

GOD, SCIENCE, FRIENDS, And God's Love for You

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CHAPTER 1

An Adventure Begins

Sunshine streamed through the open window of the family room as Carson and Jane Lawson searched NASA websites for pictures of galaxies. Ten-year-old Carson and his sister, Jane, who was nine, lived on a farm during the summer. Away from the city, they could see the Milky Way in the night sky. With their father's telescope, they could look at the stars. The only problem, they thought, was that they could see only the stars in the galaxy where they lived.

The kids at school were interested in looking through Carson and Jane's telescope, but when they did, they soon got bored because all they could see were small specks of light. They could see the moon and a few planets. Carson and Jane wanted to see more.

"Do you think people could see heaven, where God lives, if there were powerful enough telescopes?" Jane asked her brother.

"Maybe," Carson said. He moved the cursor on the computer screen to look at a photograph of deep space.

"Do you think we could understand how Creation happened if we could find a scientist to explain it to us?" Jane asked. She was trying to get her brother's attention.

Carson switched to another site, where he found an image of the Milky Way.

Jane reached for her tablet and started scrolling through photos

from the Hubble Space Telescope. “Maybe we’re stuck just seeing stars from a long way away, without ever being able to know for sure what God’s home in heaven looks like.

“Or,” she continued, “maybe we should just stick to studying the earth. Maybe there are more things to learn here about the Creation of the earth. Maybe we could learn about God’s home by studying our own home.”

“Um,” Carson replied, “we might have a better chance of understanding the Creation of the earth at least. I would like to see where God lives. But I’m interested in finding out how our world was created.”

“You know what we could do?” Jane looked up from her tablet. “We could ask Uncle Leonard to tell us about Creation. Then, hopefully, we could find out more about the universe.”

After a moment she said, “We should think of some clever questions to ask him. He knows lots of things, and we want to be sure to ask good questions. What do you think?”

Carson finally spun his chair around and looked at his sister.

“Actually, I like that idea. I have some ideas I’ve wondered about for a long time. Maybe he could help us. And I have questions too. Like, How did God plan the earth? And how long did it take? OK, let’s see what questions we can think of.”

“I know one I would like to ask,” Jane said as she looked over Carson’s shoulder at his screen. “Why did God make the world in the first place? And I would like to know why, if God created the world, animals eat one another and people are so mean. How did that happen?”

“OK, but we need some science questions too.”

“Let’s just go. We’ll come up with questions while we walk.”

Jane started for the door, and Carson followed.

Carson and Jane lived in the city with their parents during the winter. In the summertime, they stayed on a small farm next to Uncle Leonard’s place. Uncle Leonard was a scientist at a university. They often visited his farm because he had ideas and new things to show them. To get to Uncle Leonard’s summer place, they walked down a trail that led across a meadow and over a hill. They often saw interesting insects, small furry mammals, and many kinds of birds.

This day, as they walked toward Uncle Leonard’s, the two came to a pile of bright blue feathers. “A hawk probably ate a blue jay and that

is all that's left," Carson commented. He picked up one of the feathers and examined it. Jane looked at the pile and wondered out loud why a God who made both of these creatures would allow one to eat the other.

A short time later, they came to Uncle Leonard's house. With their questions in mind, they rang the doorbell.