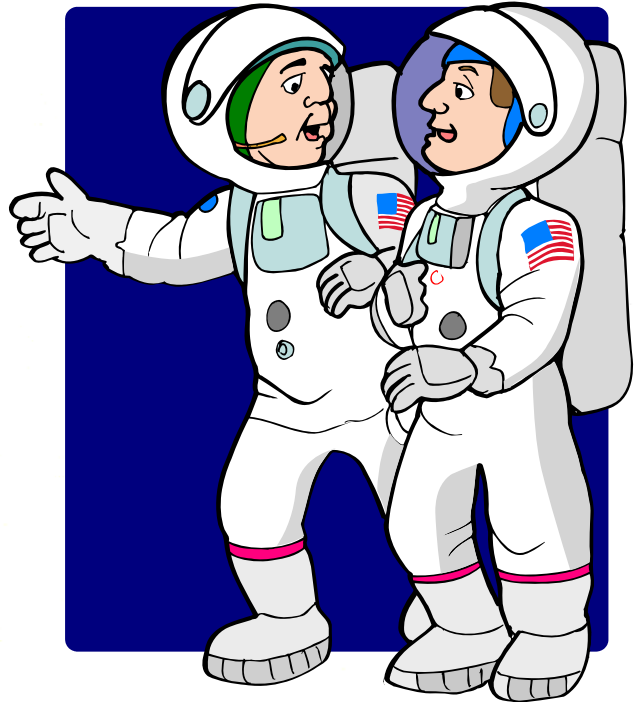
N.A.S.A. BIBLE SPACE STATION

TIPS FOR TEACHERS

Each **XTREME ENCOUNTER** Space Station represents a planet or shuttle mission where Space Cadets learn about personal salvation.

Groups explore space, memorize a scripture verse, hear a story from the Bible and complete a craft project.

Bible Space Station leaders accompany their group and serve as extra “helping hands” in all daily activities. Decorations, costumes and relationships bring this space theme to life for the students. Lead your children on an amazing Salvation Space Journey where lives are changed forever!



BIBLE SPACE STATION #1: COLD PLANET **...LIFE WITHOUT JESUS-LOST!**

Memory Verse: “Jesus said, ‘I have come as light into the world, that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness.’” John 12:46

Bible Story: John 3:1-21 Jesus and Old Man Nicodemus

Craft

BIBLE SPACE STATION #2: GROUND ZerO EARTH **...PICK UP THE CREW-SAVED!**

Memory Verse: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” Deuteronomy 6:5

Bible Story: Luke 15:11-32 The Wasteful Son and The Loving Father

Craft

BIBLE SPACE STATION #3: SHUTTLE MISSION

...TROUBLE IN SPACE-SIN!

Memory Verse: "Cast all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you." I Peter 5:7

Bible Story: John 8:1-11 Jesus To The Rescue!

Throwing Stones At Sin

Craft

BIBLE SPACE STATION #4: LUNAR CAMP

...MOONLIGHT--GROWING IN FAITH!

Memory Verse: "For in Him we live and move and exist." Acts 17:28

Bible Story: Luke 24:36-48; John 20:19-31 Slow Thomas

Craft



BIBLE SPACE STATION #5: ANGEL SKYLAB

...COUNTDOWN TO HEAVEN-HEADING HOME!

Memory Verse: "Unless you become like little children,
you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3

Bible Story: Revelation 20-22 Peeking Into Heaven

Craft

DECORATE: Follow our decorating suggestions or design your own colorful space theme. Borrow items from church members, family and friends, Make decorations from construction paper, posterboard and cardboard. Create dramatic lighting with white twinkle lights, floor spots and darkness.

COSTUME AND CHARACTER: Follow curriculum instructions. Borrow, rent or make simple costumes.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: Teach a scripture verse in each Bible Space Station. If you prefer a different teaching game, story or activity, use it. Shorten the verse to match the age group.



BIBLE SPACE STATION STORY: The Bible story themes show students what Bible people discovered about life is like without Jesus, how sin controls us, salvation, growing in faith and reaching heaven. Students must be seated and quiet. Ask questions to encourage active involvement. Simplify material for younger students. Older students may read scripture and participate in discussion.

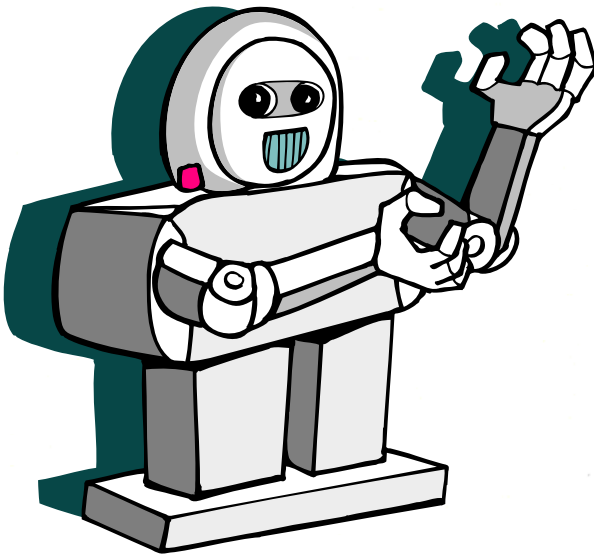
TIME MANAGEMENT: Groups complete their Bible Space Station activities in one session. If suggested activities cannot be completed within the forty five minutes allotted, choose the most important details and eliminate the rest.

BIBLE SPACE STATION

CRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Each **XTREME ENCOUNTER** Bible Space Station includes time for a craft activity. Choose one craft from the following list to complete with each group.

OPTION: Homemade crafts are fun and inexpensive. Ask *crafty folks* to create five separate projects and gather materials for the teachers. If another appropriate project appeals to any teacher, develop that project.



Reserve one corner of the room to complete a simple keepsake. Divide craft parts into kits. Helpers assist young students. Students not attending Open House may take their completed project home any time.

These suggestions are from S&S arts and crafts catalog. Prices may change. For a current Master S&S arts and crafts catalog or for a copy of their Christian S&S catalog, call 1-800-243-9232.

Check out their easy to use web site at: www.ssw.com

ZING WING GLIDERS. Paint and fly these durable white recyclable foam gliders. Quick, easy and fun! 6" x 6 1/2". RMF-GP148 \$29.99 per pack of 50. 60 cents per project. (ZING WING GLIDERS ONLY – Nose Weights included. RMF-SY620 \$19.99 per pack of 50. 40 cents per plane.)



SUPER FOAM WING MASTER. Super Foam planes actually soar. No glue means no drying time so kids can start flying their aviation creations immediately! Precut pieces for easy assembly. 5" x 6" x 2". RMF-GP1452 \$9.99 per pack of 12. 83 cents per project.

WIND WHIRLERS. Fun to make with dazzling results that whirl in the wind. 7 1/2". RMF-GP1255 \$17.99 per pack of 12. \$1.50 per project.

SUPER FOAM MOBILE. This mobile with stars and moon twists and turn in

the slightest breeze. Precut pieces ensure dazzling results for this simple lacing project. 14" x 6". RMF-GP1299 \$8.99 per pack of 12. 75 cents per project.

3D-O GALAXY. Out of this world fun! Kids experiment with sponge and splatter painting to create strange new galaxies of planets, moons and stars. Precut planets and 3D buttons make it quick and easy. 9" x 12". RMF-GP1659 \$9.99 per pack of 12. 83 cents per project.

SATELLITE BUILDERS. Authentic looking satellites with solar panels and microwave dish. Hang finished projects anywhere for a galaxy of fun. 3" x 3" x 6". RMF-GP1615 \$24.99 per pack of 32. 78 cents per project.



HIGH FLYING KITES. One of our most exciting projects! Kids get to decorate their own kites with permanent markers, then take to the air—they really fly. 26 1/4" x 26 1/4". RMF-GP1010 \$26.99 per pack of 12. \$2.24 per project.

SUPER FOAM ALIEN ROBOTS. Imaginations abound when kids assemble these robots made of Super Foam. Interchangeable parts translate into hours of creative play. 5" x 2 3/4". RMF-GP1387 \$4.99 per pack of 12. 42 cents per project.

NEON PROPELLER PLANES. Wind them up and send them soaring! Easy to assemble balsa wood planes to paint in dazzling neon colors. 13 1/2". RMF-GP995 \$11.99 per pack of 12. 99 cents per project.

SUPER FOAM MEMORY BOOK. The perfect place for kids to record their space adventures, memory verses. Assemble and decorate easily without gluing or painting. 6" x 6". RMF-GP1300 \$18.99 per pack of 24. 79 cents per project.

STAR PHOTO HOLDER. A simple foam project that gives them a spectacular way to honor the “stars” in their lives...parents, grandparents, siblings, best friends. 29" x 4 3/4" RMF-CE4022 \$5.99 per pack of 12. 50 cents per project.



GLASS LIGHTS CROSS. Hang on a window and let the sun stream through, casting a colorful reflection across the room. Remind kids that their words and actions should reflect the love of Christ to others each day. 5" x 8". RMF-RE417 \$12.99 per pack of 24. 54 cents per project.

BIBLE SPACE STATION #1:

THE COLD PLANET

Life Without Jesus

THEME: The COLD PLANET is a lonely, sad planet where students learn that life without Jesus is empty and frightening.



DECORATION: Empty the space of furniture and wall decor.

Darken the room by turning off lights, covering windows with cardboard and closing the door.

Blow cold air from fans. Small flashlights provide the only light. String a single row of white twinkle lights along the walls on the floor.

WALLS: Consider covering the walls with plain white or brown paper.

Spray paint paper with black and purple in swirling motions to make the area appear dark and misty. Finish with a dusting of spray glitter to give a sparkle effect.

ROCKS: Place large rocks in strategic locations on the floor. The rocks may appear plain or be sprayed with glitter.

SNOW: Packing peanuts make perfect “snow”. Collect boxes of peanuts and toss on the floor along the walls. They often cling to clothing so use wisely. Other snow like materials to pile in corners are **cotton batting** and Christmas “**Angel Hair**”.

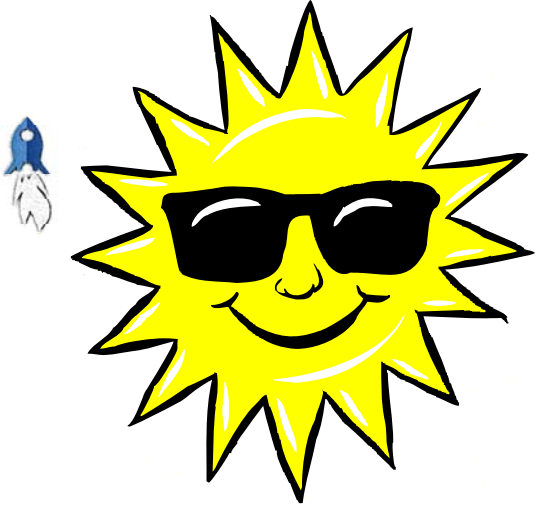
Place sheets of **bubble wrap** on the floor at the entrance so when students enter



they make popping, cracking sounds. (Preschool children may not enjoy this!) Cover bare spaces, non moveable furniture or cabinets with white sheets. Draw huge icicles and hang them at the corners of the ceiling. Make white paper snowflakes, cover in glitter spray and place on walls and doors.

COSTUME AND CHARACTER

Your costume may appear futuristic with simple lines. Dress in black. Wear a long black cape over the costume. Consider a long sleeved black turtleneck shirt, black slacks, socks and shoes. Spray hair and face with glitter.



Teacher and helper become *Cold Planetarians* left behind when everyone else accepted Jesus and blasted off for brighter planets.

The team task is to communicate how empty life is without Jesus and to help students escape the cold gravity pull of the planet within a specific time period to avoid being stranded forever. Dark, cold and desperate best describe the team's

attitude.

THE COLD PLANET WELCOME

This introduction may be spoken by one, two or three leaders as desired.

What are you doing here? Get away as fast as you can! This is no place for fine young people like you. You must do everything in your power to return to your shuttle and escape before it is too late!

It is so cold here. You may not survive the frigid chill. There is no sunlight to warm us by day and no moonlight reflecting the sun's rays. It is forever dark and cold.

THE COLD PLANET is beyond the known galaxy's space of 100,000 light years. The solar system's nearest neighbor is the triple star system Alpha and Proxima Centauri. Outside the Milky Way astronomers cannot see us.

THE COLD PLANET was a charming place to visit and we believed in the planet's misty and crystal beauty—at first! It was a trick. We toured black crystal caves and flew over Dark Castle. It was enchanting. Cold Planetarians distracted us and we missed the last shuttle to earth. We were left behind. It is too late for us but not for you.

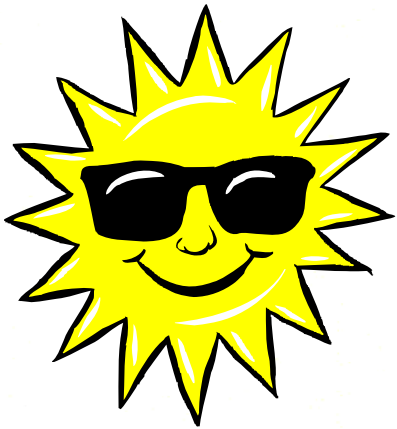
The dark, hidden message of THE COLD PLANET is that no one needs Jesus as Savior and Lord. We are self sufficient and the only glory is what we see in each other. Do not believe it! It is lonely here.

Who would think life without Jesus could be so sad and empty? We survive because we must but there is no joy or comfort in our existence. People on earth tried to explain what life with Jesus was but we were too busy to respond to Him. I thought I would live forever and now, unfortunately, I will.



MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

SUPPLIES: Black and white construction paper, white glue, heart pattern (not included), scissors, large safety pins. **Option:** Clear contact paper to cover both sides of the black/white heart.



Students memorize the scripture verse by making a secret black/white heart symbol to wear on their sleeve. Help younger students print the verse and glue the two hearts together. Option: Preprint the verse on a white heart pattern which students cut and glue to the black heart.



PULL OUT A TATTERED BATCH OF LOOSE LEAF PAPERS. SCRIPTURE REFERENCES OF YOUR CHOICE ARE HAND WRITTEN ON EACH PAGE.

Whisper: *Sshh! Do not tell anyone what I am about to share with you. We smuggled parts of the Bible to THE COLD PLANET. A few of us still cling to God's Word. We memorize God's precious words in case the Darkness Police confiscate our hand written Bible. We hide it's pages under rocks and change the hiding place often. We believe in Jesus!*

To escape, make a black heart to wear on your sleeve. Everyone here wears a black heart on their sleeve but the secret believer's sign for escape is an identical white heart glued to the back with a Bible verse printed on it. When the shuttle arrives, flash the white heart as the sign you want to escape the darkness of life without Jesus. Are you brave? Are you ready for adventure? Let's get the secret sign on your sleeve. Wear your secret symbols all week.

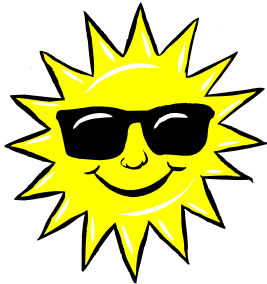
**Jesus said, "I have come as light into the world,
that everyone who believes in Me
may not remain in darkness." John 12:46**



BIBLE STORY

Jesus and Old Man Nicodemus

From John 3:1-21: I remember a story from The Old Book. Rest awhile before your shuttle arrives. The Book tells of an old man who was very wise. He was a leader among the religious Jews. Most of his friends were prideful and wealthy. He was not like the others. He heard Jesus teach and he had questions, many questions.



The old man, Nicodemus, wanted to hear more. It was important that his visit be kept private so he arranged to meet Jesus after dark in a secret, quiet place. If his religious friends discovered that he was talking to Jesus, big trouble would follow. In the dark night Nicodemus said, "*We all know God sent you to teach us. Your miracles prove it.*"

Jesus spoke kindly but firmly, "*I know you are honestly asking about how to get to heaven. Here's how! You must be born again to get into the kingdom.*"

Nicodemus was shocked. "*Give me a break, Jesus! I can't get back inside my mother. I have already been a baby. It cannot be done! I'm an old man!*"

Jesus did not mean a man should become a physical baby. He meant Nicodemus needed to become like a newborn child in his heart. He said, "*I am honestly telling you that you must believe in Me, God's Son. I can't let you in on what is going on in heaven if you can't believe you are really talking to the Messiah and hearing words from God Himself.*"



During their talk Jesus said He was going to die on a cross so everyone could believe and have eternal life. Jesus knew it was the only way. God loved this world so much that He gave His only Son so that anyone who believes in Him shall not die but have eternal life. He said the Light from heaven came into the world but people loved darkness more than light so their evil deeds would be hidden. They stayed away from God's Light for fear their sins would be found out and they would be punished.

We don't know how Nicodemus reacted to Jesus. Personally, I think he became a believer. The Book hints that Nicodemus cared for Jesus' body after He died on the cross at great personal risk. Whatever happened, he understood Jesus: Stay in darkness or live in God's Light, Jesus! It was his choice then and it is your choice today.



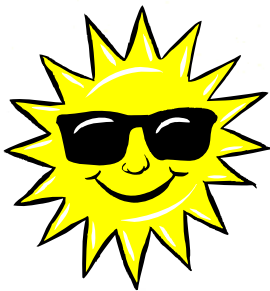
My shuttle has left. I cannot leave THE COLD PLANET. What I *can* do is warn Space Cadets so you may escape while there is time.

To escape, simply invite Jesus into your life. It is easy. Some people make it sound hard because they cannot believe God loves them in spite of their dark ways. Don't waste another day in darkness. Run from THE COLD PLANET!

CLOSE IN PRAYER.

THE COLD PLANET CRAFT

Choose a craft project from the suggestion list or design your own "light" project. Consider THE LORD IS MY LIGHT INSPIRATIONAL WINDOW or SHINING LIGHT PANELS from S&S arts and crafts at www.ssw.com



GROUND Z-ER-O EARTH

Pick Up The Crew—Salvation!

THEME: This Bible Space Station hosts the mission specialists as they consider the gift offered by Jesus. How we take care of this beautiful place and our salvation is the purpose of GROUND Z-ER-O EARTH.



DECORATION: Create a peaceful outdoor park on earth where mission specialists rest between missions. What better place to think about Beautiful Planet Earth created by God than in outdoor areas around your church.

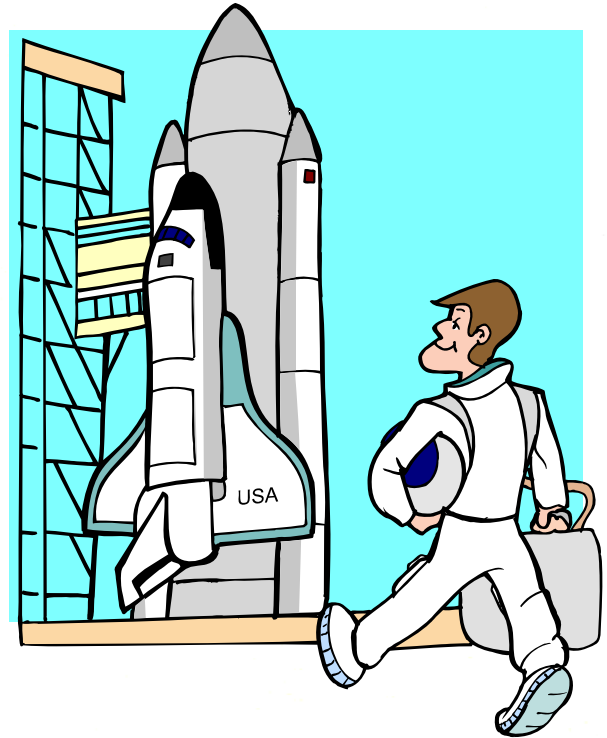
OUTDOORS: Consider presenting this station under a tree, beside a stream, in a dining tent or pavilion or protected courtyard area. Weather must be the deciding factor. Plan a back up spot in case it rains. Hopefully, it won't be needed but reserve a protected spot. Few items are needed to decorate if meeting outdoors.

INDOORS: If decorating a classroom, make the spot look like a city park. Place large green plants in corners. Plants can be artificial trees borrowed from homes. Fill every space along the walls with colorful silk flowers and greenery. This "garden" should be as big and beautiful as you can make it.

GRASS: Cut slits in green construction paper and tape to the bottom walls all the way around the room. Make large paper flowers to "plant" in the grass. If available, roll out indoor green carpeting to resemble grass.

WATER FEATURE: Place a filled wading pool in one corner. Place live fish or turtles in the pool area if desired.

BENCHES AND BIRD BATH: Borrow 2 park benches to place in one or two corners. Place an outdoor bird bath in one corner.



COSTUME AND CHARACTER

Wear white shorts/slacks, shirt, baseball cap, shoes. Become an Earth Ecologist showing off Planet Earth before SPACE CADETS leave for their space mission.

GROUND Z-ER-O EARTH WELCOME

This is your opportunity to rest at Ground Z-er-O Earth while waiting for your next mission assignment. Every astronaut needs time to recuperate between flights. While relaxing in this beautiful place, it is required that you learn how to take care of foreign environments.



I am your personal Earth Ecologist. I will prepare you for future flight by showing you elements of Planet Earth. This may be the most important stop on your flight path. The time to make life decisions is not in the midst of crisis but to make important decisions before the crisis, in a peaceful setting. When an enemy attacks, there is no time to think. Be ready to react automatically.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

SUPPLIES: Peanuts in the shell. (Be sure no one is allergic to peanuts!) Hide all peanuts.

I have something in my hand no one has ever seen before and no one will ever see again—just you! Can you guess what it is? (Show your closed hand and let the group guess.) Why would God make such a thing? Something to be seen for only a moment or so and then never seen again? In order to be used it must be broken and changed. And, it comes wrapped in its' own individual package! (More guesses?)

SLOWLY OPEN YOUR HAND TO DISPLAY A PEANUT IN A SHELL.

What we are about to see no one has ever seen before. The farmer who planted the seed never saw it. While he watered and tended his peanut plants, he never once caught a glimpse of it.

God made YOU like He made the peanut. He put you in a special package. No one has ever seen the real you. The real you is your spirit and soul inside your physical body. But...God, Who saw you before He even made you, knows you inside and out.

You have been assigned important missions this week . As you are used for God's special purpose you must be broken and changed like the peanut. Your will must



become the will of God. Let God make the changes because He loves you. Let's eat a few "one of a kind" peanuts as we learn today's verse from God's Word. (Place individual words on paper peanut shapes.)

Teach the verse with phrases printed on poster board shaped like peanut shells.

**LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART
AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL
AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.
DEUTERONOMY 6:5**



BIBLE STORY THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!

From Luke 15:11-32: Jesus was quite a story teller. He once told the story of a man who had two sons. Well, let's hear this story in a fun way. Sit down. I have a poem to read to you.

(Place the poem script in a large story book. Open the book and read the poem in Dr. Seuss style!)

CONCLUSION

As we look at earth specimens, we see the natural gifts God gave earth which other planets and stars do not possess. These unique parts of nature make it possible for human and animal life to exist.

God has given another kind of life as well...**Eternal Life!** It is a gift many earthlings do not accept. The gift is Salvation and Jesus gave it when He came to earth, lived among us, died and rose from the grave. Will you accept God's gift? I have no idea! It is up to you.

AIR: Take a deep breath. This is God's invisible gift. The air we breathe does not exist on other planets in our solar system. Without air, life cannot exist. Our lungs take in fresh air and expel carbon dioxide poison. Trees take the carbon dioxide and change it back into fresh air. What a wonderful gift!



God loves you and wants you to have a wonderful life. When we face problems "... we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1

Take short, quick breaths. You are getting air but it isn't satisfying like a big, deep breath. If you had to breath like that all the time you would soon be exhausted and maybe even pass out. God planned a wonderful life for us but we often ruin it. Why?

WATER: (Pour water into their hands) Human, animal and plant life cannot exist without one simple creation...water. Water doesn't have color, odor or taste. Yet, water keeps us alive as much as air. The chemical symbol for water is H₂O. You will soon learn in science class that H₂O means two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen. Scientists study water and help make it pure for drinking. Water circulates from earth to cloud and back to earth when it rains. Man cannot make water. God makes water.



Isn't that just like us? We think we do everything by ourselves. Our stubbornness and sin separates us from God. The Bible reminds us, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23 and "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

FIRE: (Light a candle.) When I strike this match, we see fire. Planets without air cannot have fire since air is needed to light the fire. This little flame can do good or it can do harm. We can warm a house or cook food or burn down a house, destroy a forest or injure a person. Respect fire!

The Bible says, "There is a way that seems right to man, but in the end it leads to death." Proverbs 14:12 People try to do good deeds to get to heaven. These people think they are warming their house when they are actually burning it down. These ways are **not** the way to get to God.

ROCK/DIRT: Look at this rock and dirt. Both are on earth for a solid purpose. Dirt is composed of many earth elements and is the foundation for the ground under our feet. It contains everything we need to grow food. Planets without dirt cannot grow food. Rocks are hard because earth dirt builds up over along time. It takes lots of work to break a rock.



Christians put their faith in the Rock—Jesus! God's answer to sin is salvation through Jesus. That's it! It is so easy that many people miss God's plan. "God

showed His love like this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8 Admit your sin. Believe Jesus died and rose for you. Invite Jesus (by prayer) to come into your life.

Receive Christ as your Savior. No one can do it for you. Not your mom or dad, gram or grandad, teacher or brother. Just you! “If YOU confess with YOUR mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in YOUR heart that God raised Him from the dead, YOU will be saved.” Romans 10:9

Prayer: Dear Jesus, I know I have sinned. I want to be forgiven. Come into my life. I will follow You as my Lord and Savior. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



GROUND Z-ER-O CRAFT

Choose a craft project from the list provided or design your own earthly project. Consider GARDEN OF EDEN or SPIRITUAL MAGNETS from S&S arts and crafts.



THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!

Come listen, come listen, come one and come all
To the tale of a boy who had a great fall.
With father and brother, his life was all set.
The farm and the money and life were all his.
He was happy, yes happy, oh happy....and yet....



“I wonder what life in the city is like.
Do they dress just like me?
Do they ride a sleek bike?
I'm stuck on this farm far away from the light.
I'm stuck here, I'm stuck here.
I can't be too bright.”

His father replied: “Oh son, my dear son,
the farm is not bad.
I've given you life, money health....all I had.
When I die you will get all that's left, so be glad.
You'll be the big boss, our family kahuna.
Just share with your brother and sing a glad tune-a.

His brother said: “I'm oldest, you know. I don't want to boast.
But when the time comes I should get the most.”

“Aha”, said the son, “That's just what I thought.
That brother of mine is plotting my lot.
Just give me what's due and I'll fly the coop.
There's life in the city that I need to scoop.”



His father was sad, “Oh son, my dear son, this farm is your home.
Stay here and work here. Don't try to roam.”
“Just give me your money, oh father dear.
I need it right now to fly far from here.”

The father who loved him, handed over the money.
The son, who was silly, hopped away like a bunny.
Life in the city wasn't quite like he thought.
He bought and he bought and he bought... and he bought!!
And soon, when he dug in his purse for a coin,
They were gone and his friends ran away.
Now, there's a lesson to "loin"!



The sad son said, "I now need a job, I need money you see.
I can't live in the city and let me be me.
I need a good job to buy more new clothes.
I want a new outfit, like those and like those."

No jobs could be found in the big, big, big city.
He tried to be smart and he tried to be witty.
The only job he could find was in a pig pen.
He slopped all the hogs while remembering when
Life at home was so peaceful on dad's lovely farm.
Where food did abound and he came to no harm.

"I want to go home, I want my dear dad.
The job in this pig pen makes me mad, makes me sad.
I want to see trees and rivers and such.
The workers at home get much, oh, so much.
If I could just travel to father and brother,
I'd stay there and work there, I'd want no more bother."



So the son traveled home all alone with his duffle.
He walked with some fear. He walked with a shuffle.

"I know what I'll say. I know what I'll do.
I'll say, 'Hello Father! So nice to see you'. I'll admit that I sinned
And I'll beg to begin life over with him. Yes, with him.

When the son neared the farm, shaded eyes with his arm.
He saw his dear father running fast from the barn.
They hugged and they hugged and they danced in the road.
The father was crying, the son crying too.
He tried to confess, all his sins, to unload

But the father had plans of his own to complete.
He wanted to shout to the world, "My son's sweet!"
"My son, my dear son, you are home at last.
The time you were gone did not go fast.

Come into the house, take a bath, get a drink.
I need time to blink and to think in a wink."

"But father," cried son, "I've sinned against heaven and you.
I've wasted your money and now I feel blue.
Before he could finish, his dear father said...
"Hush, hush now, I tell you.
The servants will give you my best robe of red.
Put rings on your fingers and shoes on your toes.
I won't take excuses. I won't hear your 'no's'."

So a party was planned and the family rejoiced.
They danced and they feasted on platters piled high
With the juiciest juices and a fatted calf's thigh.
The end of our story now is in sight
For the family was happy, so happy, that night.

Except....for one person, who lurked in the alley.
The brother was mad and kicked his cat, Sally.

"I'm the brother who stayed. I worked long. I worked hard.
Do I get a party, do I get a card? No, not me. It's not fair!
I want some rejoicing for *me* on the stair.
This brother of mine wasted stuff on wild living.

And now they celebrate with even *more* giving.
It's not fair, it's not fair, it's not fair, I say.
I want a party, I want to play!

Dad appeared in the shadow,
"I have heard your sighing and crying and moaning.
What you don't understand, son, is that *you've* been growing.
You've had all my wisdom, my love and my stuff.
Young bro ran away, said he'd had enough.
I thought he was dead but now he's alive!

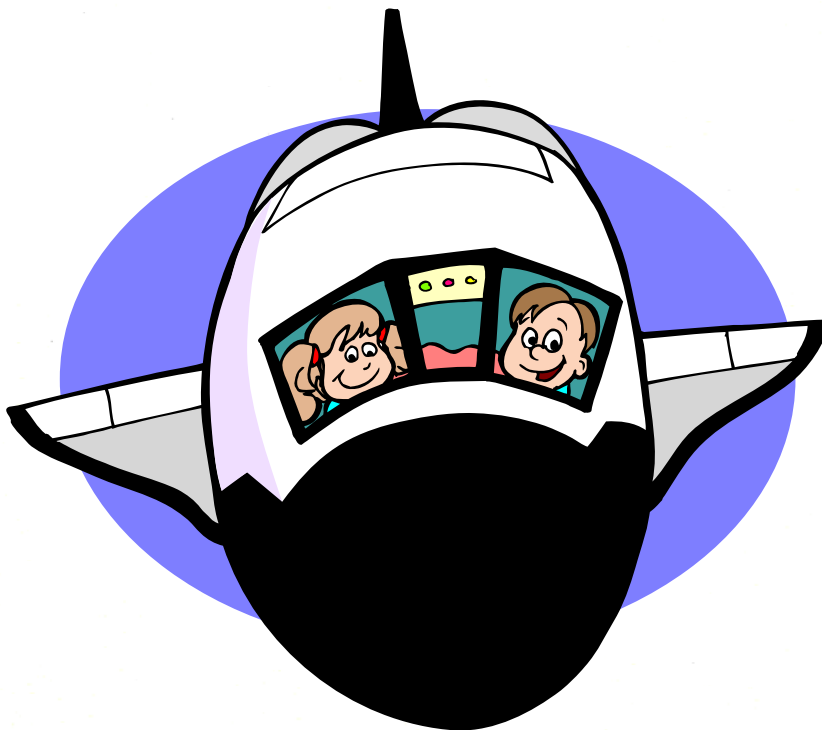
It's right to rejoice for now he's come home.
We'll be here together, no longer to roam.
So cheer up that face, join the party inside.
Next week we'll invite *your* friends from far and from wide."
And now we've come to the end of our story.
It is told for God's love. It is told for God's glory!



BIBLE SPACE STATION #3:

SHUTTLE MISSION

Trouble In Space!



THEME: All does not go well as students take flight for a Shuttle Mission and they are in danger of becoming lost in space or destroyed if an asteroid hits their ship. This is the perfect backdrop for a serious discussion about sin.

DECORATION: An empty room becomes a giant space shuttle. Line chairs in rows resembling airliner seating. String white twinkle lights around top and bottom of room.



INSTRUMENT PANEL: Make an instrument panel by painting a large box and attaching nuts, bolts, lights, aluminum foil covered gadgets.

SHUTTLE WINDOWS: Line the walls next to the rows of chairs with shuttle windows. Make and spray cardboard window frames silver. Inside the frames place black construction paper dotted with stars, planets and moons. Or, find pictures of planets to insert inside the frames for a galactic view.

SAFETY BAG: Tape a small paper bag to the back of each shuttle seat. Fill with a small black rock, candy bar and scripture verse card.

COSTUME AND CHARACTER: Become a shuttle astronaut. Follow curriculum costume suggestions. Wear headphones and perhaps a battery pack (school backpack). Be assertive and in control of every situation. Make guests comfortable at all times while they are onboard the shuttle.



SHUTTLE MISSION WELCOME

Welcome to Alpha and Omega Shuttle Flight 101. File quickly into your shuttle seats. Take off is five minutes and counting. Leaving earth's atmosphere is fifteen minutes and counting.

In the 1970's, the USA developed the first reusable manned space vehicle called the Shuttle. It combined many systems from previous "one use" space vehicles including parachutes to catch the boosters in the ocean.



The orbiter glides back to a runway at the end of its mission. That is how we will return. The four original shuttles were named after ocean going ships: COLUMBIA, CHALLENGER, DISCOVERY and ATLANTIS.



We travel at five miles per second but you won't feel any motion. We will see 15 sunrises and sunsets every 24 hours. Earth is 200 miles below, with its' sparkling oceans and orange deserts against the blackness of space. We float around inside the capsule with no effort. Upside down feels the same as right side up. We perch near the ceiling to eat. If food is not sticky, it floats away. You sleep strapped to a wall bunk so *you* won't float away.

TAKE OFF: Take off is 10 seconds and counting. Hold on to your seat as we blast off! 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1. We have ignition. We have lift-off! Shuttle Mission Alpha and Omega, carrying precious human cargo and scientific experiments is leaving the launch pad headed for Jupiter.



If this is your first space journey, relax and leave the flying to us. In the years since Alan Shepherd's first hop in a Mercury capsule, astronauts have learned a lot. No one ever thought we would take citizen passengers into space on a regular basis. Our destination today is the planet, Jupiter. Once thought too far to visit, this is a pleasant vacation destination.

SHUTTLE MISSION MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Remain seated for safety instructions. First the bad news. It is possible that a huge space rock could slam into Earth. It has happened before but the good news is that it may not happen again.

Our solar system is like a giant game of marbles. Planets are the big marbles. Asteroids, comets and other space rocks are the little marbles. The little marbles zoom around and sometimes hit the big marbles. And that means trouble!

If an asteroid that is hundreds of miles in diameter, traveling 54,000 miles per hour hits a planet it causes an explosion as big as one million atom bombs exploding at once. Ouch! Now that smack would sting!



Now, don't be afraid. To be perfectly safe, learn to rely on Jesus and not on asteroids that may or may not hit Planet Earth. Reach into your seat bag and pull out your safety kit.

SMALL ROCK: Let this rock remind you of sin that comes when we least expect it. Hang onto it so you know what sin looks like if we encounter it on our journey.

CANDY BAR: (Milky Way) This high energy snack gives you a boost to face any trouble we'll face during our journey.

MEMORY VERSE CARD: Sin can burden us until the extra weight throws our shuttle out of orbit. When you feel sin threatening you, heave it on the Lord (in prayer) and lighten the load for all of us.



**CAST ALL YOUR BURDENS UPON HIM,
BECAUSE HE CARES FOR YOU. I PETER 5:7**

BIBLE STORY

Jesus To The Rescue!

Introduction: Wait! Everyone sit still. Word from the cockpit is that a black asteroid named **Devil Rock** is straight ahead and heading for us at 20,000 miles an hour! We must divert to avoid collision or destroy it with our lasers.

Isn't that just like sin? It grabs us when we least expect it. Sin is any thought or behavior that separates us from God. We think life is going along well and then—bam—here comes sin to ruin everything.

I won't kid you, our shuttle is in danger but all is not lost. Sin does not have to be victorious. Ask God to forgive. He always does! Oops! There go the lasers! Sin is about to meet defeat.



From John 8:1-11: This adventure reminds me of a story about Jesus. One day Jesus was teaching and the religious leaders brought a sinful woman to Him. "Master, this woman is very wicked. We caught her sinning. Moses said such people should be stoned to death. What do YOU think we should do?"

These rascally leaders were trying to trick Jesus. He didn't pay attention to them and bent over, writing in the sand. The men were angry that Jesus did not answer them. Finally Jesus stood up, looked them straight in their evil little eyes and said, "Let the man among you who has never sinned, throw the first stone at her."



The leaders looked at one another. They remembered times in their own lives when they sinned...and looked away. One man was so uncomfortable that he left. Another followed. One by one they disappeared.

When Jesus looked up, only the woman was standing there. "Where are the men who accused you? Didn't anyone condemn you?" She must have been shaking in her sandals. "No man, Lord." He must have smiled, "I don't condemn you either. Go and don't sin anymore."

CONCLUSION: Wait! I am getting information about Asteroid Devil Rock. Hold on. Yes, yes. Countdown to destruction is in progress. 5-4-3-2-1! We have made contact! Lasers have destroyed the invader! The Space Shuttle is safe! Yea! (Lead cheering.)

Sin can be conquered. Ask forgiveness from our Heavenly Father and believe you are forgiven because He promised. Even though it is hard to forget our sins, God never remembers it.

Touchdown on Planet Jupiter is scheduled for 0700 hours. While we travel, let's enjoy our time together by completing a craft project.

SHUTTLE MISSION CRAFT

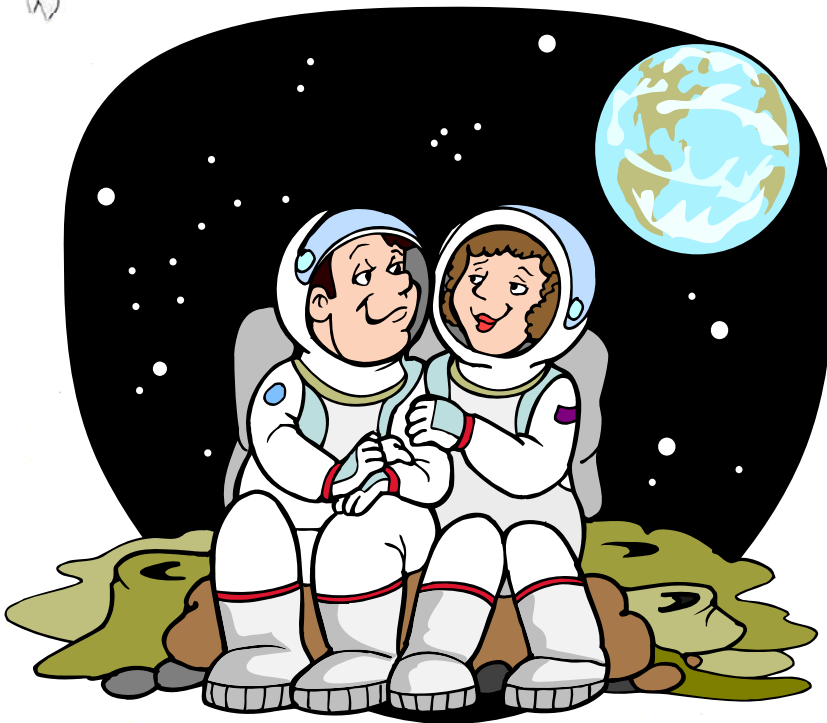
Choose a craft project from the list provided or design your own shuttle project. Consider HEAVENLY GLIDERS or CLOUD CLIMBERS from S&S arts and crafts.



BIBLE SPACE STATION #4:

LUNAR CAMP

...Moonlight Camping



THEME: Mission Specialist SPACE CADETS camp on the moon while experiencing survival in a hostile climate. Students learn how to grow in their Christian faith.

DECORATION: Empty the room of furniture and wall decor. Darken the area as much as possible. Place a fan in one corner.

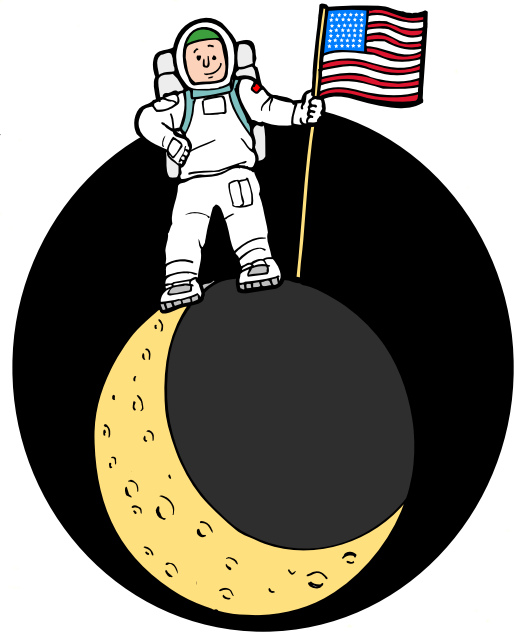
Place camping equipment near a small tent pitched in the room.



Set up American and Christian flags in the middle of the room. Use flags with stands.

Draw large boot footprints on gray paper and tape to the floor. These represent former astronaut footprints left behind from former missions to the moon. A golf club left behind during one trip can be standing in one corner.

Attach stars and planets to the walls. Shine a small planetarium on ceiling and walls. Planet Earth posters are available on the internet. Tape one to the wall and it becomes the “moonscape”. Fill a tarp covered area in one corner with sand. Leave a footprint in the middle.



COSTUME AND CHARACTER:

Follow curriculum suggestions and dress as an astronaut. Become a leader teaching Space Cadets how to survive in a hostile environment.

LUNAR CAMP WELCOME

Welcome to Lunar Camp, Space Cadets! You have journeyed safely through space and are guests on earth’s one and only moon. Earth’s moon is a hostile environment so Lunar Camp will ease your adjustment. Our special fan produces oxygen in a world that has no oxygen. Move around at will without the aid of a breathing pack.

Stick together. I cannot guarantee your safety if you wander into craters or wade in dry lakes. We must learn to survive as a team. The moon is an unforgiving place if you make a mistake. The moon is very hot when it faces the sun. It may reach 215 degrees and can cool down as cold as -243 degrees Fahrenheit.

The first thing we see in the night sky is Earth’s natural satellite, the moon. It is so near that it looks as big as the sun. It is really very small. There are 57 other moons in the solar system and many are larger than our moon.

Have you ever seen THE MAN IN THE MOON? Features that make his face are really a mix of craters, mountains, deep valleys and plains. Did you know that children in China think they see a BUNNY WITH A RICE BOWL. The next time you are moon gazing decide what you really see!

LUNAR CAMP MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY



Let's practice our moon walk. Step slowly and lightly in slow motion pretending you are experiencing weightlessness common to the moon which has no gravity to hold us down. Astronauts who have jumped, discovered they can leap over four times higher than their height.

Let students pretend. They might even want to practice the backward "moon walk".

Lazy Christians move slowly in their spiritual life. To grow spiritually, we should speed up our journey by getting in touch with God.

FOR IN HIM WE LIVE AND MOVE AND EXIST.

Acts 17:28

BIBLE STORY

Slow Thomas

It is never a compliment to be called "slow". It may mean you cannot run fast, work fast or think quickly. Why does everyone think faster is better?

People who take their time often come up with better ideas and take time to appreciate their surroundings. Let's discover one of Jesus' followers, a disciple named Thomas –**Slow Thomas**. Here's the scoop!

From Luke 24:36-48, John 20:19-31: After Jesus died, His faithful friends ran away. They hid in dark rooms and cried. How could Jesus die? Maybe everything they had seen and heard the past three years was fake, mere tricks. They loved Jesus. How could this be happening?



Two followers met Jesus on the road leading to Emmaus. He taught them along the way and when they sat down to eat, they knew it was Jesus Himself. It was so exciting that the men ran to Jerusalem and found the disciples in a dark room.

As the two men told everyone how Jesus walked and talked with them, Jesus appeared! Right there in the room! Right in front of everyone! Wow! What an amazing experience! Jesus smiled and said, "Peace be unto you". The disciples were not feeling the peace. They were afraid. They thought Jesus was a ghost!



"Why are you afraid? Why don't you think it's really me? Look at my hands! Look at my feet! See for yourself that I am really here. Touch me to make sure I'm not a ghost." Jesus offered himself to these dear friends. They looked Him over good. The nail holes were indeed showing in his hands and feet. They touched Him and felt the warmth of His skin. It didn't take long for the cheering to begin. Jesus was real! He was back with them!

Jesus was hungry so they fed him broiled fish and honey. While He was eating and relaxing, He explained what had just happened. "It was written long ago that the Messiah must suffer and die and rise again from the dead on the third day; and this message of salvation should be taken from Jerusalem to all the nations. There is forgiveness of sins for all who turn to Me. You have seen these prophecies come true!" When Jesus explained His friends finally understood.

Everyone except...slow Thomas. Where was Thomas when Jesus came? Who knows? Why didn't Thomas believe his friends when they shouted, "We have seen the Lord!" Who knows?

Thomas said, "Unless I place **MY** finger in the print of the nails in his hands and place **MY** hand on his side, I will not believe." Well, okay, but trust us, you missed the event of a lifetime...of everybody's lifetime!



Eight days later the friends of Jesus were again gathered in a dark room. And guess what? Thomas was with them! Suddenly Jesus appeared! "Peace be with you!" Jesus didn't waste time. "Hey Thomas, put your finger in my hands and place your hand on my side. Do not doubt, believe."

Slow, doubting Thomas was very fast as he fell to his knees. "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said, "Because you have seen me, you believe. Blessed are those who believe even though they have not seen Me." Jesus was talking about you and me. We are the believers who have never seen Jesus in person and yet...we believe.



PAINT THE FOLLOWING LESSON POINTS ON FIVE (5) ROCKS. PAINT EACH ROCK GOLD OR SILVER, PRINT IN BLACK AND SPRAY GLITTER ON THEM TO GIVE THEM A "MOON ROCK" GLOW.

1. READ GOD'S WORD! One pastor said, "*I prayed for faith and thought that someday faith would come down and strike me like lightning. But faith did not seem to come. One day I read Romans 10:17, 'Now faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.' I had made the mistake of closing my Bible and praying for faith. I now opened my Bible and began to study and faith has been growing ever since.*" (D.L. Moody)



God's Word helps me know I am a sinner. Hebrews 4:12-13 "*For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double edged sword....*" Without understanding real sin, we will soon wander away from God's truth.

God's Word keeps me from sinning. Psalm 119:11 "*I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*" I need to know that when I know what God expects, I am prepared to resist temptation to disobey God.



God's Word gives me a standard to guide my life. II Timothy 3:16-17
"All scripture is God breathed....so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." The Bible leads me in every area of my life.

2. PRAY! Jesus told His followers to "watch and pray". Watch means to be wide awake, alert. Paul said, "*Pray without stopping.*"



One Christian said, "I never prayed sincerely for anything but it came, at some time...somehow, in some shape." (Adoniram Judson, Missionary)

3. ENJOY CHRISTIAN FRIENDS! Hebrews 10:24-26. Christians talk about having fellowship with others and that means more than friendship.

We need to share our Christian experience with others who believe and let them share their walk with Jesus. The church, where we gather with other Jesus believers to hear God's Word, is the best place to make friends.

4. TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. Don't be cocky knowing you are going to heaven. Tell others the good news that Jesus died and rose from the dead for them. Being a Christian is one beggar telling another beggar where to get bread.

**Jesus told us to tell this good news to everyone. (Matthew 28:18-20).
How can anyone know about Jesus unless someone else tells them?
(Romans 10:17)**



Telling others helps our own faith become more real. (John 4:27-34).

Even if we do not know who will believe, God does. (John 4:35)

**Jesus promises He will give us the right words at the right time.
(Matthew 28:20)**

5. OBEY GOD! I obey God because I love Him. God's instructions are

not a burden, His directions are a joy that makes my life better. Anyone who is smart knows that, in the long run, disobedience to God's wisdom doesn't do us any good. The way to happiness is obeying God.

“If Christ be God and died for me,
there is nothing too great that I can do for Him.”

*C.T. Studd, Missionary to Africa who gave up fame and fortune
to spend his life for God on a primitive continent.*



LUNAR CAMP CRAFT

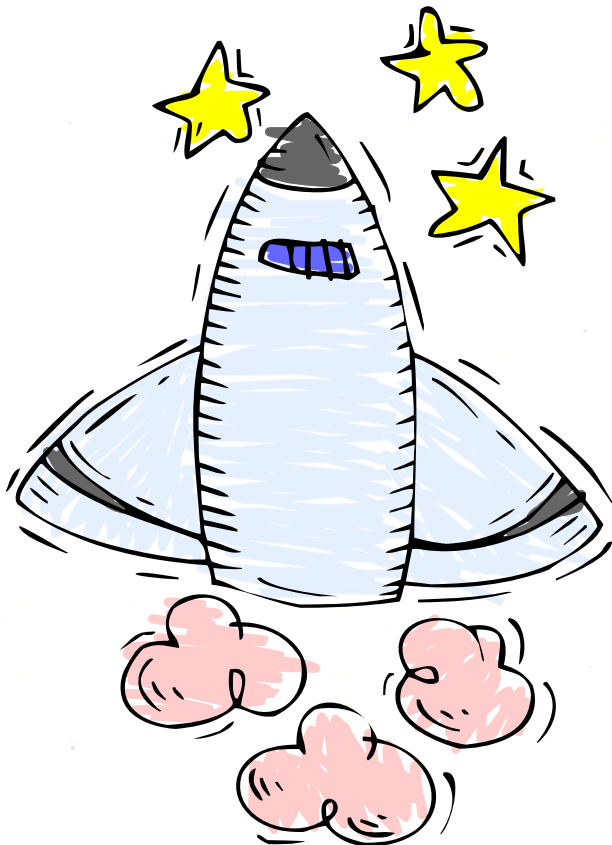
Choose a craft project from the list provided or design your own Lunar Camp project. Consider SPARKLING TILE CROSS from S&S arts and crafts. Colorful acrylic tile pieces look liked colored rocks. CHF-RE412. 5" W X 8" H.



BIBLE SPACE STATION #5:

SKYLAB ARCHANGEL

...Countdown To Heaven



THEME: SPACE CADETS learn that heaven is not as far away as they think. What is heaven? Where is heaven? Why do we want to go? How do we get there?

DECORATION: Empty the room of all furniture. Create a science lab in a sky shuttle. Place chairs in rows facing a science lab table.

Behind the table string colorful 'twinkle lights from ceiling to floor in a vertical pattern. If enough multi colored lights are available, hang more from side walls and door.

Follow directions in the curriculum to add to the "shuttle in space" theme.

Signs: Print SKYLAB ARCHANGEL on a large sign shaped like the graphic on this page.. Spray lightly with glitter.

**WELCOME TO HEAVEN
ANGELS ARE AWESOME
APPROACHING HEAVEN
HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN
GOING HOME—WARP SPEED!
HEAVEN CAN'T WAIT**



Star Quotations: Print one quotation per star. Scatter stars on the four walls of the room. Students and guests wander around reading the messages before class begins.

The only thing on earth a man can absolutely gain is heaven.

Many buy cemetery lots in advance,
but do nothing about preparing for a home in heaven.

Hold tightly to the things of earth, but cling tightly to heavenly things.

The door of heaven is open to everyone whose heart is open to God.

The road to heaven is never overcrowded.

The way to heaven—turn right at Calvary and keep going straight.

Interested in going to heaven? Get flight instructions from the Bible.

It's not your will that keeps you out of heaven—it's your won't.

The cross is the only ladder tall enough to reach heaven.

The man who wants to go to heaven should study the route that will get him there.

The average person probably hasn't stored up enough treasure in heaven
to make a down payment for a harp.

Praising yourself to the skies will not get you there.



It is hard to tune in on heaven's message if our lives are full of earthly static.
You will enjoy heaven more if you have a bit of it in your heart while on earth.

Heaven will mean the most to those who have put the most into it.

The greatest business in life is to prepare for the next life.

Christians never meet for the last time.

A sunset is heaven's gate ajar.

Where you go hereafter depends on what you are after here.

Lord, while you are busy preparing a place for me, prepare me, as well, for that place.

Those who live right won't get left.

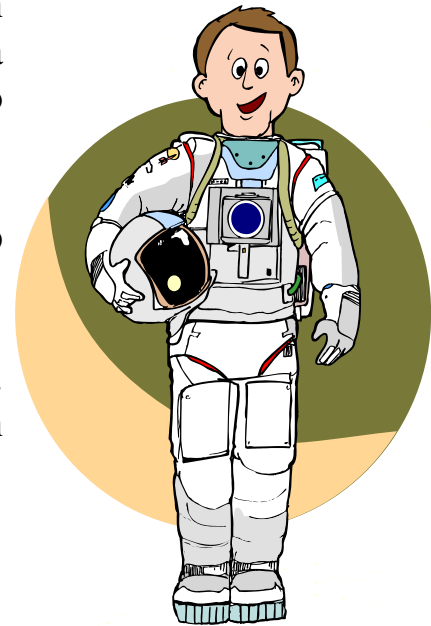
The way to heaven is too straight for the man who wants to walk crooked.

COSTUME AND CHARACTER

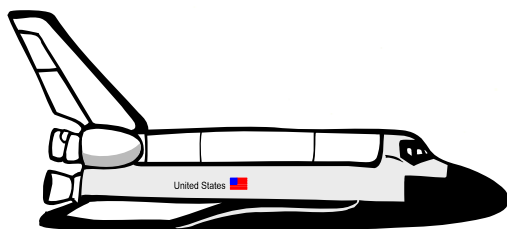
Since oxygen and temperature are regulated in the SKYLAB, white coveralls, lab coats and a white cap are acceptable. You may choose to become an astronaut as well.

Add gold or silver garland around the white cap to top off the heaven theme.

Carry a clipboard with lesson plan attached. Become a scientist teaching about heaven through a series of space experiments.



SKYLAB WELCOME



Heaven is final destination for Christian voyagers. We are the astronaut-science team who teach Space Cadets about heaven.

We plot the course and show you space experiments designed to get you to your final destination safely. The goal is a safe landing on heaven's shore.

The first Sky Lab was a 100 ton space laboratory launched into orbit May 14, 1973. The first crew docked with Sky Lab 2 on May 25. Experiments included studies of the sun and the human body's reaction to extended stay in space.

Their space endurance record of 28 days was topped by the Sky Lab 3 crew, who lasted 59 days. Now astronauts know they can survive in their orbiting laboratories for more than a year with supplies being delivered in other ships by new astronauts.

SKYLAB ARCHANGEL MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Jesus said, Unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 18:3

Converted means “changed”. We get to heaven by being changed by Jesus! It is simple to do. We pray and Jesus makes the changes in our heart.

THE CHANGE EXPERIMENT

SUPPLIES: Pitcher of warm water, paper cup for each student, ice cubes, kool-aid, ginger ale, wooden spoon.

This water is clean and beautiful. I need a volunteer to taste this water. What's wrong with it? It's warm and doesn't taste refreshing. Is there a way we can change this water into a pleasant drink?



(Options—refrigerate, add flavor, freeze into ice cubes, add ice cube.)

Add the following ingredients and taste again: Ice cubes, Kool-Aid, ginger ale. Mix with wooden spoon. That gives our water pizzazz! Change makes all the difference!

To be ready for heaven there must be a change in me. I must believe that Jesus is my Savior so I can go to heaven. My desire for change is shown by the way I live my life as a follower of Jesus.



BIBLE STORY

Peeking Into Heaven

Heaven is a real place for real people! Jesus said, *“In My Father’s House are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”* John 14:2-3

From Revelation 20-22:

WHAT JOHN SAW!

The only disciple of Jesus who lived to be a very old man was John. He was taken to a rocky island named Patmos as punishment for believing in Jesus. At Patmos, God gave John a peek into heaven! The wonderful things John saw give us a hint at what is waiting for the faithful believer.

Make large golden stars sprinkled with glitter. Print the main points separately on each star. Place one star at a time on the wall as you teach.

1. John saw an open door and heard a trumpet like a voice calling him. Around God’s great, amazing throne John saw 24 old men dressed in white, wearing gold crowns. Angels and everyone else were praising God.

2. John saw God holding a sealed book. An angel cried, *“Who is able to break the seals and open the book?”* No one could open this book and John cried because he wanted to know what was written inside its’ pages. One



of the old men comforted John and told him that there was One who could open the book. That One was Jesus.

3. John saw an amazing city! He saw the City of God and heard a great voice say, *“God will wipe all tears from their eyes. Sorrow and pain and death will no longer exist.”* The city was more beautiful than John could imagine. The citizens did not need the sun because God was their light. People from every earthly nation filled the streets. Nothing bad or unclean came into the city. Only people whose names were written in heaven’s book came inside.



4. John saw a river of crystal water flowing through the city. Along the banks grew the **tree of life** with ripe fruit. The leaves held healing for the nations. Jesus spoke to John, *“Whoever wishes may come and drink of the water of life freely, for the invitation is to all men. Only those who hear and obey God’s words may share the blessings of heaven. I am coming quickly.”*

This is the best peek into heaven we have. John saw it and Jesus told us how to get there.

STICKY SIN SKY LAB EXPERIMENT

SUPPLIES: Lots of masking tape, variety of small, light common objects (paper cups, paper clips, rubber bands, cotton balls, aluminum foil, marshmallows, jewelry, inflated balloons, paper plates) on a large tray. Construction paper hearts with words (LIE, STEAL, CHEAT, GOSSIP, LAZY, CRUELTY).



Wrap a student volunteer’s head completely with masking tape, sticky side out. Leave space for eyes, mouth and nose. Place a variety of small objects on a tray.

The student lowers his head and tries to stick them without picking up the black hearts. No hands allowed. This tends to be hilarious. While you tape the volunteer, allow time for joking. If there is time, consider taping 2 or 3 students.

Sin is very tricky and often very sticky. As you can see, it is impossible to pick up good objects without picking up the sinful hearts placed close to them. Paul said to Roman believers, “*For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*” (Romans 3:23) Even when we try really hard to be good, sin finds a way to stick to us.



There is not one person in this room who has not sinned. There are a few very good people here but not good enough to get to heaven on their good deeds. Goodness just isn't enough to walk through that open door in heaven.

When we choose sin, we choose separation from God who hates sin. God made the perfect plan to save us from sticky sin so we can get to heaven. He sent Jesus to be our Savior. We can ask forgiveness for any sin that comes our way and we will end up at our final destination....Heaven!

SKY LAB ARCHANGEL CRAFT

Choose a craft project from the list or design your own SKY LAB project. Consider GOLD AND SILVER GLORIES (CRE-106) from S&S arts and crafts. Check out their website at: www.ssw.com



ROCKET TOTS SPACE NURSERY

WHO SHOULD COME TO ROCKET TOTS NURSERY? Infants and toddlers, Birth through age three, who are children of teachers and helpers. It is your decision to open ROCKET TOTS NURSERY to the public.



XTREME ENCOUNTER is not designed for students under four years old who do not respond well to high activity so loved by older students. A separate space offers security.

HOW MANY HELPERS SHOULD WE ASK TO HELP IN ROCKET TOTS NURSERY? Provide one helper per baby who is in charge of all care for that infant from bottle to changing diapers. If that is not possible, ask one adult and a variety of assistants to watch the children. This staff may change daily.

SHOULD WE PLAN ACTIVITIES? ROCKET TOTS NURSERY is a staff babysitting service but tell a few stories, sing some songs, play CD's and videos, give wagon rides and take walks. Decide how much to do by children's ages.

SHOULD WE FEED CHILDREN? Ask parents. They may want to provide snacks. If you feed toddlers, offer safe, healthful foods.

NO POPCORN, HOT DOGS, LOLLIPOPS or HARD CANDY which can become lodged in tiny throats. Check with the kitchen to see if their snack is appropriate for little ones.

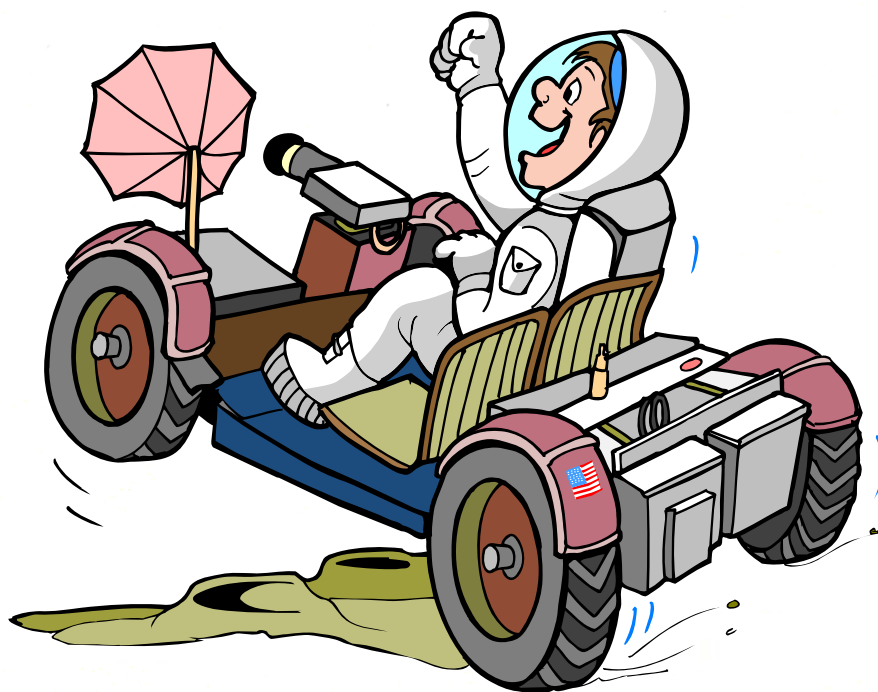
HOW SHOULD WE DRESS? Wear washable clothing and low, comfortable shoes.

The key to being happy in the nursery is to be comfortable. Theme costuming is not necessary.



WHAT SHOULD WE BRING TO MAKE SPACE NURSERY A PLEASANT PLACE? Bring Christian music and play it at a low, non threatening level.

Bring a small fan if days are hot and humid. Place the fan away from children, preferably on a shelf or high table.

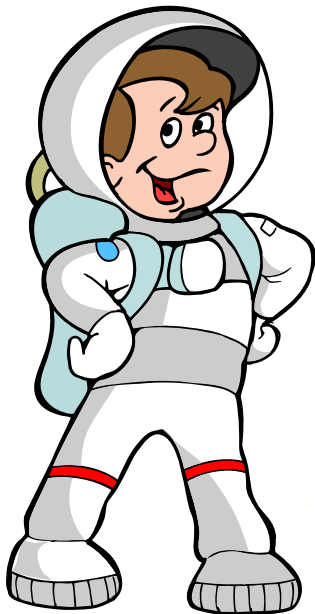


THE ALPHA CREW

...Preschool

**AGE FOUR-PRE KINDERGARTEN FIVE YEAR OLDS.
DECIDE IF YOUR PRESCHOOL STUDENTS ARE MATURE
ENOUGH TO BECOME ONE OF THE FIVE MAJOR GROUPS.**

THEME: ALPHA CREW preschool kids study the same spiritual themes as older students. Each day's activities emphasize what older students are learning but with a separate preschool teaching team.



Use the curriculum schedule as a guide providing plenty of time for rest, play and crafting. At no time feel pressured to attend activities if students are tired or upset. Cancel your group appearance in favor of free play if the group needs rest.

TEACHERS: There should be one helper for every two-three ALPHA CREW. Parental help is welcomed and encouraged. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes. Make each day fun and relaxing. Students should be able to chatter without being reprimanded. Run away children or rudeness must not be tolerated.

HOME BASE DECORATION: Home Base can be where some preschool activity takes place. Make simple outer space decorations.

CRIERS

If a few children cry continually, keep them busy separately in Home Base. Movement around the building may threaten some young children. If they never calm down, ask a parent to stay with their child or take that child home to try again next year. Accommodate as many young students as possible, but crying and temper tantrums discourage teachers, helpers and students. The child may be too young and will do better at a later time.

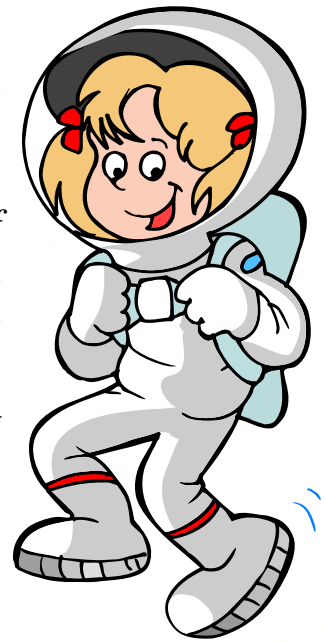


PLANNING AN ALPHA CREW DAY!

Two hours is a long time for preschool students. Plan their day around play time. Bring beach balls, balloons, bubbles and other toys to play indoors or outdoors. Purchase story books. Use these books as fill in teaching times.

Travel with students to all areas of **XTREME ENCOUNTER** as suggested in the daily schedule. If your students tire easily, omit some activities. They do not have to participate in every activity. Most preschool groups handle daily activities well.

*It may be possible to include preschool kids as one of the five major groups, allowing them to participate in every Bible lesson and activity. Decide before the week begins and staff the area accordingly. Adapting the **BIBLE SPACE STATIONS** is the biggest adjustment. Provide Home Base in case some young students need a break.*



NASA LAUNCH PAD OPENING: ALPHA CREW

kids participate in the Opening. This is an opportunity to organize name tags/hats and gather the group before the day begins. If there are criers, ask a helper to take them to Home Base for a few simple activities. This avoids chaos and distraction for older students.

SONG QUEST MUSIC: Encourage preschool students to participate in music time. Take students to the music area and stay with them fifteen minutes each day.

MISSION CONTROL THEME ROOM: This is a daily visit to an

area where students learn about traveling to Heaven.

RATION STATION SNACK TIME: Take students to the fifteen minute snack time. Sit with them. Use time as a bathroom break.

SPACE STORY LAB: Our suggested continuing story is a Chip and Clare Conley mystery entitled, **THE ROCKET MAN**. It is NOT written for their age but many children enjoy it!



STORY OPTION: Purchase five short (2-3 minute) stories to tell your group at Home Base. As series of age appropriate videos work well too. You decide!

BIBLE SPACE STATIONS: Rather than duplicating decoration, take preschool students to one station each day for Bible time. Tell the teacher you will use their room for fifteen minutes when their class is not in session. Use props in each area to tell the Bible story. Adapt lesson plans designed for older students to fit little ones. Activities may be used or eliminated at the discretion of your staff.

GAMES WITH THE BUBBLE PROFESSOR: There are many bubble games these young ones can enjoy. If you feel more comfortable, plan separate recreation for them and create your own bubbles.

REST TIME: Allow time for unstructured play and rest. Darken Home Base, play a tape/cd while encouraging quiet activity. Students rest on large floor pillows while a story is told or songs are sung.



CRAFTS: The perfect preschool craft is one completed with a minimum of teacher help. Provide coloring pictures and crayons for slow times. Modeling clay or Play Doh should be available. Stringing large beads is a favorite activity.

Purchase one craft project for each day. Keep the process simple and everyone will enjoy the experience. S&S arts and crafts catalog offers many projects. Order directly from S&S at: www.ssw.com

SPARKLING TILE CROSS. Colorful acrylic tile pieces lend the look of real stained glass to this project without the sharp edges. Hang anywhere for a unique reminder of the life of Christ. CHF-RE412 \$19.99 per pack of 24.




BRITE LITE PANELS. Internalize the spiritual message “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” Matthew 6:21 when they color these inspirational wall hangings complete with top and bottom borders. CHF-RE442 \$10.99 per pack of 12.


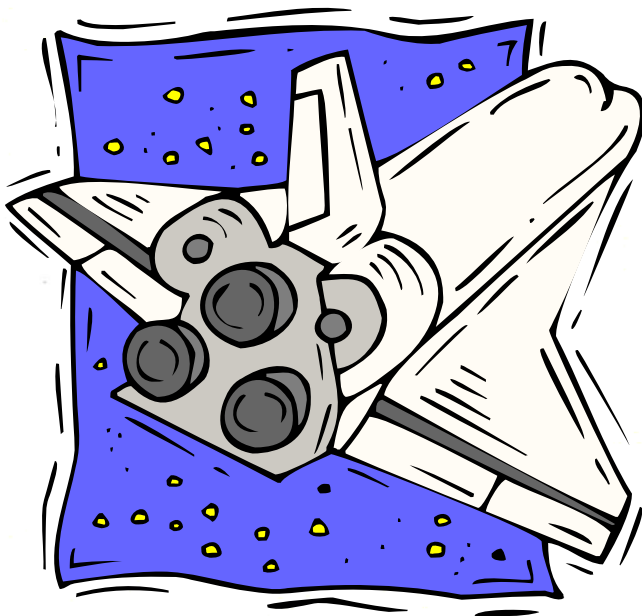


HIGH FLIGHT

John Gillespie Magee, Jr.



**Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds...and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of...wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue**



**I've topped the windswept
heights with easy grace
Where never lark,
nor even eagle flew.
And while with silent,
lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed
sanctity of space...
...put out my hand,
and touched the face of God.**