Series Road Map

**Series Overview:** How we engage with God is a direct reflection of what we think about God. Unfortunately we often forget just how incredible God is and as a result, we feel apathetic in our faith or unimpressed at best. This series is designed to reengage our imagination and our faith. By reminding ourselves of God’s incredible creativity, His amazing power, and unconditional love, we set ourselves up to sit in wonder and fall in love with God (again).

**Week Overview:** We’ll look at how amazing God’s creation is on a micro and macro level. It’s so overwhelming to really consider creation and the fact that we humans are God’s favorite part of it. It should inspire us to worship!

**Grab the Room (Intro):**

**Tension (whats the struggle):** We’ve closed our eyes to how amazing God’s creation is. We’re unimpressed because we’ve stopped paying attention.

**Text (+ Supporting Text):** Gen 1:1, 1:26-27, 1:31, Psalm 19:1-4

**THP**:  Creation shouts the wonder of God

**Application (call to action)**:  Worship (So Will I)

Scripture - highlighted yellow

Illustration/Video/Object Lesson

Personal Story

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

You’ve heard that before. You’ve likely read it before. But have you ever tried unpacking that statement before?

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

**In the beginning…**

Before there was an earth to stand on. Before there were stars to mark seasons. Before there were eyes to witness and books to record. With an eternity before and an eternity after. Something started. Something was initiated. Something brand new was beginning.

**In the beginning, God…**

God, the triune God, the three persons of God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. In the beginning, this God existed. Outside of time and our understanding of space, God existed. He was not created, He always was. God was perfect and lacked nothing. God with His limitless power, whose potential had yet to be seen or experienced.

**In the beginning, God created…**

With no frame of reference, He created. With nothing available to copy, to improve on, to be inspired by, God created. Out of his vast power and creativity, He created. Without resources to use, without wood or water or earth or fire or carbon or oxygen – with nothing to create with, God created. A preexisting nature didn’t form into what God desired because of His word. Nature itself was formed as a result of God’s word. With just the power of His word, He created all there is and all there ever will be. *THP AND THIS CREATION SHOUTS THE WONDER OF GOD!*

**In the beginning, God created the heavens…**

The universe is currently estimated to be at least 7 trillion light years across and constantly growing. We can observe about 0.3% of that, around 93 billion light years across. Within that stretch of 93 billion light years, there are approximately 2 trillion galaxies, containing an estimated 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 (1 septillion, or 1 billion trillion) stars.

The heavens are vast. So vast that all that info and all those numbers don’t even make sense. So, let’s try to put it into focus.

Here in the States, we use miles to measure long distances. It’s about 18 miles from the Binford campus to the Westfield campus. About 30 miles from the Westfield campus to the Kokomo campus. About 240,000 miles from the Kokomo campus to the moon and 94,000,000 miles from the moon to the sun.

As you can see, miles work for us on Earth, but they quickly lose effectiveness in space. So, scientists developed another unit of measurement to use in space: the light year. It sounds like measuring time, but it’s really measuring distance. 1 light year is the distance traveled in a year at the speed of light. The speed of light is 299,792,458 miles per second, making 1 light year a distance of 5.88 trillion miles. For perspective, that’s the distance between the earth and sun over 63,000 times.

So late at night, we look up at the heavens and we lose ourselves in wonder. They seem so far away, but somehow close enough that we could almost reach out and touch them. But if you wanted to reach out to the closest star to us, you’d need to reach past the moon (240,000 miles), past all the planets (Mars @ approx 34 million, Venus @ 38 million, Mercury @ 57 million, Sun @ 94 million, Jupiter @ 365 million, Saturn @ 750 million, Uranus @ 1.6 billion, Neptune @ 2.8 billion), outside of our solar system to over 4 light years, or 24 trillion miles, away to Alpha Centauri, the foot of the centaurus constellation. And though the stars around it appear to be clustered together from where we sit on Earth, they average nearly a whole light year away from each other!

If we zoom out from there to 1,000 light years, you can see every star that’s observable from earth. Just a cluster of stars in our galaxy. If you zoom out to 100,000 light years, you see the entire Milky Way galaxy. Our galaxy alone is home to more than 100 billion stars and 100 billion planets! Zoom out to 10 million light years and you see our local group of galaxies, 54 in total. Zoom out to 110 million light years and you see the Virgo Supercluster, a grouping of at least 100 cluster galaxies like our own. Zoom out to 520 million light years and you see the Laniakea Supercluster, home to over 100,000 galaxies, including our own Milky Way, lost in the vastness of space. And if you zoom out to 100 billion light years, you see the entire observable universe. Not even half a percent of what scientists think is out there. And in this observable universe, there are somewhere around 2 trillion individual galaxies, each with around 100 billion stars, giving us more stars in the observable universe than grains of sand on planet Earth!

And these stars, these giant bodies of energy, powered by nuclear fusion, give off insane amounts of energy! Our sun is considered a smaller star. At any moment, it gives off around 360 septillion (that’s 360,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000) watts of energy. Enough energy to supply our electrical power needs for over a million years every single second. Another star in our Milky Way galaxy, the Pistol Star produces 10 million times more energy than the sun and gives off as much energy in six seconds as the sun does in an entire year. And then there’s the quasar stars. These stars are so powerful, just one can outshine our entire galaxy. That’s the Sun, the Pistol Star, and the 100 billion other stars in our Milky Way all dwarfed by one quasar star.

The heavens are vast. The heavens appear empty. And yet the heavens are jam packed with bodies literally radiating unfathomable amounts of energy! *THP CREATION SHOUTS THE WONDER OF GOD!*

**In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.**

This earth that we live on, this home of ours is also home to 8.7 million different species of animals and 400,000 species of plants. And in order for all of us to live, our Earth requires perfect design and maintenance.

There’s a field of science called Fine Tuning. It tracks all the different measurements required for life to exist. It’s like sitting down to a table full of dials. Each dial has to be turned just so, they have to be perfect. If just one were off, it would render every other perfect dial useless because life could no longer exist. For example…

-Earth 94million miles from the sun. If it were 93million miles away, it would be too hot for life to exist on earth. If it were 95million miles away, it would be too cold for life to exist on earth.

-The Earth’s axis is tilted at 23.5degrees. If it weren’t tilted, it could become tidally locked, which means that one side would always face the sun and one side would always face away, making one side too hot and the other too cold for life.

-Hydrogen on Earth must constantly convert .007% of its mass to helium in order for life to exist on earth. .006% means no life on earth, .008% means no life on earth.

-The atmosphere is 21% oxygen. At 19% oxygen, there would be no life on earth. At 23% oxygen, there would be no life on earth.

-The oceans are 3.4% salt – the exact same percent of salt in our bloodstreams. 2% salt in the oceans or our blood, no life on earth. 4% salt in the oceans or our blood, no life on earth.

And there are hundreds and hundreds of these dials, these measurements that have to be perfect for life on earth to exist at all. This world was made perfectly for us. *THP CREATION SHOUTS THE WONDER OF GOD!*

Genesis 1:26-27 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Do you realize how incredible you are?

* There are around 100,000 miles of blood vessels in your body, supplying every part of you with blood and oxygen.
* Pound for pound, your bones are stronger than steel.
* The nerves in your body carry information to your brain at speeds of about 200mph.
* Your eyes contain 110 million cones, 7 million rods, and a million nerve fibers allowing your brain to convert light to sight.
* Your nose can recognize 1 trillion different scents.
* Your heart cycles blood through your body 1,000 times a day.
* There are more atoms in your body than stars in the known universe.
* In order to take just one step, your body uses 200 different muscles.
* Every second you brain does nearly a trillion computations.
* The tongue can detect taste faster than the blink of an eye.
* The brain contains 86 billion nerve cells joined by 100 trillion connections.

Every second your body produces 25 million new cells. That means in 15 seconds, you will have produced more cells than there are people in the United States. And you don’t just create random cells, you create these millions and millions of cells to remain you. Each of your cells contains nearly 6 feet of DNA – a map that your body uses to create more of you. If laid end to end, the strands of DNA in your body would measure 80 billion miles. 80 billion miles of instruction to make sure you remain the exact same person that you are. 80 billion miles of instruction that God put inside of you to keep you the way you are. You are intricately designed to be you and no one else! *THP CREATION SHOUTS THE WONDER OF GOD!*

Genesis 1:31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

God created the heavens and clusters of galaxies and stars and he called it good. God created the earth and land and vegetation and called it good. God created birds and fish and animals, and he called it good. Then God created the pinnacle of all creation: man. And he stepped back, took it all in, and called it VERY good.

We observe the stars and wonder at the size and power of it all. We observe nature and wonder at the beauty and design of it all. And yet when God observes us, He calls us His masterpiece. The pinnacle, the climax, the absolute best part of all that He created.

And yet we sometimes sit so silent. We become disinterested, apathetic, and bored with God. We close our eyes to the glory that is His creation and convince ourselves that God is distant, uninvolved, and uncaring. All while we should be joining the chorus with the rest of creation, shouting about the wonder of our God!

It’s all too much. To take even a casual glance at creation and sit in awe of the Creator, who is so much bigger, so much more powerful, so much more beautiful, so much more incredible than we can even imagine!

So, what’s your response? What’s your posture in front of this God? Can you remain silent? Or will you be moved to worship? To sing and dance and wonder? To return your gaze to our amazing God, not letting the rocks and trees and stars be alone in worship. Will you now join all of creation and shout the wonder of God?

Psalm 19:1-4 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech; they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voicegoes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.