

# THE AUTHOR OF EVERYTHING



## THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

Did God create everything, and why does it matter?

## BIG IDEA

Have you ever wondered who created the Universe? Did life come into existence by random chance or is there a better explanation? Everything in this Universe is rooted in God's creation. Without God, life has no meaning. But with God, you can find meaning and purpose in life.

## SCRIPTURE USED

**Genesis 1:1** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

**Psalms 90:1-4** *Lord, through all the generations you have been our home! Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from beginning to end, you are God. You turn people back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, you mortals!" For you, a thousand years are as a passing day, as brief as a few night hours.*

**Psalms 19:1-4** *The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world.*

### For this lesson you will need:

- A whiteboard or a large sheet of paper to write on
- A laptop or DVD player to watch a video
- A prize for the team challenge
- Pens/pencils and slips of paper for each student

## OPENER

Watch a clip that shows the beauty of planet earth. Some suggestions include *Planet Earth*, *Life* or *Disney Nature: Earth* videos. On *YouTube*, you can find short clips from these great videos.

## **EXPLAIN**

Those were some stunning clips capturing the beauty of the earth. In some ways, it is easy to take the beauty of the earth for granted. We become so use to living within our own bubbles that we forget to enjoy and explore the beautiful world around us.

Have you ever hiked to the top of a mountain and looked at the vast terrain that can be seen for miles and miles? Or have you ever been to a beach or out on an ocean and witnessed what seems to be an endless amount of water stretching across the earth? Or have you ever been in the woods or at a lake and experienced the beauty of the trees, fish and other animals that live there? There are so many wonderful things to experience within nature. Chances are you have experienced something that has taken your breath away.

[INSERT YOUR OWN STORY: *I remember growing up in South Florida with my family. We had a boat that we would often take out on the Atlantic Ocean. On the ocean, we would routinely ride for miles from the shore and set our anchor in the middle of nowhere. I remember looking out in every direction only to see water. Being in the middle of nowhere on a boat all by ourselves would frighten me as a young boy. In these moments, I would realize just how small I was in comparison to the world. Once the fear subsided, I would grab my snorkel gear and jump off the side of the boat so that I could explore the ocean depths. My mother would always yell out for me to be careful, but my curiosity to explore pushed my fears away. While snorkeling I would come across different types of marine ecosystems. These unforgettable moments were amazing! While I understood that there was life within the sea, it humbled me to think about how much life there is on the earth that I could be miles out from civilization and experience a whole other world!]*

## **ASK**

- **What are some of the things within this world or Universe that you find beautiful?**
- **Why do we care about nature and want to explore and enjoy it?**
- **Name a place that you have visited or would like to visit. Then explain what that experience was like or why you would like to visit that place.**