



June 2014

We watch a lot of shows about science and nature at our house. One of our big favorites is "The Universe" originally on A&E. Each episode features a variety of scientists discussing a particular aspect of our galaxy - like what life is like on Mars or what would happen if an asteroid the size of Texas crashed into Earth. My husband teaches science and loves astronomy so he really likes the show. My older son likes it because my husband likes it. My younger son who is 3 doesn't get the particulars of science, but he really enjoys the CGI effects. "Pow!" he says delightedly as we die a violent collective death on Earth from a meteor storm. "POW, POW, POW!"

Not having a science-y type of mind myself, I rarely pay attention to "The Universe," but I was truly fascinated by the episode about the sun. As you probably know, our sun is a star just like the billions of other stars in the galaxy. And a star is one of the most amazing things God has ever created.

They are pure energy, blinding light, so much heat generated that it would incinerate a human being if we got within 3 million miles of it. That's assuming the nuclear radiation the sun constantly produces didn't disintegrate your cells first. Thankfully, outer space is a vacuum which means you can't hear anything in it or across it. If we could hear the noise of the sun here on earth, it would roar at a constant volume of 240 decibels. Which would make human life almost impossible to sustain since any sound above 120 decibels permanently damages our hearing.

Then there's the sheer size of the sun - and it's one of the smaller, runty little stars that we know about in the universe. Its mass is 1,988,920,000,000,000,000,000,000 kilograms. That's 333,000 times the mass of the earth. In fact, if you look online, NASA has an actual picture taken of the sun with Earth superimposed to the side. It's a tiny, tiny speck beside a fiery cosmic giant.

All of these are undeniable facts that have been verified scientifically over and over again. But - that's not our experience of the sun at all, is it?

What we see is a bright disc in the sky and it doesn't even take up all of our sky. We experience basic things about the sun - we know it gives us heat, it gives us light, it makes life possible on this earth. It can turn deadly under the right conditions, like if the sun is too hot and we have no shelter or water. It gives us sunburns. It can damage your eyes if you look at it. Sometimes our teachers make us do models of the universe so we get a little styrofoam ball from Wal-Mart and spray paint it yellow and hang smaller styrofoam balls around it. But that's about it.

You see, our daily experience doesn't correspond at all to reality. The reality is so much bigger, denser, more explosive than you would ever imagine from our vantage point here on Earth. In fact, we wouldn't have any clue what the sun was truly like if not for the fact that God has gifted some people (not me) with scientific minds and

they've made all kinds of crazy contraptions and dedicated sacrifices to aid us in pursuit of that knowledge.

When I hear this, I can't help but think this is exactly the same situation we find ourselves in with the Lord. He is bigger than us, unimaginably bigger. He is holy and we are not, unimaginably so. His wisdom, his strength, and his power are even further beyond our measure than the sun's size is beyond the earth's. We don't see him as He is - not yet anyway. Instead information about Him comes to us through the spiritual haze of sin, death, and decay that blankets this fallen world and the necessary limitations of biology. If we are too puny to stand before a star - a created being like us - without all our cells exploding, how could we possibly enter the presence of the King of kings and Lord of lords?

Thanks be to God that he has revealed himself to us by direct revelation, by interaction with fellow believers, and most importantly by the Bible, which is his inspired word. The Bible is our telescope, our space probe, our infrared camera beaming information back to us. That's why it's so important for believers to spend time reading, studying, and praying. Left to our own sinful, self-exalting thoughts, we will naturally construct a weak god, a spray-painted styrofoam god.

This month let's press in to acknowledge the Lord in all His mind-blowing, consuming-fire reality. Let's read his Word hungrily and pray humbly that He would penetrate our haze and bring us word of His glory and His inexplicable love for us. Let's take our proper posture kneeling at the feet of this great King until the day we are changed and we see Him face to face.

Where were you [mankind] when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone— while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

Job 38:4-7

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

Psalms 8:3-4

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:8-9

Woe to those who quarrel with their Maker, those who are nothing but potsherds among the potsherds on the ground. Does the clay say to the potter, "What are you making?" Does your work say, "The potter has no hands"?

Isaiah 45:9

And do not forget to do good and to share with others,
for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16