# This session explores the night sky – the moon and planets and stars beyond! Toddlers might not yet understand our place in the universe, but their imaginations are captured by the idea of blasting off into space and what we might find there. Soon enough they’ll grow to learn that within the big universe our planet is precious and needs to be cared for.

## Bible story

**Genesis 1-3** (see suggested books for story ideas)

## Activities

Why not choose from the activity suggestions below? You can find the details of these and other activities on [The Salvation Army Family Ministries Pinterest page.](https://uk.pinterest.com/familyministriesukit/)

As a guide, the suggested activities have asterisks to show how easy they are to prepare and set up, from simple (\*) to more complicated (\*\*\*).

**Space trail \***

Use the printable trail to invite families to go on a ‘space walk’, searching for stars, moons and planets.

**Night sky art \***

Cover a table in a big roll of black paper and have some star-shaped cutters dipped in paint to make star stamps.

**Foam rocket launcher \***

Set up a foam rocket launcher – they are widely available in toy shops and on Amazon. Toddlers can take turns jumping on the launcher to send foam rockets into the air. Grown-ups will love it too!

**Imaginary moon walk \***

Set up circular rubber mats or balancing stones and create an imaginary moon walk for mini astronauts.

**Astronaut mask \*\***

Make a paper plate astronaut mask with some simple stickers and foil to get everyone into this week’s theme!

**Telescope craft \*\***

Looking up into the night sky brings a sense of awe and wonder, and it’s even more exciting with a telescope! Cover cardboard tubes with black paper or paint them black and leave to dry. Decorate with star stickers!

**Straw rockets \*\***

Make straw rockets using the printable template and crayons. Stick a paper straw on the back and blow through it to blast the rocket into space.

**Asteroid toss \*\***

Use balls covered in tin foil for asteroids, and a large container or box with a hole, and invite children to throw the asteroids inside.

**Unwrapping \*\***

Wrap toys inside pieces of tin foil and pop them in a tray filled with black rice or beans and stars. Babies and toddlers will love unwrapping the foil to discover what’s inside.

**Fizzy space rocks \*\*\***

Make ‘space rocks’ using bicarbonate of soda, water and food colouring formed into small rock shapes – pop them in the freezer to firm up. Set out small amounts of vinegar or lemon juice and pipettes to make them fizz!

**Space sensory play \*\*\***

Fill a tray with black coloured rice or moon sand (flour and oil) and space-themed toys – baby sensory balls or large pom-poms for planets, glow-in-the-dark stars, toy astronauts, rockets, pebbles, balls of tin foil. Then add toddler tweezers and scoopers.

## Story ideas

Suggested books for story time or a story mat:

* *Hello, World! Solar System* (Jill McDonald)
* *Out of this World* (Pat-a-Cake Books)
* *Zoom to the Moon* (Pat-a-Cake Books)
* *Moon* (Patricia Hegarty)
* *WOW! It’s Night-Time* (Tim Hopgood)
* *The Play-Along Bible* (Bob Hartman), ‘Sun, Moon and Stars’, page 9
* *God’s Big Promises Bible Story Book* (Carl Laferton), ‘In the Beginning’, pages 16-20
* *The Lion Easy Read Bible* (Christina Goodings), ‘In the Beginning’, pages 6-11

## Questions

* Have you ever seen the moon and stars at night?
* I wonder if you would like to be an astronaut and explore space?
* The universe is bigger than we can imagine! I wonder why God made it so big?
* God made the sun to shine by day and moon to shine by night. I wonder which one shines the brightest – the sun or the moon?

## Song suggestions

See first session of this series for more songs:

* ‘Creator God’ by Nick & Becky Drake:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GM4IVZuljEI>
* ‘Our God is a Great Big God’, Vineyard Kids:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8fcpShP19c>
* ‘Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star’

## Prayer

Thank you, God, for the wonderful world you have made and for the sun, moon and stars.

Thank you for making the sun that gives our world warmth and light.

Thank you for making the moon to shine and the stars to twinkle in the night sky.

Thank you for making the planets that help form the universe, but especially for the planet where we live.

Thank you, God, that you made our wonderful world. Please help us to look after your world and each other.

Amen.