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The background features a dark, starry night sky with a prominent, colorful spiral galaxy in the center. Scattered throughout the sky are numerous yellow stars of varying sizes. In the bottom left corner, a cartoon illustration of a young boy with brown hair, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt with orange stars and blue pants, is looking through a large, silver telescope mounted on a tripod. A yellow banner with a black border is positioned across the upper middle of the image, containing the title and subtitle in blue and red text.

INDESCRIBABLE

100 DEVOTIONS ABOUT GOD & SCIENCE

LOUIE GIGLIO

WITH TAMA FORTNER

ILLUSTRATED BY
NICOLA ANDERSON



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INTRODUCTION

When was the last time you said the word *awesome*? Maybe you were talking about one of your favorite sports stars, your favorite snack, or your favorite shoes. I think French fries and sneakers and basketball stars are all pretty awesome, but in this book, I want to tell you about the *most* awesome thing in the world: the great God who created the entire awesome universe and everything that exists in it.

God's Word, the Bible, tells us that the heavens proclaim God's glory and creativity every day and night. The stars don't speak in words like we do, but how big they are and the way they shine so bright tell us that the God who created them is amazing and powerful. That's why it's important and fun for us to spend time exploring and learning about everything our God has made. The more we learn about what He's created, the more we learn about Him.

Sometimes, I like to think about God as a scientist in a lab coat, eager to share with us all the incredible things He's made in His indescribable, immeasurable universe-size lab. You know what? Not only does God love science—He is the greatest scientist of all!

Throughout this book, we'll explore the incredibly, indescribably awesome universe that God created and holds in His hands. I asked some friends to help us along the way. Meet Eryn, Raz, Norah, Joshua, Clarke, and Adelynn. These kids, just like you, are eager to learn about everything God has made.



Each day, we'll read together about a different part of God's creation, from space, to earth, to animals, to people. We'll look at real-life pictures and illustrations, learn scientific facts, and pray to our Creator God together.

If you're interested in focusing on a certain part of the universe for a while, feel free to skip around this book as much as you'd like! The four major topics we'll talk about are:

- **Space:** pages 8, 10, 20, 26, 30, 36, 44, 48, 52, 54, 58, 68, 74, 90, 96, 102, 116, 122, 130, 134, 140, 148, 156, 160, 172, 196
- **Earth:** pages 14, 16, 32, 38, 46, 50, 60, 62, 64, 70, 82, 92, 100, 106, 110, 128, 132, 136, 144, 152, 158, 164, 166, 168, 174, 178, 188, 194, 200, 202
- **Animals:** pages 12, 22, 28, 42, 56, 66, 72, 80, 84, 88, 94, 104, 112, 114, 118, 124, 154, 162, 176, 180, 186, 190, 198, 206
- **People:** pages 18, 24, 34, 40, 76, 78, 86, 98, 108, 120, 126, 138, 142, 146, 150, 170, 182, 184, 192, 204

My prayer is that you'll be truly amazed and in awe as we learn that the God who created Betelgeuse, one of the biggest stars we know about, also created YOU—from the number of hairs on your head to the color of the skin on your toes. This indescribable Creator knows you better and loves you more than anyone on Earth ever could.

Have fun on your journey!
Pastor Louie



A BLANK PAGE

In the beginning God created the sky and the earth. The earth was empty and had no form. . . . Then God said, “Let there be light!”

—GENESIS 1:1–3

Every picture and story starts with a blank page. Nothing is on it, and it’s yours to do anything with it. That’s exactly what happened when God “sat down” to create Earth, the universe, and everything in it. He started with a blank page. Well, actually, there wasn’t even a page—just darkness and nothing . . . and God too, of course. Then He started to create, and it was exactly



what He wanted. Planets spun into space, stars stretched across the heavens, and galaxy upon galaxy swirled out into the universe.

All throughout the universe, and here on the Earth, God shows His creativity to be indescribably, incredibly amazing! Who else could think up the spotted, long-necked giraffe? Who else could put the roar in a lion's mouth and the purr in a kitten's tummy? Who else could think up stick bugs, sloths, leafy sea dragons, platypuses, or colorful mantis shrimp? (Seriously, you *need* to check these guys out! They're unbelievable!)

God is infinitely creative—that means His creativity has no end. And God shows His creativity in *you*. You began as a blank page in His book, and He began writing your story before you were even born. It's going to be a great one! Don't believe it? Just check out some of the amazing stories He's already written for "ordinary" people just like you—David knocking out Goliath, Daniel napping with lions, and Esther saving her people. God's got an amazing story in the works for you—just wait and see!

Lord, the whole universe shows Your creativity! I trust that You're creating a wonderful story for me.

BE AMAZED

Sloths are so slow that they move only about 6½ feet per minute. Even their tummies are slow, taking an average of 16 days to digest the twigs, fruits, leaves, bugs, lizards, and birds they eat.

They spend almost their entire lives hanging upside down in the trees—coming down only once a week or so to poop. *Ick!*





2

THE SOUNDS OF SILENCE

Lord, every morning you hear my voice. Every morning, I tell you what I need. And I wait for your answer.

—PSALM 5:3

Did you know that you could be right next to someone in space, shouting at the top of your lungs, and that person wouldn't hear a thing? That's not because those space helmets get in the way. It's because voices travel as *sound waves*, and sound waves need something to travel on—like the atmosphere

on Earth. Since there's no atmosphere in space, sound waves have nothing to travel on. So astronauts have to talk to each other using a different kind of wave: *radio waves*, which don't need atmosphere to carry them.

But God doesn't need sound waves or even radio waves to hear us. That's because prayers carry our voices to God. So if the God who created the entire universe is ready to listen to whatever we have to say, why don't we pray more?

At least part of the answer is that we get distracted and busy. The busyness of school, church, sports, family, friends, and a zillion other things gets in the way. Then there's texting and video games and TV shows and movies and computer work. On average, we spend almost eight hours a day staring at some sort of screen, like a TV, computer, or phone. That's almost sixty hours every week!

In the middle of all of these fun, cool, and exciting things, God calls us to "be still" (Psalm 46:10) and pray to Him. Praying is when we praise God for who He is, thank Him for all He's given us, and ask Him for what we need.

Try it today. Find a special place where you can be alone with God. In a treehouse, in a corner of your room, or even in a bubble bath. Be still, talk to God, and listen for Him to answer. And, remember, God usually speaks with a still, small voice—so be sure to listen closely.

God, thank You for wanting to spend time with me. Thank You for always listening to me and answering my prayers.

BE AMAZED

Praying is so important that Jesus—God's own Son—took time to pray. Check out some of the ways Jesus prayed in Luke 5:16, Luke 6:12, and Matthew 14:23.



DINOSAURS AND DRAGONS—OH MY!

Be strong in the Lord and in his great power. Wear the full armor of God.

—EPHESIANS 6:10–11

Did you know dragons and dinosaurs are in the Bible? Check this out from Job 41:

“Can you catch Leviathan on a fishhook? . . . If you put one hand on him, you will never forget the battle. . . . He has rows of shields on his back. . . . Flames blaze from his mouth. . . . The sword that hits him does not hurt him. The darts and spears, small and large, do not hurt him. He treats iron as if it were straw. . . . He is a creature without fear.” (vv. 1, 8, 15, 19, 26–27, 33)

Some people try to say the Leviathan is just a crocodile. But that doesn't sound like any crocodile I've ever seen! Rather, the word *dragon* comes to mind. And then there's this in Job 40:

“Look at Behemoth. . . . Look at the strength he has in his body. The muscles of his stomach are powerful! His tail extends like a cedar tree. The muscles of his thighs are woven together. His bones are like tubes of bronze metal. His legs are like bars of iron.” (vv. 15, 18)

Again, some people say the Behemoth is an elephant. But have you ever seen an elephant with a tail like a cedar tree?

God made some amazingly strong things. But the strongest is something He actually makes just for you. It's called the armor of God, and it's stronger



than even Leviathan’s “rows of shields” (Job 41:15). This armor has a piece to cover every part of you—including your heart and mind—with the power of God and His truth. It will protect you from the devil and all his lies. (Read more about the armor in Ephesians 6:10–18.) So like a knight dressing for battle, put on your armor every day. How? By praying and reading the truth of His Word!

Thank You, God, for Your armor. Teach me how to put it on and wear it every day.

BE AMAZED

The acid in your stomach is so powerful it can melt metal. But an armor of mucus protects your stomach lining and keeps that acid in your tummy, where it belongs, so the acid breaks down only what it’s supposed to!



WHAT'S THAT SMELL?!?

“Woe to you . . . you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean.”

—MATTHEW 23:27 NIV

Doesn't that flower smell . . . horrible? While most flowers smell wonderful, if you got a whiff of this monster—the titan arum—you'd run. Why? Well,



BE AMAZED



The Venus flytrap is one of the world's deadliest plants—if you're a bug, that is. Its leaves are actually a hinged trap. When a bug crawls in, it “tickles” the hairlike fibers on the leaves. This triggers the trap, and the leaves snap shut, trapping the insect inside—where it is slowly digested!

consider its nickname, the “corpse flower,” and that just might give you a clue. In case you didn't know—a *corpse* is a rotting, dead body. *Yuck!*

The corpse flower grows in Indonesia and is one of the world's largest and rarest flowers. Its stalk can grow up to 15 feet tall, and its bloom can be more than 3 feet wide—that's the length of a yardstick! But even with its amazing size, the corpse flower is best known for its foul odor. Its bloom smells rotten. *Ugh!* In fact, it even looks rotten. But all of this grossness makes it positively irresistible to insects, which the plant needs for pollination, so it can reproduce and make *more* big, stinky flowers.

The outside of the corpse flower is actually kind of pretty, even though it smells like rotting flesh. Basically, it's the hypocrite of the plant world. What's a *hypocrite*, you ask? That's a big, fancy word for someone who pretends to be good only when people are watching. But when no one's watching, they do the wrong things. You could also call them *two-faced* or *phony*. Their insides and outsides don't match. Have you ever met anyone like that? Well, Jesus said that's no way to live. Your words and actions should always be good and loving—whether anyone is watching or not. Now *that's* a life that will smell sweet.

Dear God, I don't want my life to be stinky or phony or two-faced. Fill my heart with Your love, and help me do the right thing even when no one is watching.

HOW DEEP IS THE DEEP?

Lord, you have examined me. You know all about me. You know when I sit down and when I get up. You know my thoughts before I think them.

—PSALM 139:1-2



BE AMAZED

The oceans are beautiful, amazing, and mysterious places—at least to us. God, of course, knows all about them! Even though oceans cover more than 70 percent of the Earth’s surface, we have only explored about 5 percent of them. That’s at least partly because of how deep they are. The average depth of the ocean is 12,100 feet—that’s more than 2 miles deep!

Parts of the ocean are so deep that scientists have not yet been able to explore them. But what they have explored has led to some amazing discoveries—like the giant sunfish, which can weigh up to 5,000 pounds; the fangtooth fish, whose nightmarish fangs make it look like something out of a scary movie; and the blobfish, which looks like . . . well . . . a 12-inch blob of pink goo. Scientists believe millions more species are just waiting to be discovered under the sea. And while we may not yet know all the mysteries of the ocean deep, we can trust that God does.

God also knows all the mysteries of the deepest places of your mind. He knows every thought before you even think it—the good ones and the not-so-good ones. God understands there are times when a bad thought will sneak into your head, even though you don’t want it to. Don’t give up or be discouraged. But don’t keep thinking those bad thoughts either—“capture” them, and “make [them] give up and obey Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5). It can be tough to do, but ask God for His help—you know He’ll help you do it!

The deepest part of the ocean (that we know of) is located inside the Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean. It’s called the Challenger Deep, and it’s approximately 36,070 feet deep. If you were to drop Mount Everest, the world’s highest mountain, into the Challenger Deep, it would be covered by more than a mile of water!

Lord, You know everything about me—even every thought that I think. Help me capture any bad thoughts that wander in, and fill my mind with thoughts of You instead.

HOLDING IT TOGETHER!

[Christ] is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

— COLOSSIANS 1:17 NIV

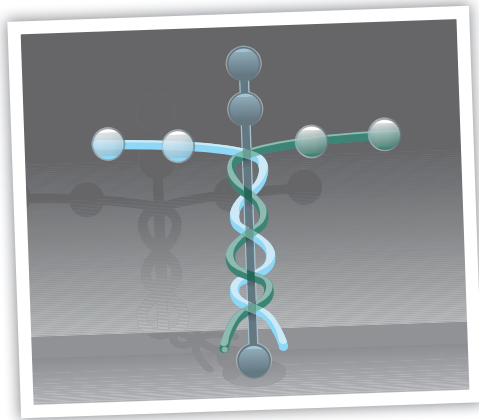
Have you ever seen workers build a brick building? They don't just stack the bricks on top of each other. They need some sort of glue to hold all those bricks together. The glue for bricks is called *mortar*.

In the same way, your body is made up of 37.2 trillion little bricks called *cells*. And like a building, those cells need some sort of glue to hold them all together. The glue for cells is called *laminin*.

Laminin holds *your body* together. The thing that's even more amazing about laminin is what it looks like. When you take a peek at laminin (and you'll need an electron microscope to see it), it looks like . . . *a cross*.

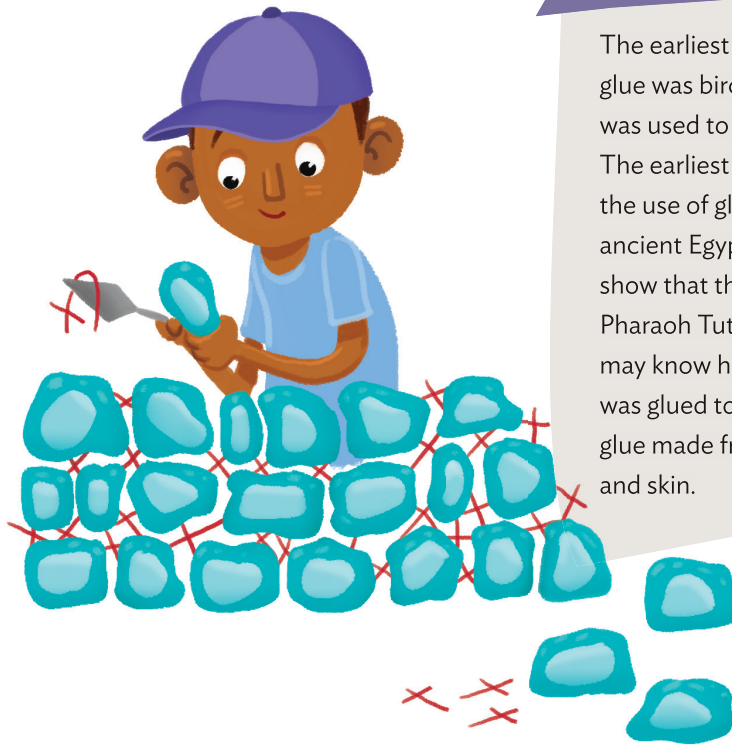
Why is that important? Because it's yet another reminder that we are

God's own creation. You see, God left His fingerprints all throughout His creation. The Bible tells us that even though we can't see the invisible qualities of God—like His awesome power and His holiness—we can see His creation and know He is real (Romans 1:20). Jesus was with God at creation, and “in him all things were created: things in heaven and



Laminin

BE AMAZED



The earliest known use of glue was birch bark tar, which was used to make spears. The earliest written record of the use of glue comes from ancient Egypt. Hieroglyphs show that the casket of Pharaoh Tutankhamun (you may know him as King Tut) was glued together with a glue made from animal bones and skin.

on earth, visible and invisible. . . . In him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:16–17 NIV).

Laminin is a picture of what Jesus tells us in His Word—He is the glue that holds our bodies, our souls, and everything together. So when you’re feeling overwhelmed and having the absolute worst day ever, think about laminin—and remember that Jesus holds you—and all things—together.

Lord, when I start to worry about all the things happening in my life and around me, help me remember You are Lord of all—and You hold everything, including me, together.



FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT

**God said, “Let there be light!”
And there was light.**

— GENESIS 1:3

Have you ever wished you’d been there to see God create the world?

I mean, how amazing would it have been to see how He did it all?

It would’ve been breathtaking and overwhelming. Why? Because when God said, “Let there be light!” there wasn’t just the flick of a universal light

switch. No way! This was more like a light explosion that would have been way more than your eyes could handle.

The Bible tells us in Psalm 33:6 that the heavens were made by the word of God. He *breathed* out the universe and everything in it. So when God said He wanted light—that light came flying out of His mouth at 186,000 miles *per second*! That’s how fast light travels, so we call it the “speed of light.” God’s light streaked across the heavens, chased back the darkness, and lit up the entire universe in a blaze of brilliant glory.

Only one thing is faster than the speed of light, and that’s the speed of God. When you call out to God in prayer, He’s instantly right there to listen—and He starts working on His answer right away. The thing is, though, God may not give you that answer right away. Sometimes He asks you to wait for it, and sometimes He might not give you the answer you want. But you can trust that God will always give you the exact, right answer—at just the right moment and in just the right way. He’s always working faster than the speed of light!

God, I can’t even begin to imagine how fast light really is. And to know that You hear my prayers even faster than that is amazing to me. Thank You, God, for rushing to listen to me!

BE AMAZED

God’s universe is so big that it can’t be measured in feet or inches or even miles. We have to use a bigger ruler: the *light-year*. A light-year is—you guessed it—how far light travels in a year, which is 5.88 trillion miles. Our own Milky Way Galaxy is 100,000 light-years wide. And that’s just one galaxy out of the billions that our mighty God created!



8

A TOOL FOR GOD

Encourage one another and build each other up.

—1 THESSALONIANS 5:11 NIV

Scientists have long known that some animals use tools to help them get what they need. But they have only recently discovered the most unusual way

one animal “builds” its house—and they found this animal scurrying across the sands of the ocean floor.

The veined octopus (*Amphioctopus marginatus*) builds its home using coconut shell halves that people have thrown into the ocean. Stacking one on top of the other, it crawls between the two halves—the perfect underwater armor for this soft-bodied octopus. When the octopus needs to travel, it simply stacks the shell halves under its body—much like stacking two bowls. It then “stilt walks” on its eight legs, dragging the shells with it. Scientists have even spotted veined octopuses digging buried coconut shells out of the sand and squirting them with jets of water to clean them before moving in.

God gave some animals the ability to use tools, but did you know that He made you to *be* a tool? God wants you to be His tool in building up others and leading them to Him. How can you do that? He tells you in His Word:

“Go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything that I have told you.” (Matthew 28:19–20)

What an amazing thought—that God uses you to build His Kingdom and to help others know Him!

Lord, I want to be a tool in building Your kingdom. Help me live a life that tells the world about You.

BE AMAZED

The veined octopus is just one of several animals that uses tools. There’s a group of bottlenose dolphins in Shark Bay, Australia, that carries sea sponges in their beaks to stir up the ocean sand and uncover their prey. Also, sea otters use stones as hammers to crack open abalone shells to get to the food inside.