Treasure hunters found the bronze disc near Nebra, Germany. That was about 23 years ago. The disc could be 3,600 years old! It now belongs to the State Museum for Prehistory in Halle. The British Museum borrowed it for an exhibit. Rotten eggs applied to the bronze may have made its violet-blue color. The objects on it are gold. Experts think the disc showed farmers when it was time to plant and harvest crops.

God created “lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the Earth.” Read Genesis 1:14-19.

Do you see a crescent Moon and a round Sun? What would the small gold dots be?

This is the Nebra Sky Disc. It is an ancient (from long ago) map of the night sky!

God gives to all the stars their names!

The Nebra Sky Disc was found here in Germany.
Jerusalem is a large old city in Israel. Jesus once walked on some of its streets. People from around the world visit the city every year. Litter is a problem. Folks in one neighborhood set up a talking trash can. They want people to help keep the city streets clean. People who drop litter into the can will hear a “thank you” message! Psalm 125:2 says, “As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people, from this time forth and forevermore.”

Did you hear that?

Walk down this street in Jerusalem [jeh-ROO-sah-lem]. Drop your used lunch bag into a trash can. It says, “Thank you very much!”

Pray:
Thank God for the people who collect your trash every week. It is hard work.

Thank you very much!
TK Elevators’ new test tower is set to open in February in Atlanta, Georgia. It is the largest in the Western Hemisphere. The company will test “twin” elevators there. One car will ride above another in the same elevator shaft. These save space and are more efficient (not wasteful). Elevators also need to be used in the arctic chill of Canada and the blistering heat of Arabia. Tests in this tower will be done using freezing cold and scorching heat too. It is good that the people who build elevators also test them for safety. Romans 13:10 tells us, “Love does no wrong to a neighbor.”

What is that tall new building in Atlanta?

It is the TKE tower. It tests new kinds of elevators [el-uh-vay-ter-s].

Why?

Millions of people take elevator rides every day. Every lift must be safe.

PRAY:
Ask God to keep in safety all the people who build elevators and all who ride in them.

LESSON 2
1. Elevator test site
2. Maine puffins
3. Sleepy bus rides
4. Elevator math

The TKE tower is 420 feet tall! Most houses are less than 30 feet tall.
Many Atlantic puffins in Maine live on four rocky islands. They make their nests in cracks between the rocks or use their webbed feet to dig burrows. Each puffin pair lays one egg. Pufflings (baby puffins) must eat lots of little herring and sand lance fish. The parents go to sea to catch the food for their chicks. Fewer of these kinds of fish swam in the ocean near Maine this summer. Psalm 104:27 (NIV) says, “All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time.”

Not many puffin chicks hatched in Maine. Maine has good years and bad years for puffins. Last summer was not a good year.

Puffin chicks can eat only small fish. Those fish numbers were down. Just one out of four puffin parents had chicks.

Puffins are smaller than you think. They are about 10 inches tall.

PRAY:
Thank God that He knows about the puffins and He cares for them.

Not many puffin chicks hatched in Maine.
A knight might have lost this.

A man from Israel [IZ-ree-el] dove into the Mediterranean [MED-ih-teh-ray-nee-an] Sea. What did he spy in the sand?

It was a sword crusted with sea creatures. It is from long ago!

Scuba diver Shlomi Katzin spotted what looked like a sword on his dive. He was afraid shifting sand would soon hide the sword again. He took it to Israel’s Antiquities Authority. People there believe the sword was used by a Christian soldier from Europe. He might have fought in a crusade. (That was a war to take control of the Holy Land away from Muslims). The sword will be cleaned and studied. Mr. Katzin did not keep the sword. He did the right thing. Leviticus 6:1-7 tells us what God expects someone to do if he has found something lost and lies about it.
Genes decide whether an elephant will have tusks or not. Genes carry a code in the bodies of living things. That code determines how each organism will look and work. Genes are passed from parents to their children. There was a long war in Mozambique. Fighters on both sides killed elephants for their tusks. They got money to keep fighting. Elephants without tusks were not killed. Those tuskless parents now are having tuskless babies.

Job 12:7 and 9 say, "But ask the beasts and they will teach you; Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?"

Tusks are big elephant teeth. Elephants use them to dig for water and get food. But some people kill elephants for their ivory tusks.

More elephants in Mozambique [MO-zam-beek] never grow tusks. It is the way their bodies are made.

PRAY:
God designed animal bodies to work in wonderful ways. Thank Him that more elephants are now alive in this African country.

These elephants have no tusks.

Both babies are tuskless like their mom.
They caught a whopper!

This is a sunfish. It weighs over 2 tons! It was tangled in a net. Fishermen used cranes to lift it. They cut it free. Then they let this whopper go.

Fishermen found a giant sunfish in their net last October. It took two cranes to lift it out of the waters off Africa near Ceuta [SOO-tuh]. That is where the Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean meet. Enrique Ostale is with the Estrecho Marine Biology Station at the University of Seville (Spain). He says, “I was stunned.” Scientists worked quickly to do some tests on the fish. Then they let it go. “And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah.” (Jonah 1:17)

PRAY:
Thank God that He “created the great sea creatures.” (Genesis 1:21)
People have been blowing glass on the island of Murano near Venice, Italy, for over 1,000 years. Methane gas powers the ovens in the glass factories. It keeps the ovens hot. But the cost of methane was five times higher than normal last fall. Glassblowers’ ovens are never shut down. They must pay high gas prices. Did they have to stop making lovely ornaments and vases? How to blow Murano glass has been passed down from father to son for generations. Deuteronomy 8:2 says, “And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you.”

HOT ovens melt glass. Workers in Murano [mer-AH-no], Italy, blow one-of-a-kind glass objects.

Methane gas keeps ovens hot. Gas costs went up in October. Did factories shut down?

**Italia’s glassworks hit a snag.**

An oven makes the glass so hot that it turns soft.

The soft glass is pressed to make it smooth.

Then the workers use tools to form the glass into the shape they want.

They can also blow air into the glass to change the shape.

At the end, they use a torch to get rid of little bumps.

Be careful! This oven is 1,400 degrees hot.

Can you imagine cutting glass with a pair of scissors? These workers do it all the time!

**PRAY:** Praise God that He leads us even in hard times.
Spiders may seem creepy. But God created them to eat lots of pesty insects. No one knows how the Joro spiders got to Georgia. They belong in China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. They spin wheel-shaped webs that are very strong. Females have yellow, blue, and red markings on their bodies. A Joro spider with its legs extended is larger than the palm of your hand! Spider webs are strong enough to catch bugs. But you can break webs apart. Job 8:14 reminds us that all those who forget God are no stronger than a spider’s web.

Joro spiders were all over north Georgia [jo-r-jah] last summer. They spun thick, gold webs!

The spiders belong in East Asia. They are big and may look scary. But they hardly ever bite.

Go away, spiders!
Young people all over Venezuela play in small youth orchestras. All of them (and some older people too) came together on November 13, 2021. They sat outdoors in groups—strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. They watched huge screens to see the conductor. Guinness World Records had 250 supervisors watching. This group of 8,573 musicians beat Russia’s 2019 record of 8,097 players.

Psalm 81, verses 1, 2, and 3 tell us to shout for joy to God; to sound the tambourine, lyre, and harp; and to blow a trumpet to worship Him.

Was it the world’s largest orchestra?

Look at all the people! They live in Venezuela [ven-uhz-WAY-luh]. They played in an orchestra [OR-keh-struh]. They wanted to be the largest orchestra in the world. Did they beat one from Russia?

PRAY: Praise God for all the ways people glorify Him by making music.

That is a lot of people making music!
"Betty" is not real! The Gold Medal flour company invented her. Her picture changes. Her cookbooks change. But we still bake Betty Crocker cakes.

Women sent cooking questions to the Gold Medal flour company 100 years ago. The advertising department was mostly men. They decided women would like to get answers from a woman. They invented Betty. Her portrait was based on pictures of real women. Her cookbook recipes were used in many American kitchens. A new book is out. Betty Crocker Best 100 shows all of Betty’s portraits and tells the story of her invention. John 6:27 says, “Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life.”
Rain to Ladakh Valley is blocked by high mountains. Farmers plant their crops in the spring. Water does not melt from mountain glaciers (thick ice and packed snow) until June. Sonam Wangchuk decided to build a tower of ice near fields. Each one stays frozen a long time. It slowly melts in April and May. The melted water helps farmers grow food for their families.

Jesus tells us in John 7:37, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.”

Ladakh [laa-DAAK] Valley, India, is a dry, cold place. Farmers need water for spring crops.

Sonam W. had a wintry idea. Spray water into the air. It freezes and forms a big ice cone. The ice slowly melts in spring.

What are those tall ice cones for?

Look how tall the ice is compared to the people… that is a lot of ice!

This snow melts in the summer. But farmers need water in the spring.

PRAY: That believers will tell others that Jesus gives us living water. (John 4:13-14)
Pastor Kevin Burrell is from Charlotte, North Carolina. He has been birdwatching for years. He calls himself an “ornitheologist” [orn-ih-thee-all-oh-jist]. The word was invented by theologian and birder John Stott. He wrote the book *The Birds, Our Teachers*.

Pastor Kevin Kummer is with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. He says, “God must really love us a lot to create such an amazing, fascinating, beautiful world.”

Psalm 36:7 says, “The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.”

**What can you learn from watching birds?**

Some pastors love to watch birds. Mockingbirds copy songs of other birds. Kevin B. says we must copy Jesus.

Kevin K. sees some chickadees. The birds sing a song. Then they drink. That reminds him to praise God.

**Do mockingbirds come to your yard?**

Kevin Burrell

**PRAY:** Thank God that He created beautiful birds to praise His name. Read Psalm 148:5 and 10.

**READ MORE**

1. Bible and birds
2. Avenue of the Sphinxes
3. Snoopy in space
4. Colorful birds

**Lesson 7**

1. Bible and birds
2. Avenue of the Sphinxes
3. Snoopy in space
4. Colorful birds

**PRAY:** Thank God that He created beautiful birds to praise His name. Read Psalm 148:5 and 10.

**Read More**

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**God’s Big World** - January/February 2022

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**PRAY:** Thank God that He created beautiful birds to praise His name. Read Psalm 148:5 and 10.
Workers in Egypt fixed up “The Avenue of the Sphinxes” [sfinks-ez]. People had a party.

Sphinxes have lion bodies. Their heads are like humans or rams. People once bowed down to them. Now sphinxes show the country’s past.

The oldest ruins along this pathway near Luxor were built 1,400 years before Jesus was born! The ancient road has been under repair for more than 50 years. The Avenue is part of the Karnack Temple complex. This lies along the eastern shore of the Nile River. Egypt wants people to visit the country. Do you remember that Moses was born in Egypt? Read Exodus 2:1-10. What does his name mean?

Egypt invites you to visit the sphinxes.
African countries south of the world’s largest desert had an idea. Each one would plant trees to hold the desert back. But millions of trees died. Replacing them costs lots of money. People in Senegal plant orchards. These make the soil rich. Then they plant vegetables. Papaya and mango trees like the dry climate. People grow other things in their gardens. The desert stays in place. The people have food to eat. Isaiah 51:3 says, “For the Lord makes [Zion’s] desert like the garden of the Lord.”

What could help dry Africa?

The Sahara [seh-haar-eh] Desert is growing. Winds blow the sand. Countries in the way try to stop it.

Senegal has planted trees and shrubs in curving rows. The trees grow well in dry places. Will they stop the sand?

The Sahara Desert is larger than the United States (not counting Alaska and Hawaii)!

PRAY: Ask God to help people in Africa find other ways to protect their land too.
Monarch butterflies live in Canada and the northern United States during the summer. They migrate (move) to warmer places in winter. Pacific Grove calls itself “Butterfly Town, USA.” Thousands of monarchs usually come there to keep warm. None came last year. The town saw more this year. Other towns along California’s central coast did too. Does this mean good news for next year? Butterflies drink sweet nectar from flowering plants. Psalm 34:8 says that we should “taste and see that the Lord is good!”

People in Pacific Grove, California, saw no monarch [mon-ark] butterflies last year. Not one.

But the orange and black beauties came back this winter. City leader Moe Ammar said, “Boom. They landed!”

People come to enjoy the monarch butterflies in Pacific Grove, California. Have you ever seen a monarch butterfly?

Welcome back, monarchs!

PRAY: Thank God that He protects the monarchs even when people do not know how to help.
Paul Busse was a landscape architect years ago. He loved model trains. And he liked to use leaves, twigs, acorns, and moss. He makes tiny towns and countrysides for the trains to pass through. His company is called Applied Imagination, Ltd. It takes his employees about 250 hours to make the small exhibits. An 11-foot replica of the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina, is the largest exhibit the group has ever done. It took the team almost 3,000 hours to build! **God uses small things. Read Matthew 13:32.**

Model trains chug through small tunnels. They puff over twiggy bridges. They pass by little leafy buildings.

This was the “Holiday Train Show.” It was held at the New York Botanical [buh-tan-eh-kul] Garden.

Paul B. set up his first show 30 years ago. People still love his tiny creations.
Word search: The first letter of each picture is the letter that belongs in that space. “Dice” starts with a D. “Dry” is the word. Write the page number of the story each word comes from in the box. (Hint: All are from Lesson 3.) Words go across or down.

- BOOM
- MOVE
- TINY
- DRY
- PUFF
- TRAIN
- MOSS
- ROWS
- WARM

Answers:

1. DRY
2. MOSS
3. BOOM
4. ROWS
5. PUFF
6. TINY
7. MOVE
8. WARM

Page numbers: 4
It is a one-of-a-kind Snoopy.

A plush Snoopy toy is ready. NASA put it in a rocket. Astronaut Snoopy will float. The rocket should fly around the Moon and back to Earth. Will it be safe for humans to do that too?

Snoopy is the beagle in the comic strip “Peanuts.” He also is an astronaut. A stuffed toy Snoopy has been to the Space Station. Now another plush Snoopy is ready to test the Artemis 1 rocket. It is designed to carry humans to the Moon and Mars. Will it be safe? The Snoopy toy will help NASA know when the spaceship pulls away from Earth’s gravity. God created gravity to hold us to the ground. We would float away without it! Psalm 139:8 reminds us, “If I ascend to heaven, you are there!” God is everywhere.
Write the color of each crayon in the blank. Read the bird’s name.

---

- _____-headed woodpecker
- Violet-_______ swallow
- Common _______throat
- _______creeper
- Great _______ heron
- Red-winged _______bird
- _______catbird
- _______finch
- ______-_throated sparrow

This bird’s name does not match its color very well, does it?
God knew where Teddy was.

Naomi loved Teddy. But she lost her bear in Glacier Park. Park Ranger Tom found Teddy. He kept the bear in his truck. Family friend Terri went to the park. She prayed. “Lord, please put that bear in my path.” God did! She found Teddy.

The Pascal family adopted Naomi. Teddy was the very first gift they gave her. He went everywhere with her. Ben Pascal took his kids to Glacier National Park in Montana in October 2020. Family friend Terri Hayden watched the kids. But Teddy was dropped along a trail. It snowed that night. Teddy was lost. Ranger Tom Mazzarisi spotted Teddy. The bear rode on the dash in his truck. That’s where Terri Hayden found Teddy. It was almost a year later. Jesus said in Matthew 21:22, “And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.”

God knew where Teddy was.
Mom let you help bake cookies. But she said you must figure out how much it will cost to add treats to each cookie. Write that number in the white circle. An example is shown.

Chocolate chips 2 cents each

Colorful candies 3 cents each
There was a baby dolphin. Her tail was crushed in a crab trap.

Winter got a man-made tail. She learned to swim again. She was in movies.

Then Winter got sick and died. Many people were sad.
What happened first? Number each picture. Circle the correct word.

1. dressing  building  
2. rolling  lifting  
3. legs  arms  
4. snowing  building  
5. rolling  stacking  
6. dressing  decorating
Fred McFeely Rogers studied music and became an ordained minister. He was called to serve children and families through television. He once said, “The world is not always a kind place. It’s something [children] really need our help to understand.” And that is what he did for over 30 years. He used puppets, make-believe, and music. The new statue is part of a “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood Walking Tour” at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida.

Fred Rogers loved kids. He had a TV show just for them. It was called *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood* [NAY-ber-hood].

Paul Day made a statue of Mr. Rogers. It is at Rollins College in Florida.

Ask Grandpa or Grandma about Mr. Rogers.

“Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” started way back in 1968. Do you know anyone that was a kid back then?

Paul Day works on the statue of Fred McFeely Rogers, better known as Mister Rogers.

**PRAY:** Ask God to make you a wise and loving friend.

PRAY: Ask God to make you a wise and loving friend.
Letters fell off these cans. It takes only one letter to make each can either “yum” or “yuk.” Which letter will make each can “yum”? Circle it and write it on the blank.
Orville and Wilbur Wright’s dad brought home a toy helicopter when the boys were young. It was made of paper, bamboo, and cork. The brothers played with it until it broke. They later said that helicopter gave them a love for flying machines. The Wright brothers lived and worked on their inventions in Ohio. They came to North Carolina to test their ideas. They were the first to fly. The incorrect license plates were recycled. Officials said they would make corrected plates. Isaiah 60:8 says, “Who are these that fly like a cloud?”

Ohio printed new license [LIE-sens] plates. They show the Wright brothers’ first plane. But something is wrong.

The banner is hooked to the front of that plane. It should be at the back!
Trace a path from the sledder to the bottom of the hill. How many pine cones did she pass on her way down? Write that number in the circle.
Kenneth Kong works for “ulu travel.” He organizes bus tours around Hong Kong. A friend told him that he cannot sleep at night because of stress. But he can sleep on a city bus to and from work. Mr. Kong’s company now offers “Sleeping Bus” tours on a double-decker bus. People are allowed to bring pillows and blankets. They can sleep through the whole tour if they like!

Philippians 4:6 reminds us, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

What is a “Sleeping Bus Tour”?

Blanket? Check.
Slippers? Check.
Eye mask and ear plugs? Check.

Get on this bus.
The trip will last 5 hours. It is okay to fall asleep.
That is what this Hong Kong bus tour is for!

Catch this bus to catch some Zzzs!
Elevator math: The elevator is on the 3rd floor. How many floors up or down do each of these kids need to go? Write your answer in the circle.

Billy needs to get home and feed his cat. He lives on the 8th floor.

Lisa is going to meet her friend in the park next door to the building.

Amy has a play date with her friend who lives on the 6th floor.

Jim wants to watch the sunset from the top floor of the building.
A hike in New York’s Minnewaska State Park Preserve got scary in October. This little dog fell 40 feet down inside a crevice in the rock. (About 10 of you and your friends standing on each other’s shoulders would be that height!) Liza had no food for five days. But she could lick water that collected on the rock. The smallest person on a rescue team was able to squeeze down to reach Liza. The dog was hungry and thirsty. But she was not hurt. God cares for the animals He created. But He cares much more for you. Read Matthew 10:29-31.

This pup will be on a leash from now on.

Liza and her owner went on a hike. Liza strayed from the path. Zoop! She fell into a deep crack in the rocks. It took five days to save her!
These two pictures look the same. But there are 21 differences. Can you find them all? Make a tally mark in the white box each time you find a difference.