

Collective Worship Plan

Series: Aru, Boga, Chester (ABC) Link

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| Collective Worship Title: Starry, Starry Night |
| Theme: Creator God |
| Background: Psalm 8, a great big creator God. |
| Keywords: God, creation, night sky |
| Resources: Photograph of very starry night sky and an image showing a night sky with far fewer stars. Image showing the number 14,000,000,000,000 Projector to project images if possible. Child friendly Bible (or see below) Song with the theme of the creator God – suggested songs, all available on iTunes: Creator God (Nicky and Becky Drake), Superhero (Hillsong Kids), Great Big God (Vineyard UK) |
| Introduction: What differences do you think there are for people living in Africa to those living in the UK? (Encourage the children to think about differences of food, water supplies, weather conditions, languages, travel, animal life and other such responses). I wonder what differences you would find exciting and which you would find difficult. |
| Main content: One difference that we haven't mentioned can be seen only at night. If you look into the sky tonight and it is a clear sky with no clouds you may see 200-300 stars (show image with few stars). That's a big number and it would take a long time to count that many stars. But 200-300 it is nothing like the number you see if you look into the night sky if you visited Congo in the middle of Africa (show image of starry night sky). In Congo you may see 10 times that number; the sky looks beautiful and is full of bright stars. It reminds me of one of the poems from the Bible, the poem we know as Psalm 8. (Read Psalm 8 from a child friendly version – suggested version New Century Version, as below) |

Psalm 8

LORD our Lord, your name is the most wonderful name in all the earth!
It brings you praise in heaven above.

² You have taught children and babies to sing praises to you
because of your enemies.

And so you silence your enemies and destroy those who try to get even.

³ I look at your heavens, which you made with your fingers.

I see the moon and stars, which you created.

⁴ But why are people even important to you?

Why do you take care of human beings?

⁵ You made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honour.

⁶ You put them in charge of everything you made.

You put all things under their control:

⁷ all the sheep, the cattle, and the wild animals,

⁸ the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea,

and everything that lives under water.

⁹ LORD our Lord, your name is the most wonderful name in all the earth!

This poem written by King David reminds us that God created the moon and the stars and placed them into the night sky. What a great God He must be to make such a wonderful night sky.

Do you know if we took all the stars that exist, assuming that the estimate the modern day scientists of the number of stars is correct, and we shared them equally amongst all the people who live on the Earth, approximately 7 billion people. Everyone single person would get... well, how many do you think you would get? (ask children to guess the number of stars they would each get). The actually number of stars you would get if we shared all the stars amongst all the people is 14,000,000,000,000 (show image containing this number written on it).

This is a very big, huge, enormous, number – what a great God He is!

Response:

The Bible tells us that even though He is a great God He also knows each one of us (ref Matthew 10v29). How does that make you feel?

When the Christians in Congo remember that God knows them and all about their lives they love to sing songs to Him.

Introduce a song of praise, see suggested list above.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father

You are a great God.

You made the stars and placed them in the night sky.

They remind us how wonderful you are. Amen