

# INDESCRIBABLE

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# FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT

**God said, “Let there be light!” And there was light.**

—GENESIS 1:3 ICB

**Have you ever wished that you’d been there to see God create the world?**

I mean, how amazing would it be to see how He did it all!

Well, it might have been amazing, but trust me, you probably would not have wanted to be there. Why? Because when God said, “Let there be light!” there wasn’t just some calm little flick of a universal light switch. Oh no! This was more like a light explosion that would be way more than our eyes could handle.

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The Bible tells us in Psalm 33:6 that the heavens were made by the word of God. He breathed out the universe and everything in it. So when God said He wanted light—that light came flying out of His mouth at 186,000 miles per second! Because that’s how fast light travels. And just how fast is that? Think about it this way: the world’s fastest race car goes only 0.075 miles per second—that’s only 396 feet per second. And a rocket ship travels less than five miles per second. So 186,000 miles per second is screaming fast! God’s light streaked across the heavens, chased back the darkness, and lit up the entire universe in a blaze of brilliant glory.

There’s only one thing (that we know of!) that can move faster than the speed of light—and that’s the speed of God. When you call out to God in prayer, He’s instantly right there to listen—and He starts working on your answer right away. The thing is, though, God may not give you that answer right away. Sometimes He asks you to wait for it, and sometimes He might not give you the answer you want. But trust that God will always give you the exact right answer for you—at just the right moment and in just the right way. That is a fact you can believe in.

***God, I can’t even begin to imagine how fast light really is. And to know that You hear my prayers even faster than that is amazing to me. Thank You, God, for rushing to listen to me!***

## BE AMAZED

God’s universe is so big that it can’t be measured in feet or inches or even miles. We have to use a bigger ruler: the *light-year*. A light-year is—you guessed it—how far light travels in a year, which is 5.88 trillion miles. Our own Milky Way Galaxy is 100,000 light-years wide. And that’s just one galaxy out of the billions that our mighty God created!



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## THE STAR COUNTER

**Look up to the skies. Who created all these stars?**

**He leads out all the army of heaven one by one.**

**He calls all the stars by name.**

**He is very strong and full of power. So not one of them is missing.**

—ISAIAH 40:26 ICB

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**A galaxy is a gigantic collection of stars, dust, and gas all held together by gravity.** Earth, the sun, and all the other planets that make up our solar system are just a tiny part of the Milky Way Galaxy. The Milky Way is so huge that scientists think there are between 100 billion and 400 billion stars in it. They don't know exactly how many, because there are just too many stars for them to count. But the Bible tells us that God counts each and every star. And He calls them all by name. Oh, and by the way, that's not just the stars in the Milky Way Galaxy—God counts and names each star in all of the billions and billions of galaxies that we know about—and the billions and billions of galaxies that we haven't even discovered yet. That's how big and how great and how awesome our God is.

God is bigger than anything we have ever seen or anything we could ever dream of or imagine. He is huge, and His universe is ginormous! Don't believe it? Just look up to the skies and remember who created and counts and names all those stars.

## BE AMAZED

If you wanted to try to count all the stars in the Milky Way Galaxy, how long would it take you? By counting one star each second, you could count them all in only—2,500 years! Next time you're outside at night, see how many stars you can count. But don't stay out there for 2,500 years!

But do you know what's even more astonishing and wonderful? That same God who knows the stars' names also knows *your* name.

Looking up into the sky might make you feel small—like a tiny little speck floating in the vastness of space—but *you* are important to God. He knows you and loves you and wants to be the most important part of your life. He wants to build a relationship with you that will never, ever, ever end.

***God, I look up at all those stars, and I am amazed that You know all their names. But most of all, I'm so glad that You know my name.***



## GREAT BALLS OF FIRE!

**God did not give us a spirit that makes us afraid. He gave us a spirit of power and love and self-control.**

**—2 TIMOTHY 1:7 ICB**

**The sun—it warms our faces and gives light to our days. We draw pictures of it—a small, bright yellow ball with a smiley face center.** It just seems so . . . friendly.

But that's *only* because the sun is ninety-three million miles away!

Up close, our sun isn't very friendly at all. It's a raging inferno of flames. The temperature on its surface is ten thousand degrees Fahrenheit. That's like billions of nuclear bombs going off every single second! And it isn't some small, yellow

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ball either. It's huge—ginormously huge! If Earth were the size of a golf ball, the sun would be about the size of an elephant.

And God just breathed that sun out of His mouth (check out Psalm 33:6). What does that tell you about God? He is mighty. He is awesome. He is able to do things we cannot even begin to imagine. Our God is *ferocious* in His power!

What does God do with all that power? Well, besides breathing out raging balls of fire, He gives His power to *you*. When you are tired of trying to do the right thing and getting nowhere, when your worries have made you afraid to take a step, or when you feel attacked by troubles too big to handle on your own, don't be scared. Be bold! Be brave! Call out to God in prayer, and ask Him for His power. He *will* answer. And His Spirit will make you strong and mighty and powerful. Trust God. He is *ferociously* on your side, and He's got this.

***Lord, I will never look at the sun quite the same way. Your power is awesome! Thank You for loving me so much that You use the same power that breathed out the sun to help me.***

## BE AMAZED

How big is the sun? Imagine that if Earth were the size of a golf ball, you could fit close to one million Earths inside the sun. That would be like filling an entire school bus with golf balls!



# THE STORY OF THE STARS

**The heavens tell the glory of God.  
And the skies announce what his hands have made.  
Day after day they tell the story.  
Night after night they tell it again.  
They have no speech or words.  
They don't make any sound to be heard.  
But their message goes out through all the world.**

—PSALM 19:1–4 1CB

**Did you ever go to story time at the library? Or listen as your parents or grandparents told you a story?** There's something about *listening* to a story that's just . . . well . . . magical. Perhaps it's because you can close your eyes, lie back, and let your imagination soar.

Did you know that God tells stories too? He tells the very best ones, and He uses the stars to do it. And one story that those stars tell isn't some sweet, soft little tale about how they twinkle, twinkle, and shine. No, their story is one of majesty and might and power. It's the story of a God who created everything we can see and everything we cannot see. Their story is shouted—*blasted*—across the universe, through the sky, and down to us. They don't use words to tell their story; they use their presence. For nothing so perfect, so majestic could have just happened by accident. They had to have a Grand Creator—our God.

Day after day the stars shout out their story, and night after night they tell it again: *Do you see me? God made me! Just look at what God has done!*





## BE AMAZED

God *makes* stars! I mean, how amazing is that? Our God is awesome. He is incredible. He is indescribable! And this God who makes stars . . . He also made you.

God wants to fill your life with His story. Just look up at the stars and start to listen: *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. . . .* Like the stars, you are a part of His story, made to tell everyone how amazing the Creator is.

***Lord, just thinking that Someone who can create stars wants to make me part of His story is astonishing! Thank You! Open my ears to hear the story Your creation tells, and help me tell it too.***

Stars don't really twinkle at all. It *looks* as if they do because our atmosphere causes the starlight to be slightly bent as it makes its way to Earth. Our atmosphere is made up of gas-filled air that is always moving (think of it like the *wind*). As light moves through the atmosphere, it moves too. That's what makes stars seem to twinkle.

# JUST THE RIGHT SIZE

Praise him, sun and moon.  
Praise him, all you shining stars.  
Praise him, highest heavens.

—PSALM 148:3–4 ICB



**So just how big is the universe? Well . . . actually . . . we have no idea.**

The sun—our closest star—is ninety-three million miles away from Earth. Our galaxy, the Milky Way, is so big that if you jumped in the very fastest spaceship we have ever made, it would take 100,000 years to travel across it. And our nearest neighbor galaxy, the Andromeda galaxy? It's two million light-years away. (Remember, a light-year is how far light can travel in a year, which is 5.88 trillion miles. So, if you multiplied that by two million—well, let's just say that's an indescribable number!)

With the Hubble Space Telescope, an incredibly powerful telescope that orbits the earth and takes pictures far beyond what we can see without help, we have been able to see some incredible things, like galaxies as far

as twelve billion light-years away. And that's just what we know about so far—it's called the *known universe*. Scientists believe there's much more to discover. It's as if God is saying, *"Build a bigger telescope, and I'll show you some really amazing stuff. I've got stuff up here that will blow your mind!"*

But all of these discoveries have some scientists stumped. They wonder, *How could a universe this big be just for us?* And you know what? They're right . . . this universe is too big for just us. But what if God didn't make the universe just to be our home? What if God made the universe to show off the splendor and majesty and greatness and glory of who *He* is and how huge *He* is? Then the universe isn't too big at all. It's just about the right size . . . it's God-sized.

***God, You are so big and so powerful. Thank You for creating a universe so big that it reminds me of Your power. You are just the right size for me.***

**BE AMAZED**

In 1924, Edwin Hubble was the first to prove that other galaxies existed far beyond the Milky Way Galaxy. (The Hubble Telescope was named after him!) Since then, billions of galaxies have been discovered with the Hubble Telescope's help—and scientists think there are billions more that we just haven't found yet.

# EARS TO HEAR

**Don't just listen to God's word.  
You must do what it says.**

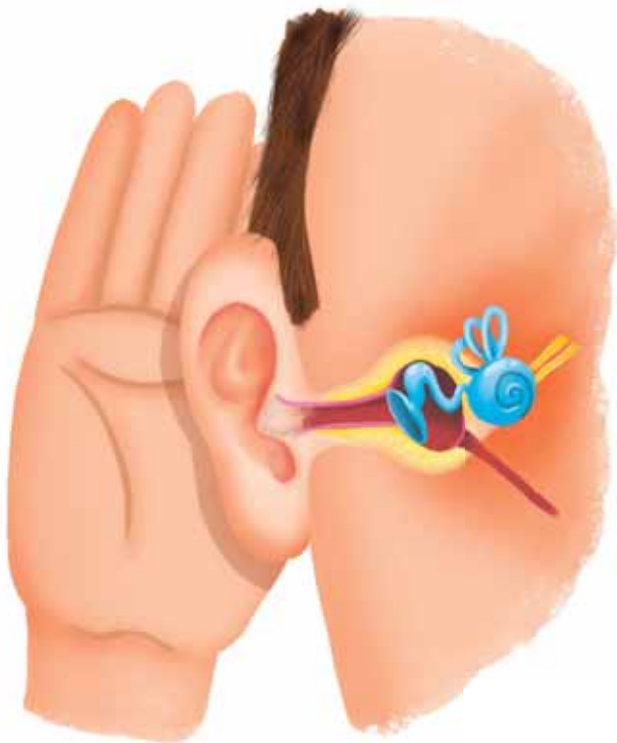
—JAMES 1:22 NLT

**Your ears are an amazing creation.** They not only allow you to hear, but they help with balance and—believe or not—with taste. Your ears never stop working, even when you are sound asleep.

Your ears work by capturing sound waves in the outer ear, which is called the *pinna*. That's the part of the ear you can see. Sound waves get funneled down into the middle ear, where they are turned into vibrations and sent on to the inner ear and eardrum. From there, they flow into the cochlea and then on to the brain—which puts everything together and tells you what you're hearing.

Your hearing is great gift from God, but what you *do* with what you hear is your gift back to God. Jesus said it this way:

“Everyone who hears these things I say and obeys them is like a wise man. The wise man built his house on rock. It rained hard and the water rose. The winds blew and hit that house. But the house did not fall, because the house was built on rock. But the person who hears the things I teach and does not obey them is like a foolish man. The foolish man built his house on sand. It rained hard, the water rose, and the winds blew and hit that house. And the house fell with a big crash.”  
(Matthew 7:24–27 ICB)



Don't let your life come crashing down like that foolish man's house. Listen to God! How? Through His Word—through reading it, through listening as others teach it, and through the Holy Spirit, who reminds us of the things God has said. And after you listen to God's Word? Do what it says!

***Lord, help me to hear what Your Word is telling me—and then please help me to be brave enough and strong enough to do what it says.***

## BE AMAZED

Three bones make up the ear: the malleus, incus, and stapes. These are also known as the hammer, anvil, and stirrup. They are the smallest bones in the human body—so small that all three of them could fit on a single penny.

# A STAR IS BORN

**You created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful, I know that full well.**

—PSALM 139:13–14 NIV



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**The Whirlpool Galaxy is called a Grand Design Galaxy and is made up of hundreds of billions of stars, maybe as many as 500 billion!**

It's an incredibly beautiful spot in the universe, and it's also a very special one. That's because the Whirlpool Galaxy is a place where stars are born—a sort of baby hospital for stars. You see, in the beginning, God created the first stars in an instant when He said, "Let there be light!" But the stars since then are created when giant clouds of space dust and gases are pulled tighter and tighter and tighter together until . . . a star is formed. As each star is born, God names it and places it carefully right where He wants it to be in His universe (Psalm 147:4). Wow!

Making the stars is incredible, but what's even more incredible is the way God made you. He knit you together, one tiny cell at a time, in just the right way. Every part of you is exactly the way He wants you to be. God didn't pay attention just to the outside. He also carefully crafted talents and gifts and abilities and tucked them inside you—things no one else can do quite the same way you can.

You are God's *grandest* design—fearfully and wonderfully made by the Master Creator Himself! So if you ever find yourself thinking that you aren't special, that you don't have any talents, or you look in the mirror and think something about you just isn't good enough, remember *who* made you and then thank Him for His grand and awesome design. God made you, and He makes no mistakes.

***God, thank You for making me just as I am. Help me to use the talents and the abilities You've given me to tell everyone about how great You are.***

**BE AMAZED**

Scientists say that every second a new star is born. Some of those stars are smaller, but some are as big as our sun or even bigger. Can you figure out how many stars are born in a minute, an hour, or a day?

