

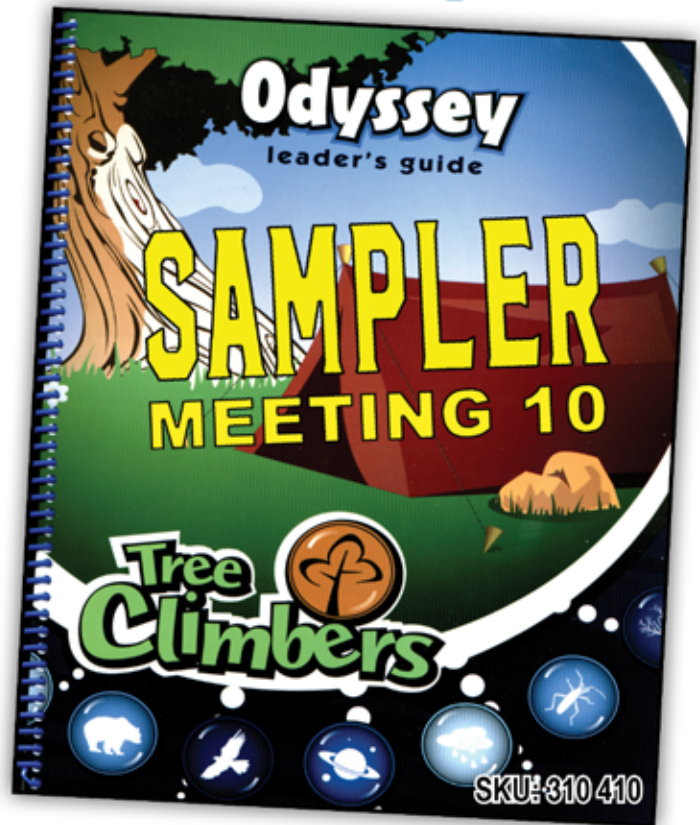
# Odyssey Meeting 10

## Tree Climbers SAMPLER

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

“You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 2:1)

You can obtain *Tree Climbers Odyssey* from:  
CSB US - [store.csbministries.org](http://store.csbministries.org)  
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**There's no greater call we can answer than to be the instrument that God uses to unlock a young person's potential.**

### *From the Tree Climber's Leader's Guide:*

Welcome to the world of Tree Climbers, an exciting journey for dads and sons to grow in their relationships with Christ and with each other, while making new friends. At Tree Climbers, young boys spend quality time with their dads and other adult Christian men. Together, men and kids have fun, learn about God's creation and grow closer to God and each other. Games, projects and adventures are centered around a weekly theme and Bible verse. Young boys flourish with the one-on-one time with godly men. Dads gain leadership skills and confidence by taking turns leading games, explaining projects and sharing Bible stories.

**God bless you on this journey and have a terrific year!**

Contact CSB for information regarding the companion volume, *Tree Climbers Discovery*.

Hamburg, New York  
800.815.5573  
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# We Think God Is Awesome

Unit Aim: To feel amazement and wonder about God's power, his understanding and his love for us.

10  
WEEK



## Woody's Welcome

For a long time, we knew there were nine planets orbiting our sun: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. Then scientists started wondering if Pluto really is a planet since it's completely made of ice. Recently, they discovered a slightly bigger chunk of ice beyond Pluto. Is that a planet too? Scientists haven't decided yet.

One thing we know for sure: only Earth has life on it. Scientists are searching for signs of life on Mars, but they're looking for bacteria, not space aliens. Mercury and Venus are probably too hot to have life because they're so close to the sun. Planets beyond Mars are very cold because they're so far away from the sun. No other planet has water, air, plants, birds, fish and animals like God put here on Earth.



## Woody's Games

### Space Tunnel Relay

Divide into equal teams. Players stand in line, an arm's length behind each other.

Players on each team stand in single file with their feet out under their shoulders. At the signal, the first player turns and crawls through the tunnel made by his teammates' legs. When he stands up, everyone moves forward one step and the player now at the head of the line crawls through the tunnel.

The first team to get its players through the tunnel and standing in their original spots wins.

**Lost in Space** Provide a can with several rocks or marbles inside and two blindfolds. A stopwatch is optional.

Players sit in a circle. Choose three and blindfold two of them. Give the "space can" to the third. The blindfolded players try to catch the one with the space can. While avoiding capture, he must shake the can at least every 10 seconds. If the space can man is caught, get three new players. If he's not captured within 2 minutes, he wins. Get three new players.

## Adventure Verse



Psalm 147:4

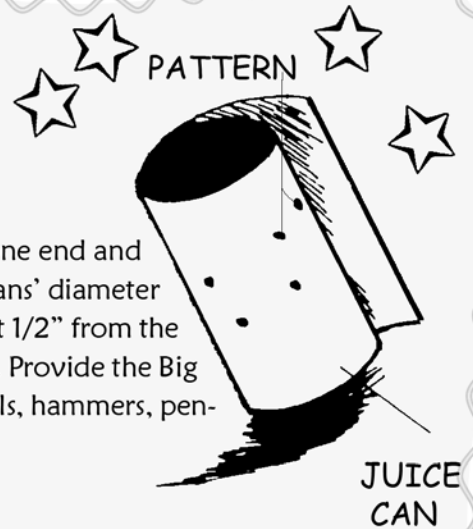
He determines  
the number of  
the stars and  
calls them each  
by name.



## Fun To Do

### Constellation Lantern

Before the meeting, collect one soup or juice can per child. Remove one end and clean thoroughly. Put a branch or dowel rod slightly smaller than the cans' diameter inside the can so nailing won't crush it. Or, fill cans with water to about 1/2" from the lip and freeze. Keep the cans frozen until you start working with them. Provide the Big Dipper page from the Activity Packets, scissors, tape, several sizes of nails, hammers, pencils, paper towels and small candles.



1. Cut out the Big Dipper on the two outside lines.
2. Tape one end of the paper to the can. Wrap the page around the can so the "bowl" is on the left and the handle on the right. Tape the other end of the paper to the can securely.
3. Pound a wide nail into one of the stars until it punctures the can. Take the nail out and do the same with the other stars.
4. Use thinner nails to poke other holes around the Big Dipper to make other stars if you like.
5. Write your name on the paper. Put the can in a sink until the ice melts. Dry the can carefully.
6. Put a candle inside, light it and see the Big Dipper on your wall!



## Woody's Checkup

Learn Psalm 147:4 and talk about these questions.

1. How many stars are in the sky? How many can you name?
2. Who "determines the number of the stars" and knows the name of each one?
3. How can God know all the stars and their names? (Psalm 147:5)



## Woody's Stretch

**Orbits** Use one rope for each team and masking tape.

Divide into equal teams of 5 to 9. Teammates grasp their rope. The player on one end is Mercury and the one on the other end is Pluto. Mark a sun and starting line next to each Mercury with masking tape. Make sure the teams have plenty of room between them. At the signal, teams start orbiting their sun. How many orbits can they complete in 30 seconds — without losing any planets on the way? If any player loses his grip on the rope or falls, his team's count ends on the last orbit completed.

Play several rounds. Let players change orbital positions.



## Tree Climbers Circle

Tell the story "An Awesome Universe by an Awesome God."

# An Awesome Universe by an Awesome God

by Melody Bourland

Last time, we learned a little about our sun and moon. While we know the sun is incredibly huge, it turns out that our sun is only a medium-sized star. There are stars much bigger than our sun and there are stars much smaller than it is.

If there are 100 billion stars in our galaxy, the Milky Way, how many stars might there be in the universe? There are hundreds of galaxies that we know of so far! And each one has billions of stars in it! The number of stars in the whole universe is too astronomical to think about.

Yet the Bible says that God knows each and every star that he made. Psalm 147:4 says, "He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name."

God doesn't know just dozens of stars or hundreds of stars. He knows more than thousands or even millions of stars. God knows every one of billions and billions of stars and he has a name for each and every one of them!

Does that sound hard? It would be for us, but it's not hard for God to remember which star is which. He knows everything about the stars. He knows what they're made of and how big they are and where they are in the universe. God knows because he made them. Isn't that awesome?

Just like there are an awful lot of stars, there are a lot of people, too. Do you think it's hard for God to know about each and every person? No, it's not hard at all for him!

Jesus said that God knows how many hairs you have on your head (Matthew 10:10, Luke 12:7). Do you know how many hairs are up there on your head? Of course you don't. But God does.

So don't you think the Lord knows who you are? He knows your name. He knows what you like and what you do. God knows what you think and how you feel. The Lord knows all about you because he

made you to be you. Isn't that awesome?

God is totally awesome! We may not be able to understand how many stars there are, but he knows. We may not be able to comprehend how big our star, the sun, is, but God knows. We may not understand everything about God or the universe, but he knows everything there is to know about everything that he made. That includes you and me.

What's more, God loves you and me! That's really awesome! We're just as important to him as the biggest, brightest star.

In fact, we're more important than all the stars, because God made sure we could live in heaven with him after we die. God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to die for us. All we have to do is believe that Jesus died and rose again for us.

That's right. We don't have to know the names of the stars. We don't even have to know how many stars there are. All we have to do is believe.

God's love is absolutely more awesome than the whole universe!

## Talking about it

1. Let's count the names of all the stars we know. Are there other stars besides these?
2. Since God made the stars, how much does he know about each one of them?
3. How does it make you feel knowing that God knows all about you too? How do you feel knowing that God loves you?

## **An Astronomical Experience**

Some cloudless night, go outside and count as many stars as you can.

If you live close to too many bright lights, you won't be able to see many.

So, drive a few miles away from all those lights. Then, look for stars and constellations.

Look in the northern sky. You should be able to see the Big Dipper because it's made up of 7 bright stars.

In the fall, this constellation will be low in the sky, near the horizon. It's easier to see in the northern half of the country. The bowl will be low and the handle up on the left.

In spring and early summer, the Big Dipper is high in the sky in the evening. From late November through January, you'll find it high early in the morning. When the constellation is high, it will be upside down, as if spilling the contents of its bowl.

The two stars at the far end of the bowl help you find the Little Dipper. Trace a line from the star at

the bottom of the bowl through the one at the top. Keep going until you see a very bright star. That's Polaris, the North Star. It's the very tip of the handle of the Little Dipper.

The Little Dipper is smaller than the Big Dipper. Its stars are not as bright.

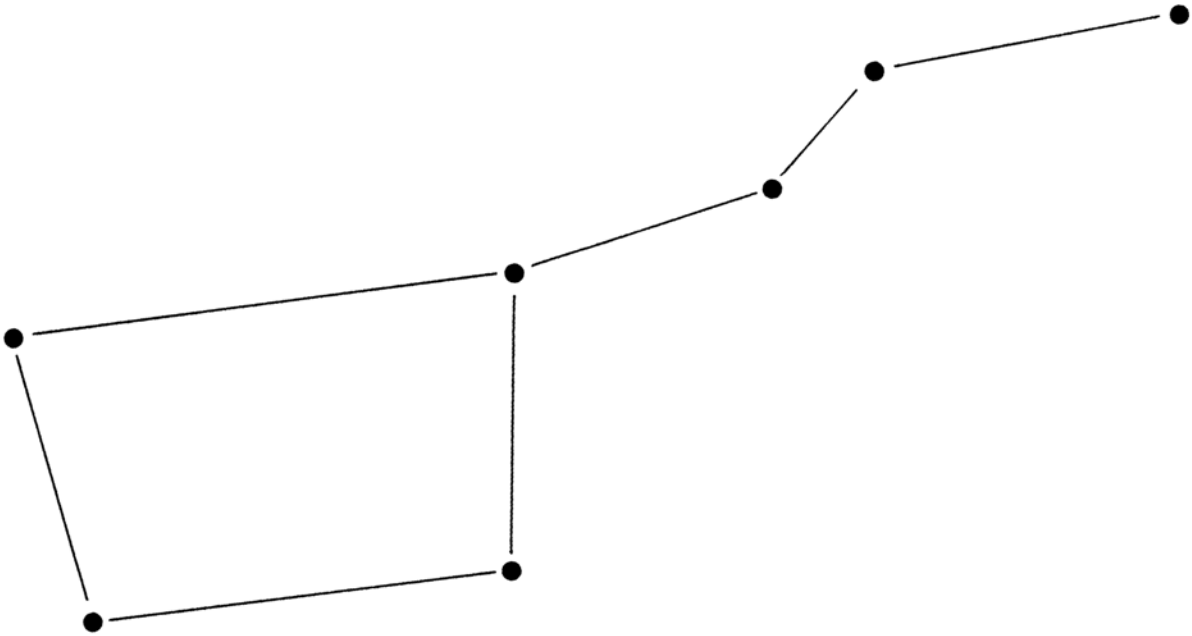
Why is Polaris called "the North Star"? Because it's always in the north. If you want to know which direction is which at night, find the Big Dipper, then the Little Dipper. Head for Polaris and you're going north.

Find other constellations on the internet or in a book. How many of them can you find on your star search? Can you see why each of them got their names? Some are fairly easy, but others are harder to tell.

Note that constellations are visible in different parts of the sky during the summer than during the winter.

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