

## Day 01: Opening Assembly

### Welcome

Person one comes in all dolled up. Women should wear a feather boa, high heels, and a ring pop. Men should wear a hat, snazzy clothes, and some kind of jeweled ring. Dramatically welcome the kids and show them your jewel.

**I have just recently inherited this mah-velous jewel, and it is a one-of-a-kind treasure worth kazillions of dollars.**

Person two:

**That is no big deal. I own something much more valuable than that. In fact, it is the greatest treasure in the whole world.**

Person two dramatically pulls a Bible out of a treasure box.

**The Bible is the greatest treasure on earth, the Book of Books, and one we will be learning about all week. Welcome, cadets, to Operation Space. Here at the Academy, we'll go through BASIC Training as we have a close encounter with God's Word and His World.**

### Song

Suggestion: Blast Off!

### Song

Suggestion: A favorite from last year

### Space Probe: The Size of the Universe

Materials: Day 01 presentation images, ruler, yardstick, and tape measure

Show Day 01-01.

**A space probe is type of instrument that scientists use to study outer space. We'll be studying space this week, and the answers to our daily space probe questions will help us learn more about God's amazing universe. Today's space probe question is, how big is the universe?**

**The answer: Amazingly big!**

Show the ruler.

**Let's try to measure the universe to find out just how big it is. See this ruler? Do you think we can use it to measure the universe? (No) It's not big enough. Gotta throw it away. (Toss it behind you dramatically.)**

Show the yardstick.

**How about this yardstick? Forget it. (Toss it behind you.)**

Show the tape measure.

**What about this tape measure? Will it work for measuring space? (Pull it out as far as it goes.) Not even close. (Toss it behind you.)**

**Scientists use a completely different method to measure the size of the universe and distances between objects in the universe. They use something called a light-year.**

**A light-year is not a measure of time but of distance. A light-year measures the distance light travels in one year. Let's see if we can imagine how big a light-year is. On the count of three, everybody blink. One, two, three, blink!**

**In that amount of time, light traveled all the way around the earth seven times! In one light-year, light travels six trillion miles.**

**When we use light-years to measure how big outer space is, let's see what we find.**

**Everyone blink again. Light travels from the earth to the moon in that amount of time.**

**In eight minutes, light can travel the distance from the earth to the sun.**

**The Milky Way galaxy is about 100,000 light-years across.**

**The distance from earth to our nearest galaxy is 2.7 million light-years.**

**And the distance across the known universe is 15,000 million light-years! That's amazingly big! We can't even begin to comprehend how big the universe is.**

**Furthermore, scientists think there are more than 100 billion galaxies in our universe, each with a possible 100 billion stars. That means there could be more than ten billion trillion stars. That's a 1 with 22 zeros after it. And God has named each one. Psalm 147:4 says, "He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by**

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name.”

Some people think that the vastness of the universe means that it must be billions of years old. However, we know from God’s Word that God created the heavens and earth about 6,000 years ago—not many billions.

The heavens declare the glory of God. God shows Himself to us through this beautiful, orderly, big universe. But first and foremost, He shows Himself to us through His Word, the Bible, which we will be talking about all week long at VBS.

(Note: For more information on the distant-starlight issue, see [answersingenesis.org/go/astronomy](http://answersingenesis.org/go/astronomy).)

## Missions Moment

Since the first VBS day tends to start late, omit the Missions Moment for today.

## Announcements

## Prayer

## Dismissal

## Song

Suggestion: No Matter What We Know

# Day 01: Closing Assembly

## Song

Suggestion: Hallelujah to the King

## Song

Suggestion: With One Word

## Drama

## Transition Point

I like what the Captain said about the Bible. He told the cadets that he wanted it to be their most prized possession. And that’s what we want for each of you too! That means of all the things you own—your clothes, your toys, even your iPods—we want you to treasure your Bible more than all of it!

## Announcements

## Cool Contest

Announce the winner of the Star-Studded Coloring Contest (from the Countdown Carnival). Explain how the contests work and announce the winner of the Galaxy Goody jar. Explain tomorrow’s special contest: Crew Spirit Day. Each child or team completes a space poster with Bible verses about the heavens. Or each Cadet Crew make signs, cheers, or chants to represent their crew.

## Prayer

## Dismissal

## Song

Suggestion: Blast Off!