

Imagination

Star Pictures

Imagination and faith go hand in hand. The Bible says, “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”⁷ As we cultivate a life of faith, we must rely on our imaginations. We envision a better world and we imagine what God is like. We must be imaginative to see things from another’s perspective. Most children are gifted imaginers; we as adults need only to tune in to what is already there. This activity allows families to imagine together, and it uses stars as a starting place.

Designed for All Ages

Materials

All of these materials, except for the starry sky, are optional and will vary depending on your location and season.

1. Starry night sky (see note)
2. Blankets or sheets
3. Refreshments (hot chocolate, lemonade, etc.)
4. Bug spray
5. Flashlights

Time Investment: 15 minutes to an hour or more

How To

1. On a clear, comfortable night with a lot of stars visible, gather everyone together for a nighttime imagination star party.
2. Start the activity by saying, “*There is a verse in the Bible that says, ‘[God] determines the number of stars /and calls them each by name.’⁸ Isn’t it amazing to think about how all of these stars were created by God? God must be so big and creative to put all of these stars in the sky.*”

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3. Lie down on blankets under the stars and invite everyone to look at the stars and talk about what pictures they can find in the stars.
4. After a time of finding star pictures, close with a prayer:

“God who created the stars in the sky, thank you for giving us time to use our imaginations to see pictures in the sky. Bless us and help us to have a good night. Amen.”

Notes

- This activity is closely tied to one’s environment. For those who live in urban areas where light pollution makes it difficult (or impossible) to see stars, try the first variation below.
- Nonverbal toddlers and babies can sit outside and enjoy the night air for this activity, even if they can’t yet participate in the star finding activity.

Variations

- For some, this activity must wait until vacation or a time when there are stars visible in a location other than home. If this is too rare an occurrence in your family, you can recreate your own starry sky with a little preparation. Find an extra-large piece of black butcher paper and randomly place white dots on it with white paint. Don’t worry about putting them in any pattern—put some close together and some spread out. Hang the paper from the ceiling in a room and lie on the floor under low light. Do the activity as described under your “starry sky.”

- Try this same activity with clouds. Use this Bible verse to begin:

“Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind.” You can say, “Even though there is no rainbow in the sky, we still see lots of clouds. God made the clouds and the sky and everything in it.”⁹