

Students, Space, 'n Scripture

An Eduventure

Leader Guide

Book 2 of 2

by
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This resource is provided 'as is' and meant to show some alternative low-budget methods to be a part of the Bible's Great Commission to all Christians.

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Introduction

ROCKETRY IN SCRIPTURE? Well, yes and no.

God's precious word – our Bible, doesn't mention rockets, hard drives, cell phones, cars, airplanes, or spaceships. Instead, God's word fills a higher purpose by giving us PRINCIPLES by which we can use all the gifts He has given us, in fun safe ways that honor Him and fulfill Christ's Great Commission:

== And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20)

This Space Tweens eduventure series is based on scripture and its heaven-sent promise and guaranteed success in preparing every generation in 'all good works'. Specifically, 2nd Timothy 3:16, 17 tell us where scripture has come from, what it's about, how to use it, and the guaranteed results.

== All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works. ==

Within that promise, the Space Tweens story series uses a rocketry flavored clubhouse of preteens, led by a silver-haired missionary from a quite different generation for several purposes:

- (1) to show God's Written Word to be as irreplaceable and timely in our technology driven world today, as it was when written. (as promised in 2nd Timothy 3:16, 17)
- (2) Show fun, non-technical ways to use rocketry facts and techniques to share one's faith and message, even by preschoolers, from backyards, basements, and jungle clearings. (as commanded in Matthew 28:19, 20)
- (3) To provide teaching tools that build upon the gender and generation diversities that scripture commands us to coexist in unity; as in our bodies of bone and blood, and our bodies of believers. (as directed in John 17)
- (4) Accent the service of our silver-haired mentors as their potential is so terribly under-used in this technology age. (as directed in Job 32:7)



Book 2

Table of Contents

11. **Sun Power**
Solar Cells, Power Posters
12. **Seaweed Rocket Fuel**
Good stewards of God's creation
13. **Moon Mirror**
Reflecting Sun/Son light
14. **Star Names**
Star Navigation, Wise Men
15. **Pirate Ship Thingamabob**
Where/when, Stars / Atomic Clock
16. **'Hot Potato' Planet**
Only Earth shows God's love
17. **'Nutty Neptune' 'n More**
Don't follow the crowd
18. **I'm Faster 'n You!**
Equator launching saves fuel
19. **Saturn 'n the Shepherd Boy**
Sling shot, gravity assist speed up
20. **The Golden Message**
What message do I carry to others?



#11 – Sun Power

Clubbers - do you remember we just learned from the first chapter of the Bible that God made the sun to RULE the day, and the moon to RULE the night?" asked silver-haired Gramps. "Since we know that God didn't make any mistakes in putting the Bible together, we can be sure that when He said 'RULE' two times, and not shine, it had to be a very good reason. So let's see some of how the sun and moon RULE."

"The sun in the sky does some things that nothing else can. We can't change the sun, only God can, and whenever He wants to. To prove that God always controls things He's created, some day we'll talk about how God stopped the sun for a whole day. And another time He backed up the sun 40 minutes as an answer to just one man's prayer. But that's for later."

"Now, we're going to begin creating some Power Posters... I'll need your help, for sure. I'll explain what a Power Poster is, after we've created this one today. Are ya ready to launch our first Power Poster?" The preteens just about cheered their enthusiastic reply.

Using the back of one of the discarded posters that Higgin's Furniture store discarded, Gramps drew a circle in the left corner of the poster that was taped to the wall. He drew a smaller circle on the other end of the same poster. The left larger circle he labeled the Sun, and the right circle he added the word Earth in it. He lightly drew several straight lines from the sun to the Earth. He added little notes on the poster as he told the Space Tweens clubbers facts along the way.

"These straight lines from the Sun to the Earth are rays; sun rays. It takes just over 8 minutes for a chunk of sun

rays to get to the earth, going through empty space. These sun rays help our eyes and brain to measure time through each day. Our eyes also enjoy the morning sunrise and all the beautiful shades of red in the sunset. This gives us clues to the time of the day. Before watches were invented, people used monuments, and all sorts of structures watching the sun's shadow move. And then God even wrote one of His promises to us, in the rainbow, the sun helps to illuminate. Do you remember what that promise was?

Before those power packed sun rays reach through our atmosphere and our eyes, some are captured in space. The very very large solar arrays of the International Space Station and other man-made satellites, turn some of the sun's rays they capture into electricity to keep all the on-board computers running and lights on.

The astronauts on the MIR Russian space station almost died in 1997, when a resupply rocket crashed into the MIR causing it to begin spinning out of control. They almost didn't get their solar panels facing the sun and it's life-saving power and stop the spinning.

For emphasis, Gramps wrote out the phrase “facing the sun and it's life-saving power” on the poster he was drawing for the preteen clubbers.

“Clubbers, on the sheets of paper I've just given you, draw the poster I've just made about the Sun ruling the day. Actually, this is just the first part of it. But these posters you're making become Power Posters as you teach these neat things to your friends. You'll want to really emphasize this phrase to them,” as he pointed at the 'facing the sun...' solar panel phrase. “As you explain how the sun rules the day, you'll want to then change the 'sun' to 'SON'. And then change the 'it's' word to HIS. Teens, in many different ways, the Bible tells us we need to keep our love, learning, and attitudes facing the Son of God and His life-saving power.

Many people in the Bible lost their lives because they worshiped the SUN rather than the SON of God that made all things. ☼

#12 – Seaweed Rocket Fuel

Silver-haired Ray Timmons (code named: Gramps) welcomed his 12 or so preteen boys and girls to this Saturday's Space Tweens club meeting. As always, he opened his Bible and laid it on the old table in front of him. Beyond the table he made eye contact with each clubber and then led them in prayer. (Tweens are typically 10 to 12 yr olds.)

Gramps began today's lesson for the excited youth by reviewing what his SUN RULES Power Poster already contained. "Clubbers, I love to work on rockets, and I get excited learning about rockets. No matter how hard you study, you never learn all there is to know. What really turns me on about them is how connected they are with God's creation He's put you and I in the middle of... and I might say... be good stewards of. And if that wasn't amazing enough, God has put facts and principles in the Bible we can anchor our brain to."

"We do need to be careful to remember the Bible is far more than a science book. It more importantly teaches us about God and the principles He wants us to apply to honor Him. Our first Power Poster does just that. We're learning some facts about our sun and moon but more importantly how we are to use their power and influence to share with others."

"The energy of the sun reaches our earth and many amazing things happen that should make us praise God all the more." Near the poster circle of the Earth, Gramps drew a little tree and flower. He then said, "All of the green colored

plants, and grass and leaves soak up that sunlight and convert it into oxygen. Every human and animal will die without this oxygen, even when they're sleeping. Without oxygen, we can't build a fire and cook food or keep warm. And without oxygen car motors won't run, or jet engines either. Not only that, but rocket engines have to use oxygen to work. The difference is that in space there's no oxygen so the rocket has to take a tank of oxygen with it. The jet engine doesn't."

Gramps picked up the broken blue crayon and drew a thick wavy line three-quarters of the way around the outside of the Earth circle. He then turned to face the clubbers. The first chapter of the Bible teaches us that when God created the Earth, He covered almost three-quarters of it with water. But that wasn't all. He put green plants in the oceans too. The algae (some is called seaweed) turns sunlight into oxygen. In fact, almost three-quarters of the oxygen on Earth was created in the oceans."

Gramps smiled, and told the tweens, "Wouldn't it be funny but true, to see a rocket ship headed toward Mars and words painted on it's side, say, 'SEAWEED POWERED'?"

The silver-haired club leader paused for a minute and then continued talking in a slower more serious tone. "Boys and girls... I used a word as we began today's lesson that we need to really focus in on. The word was 'STEWARDS'. A steward is someone who manages the property of someone else. Well, God has made each one of us stewards of the things He has created around us and in us. He has also made us stewards of the things He has taught us in the Bible. Yes, we need to be good managers of the oceans, seaweed, plant and animals that provide things to keep you and I alive. But even more important, is that we teach others about God's love for each of us, and our responsibility to Him.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and

teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20)

“Clubbers, don't you just love it? God promises He'll never leave us alone. So let's not waste time. We need to be good stewards of the Gospel story of God's Son, Jesus Christ.” ☼

#13 – Moon Mirror

They almost fell over backwards looking toward the top of the mighty Titan-II Intercontinental Ballistic Missile in front of the Mathers Rocket and Space Museum. The dozen or so clubbers were led back to their Operations Bay about a block away, by their beloved leader, Ray Timmons – 'Gramps'.

Their so-called Operations Bay was actually a vacant store room with almost no furniture. Posters and pictures covered about half of the cracked plaster walls. After opening prayer and announcements, Gramps began.

“We've been learning exciting astronomy lessons and connecting them with the Bible. So far we've learned the Sun RULES the day. We can tell what time of day it is by the sun's movement from the east horizon to the west. We can tell when a year ends by the movement from north to south as it appears directly over head.”

“Well, God's unmistakable word teaches us the Moon RULES the night. That grabs our interest right off, 'cuz the moon can't create any light... and yet it rules the darkness. Only God can do something that amazing. Lightning bugs

and sea creatures can use their bodies to create light for several reasons. But the moon that 'rules the night' is just a big dusty rock that follows our Earth around the solar system, like a little puppy.”

“Even though I'm over 70 years old, I still get excited telling others about the moon God made for us, for time and navigation. It's more than cool. Now do you remember, the sun tells us the time of day and the year. Well, God gave us the moon that RULES the night to tell us the time of the month and more.” Gramps taped a blank poster on the wall in front of the clubbers. “We'll make another Power Poster. This one features the moon.” He drew several plate-sized circles across the top of the poster. On the first circle on the right, Gramps drew a curved line inside the circle. He said, “OK. This looks like a banana standing on end. But it's a reflection off the moon that we first see, each month – when it's not cloudy, of course. Using the next circles he explains, “Then each night the banana reflection gets fatter and fills the whole circle in the middle of the month – called a 'full moon'. Then the circle reflection starts shrinking to a banana on the left. But the first day of the month there is no reflection. It's called a NEW moon. So every year has 12 new moons – 3 for winter, 3 for the other seasons. The new moons told God's people when to do certain festivals, when to plant, and many other things.”

“The moon's gravity pulls on the ocean water and makes the water levels go up and down, creating what we call tides. The time at night can even be calculated by observing the tide levels.”

There are tons of advice related to tides and best fishing results. The moon and tides have great affect on the food we gather.

The silver-haired club leader wrote on the Moon Rules Power Poster, 'REFLECTIONS IS KEY'.

“Stars produce their own light. Our own sun is actually a star. But planets, moons, and asteroids do not create their own light. They are mirrors; reflectors of sun light. The sunlight is reflected off the moon to our Earth. The moonlight is reflected off lakes, ponds and oceans. But the reflections don't end there. The most important reflection depends on each of us. Just like to moon and ponds, we are to reflect the sunlight that only God provides. The moon and ponds have nothing to 'shine' about. They can only tell us about the sunlight.”

Gramps in turn, spoke the names of each of the clubbers, and then added, “None of have anything of ourselves to 'shine' about. Our job is to faithfully and joyfully reflect the love, mercy, provisions, and promises from the Son of God, the maker of all that exists – Jesus Christ – worship Him only. ☼

#14 – Star Names

It's truly out of this world!” Jimmy Preston excitedly spoke into the telephone. His friend Benny listened with anticipation.

This was Super Story Saturday for the SPACE TWEENS CLUB. Gramps had just begun one of his stories that always had the 10 to 12 year old boys and girls on the edge of their seats – actually benches. He continued with the story...

Jimmy told his friend, the church youth leaders were going to show a new computer program next Friday evening that has got has some fantastic things about the stars in it. Benny, ya

just gotta go with me and check it out?” Both 11-year-olds were hungry as horses about learning new things about the stars in the sky. They especially enjoyed what you might call “lessons from the stars.”

Their star lessons were the kind that fueled the imaginations of boys and girls the world over. There are lots of things we learn from the stars. Jimmy and Ben started a list of things they'd been learning.

Gramps interrupted his story to tell the clubbers to pay very close attention, 'cuz they'd be learning some very important facts from the story. So on with his star story...

The star computer program helped Benny and Jimmy to understand the universe God made is so large that distance has to be measured in light-years and not with feet or miles. Actually, one light-year is a little less than 6 trillion miles.

The boys learned from the program the difference between a meteor and a comet. Do you know? Benny acted very grown up in reminding Jimmy, “Jimmy, meteors enter the earth’s atmosphere and either burn up or hit the earth. If they don’t enter our atmosphere they are called comets. My dad said that in 1986 Haley’s Comet was seen and will come back every 76 years.”

The program taught the boys about the groups of stars called “constellations”. And they learned about the closest star to earth is called, “Alpha Centauri”. It was 4.3 light-years away.

A couple days later Jimmy’s dad left a note on his homework desk, for he and Benny to work on. The question on the note asked, “What are the two most famous stars that mankind knows about?” That really set the boys out as real detectives. They thought they would wear the library books out, looking at lists of different stars and when they were

discovered.

After about a week of the boys working real hard on the question, Jimmy's dad told the boys he would show the boys the star book that described "the two most famous stars". The next evening Mr. Preston had the boys sit down next to him and he opened his son's Bible. He turned to Matthew 2:9:

"When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

"Boys, a really famous star known by every generation is this star that led the wise men to where the Baby Jesus was. The Bible tells us that God has a name for every star in the heaven, but we're not told the name of this one. What made this star important was what it did. It led people to God so they could the worship the Creator of the universe."

"Now boys," Jimmy's dad continued, "There is a star even more famous than the star we just talked about. This one has a name. This star is a person. More than that, this star loves all the Bennies and Jimmies on the whole earth. Should we read about Him?" The boys urged Mr. Preston to hurry and tell them about a star that actually loved them. The Bible was then turned to Revelation 22:16:


"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."

Jimmy walked his friend out to get his bike and head for home. As they did, Benny said, "Don't get sore Jimmy. I liked the computer program at church. But I liked even more about your dad using

your Bible to tell us about “famous” star navigation with the wise men. But even more than that... I want to learn more about the star that loves me. Can I come over tomorrow?”

That night Jimmy lay on his bed looking up at the stars through his window. He was just amazed that learning REAL important facts about stars, you don’t need a computer program. All you need is God’s Word, the Bible.

Jimmy thought more about the star-name verses his dad had shown Benny and him. Those three verses comforted him and I'm sure Benny would carefully share them with his mom and dad:

He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names. Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite. (Psalm 147:3-5) 

#15 – Pirate Ship Thingamabob

It's more than 230,000 miles to the moon, one way, and not one gas station to stop and ask directions if you don't know where you're at, in space. All it'd take is one wrong blast from one of your rocket thrusters, that steer the rocket, and you're headed for deep space and certain death.”

Silver-headed Ray Timmons, “Gramps”, to all his adoring clubbers, had begun another of his spine tingling, hair raising lessons the preteens would remember forever. His lesson continued... “Sure the ground controllers on Earth could use telescopes and such to do some of the tracking and 'here's-where-you're-at' logging of the mighty Apollo spacecraft. But their calculations could be off, if the rocket

burn was a second too long or short. One Apollo Saturn V rocket cost \$375 million dollars. It was jammed with computer this, and electronic that, everywhere you looked.”

“But clubbers, know what? when it got right down to knowing exactly where the rocket and crew were at – it took this thingamabob. It's real name is a SEXTANT. The scientists couldn't help them... they had to rely on the sextant. They used the sextant to take readings by looking at the stars to find their location... just like the pirate ships did, and Christopher Columbus' sailing ships did. Do you want to know for sure where you're at, look at the stars God put there for you. And with the help of the sextant, of course.”

“Now, here on Earth, we can find where we are, by using GPS and those satellites above our heads. We humans think we are so clever with our GPS navigation electronics, and don't need a pirate ship sextant any more. We don't even think about looking at the stars to find our way to Uncle Fred's farm a hundred miles away. But better think some more.”

“The GPS satellites use super-accurate time clocks to help us learn where we are. These clocks on each of the 24 or so satellites are 'atomic-clocks'. They are so accurate because of a little spec of metal – vibrates at a certain frequency that never changes. The satellite measures the shaking of that atom of metal and determines the correct time. Man uses a clock that depends on the constant shaking of an atom made by God, that's too small for man to even see.”

“Clubbers, the bottom line of all this, is that, if you want to truly know where you are and what time it is, you must go to God's creation. And actually, He wants you and I to look to Him and share His desires with others around us. Time is wasting away fast. Get started now!”



#16 – 'Hot Potato' Planet

Today's opening club prayer led by Gramps was especially warm hearted toward the 10 to 12 yr olds that met with him each Saturday. There was always fun things to learn about rockets, space, and God. But the best part of the lessons was always about God and His word, the Bible. No sooner than the amens from the clubbers cleared the air, than Gramps taped a clean side of one of the posters on the wall in a landscape orientation.

He drew a line of 9 circles across the width of the poster. Inside the left-most circle, he wrote the word Sun. As he continued putting the names of the other planets in their circles, he spoke to the tweens. “This is going to be a real blast today. And I don't mean a launch pad blast either. We're going to learn about the planets, ending with nutty Neptune. As you clubbers are copying my Power Poster on your sheets, to take home and share, I'll tell you there are 8 regular planets and one of many dwarf planets. Referring to the regular planets, there are 4 that don't and 4 that do.” He kept adding to the wall poster.

Jimmy asked the question all the clubbers wanted an answer to, “Gramps, 4 that don't and 4 that do... what?” The silver-haired club leader stopped writing, turned to face the clubbers, held up his left hand and pointed to his wedding ring with the other, and said, “Have rings. Most people think that Saturn is the only one that has rings. But when you take a closer look at these far-away planets, you'll learn a ton of surprises. Let's keep going, 'cuz I'm anxious to tell you about nutty Neptune.” Still facing the preteens, his lesson continued.

The closest planet to the Sun is Mercury. It's the smallest and has no moons. The second one is Venus that is

the hot potato. It's the hottest of all the planets. Now you and I would think that Mercury would be. But see, God doesn't use our logic. His is far better than ours.”

“Now the third planet from the sun is where you and I go fishin' 'n swimmin' – it's our Earth. We'll come back here in a minute. The fourth planet from the sun is Mars. None of these first four planets have rings... only the last four.

Mars is the only planet, other than Earth, that has creepy crawlers moving around on it. The robotic crawlers are called Rovers. The only successful ones were put there by the United States. (Note: there are three cars that carried 1 or 2 astronauts across our Moon. They are still there.)

“The last four planets have rings and do some strange things. The fifth planet is the big boy... I mean the REAL big boy. If you added the weight of all the other planets except the big boy, it would be more than twice the weight, and is called Jupiter. And what's more, it has a giant red spot that no one knows why.

“The sixth planet from the sun is Saturn. Its rings are easier for us to see from Earth, than the rings of its neighbors. Now before I tell you about goofy Uranus and nutty Neptune, I want to tell you a solar system fact that's very close to my heart... about our Earth.”

“See clubbers... we can look at all the stars and planets and see how powerful and all-knowing God is, in putting creation together. But there a very big part of God He wants us to learn about. It has to do with His heart and His love and mercy He has for you and I. See the planets and stars can't teach us about forgiveness and deep down love and peace. So God came to us, in Bethlehem on Earth, to grow and teach us about the God-love, not even understood by the angels in heaven. The greatest lesson of that God-love was shown on the Cross of Calvary on our Earth. Share the news with others; whether in space, on the moon, or next door. ☼

#17 – 'Nutty Neptune' and More

Clubbers, in looking at just the 6 planets closest to our sun, we already see the diversity – the differences that God put all around us.” Gramps continued, “You might think of yourself as being like tiny Mercury – so small that you don't mean much to God or the work He has for all of us to do. Don't forget, God is so loving toward little things in His creation, the Bible says He has all the hairs on the head of an important human standing on the planet Earth, all counted. That important human happens to be standing in your shoes. *But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.* Matthew 10:30.”

“Now if you think of yourself as a 'big boy' Jupiter and think you can push others around; lord it over them, just remember Who put you where you are and why – the Lord and Creator of all that is, wants you and I to care for others around us, whether we're planets or people. We are accountable for how we conduct ourselves, under God's own Heaven.”

“All the planets except one, orbit (circle) around the sun by spinning like a top on the sidewalk. Our next planet is goofy Uranus. It spins on it's side, like a bicycle wheel rolling down the sidewalk, as it orbits around the sun. There won't be any kites or parachutes near this planet, 'cuz the wind speeds reach 560 miles per hour! Whew!”

Gramps continued, “Now before I forget it, I'll tell you about little Pluto – the planet, not the dog. Scientists counted Pluto as our ninth and farthest planet. But they changed their mind for some kind-of technical reasons. Pluto is now labeled a Dwarf Planet, leaving our solar system with 8 regular planets. Also, Pluto was not named after the dog cartoon.”

“Well, Space Tween Clubbers, I've finally got down to the farthest out regular planet – 'nutty Neptune. I mean, Neptune.” Neptune is really unusual because it goes the OPPOSITE direction of all the other planets. Why? Why does Neptune go in the opposite direction from all the other planets? Well, scientists don't know, and me neither. But God does. And He keeps it from crashing into any of the other planets, too.”

“Maybe what Neptune reminds me of, is that only God knows the WHY and HOW of many things around me. And if it's important for me to learn more, He'll teach me.”

“If someone asked me which is my favorite planet, in an instant, I'd say it's the same as God's favorite, the one He left Heaven to visit – Earth.

If someone asked me which is my favorite star, would it be our own sun, or the North Star, or the closest star - Alpha Centauri – 4.3 light years away... Well my favorite is the one I began singing about, almost before I could walk – the one that guided the Wise men from so far away, to worship Jesus in Nazareth (Mary's home).”

“Boys and Girls, parts of God's creation are so far away we can't see them. And some are so tiny our eyes cannot see them. But we must accept their existence by faith, causing us to adore Him, and honor Him alone, by our speech, thoughts, and actions; encouraging others to do likewise.”



#18 – I'm Faster 'n You!

After the opening Saturday prayer of the Space Tweens Club meeting, silver-haired Gramps reminded the dozen or so preteens sitting in front of him, this was

Super Story Saturday. Most every clubber was sure this was the best place to be, in the whole world. The story begins:

Barb and Trudy were on a merry-go-round at the fair with all the lights, music, cotton candy like clouds and other fun things to ride. Barb was especially happy that she had invited Trudy to the fair with her. Trudy's home circumstances were as tragic as a trainwreck. There were no smiles, laughter, hugs, and light-years away from any words that sounded like, "I love you."

Barb sat closest to the center of the merry-go-round and with a heart just begging God to tell her how to lift Trudy's spirit and wear a smile. Trudy sat on one of the horses near the outside of the merry-go-round. Even with all the lights and laughter around her, she still thought of her life like she was on an every-day merry-go-round. She wasn't really getting anywhere, her mind and heart was just going in continual circles – with no way to get off.

With no one close by, Barb almost shouted to her friend, "Hey Trude! You're goin' faster'n me! You sure are!" In a couple moments, the ride stopped, and the girls got off. In a few minutes they found a bench to sit on where they could watch the SCREAMIN' DEMON roller coaster ride.

Barb put her hand lightly on Trudy's shoulder. The girls each had a coney hot dog and lemonade swirl and started for home. Trudy remembered Barb's kindness and agreed to attend church together next Sunday.

"Ok clubbers. Why did Barb believe her friend Trudy was going faster? Ben, you had your hand up first."

"Mr. Ray, I mean Gramps, I got bonged on the head a while back when I was on a playground merry-go-round. I wasn't holding on, and tripical force sucked me right off the thing. I think the farther out you're riding on something that

spinnin' the farther you'll get thrown.”

“Ben, you're right as rain. Let's change one word of your answer. Let's call it centrifugal force. Now Ben, are you ready for my question?” Ben nodded his head and paid extra attention despite some snickers about his being 'bonged' on his head. “Just suppose, Ben, you had a model rocket plane in your hand that had to be going fast to fly. Would you sit toward the middle of the merry-go-round or near the outside where the centrifugal force was the greatest?” The outside was Ben's correct answer.

Silver-haired Gramps, told everyone that for the very same reason, it takes a lot less rocket fuel to launch a real rocket from somewhere close to the Earth's equator.”

With a smile, Gramps told the clubbers they could sit on a blanket reading their Bible, traveling over 1,000 miles per hour and not get a nose bleed, or their hair messed up. All it takes is having your blanket and Bible near the Earth's equator.

His closing words were, “For a more long-lasting greater thrill than riding on a Screaming Demon, is to have a friend like Barb or Trudy on the bench or blanket sharing truths, hope, and peace.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:27 ☼

#19 – Saturn 'n the Shepherd Boy

Slow Down!” Others tell us to move faster. At the end of the day, we wonder which was the right thing to do, and why. Thinking of yesterday's tasks, we easily see

our hurried actions weren't needed as bad as we thought, at the time.

Ray Timmons (codenamed: “Gramps”) began his lesson about speed for his tween clubbers. “Guys and girls, we've been having fun learning about rockets, space, and scripture and how they fit together. We've also been creating these Power Posters we'll use to share these amazing things about God, with our friends. If you think it's fun to learn these things, it's tons more fun to share with others... especially with someone with a troubled heart and no direction in their life.”

“Today we're going to learn some things about speed, direction, and the planet Saturn... from a shepherd boy. Some of you may already heard of him. He killed a giant enemy soldier, using something that teaches us a valuable rocket principle. It has to do with the weapon that David used to kill Goliath, the giant.”

“No one can ever throw a stone hard and fast enough to kill much of anything, let alone a giant. David protected his sheep using a sling. A sling was made of a little patch of leather that had two long strips of leather tied to each side. A round stone was placed in the center of the patch while David held onto the ends of the long strips with the other hand. The sling was twirled as hard as possible and then ONE strip is let go, at just the right instant to send the stone in the right direction. The stone's speed and force was launched with much more force than without the sling.”

Using the Solar System Power Poster that Gramps had began drawing the week before, he continued his sling lesson. “In 1977, American scientists launched a spacecraft to explore the planets farther from the sun than us. But the rocket engines were not powerful enough to go those long distances, fast enough; and they still aren't, either. So what they did was aim the Voyager spacecraft right close to the

planet Saturn. That's the very first time the Sling Shot trick was tried, with a spacecraft, and it worked. The procedure is also called, 'A Gravity Assist Maneuver'."

Gramps drew a couple curved lines around Saturn and he explained. "The gravity of Saturn pulled on Voyager just enough, that when it continued on past Saturn, it speeded up quite a bit. The gravity acted just like the leather strips of David's sling. God has given us gravity to make a baseball come back down to us, keep our bathwater where it should be, keeps our feet hugging the ground, and keeps us snuggled cozy in our own atmosphere. The International Space Station is teaching us lots of lessons about gravity and how best to use it."

"Clubbers, by far the greatest use we have for God's gift to us, of gravity, is in telling those around us how powerful and loving our God is – to each of us. I really enjoy reading what one of the fellas that tell us about Jesus, in the Bible said. As John, the apostle, ended his writing with the statement:

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen. John 21:25." ☼

#20 – The Golden Message

Where are we?" That's the question from some of us when we're confused about our location in the country or the middle of some large city. That question today is easily answered with the help of the GPS

satellites and associated maps. But spacecraft controllers don't have it nearly that easy.

That training for launching rockets among the planets and beyond, became second nature, in learning that our own Sun is a true star. Like all stars, it generates light and many other forms of energy. Also like other stars, it's gravity captures and continues to control various planets, moons, dwarf planets, and asteroids. Here on Earth, we call our star system our Solar System.

Almost countless numbers of star systems (like our Solar System) are held together in a spiral shaped group, called a Galaxy. A galaxy is defined as an almost countless star systems separated by vast expanses of empty space. Our galaxy is called the Milky Way. Scientists believe at the very center of every galaxy exists at least one Black Hole. Our Solar System is about 3/4 of the way out from our Milky Way black hole to the Milky Way edge.

The “Universe” includes all the galaxies and the space between them; whether known or supposed. The word “Cosmos” refers to the universe, giving special attention to the ORDER and HARMONY of it all.

We Earthlings are communicating people. Each of us have a lifelong thirst to know about our surroundings and the people in them. In 1977 the mighty TITAN-III rocket launched a satellite to explore our planets. It's name is Voyager I. Since it's launch it has been traveling 38,000 mph toward the stars. It still receives commands from Earth controllers and sends data back to us. It is the farthest and fastest man-made object still functioning. The little spacecraft has gold on board that has nothing to do with any electronics or propulsion. It's only purpose is communicating a message – a message written in gold. It uses a unique picture language explaining to any extraterrestrials who, what, and where we Earthlings are.

The silver-haired Gramps looked intently into the eyes of the 10 to 12 year olds listening close to all he said. Their pencils were busy taking the notes they fully planned to share with others.

“Clubbers! Let's pretend each one of you were in charge of the team that must decide what the golden message carried on the Voyager deep space probe. Think very carefully, now. What would you want that message to contain? Don't forget. It must be very brief and clear as possible. If the other side of the golden plaque could contain a speech and a song, what would you choose? Why?”

“I have a fun idea. Why don't you discuss this message you might send to others, with a friend of yours. It could even be someone that has never trusted Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. It might be fun for you and your friend to draw your picture of a deep space probe, while you're both thinking of a message to others.”

“Could you also put your message on a little card and drop into someone's seat at school, or in a library book you return? Maybe you could pretend your spacecraft was going to land at a restaurant booth. You could leave your golden message there.

Launch out with your golden message about the God of love and Creator of all, nearby – then launch others beyond. Ask for your friends to help. Show them the fun of it!.



