

"Planets and Psalms"
"Healing Hyssop"





Dear Senior Gospelologist and Caregivers,

Greetings from Gospelology! We hope you're ready for a thrilling week of faith-building and scientific discovery. We are excited to present you with two brand-new activities that weave together the wonders of science and the timeless wisdom of the Bible. These activities, designed for our Black and Brown scholars, are sure to stimulate their curiosity and deepen their spiritual understanding.



1. "Planets and Psalms"

Let's take a journey into outer space! This week, we're encouraging our young astronomers to embark on a "Planets and Psalms" exploration. Using a telescope or online resources, encourage your child to learn about different planets and stars in our solar system. At the same time, explore Bible verses such as Psalm 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."

This is a wonderful opportunity to discuss the vastness of God's creation and His greatness. As your child marvels at the celestial bodies, they can also reflect on how the same awesome God who created these intricate systems also cares for them deeply.

2. "Healing Hyssop"

Our second activity, "Healing Hyssop", brings your child to the fascinating world of biblical plants. Hyssop, mentioned in several Bible passages such as Psalm 51:7, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow", was used for its cleansing and medicinal properties.

Begin by researching hyssop and its uses together. If possible, you can even plant a small hyssop (or any herb) in a pot. As you observe the plant's growth, discuss the Bible passages and God's provision through nature. This activity provides a unique cross-section of botany and biblical history.

We at Gospelology continue to be inspired by your commitment to nurturing your children's growth in both faith and scientific knowledge. As you embark on these activities, we hope they will see the harmonious relationship between science and the Bible, understanding that both are divinely given tools to explore our world and God's love.

Looking forward to another great week of exploration and discovery,

The Gospelology Team



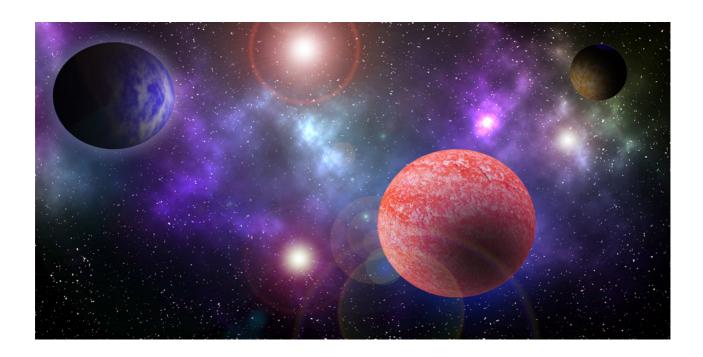


Activity: Planets and Psalms

Objective: To spark curiosity about astronomy and deepen understanding of God's vast creation by exploring different planets and stars, simultaneously reflecting on biblical verses such as Psalm 19:1.

Materials Needed:

- 1. <u>Telescope</u> (if available)
- 2. Access to Internet (for online resources if a telescope is not available)
- 3. Notebook and Pen (for note-taking and reflections)
- 4. Bible (for reading the scripture)





Instructions:

1.**Set the Scene:** Start by reading Psalm 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Discuss the vastness of God's creation and the marvel of celestial bodies.

2. Planetary Exploration:

- If you have a telescope, guide your child to observe the night sky. Make note of visible planets and stars. You may want to use a star chart or an astronomy app to help identify what you're seeing.
- If you don't have a telescope, use online resources to learn about different planets and stars. Websites like NASA Kids' Club (https://www.nasa.gov/kidsclub/index.html) offer interactive games and information about our solar system.

3. Research and Reflection:

- Encourage your child to pick a planet or star that particularly interests them. Use resources (books, internet, etc.) to learn more about it: its size, its composition, its distance from the earth, and any other fascinating facts.
- In their notebook, they can jot down these interesting facts and also write a reflection on how learning about this celestial body deepens their understanding of Psalm 19:1.
- 4. **Closing Discussion:** Once your child has finished their research and reflection, discuss what they've learned. Talk about the intricacies and vastness of the universe and how that speaks to the power and glory of God. Reinforce the idea that this same awesome God who created these complex celestial systems also deeply cares for them.

This activity is a fantastic way to meld science and faith, inspiring awe for God's creation while fostering an interest in astronomy. Enjoy this journey into the vastness of the cosmos with your child!



Activity: Healing Hyssop

Objective: To spark curiosity about botany and deepen understanding of biblical plants and their significance, while exploring the Bible verse Psalm 51:7.

Materials Needed:

- 1. Access to the Internet (for researching about hyssop)
- 2. Hyssop seeds or young plant (if not available, any herb seeds or plants can be used)
- 3.Pot
- 4. Potting soil
- 5. Watering can or glass of water
- 6. Bible (for reading the scripture)





Instructions:

1. Researching Hyssop:

- Begin by researching hyssop together. Learn about its characteristics, its uses in ancient times and its significance in biblical context.
- Read Psalm 51:7, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Discuss what this passage means and how it relates to the properties of hyssop.

2. Planting the Hyssop (or an available herb):

- o If hyssop is available, plant the hyssop seeds/young plant in a pot. If hyssop isn't available, any herb can be used to represent the biblical idea of God's provision through nature.
- First, fill the pot with potting soil. Make a small hole in the center, place the seeds or young plant in the hole, and cover it with soil.
- Water the plant lightly and place it in a location where it will receive adequate sunlight.

3. Observing and Reflecting:

- Over the next few days, encourage your child to observe the plant's growth and to take care of it by watering it as needed.
- As you observe the growth together, discuss again the Bible passages where hyssop is mentioned and the idea of God's provision through nature.

4. Journaling:

• Ask your child to keep a journal of the plant's growth, noting down any changes they observe each day. They could also write down their thoughts on the Bible passages and what they've learned from this activity.

This activity not only introduces your child to botany and the concept of caring for a plant, but also gives them a richer understanding of biblical history and the significance of plants in the Bible. Enjoy the process and the discussions it prompts!

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