



### Materials

Each student will need a copy of the student page, which is the last page of this document.

### Intro

After your group has gathered, share the following in your own words:

**Did you catch the news recently that NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope has discovered the first known system of Earth-like planets around a single star? It gets even more intriguing in that three of the planets are located in the declared "habitable zone" (or what's known as the "Goldilocks zone"), a zone determined by the size of the planet and its star along with the distance from its star. It gets even MORE intriguing in that NASA has discovered only one other planet like this and that was just a couple years ago.**

### Open

Brainstorm on these questions:

- **What do you think about the possibility of discovering life on other planets?**
- **Do you think we ever will discover life on other planets?**
- **Do you think there is life on other planets, whether we discover it or not?**
- **If life was discovered, what would that do to your personal theology and understanding of the Bible and God's revelation to humankind?**

### Digging In

Scripture gives no nod to the possibility of other life. It does, however, address the cosmos in various settings. In fact, take a minute to read a cross-section of references through the lens of possible extraterrestrial life. As you read these verses, look for the following and mark each in a unique way:

1. **References to the cosmos (heavens, stars, heavenly bodies).**
2. **References to humankind and the earth.**

### Taking It Inward

After a few minutes, ask your group to process the following questions in light of the Scripture they just read.

**If there are other created worlds out there, what conclusions can you draw about the relationship between our creation and God from these verses?**

**Do these verses allow for the possibility of other worlds? If so, in what ways? If not, why not?**

**What light does Genesis 1:26-27 shed on what we might expect to find if we discovered another God-created world?**

**What theological concepts come into play when you consider the possibility of life on other planets?**

*If you need to provide examples: the incarnation, God's revelation through the Bible, redemption, created in God's image, etc.*



● **Putting Into Practice**

● Share with your students:

Yes, to ponder the theology of life on other planets is an exercise in pure speculation. But, the pondering is a helpful thought exercise for theological concepts we stake our faith on: the incarnation, redemption, the Fall, God’s revelation, etc. Applying these vital concepts to another world deepens our personal understanding. It’s like creating a 3-D model of a theological concept and looking at it from angles we can’t see from the 2-D printed page or computer screen.

Close your time by discussing these questions. You may want students to write down their ideas on their student pages (under Putting Into Practice) before sharing.

**What can you do to prepare for theological conversations about life on other planets?**

**How does this exercise help you better understand God’s relationship with *our* planet?**

**How can you use this subject to share your faith?**

*Use this as subject matter for school/writing assignments.*

*Use it as a conversation-starter.*

**What doors can this subject open for conversation about God?**

*Where did we all come from?*

*What if life forms on other planets worshipped the same God we do?*

*Would another world need redeemed like ours did?*



## Digging In

### Genesis 1:14-19 (NIV)

<sup>14</sup> And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years,

<sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so.

<sup>16</sup> God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars.

<sup>17</sup> God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth,

<sup>18</sup> to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>19</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

### Genesis 1:26-27 (NIV)

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

### Psalms 8:1-5, 9

<sup>1</sup> Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.

<sup>2</sup> Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

<sup>3</sup> When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

<sup>4</sup> what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

<sup>5</sup> You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.

<sup>9</sup> Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## Putting Into Practice