



*“Come to me, all you who are tired and are carrying heavy loads.
I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28 NIRV*

Nobody on earth could lift a 1,400 pound object and toss it around. But astronauts aren't on earth, are they? In 2007, NASA astronaut Clayton Anderson took out the trash. With his feet planted on the space station, he grabbed a 635 kilogram coolant tank and hurled it towards the earth. Don't worry, it didn't hit anyone. As expected, the thing burned up as planned in a fiery plunge towards the earth.

It sounds impressive picking up an object that big, doesn't it? But the truth is, you or I could have done the same exact thing. Orbiting the earth, the laws of weight work a lot differently. Astronauts appear to float around, and there is a feeling of weightlessness.

Wally Schirra, one of the first seven original astronauts, said this: “Feeling weightless . . . it's so many things together. A feeling of pride, of healthy solitude, of dignified freedom from everything that's dirty, sticky. You feel exquisitely comfortable . . . and you feel you have so much energy, such an urge to do things, such an ability to do things. And you work well, yes, you think well, without sweat, without difficulty as if the biblical curse in the sweat of thy face and in sorrow no longer exists, as if you've been born again.”

He was on to something when he spoke of being born again. Sin has a weight. It's like garbage that doesn't need to be in our lives. When we do something God is not pleased with, it's like a weight that is put on our shoulders, keeping us from lifting our eyes towards heaven, and preventing us from doing what He wants us to do. But that's the thing about Jesus: he took away that weight. He took away that heavy burden – it's like being weightless. Because of what Jesus did, the curse of sin no longer exists!

The most important thing to do on this planet is to toss that weight aside. Ask Jesus into your heart, keep your feet planted, and feel the burden all gone – tossed aside and burned off, never to be seen again.

DAY ONE



“I now realize how true it is that God treats everyone the same.”

Acts 10:34 NIRV

Michael Collins was an astronaut, and part of the Apollo 11 mission. This was the very first mission to touch down upon the moon! Soaring through space, he gazed out the window and looked back towards the earth. He couldn't help but see its beauty. And he couldn't help but notice something else: there are no visible borders on the earth. Very much unlike a globe, there are no big lines to separate us. There are no colorful shades to mark the difference between one country and another. In fact, looking through his window, he could only see two colors: blue and white.

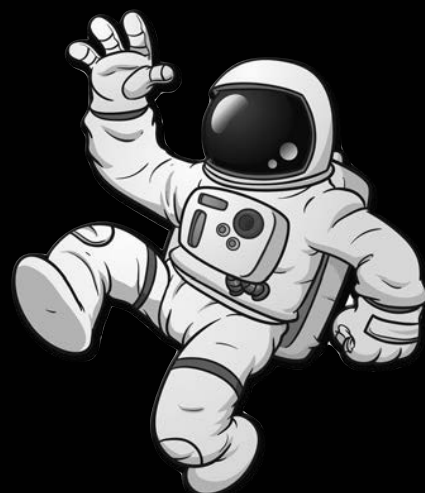
He wrote later, “The earth must become as it appears: blue and white, not capitalist or communist; blue and white, not rich or poor; blue and white, not envious or envied.”

God's view of all of us is quite similar. His love for us is the same as everyone else on the planet. How can we look down on other people? God doesn't put value on the color of our skin – He looks at the heart. He doesn't judge us by the amount of money we carry. He judges us by what we do with what we have.

In the book of Acts, Peter finally understood this – even though he didn't go on a trip into orbit. He said, “I now realize how true it is that God treats everyone the same.”

If the Creator of the Earth, everyone and everything on it treats everyone the same, shouldn't we? If everyone on this planet could do that, we would see the world as He does: a world without borders.

DAY TWO



***“But be strong. Don’t give up. God will reward you for your work.”
2 Chronicles 15:7 NIRV***

Deke Slayton was told he had a heart problem. This was one of the original seven astronauts chosen to boldly go off into space. But just like that, he was told he was grounded. No space flight for Deke.

Still, he never gave up hope. He stayed with the space program, despite it all. Actually, his role was important, becoming ‘chief astronaut.’ This is the guy whose voice helped the others as they flew through space. This was the guy who picked the first man to walk on the moon.

But in the back of his mind, he never gave up on the hope that he could fly in space himself. He did everything he could from exercise to a big change in his diet. He even quit drinking coffee!

Years later, his heart was examined again – and this time, the story was different. He was cleared to fly. He resigned his position, and asked if he could go on the next flight upwards. There were plenty of others much younger that could go. If he was chosen to fly the next upcoming mission, he would be fifty-one years old.

But he never gave up trying. And because of his determination, his dreams came true: Deke Slayton went into orbit. At the time, he was the oldest person to ever go into space. Perhaps he didn’t have a heart problem after all.

A NASA Administrator said it best: “Ultimately, the lesson we can draw from Deke Slayton’s example is simply this: Never give up. Never, never, never give up. Never give up.”

No matter your age, your health, and no matter your thoughts about yourself, never give up on your dreams. Don’t stop believing. Don’t stop dreaming. With God, all things are impossible.

DAY THREE



"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

John 15:5 NKJV

Some of the first words on the moon may surprise you. Buzz Aldrin had just landed in the lunar module with Neil Armstrong, and during some of those first historic hours of the landing, he did something remarkable: he had communion.

Here are his words: "I opened the little plastic packages which contained the bread and the wine. I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon, the wine slowly curled and gracefully came up the side of the cup. Then I read the Scripture, 'I am the vine, you are the branches. Whosoever abides in me will bring forth much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing.'"

The point of communion is to remember Jesus, and Buzz Aldrin took time to do just that. It was an incredible accomplishment, going from earth to the moon. It was truly one giant leap for mankind. Yet the scripture Buzz Aldrin read there from the moon said something with even more gravity: "Apart from me you can do nothing."

Later on, the famous astronaut would share the story again and again. On one of those occasions, he said, "It was interesting for me to think: the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first food eaten there, were the communion elements. And of course, it's interesting to think that some of the first words spoken on the moon were the words of Jesus Christ, who made the Earth and the moon..."

Buzz Aldrin wrote this note, reading it on the moon. Some of the first words spoken on the moon were the words of Jesus, and the first meal eaten on the moon was Holy Communion.

An Jesus said,
"I am the vine, you are
the branches. Whosoever remain
in me, and I in him,
will bear much fruit;
for you can do nothing
without me."

DAY FOUR



“I leave my peace with you. I give my peace to you. I do not give it to you as the world does. Do not let your hearts be troubled. And do not be afraid.” John 14:27 NIRV

“Houston, we’ve had a problem.” These famous words were an understatement: Jim Lovell said this to Mission Control, and at the time he had no idea how bad it really was. He had no idea that there was an explosion in the space capsule’s oxygen tank, one that tore off an entire side of the spacecraft.

The Apollo 13 mission is a famous one, but not for reaching the moon. It was more famous for getting its astronauts home safely. Everything seemed stacked against them: poisonous carbon dioxide was rapidly filling up their spacecraft. The fuel was running out. There was barely enough power to get things going. Temperatures were cold, and hope was dwindling. The prayers of the world were with these astronauts, and it was a long shot they’d ever see home again.

All things considered, it could have been a lot worse. One man in Mission Control said as much. He explained that if the explosion had occurred at any other time during the mission, the fate of the astronauts would have been sealed right away. There’d be no return for them ever. Of all the places for this explosion to happen, this was the best timing of all.

With that thought in mind, Mission Control began to think on the bright side. It was true: it could have been worse. And then suddenly there was hope. It was a smaller kind of hope, but it was there: somehow, there was the belief that they could get those astronauts home. And soon, that hope turned into action. There would be no negative thinking at Mission Command. Failure is not an option.

In the most amazing miracle of the space program, the astronauts did make it home safely. Prayers all over the world were answered. There were many lessons learned those fateful days, but perhaps one of the earliest was this: think positively.

That makes sense for us as well. In all things, just remember it could have been worse. But more importantly, remember that with prayer and God’s guidance, you too can make it home safely. If you feel like you’ve been put into a hopeless situation, just listen to the words of Jesus: “I leave my peace with you. I give my peace to you. I do not give it to you as the world does. Do not let your hearts be troubled. And do not be afraid.”

DAY FIVE



“Let’s rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. Then people won’t be ashamed anymore.” I also told them how my gracious God was helping me. And I told them what the king had said to me. They replied, “Let’s start rebuilding.” So they began that good work.” Nehemiah 2:17-18 NIRV

The President of the United States stood up before the country and said these words with all sincerity: “I believe that this nation should commit to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to earth.”

There were a few problems with those words. Let’s start with the most obvious one: that was crazy talk! The United States could only send up a guy into space for about fifteen minutes, and President Kennedy was talking about going all the way to the moon? What’s up with that? The Russians were sending astronauts in orbit already, putting our country’s space program to shame!

Yet on July 20, 1969, we did the impossible, and we did it six months early! Sure there were many setbacks, some of them quite terrible. But with a vision, there was purpose. And despite being behind in the space race, we made the goal and made the impossible possible.

To this day, the space center in Florida is named after the president who set that goal. The Kennedy Space Center is a reminder to everyone of what we can do when we have a vision for the future, no matter how crazy it seems.

In our Bibles, there was a man named Nehemiah. He had a vision, a hope to build a wall around the city of Jerusalem. It was said to be impossible, and some even made fun of Nehemiah for having such a big dream. Nehemiah was doing some of that crazy talk too. Build the mighty wall again? Ha!

But even without their help, it happened. It happened because of a man and his dream, and all the hard work from everyone who shared that belief. With the king’s backing and God’s help, they worked together and accomplished the unthinkable.

Hopefully you haven’t given up on your dream. If you have a hope for where you want to be in life, remember that nothing is impossible. Ask God for His guidance and help, and He can help you make the impossible possible!

DAY SIX





***“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”
Genesis 1:1 NIRV***

On Christmas Eve, 1968, television viewing records were set. The crew of Apollo 8 were doing something no man had ever done ever before: circle the moon. As the three astronauts aboard the Apollo 8 orbited the moon, and with the whole planet listening, they chose their words very carefully.

Lunar Module Pilot William Anders said, “We are now approaching lunar sunrise, and for all the people back on Earth, the crew of Apollo 8 has a message that we would like to send you.”

It was here that he read from the Bible: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, ‘Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.’”

Command Module Pilot James Lovell continued, “And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. And God said, ‘Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.’ And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.”

Commander Frank Borman finished the passage from the Bible, saying, “And God said, ‘Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear’: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called He Seas: and God saw that it was good.”

The commander finished the message to earth this way: “And from the crew of Apollo 8, we close with good night, good luck, a Merry Christmas – and God bless all of you, all of you on the good Earth.”

DAY SEVEN



“The heavens tell about the glory of God. The skies show that His hands created them. Day after day they speak about it. Night after night they make it known. But they don’t speak or use words. No sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into the whole earth. Their words go out from one end of the world to the other.” Psalm 19:1-4 NIRV

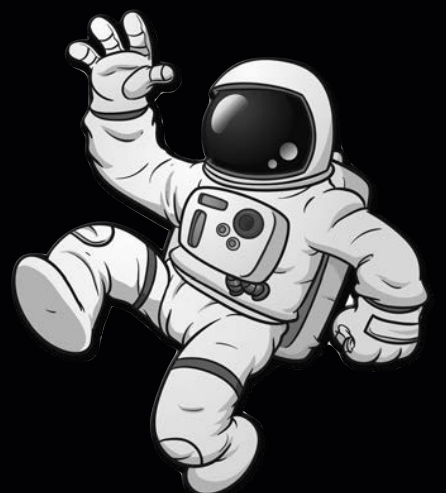
On February 20, 1962, America went into orbit for the first time. Astronaut John Glenn stayed in space for four hours and fifty-five minutes, circling the earth at 17,544 miles per hour! It was an amazing first for our country, one that gave the astronaut a chance to look out the window and see the earth so far below.

Floating along in the heavens, he described the earth as “a beautiful sight.” Later, he said, “But to look out at this kind of creation out here and not believe in God is, to me, impossible. It just strengthens my faith.”

It is impossible. Consider the very planet itself: everything about the earth is impossible. It hangs in orbit perfectly, the exact distance from the sun needed for us to exist. Even the angle of the earth as it rotates allows light and warmth to hit all areas of the earth perfectly. We are tiny specks on this great big earth, held carefully in place as we zoom 67,000 miles per hour in orbit around the sun.

The earth should have printed on it in big letters: FRAGILE. And yet God holds us in the palm of His mighty hand. Everything that keeps us here on the planet, and living in comfort... is impossible! And yet we serve a God of the Impossible, don’t we?

DAY EIGHT



*“The Lord took Abram outside and said, “Look up at the sky.
Count the stars, if you can.” Genesis 15:5 NIRV*

The Milky Way is not just a candy bar – it’s the name for the galaxy we live in. There are a lot of stars in this galaxy. In fact, if you were to count the number of stars in our galaxy, one per second, it would take you 2,500 years!

And of course, that’s just our galaxy alone. In our observable universe, there are at least a hundred billion galaxies. In short, no one but God knows the amount of stars in the skies.

When He was talking with Abraham, God wanted him to think bigger. When talking about Abraham’s future, He said, “Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can.” Of course, Abraham couldn’t count the stars. It’s pointless to put a limit like that on God. Even if your number is a hundred squillion, He is still greater.

The point is this – nothing is impossible with God. If you are up against something big in your life, the best thing to do might be what Abraham did: take a walk outside at night time. Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. We serve a limitless God, whose incredible power is only matched by one other thing: His unfailing love.

DAY NINE



*“The Lord gives me strength. He is like a shield that keeps me safe.
My heart trusts in Him, and He helps me.” Psalm 28:7 NIRV*

A shooting star is not a star at all. A shooting star is actually a meteor hurdling through space at an amazing speed. It's target? The earth! But instead of slamming into our planet, why does it shoot across the night sky in flash of brilliance?

It's because the earth has a shield around it. In many space movies, the ships traveling across the stars have invisible shields that defend against asteroids, blasters, and an occasional giant space slug.

God designed our planet in a similar way. First of all, asteroids and meteors hit our atmosphere at such speeds that they burn up from all the friction. Each shooting star is a reminder of God's shield around us, protecting us.

But did you know that there is another invisible shield even further out in space? This one blocks our planet from harmful radiation. Astronomers have just discovered this recently, and are calling it a 'plasmaspheric hiss.' But as Christians, we can call it something simpler: God's love.

David wrote that God is like a shield that keeps us safe. Of course, in the example above, that's perfectly clear. But in every day life, there are countless ways that God keeps us safe – many of which we never even realize.

This is why it's best to do as David did: trust in Him, and let Him help you. He's there for you, always with you. He'll give you strength, and be an invisible shield that protects you from harm.

DAY TEN



*“The heavens tell about the glory of God. The skies that
His hands created them.” Psalm 19:1 NIRV*

Some time ago, there was a man spending time in his mother’s garden. This was away from the big city, where there were lots of folks getting sick recently.

He was deep in thought when he saw an apple fall from a tree. It didn’t hit him on the head. But it did get him thinking: why didn’t it fall upwards? Or sideways? Instead, it always falls to the earth, right?

This was just the beginning of Sir Isaac Newton’s theory of gravity. Until then, nobody had a clue why the moon circles the earth, and there were still others that thought the earth was the center of the universe.

He put all that to rest. In fact, he made many discoveries throughout his life – too many to list here on this page! Let’s just put it this way: he is widely considered the most influential scientist of all time, and that’s a big deal.

His discoveries only made his belief in an amazing God more clear. He explained, “Gravity explains the motions of the planets, but it cannot explain who set the planets in motion. God governs all things and knows all that is or can be done.”

You can explain how a rainbow is made with water and refracted light. But you might be missing the beauty of it, and why. And furthermore, who created the water, and who created the light from nothing?

Sir Isaac Newton and his apple were the beginning of a new kind of knowledge. He is remembered for his many discoveries, but also for the fact that he never forgot who it was that created the heavens and the earth to begin with.

DAY ELEVEN



“Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?” declares the Lord.” Isaiah 66:1-2 NIrV

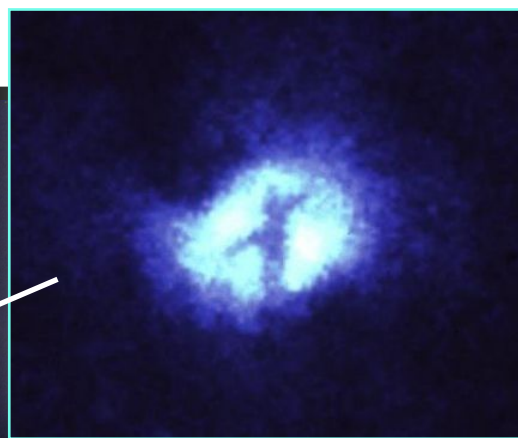
The cross is a symbol of our faith, and a reminder of God’s limitless love. Because it is a powerful reminder, you can find crosses just about anywhere. But did you know where the largest one ever is?

Try 23,157,103 light-years away! When the Hubble Telescope trained its eyes outward to the Whirlpool Galaxy, astronomers were amazed at the beauty. It’s called “Grand Design Galaxy,” with stars spiraling outward in radiant beauty. The name of this type of galaxy tells it like it is: there’s a grand design. And if there’s a design, there’s a Designer!

We all know who that is, but the Whirlpool Galaxy has another surprise deep in its core. When telescopes trained their lenses on the middle of this spiraling galaxy, the astronomers weren’t expecting what they found. There in the middle, directly in front of a black hole, stands easily the biggest cross in the universe.

It would take many light-years to get from top to bottom, and it has been there since the very beginning of time. Only now that we have larger telescopes is the cross there to see, but it’s been in place all along – just like God’s plan all along. It really has been a grand design!

DAY TWELVE



*“Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.”
Psalm 34:3 NKJV*

The Hubble Space Telescope is an impressive achievement! It was launched in 1990 from a space shuttle, and orbits the earth to this day, about 380 miles above the surface of the earth. It is the best tool for seeing farther into a mighty telescope that can see galaxies many, many light years away.

We’re seeing things now that we’ve never seen before. The universe is being magnified – made even bigger in our own eyes!

Though the Hubble Telescope is great at magnifying something, we should be doing that too. To be clear, Psalm 34:3 tells us to magnify the Lord!

That means to make Him bigger, right? Well, obviously you can’t make God any bigger – He’s the biggest there is. So how exactly do you magnify the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth? Simple! You make Him bigger in your own life. You give Him more time. You read more, worship more, pray more, and spend more time talking about Him.

The benefits are ginormous. When you magnify God, everything else becomes smaller, including all those problems you think you have. When you make God bigger in your life, He’ll make your way clearer. He can see farther ahead – light years ahead in fact – and can direct your path.

So give Him more space in your life. Magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together!

DAY THIRTEEN



“Then the servant fell on his knees in front of him. ‘Give me time,’ he begged. ‘I’ll pay everything back.’ His master felt sorry for him. He forgave him what he owed and let him go.”

Matthew 18:26-27 NIRV

Astronaut training involves a device called a centrifuge, something you might mistake for a carnival ride. Basically what happens is this: astronauts strap into a seat, one that begins to swing around in circles, faster and faster and faster. This is called high-g training – each person who tries this is subject to a whole lot of g-forces as the device spins faster and faster, around and around.

As Christians, we should be experts with G-forces. That might take some explaining: you see, in the church there is something called grace. That’s your first ‘g.’ It’s something that is given to all of us, something we didn’t earn. Jesus has given us forgiveness despite all we’ve done wrong in our lives. Yes, this is clearly the strongest g-force of all!

Now if we’ve experienced grace, it’s only natural we experience another ‘g.’ That’s gratitude. In our Bibles, there was a wicked servant who was forgiven of so much. But he didn’t have an attitude of gratitude. In fact, he turned around and immediately refused to forgive someone else for the tiniest of problems. Look out, if you’re anything like this joker, you’re heading for Malfunction Junction!

Seriously, you’re not going anywhere if you can’t spin with the g-force of gratitude. Because if you have gratitude, you’ll be quick with this last ‘g.’ That’s giving.

It’s real simple. You’ve been given something amazing: grace. It’s something you should be grateful for. And if you’re really grateful, you’ll want to give back. And how do you do that, exactly? Easy! You serve at church. You read your Bible. You pray for others. You get your heart into worship each chance you get.

You don’t have to be an astronaut to be an expert with the g-forces. Just remember grace, gratitude, and giving – and you’re already there!

DAY FOURTEEN



“When they saw the star, they were filled with joy.” Matthew 2:10 NIRV

The Wise Men studied the stars quite a bit – perhaps they were astronomers! You’re probably familiar with the Christmas story: they knew to follow a star in the skies above. This star was doing its job: it led them straight to Jesus.

Some stars enjoy all the attention they get. They like to be looked at, photographed, talked about, and everywhere at once. Of course, we’re not talking

about stars in the sky here: we’re talking about movie stars, music stars, stars of social media, and of course those stars that are famous for no reason whatsoever. They shine bright, and grab our attention.

In Deuteronomy 10:22, God tells us, “When you look up at the heavens, you will see the sun and moon. And you will see a huge number of stars. Don’t let anyone tempt you to bow down to the sun, moon or stars.”

Whether they are in the heavens, or strutting around here on earth, the stars are not to be worshipped. Instead, they should be doing exactly what that star in the Christmas story was doing: leading others to Jesus.

But you don’t have to be a star to do that, do you? It’s our job to let our light shine before others, so that others will praise our heavenly Father. When we do that, we are doing exactly what we’ve been designed to do. We become His stars!

DAY FIFTEEN



“Let there be lights in the huge space of the sky. Let them separate the day from the night. Let the lights set the times for the holy celebrations and the days and the years.” Genesis 1:14 NIRV

The first reference ever to a year would be in the first chapter of the Bible. A year is a measurement of time. It is the time that it takes for our planet Earth to travel around the sun. It takes 365 days or so for our planet to make that long journey around the sun. So, if you're nine years old, you've been circling around the sun nine times so far!

But what if you live on another planet? Let's just pretend you live on Mercury. That planet goes around the sun in a really short time, in just 88 days! A year on Mercury is really short – in fact, if you're nine years old on Earth, you'd be 37 years old on Mercury!

The planet Venus takes just 224 days, which again is a shorter year. But there are planets farther away from the sun than the earth is. For example, there's Mars. A year there is 687 days. That would be a really long school year!

The farther away you are from the sun, the longer it takes to go around the sun. Neptune is really far away! It takes that planet 60,225 days to go around the sun! That's 165 years here on earth. Wow!

No matter where you are, time is still the same, no matter how long it takes for you to go around the sun. And it is still measured the same way: with what you do with that time. God put us here in this solar system to make the most of our time. Generally speaking, we are all given roughly the same amount of time. But it only has value when you do something with it for Him.

So no matter what planet you're on, make the most of it by doing something good for your Heavenly Father. And while you're at it, enjoy your time circling around the sun!

DAY SIXTEEN



“God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right.” 2 Timothy 3:16 NIRV

Before leaving earth, the astronaut has to have one very important thing: the flight plan. This is basically a booklet, pages and pages of information on what to do – and of course what not to do. It helps the astronaut survive, leading and guiding the team to a successful mission.

You’ve got a flight plan too. It’s your Bible. Have you ever heard what BIBLE stands for? Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth. Before you launch out of here, you need to have these instructions with you.

They’ve been put together by a team of specialists over the years, legends in the Hall of Faith. Heroes like Paul, Moses, and David were inspired by God to put together this special book. It’s a flight plan that will help you soar! It’s design is perfect for not only helping you survive the mission, but also finding all the success you can.

Now grab a hold of that flight plan, and keep it close. Better yet, spend time trying to remember all you can. This book holds the key to victory, and the path to the stars and beyond!

Flown To The Moon on Apollo XI
Buzz Aldrin
Apollo XI LMP

FLIGHT PLAN

0930 EDT 00:00

LIFTOFF

SECO-INSERTION CHECKLIST

LMP - SM RCS MON CK, CM RCS MON CK, CSW OPERATIONAL CK

REMOVE AND STOW HELMETS AND GLOVES

UNSTOW CAMERAS

CMF - TRANS TO LEB - 02 MAIN REG CK

CMF/LMP - SEC RAD LEAK CK

CMF/CMF - ECS POST INSERTION CONFIG

CMF - FUEL CELL PURGE CK, EPS MON CK, LMP - FUEL CELL POWER PLANT CK, DC VOLT - AMP CK, ECS MON CK, SPS MON CK

GDC ALIGN TO IMU - RECORD DRIFT

CDR - UNSTOW SEQ CAMERA BRACKET AND ORDEAL

INSTALL ORDEAL & COAS

SET UP CAMERA EQUIP (T&D)

MOUNT AND INITIALIZE ORDEAL

CMF - ECS-REDUNDANT-COMPONENT

CMF - EHEG/SEC GIMBAL LOOP CHECK

16mm/18/CEX-BRKT-MIR (F8,250,7) 6 FPS

1 MAG (FDR T&D)

JETTISON OPTICS COVER (DIRECT)

EL/80/CEX (F8,250,INF)

HIGH, SHAFT RIGHT

RECORD ~~AAZ~~ CORRECTION Z TORQUE

IMU REALIGN - PS2 (OPTION 3 - REFSMMAT) (OPTIONAL)

S-BAND VOL - UP FOR HSK

TWO-WAY USB VOICE CK

NOTES

LIFTOFF CREW POSITIONS

LEFT COUCH - CDR

CENTER COUCH - LMP

RIGHT COUCH - CMF

INSERTION IMU GIMBAL

ANGLES P 340 R 180 Y 0

AT SECO +20 SEC, SIV-B

MNVRs TO LH AND

INITIALIZES ORB RATE

(HEADS DOWN)

COOLANT CONTROL ATTENUATION PANEL NOT OPENED

REPORT

PS2 - (PAD REFSMMAT)

N71: _____

NOS: _____

N93: _____

X _____

Y _____

Z _____

GET _____

MISSION	EDITION	DATE	TIME	DAY/REV	PAGE
APOLLO 11	FINAL	JULY 1, 1969	00:00 - 01:00	1/1	3-1

FLIGHT PLANNING BRANCH

MSC Form 29 (May 69)



*“Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart against his brother.”
Zechariah 7:10 KJV*

The scripture above makes it clear: we need to treat Klingons more kindly. And the Gungans, Thermians, Kree, and Vogons, There are a ton of aliens out there in space – at least in movies and comic books.

But the King James version of the Bible isn't talking about aliens from outer space, is it? No, actually it's talking about a foreigner, someone not from around here. In comics and movies, that might mean another planet. But in reality, alien is a word that can mean someone from another country.

Regardless of where someone is from, the scripture makes it plain: we shouldn't oppress anyone, or plan evil against anyone. In other words, God wants us to follow the Golden Rule: Treat others the way you want to be treated.

Remember that whatever you do to anyone else – it's as if you're doing that very same thing to God Himself. Would you talk bad about God, or take advantage of Him? Hopefully not.

Treat others with kindness, no matter who they are, or where they are from. Yes, even if they are from the planet Jakku.

DAY EIGHTEEN



“Never stop praying.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17 NIRV

What is an astronaut without Mission Control? This place is responsible for everything on a space flight from power to navigation to even monitoring the health of the astronauts on board their spaceship.

It’s a lot more than that, of course. There are a lot of people there at Mission Control, and their one vision is to get the mission accomplished, and get those astronauts home safely. Failure is not an option.

Can you imagine what spaceflight would be without Mission Control? The astronauts would be left on their own, desperately trying to figure things out as they flew through space. Sure, they’re skilled pilots. But they can’t know everything that’s going on, or for that matter, everything that’s going to happen soon. In other words, they wouldn’t have a prayer.

Our situation is pretty similar. We each have a lot of skills and talents to get through life – but without help from God, we’re going to be facing some trouble. That’s why it’s important to keep in contact with Him. When we pray and communicate, we talk with the One who knows everything there is to know about us. He knows where we’re going, He’s monitoring our health, and He even knows how to get us more power.

Don’t cut that lifeline. If you stop communicating with God each day, you’ll be like an astronaut who doesn’t talk with Mission Control: you won’t have a prayer.

DAY NINETEEN



“So do not be afraid. I am with you. Do not be terrified. I am your God. I will make you strong and help you. I will hold you safe in my hands. I always do what is right.” Isaiah 41:10 NIRV

The Far side of the Moon got its name for the simple reason that it is always facing away from the Earth. In fact, no one had ever seen what it looked like until 1959, when a Soviet space probe first circled the moon, taking pictures of it for the first time. A few years later, the first humans circled the moon in 1968, the first ones to see it for themselves.

William Anders was one of those astronauts. He described it this way: “The backside looks like a sand pile my kids have played in for some time. It’s all beat up, no definition, just a lot of bumps and holes.”

This area is also called the Dark side of the Moon. One reason for this can be a bit scary: while astronauts are flying over this part of the moon, there is absolute radio silence with Mission Control. The reason they can’t talk with the Earth is that the Moon is in the way! So for 45 minutes, these astronauts are completely on their own. They have no one to trust or talk to as they make their way around the Dark Side of the Moon.

As we go through life, sometimes we’ll experience a bit of radio silence. Sometimes it seems as if God isn’t listening. Or maybe it seems He’s not even there. It’s as if we ourselves are on the Dark Side of the Moon.

Of course, He’s there. He’s always there. For the astronauts, the Earth hadn’t moved – it was still there on each loop around the moon. And God has promised to never leave us or forsake us.

When you are experiencing what feels like radio silence, when it seems you’re flying all on your own, just remember that God hasn’t left you. Despite anything you feel, He’s there, just as He has always been. And despite what may feel like darkness around you, He’s watching you with a smile, knowing you’ll do what is right. Don’t worry: soon enough, you’ll be emerging from the darkness, and you’ll be smiling too.

DAY TWENTY



“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15 NIV

A new phrase in our vocabulary recently is ‘space tourist.’ That’s someone who spends a great deal of money to join a mission into space, hanging out with tourists.

You don’t need that many qualifications to be a space tourist. You just need money, and then you’re off into space to enjoy the ride, take pictures, and send post cards to the folks down below.

Okay, perhaps the post card thing might not work. But a space tourist is just that: somebody on vacation, in space.

Around him, other astronauts are working hard, doing research, keeping the flight smooth, or following orders from Mission Control. But essentially, that space tourist has no real function or purpose. He’s there just taking up space.

Vacation is one thing, but in life, we’re not supposed to just take up space. We have to be like those other astronauts. God made us with purpose, each with different talents and abilities. Each one of us has an assignment not to bury those talents, but to follow orders and make it a successful mission.

As you float through life, don’t just take up space. Find your purpose, and join the crew. There are plenty of folks counting on you, so get to work doing what you do best. And if you haven’t discovered what that is yet, then have fun figuring it out. The important thing is to do something. In other words, don’t just take up space.

DAY TWENTY-ONE



“...that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;” Colossians 1:10 NKJV

James Irwin was one of only twelve men ever to do something that seemed impossible: walk on the moon. His journey with Apollo 15 was an extraordinary one: “I felt high and lifted up. We camped for three days in a beautiful little valley in the high mountains of the moon.”

Yet while walking along on the surface of the moon, trouble popped up with his equipment. It malfunctioned, and he didn’t know how to fix it. What did he do? What could he do?

Astronaut James Irwin said, “I just heard the Lord say, ‘Jim, down on your knees.’”

When he knelt, from that position he could see what the problem was with a release mechanism on a transmitter. He then knew what was going on. He said, “It was obvious what had broken. I was able to fix it.”

But something else happened at that moment. He experienced God’s presence in a way he had never felt on earth. Before the mission, his walk with God wasn’t particularly close. But James Irwin came back from the moon a changed man. According to one NASA official, he took off towards the moon a “swashbuckly, very self-confident, astronaut. After the flight- he got a spiritual experience, as he called it – he became a very devout Christian.”

His wife Mary explained what happened up there: “He was so overwhelmed at seeing and feeling God’s presence so close. At one point he turned around and looked over his shoulder as if He was standing there.

In fact, ever since that incredible voyage, he was remembered as being ‘intensely religious.’ A parade was set up in his honor, one for astronauts returning from the moon. But he already had a new mission: the Great Commission.

Astronaut Jim Irwin, one of only twelve men to ever walk the moon, was ready to launch out on a great new adventure. He said, “As I travel around I tell people the answer is Jesus Christ, that Jesus walking on the earth is more important than man walking on the moon.”

DAY TWENTY-TWO



“I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith.” 2 Timothy 4:7 NIRV

On the edge of our solar system, the spacecraft New Horizons was racing off into deep space. Scheduled was one stop along the way: on July 14, it passed by dwarf planet Pluto on a journey over 3 billion miles long.

If ever there was a definition of determination, there it is. This spacecraft had just one major goal since it first launched on January 19, 2006. That was *nine years* between launch time and the visit of Pluto. Ever since then, it had been traveling very fast, with just one goal in mind: Pluto.

A lot had happened since 2006. Still, New Horizons traveled all that time with focus on the prize. On April 9, 2015, its goal was literally in sight. Blurry pictures were sent back to Earth, the closest pictures ever taken of Pluto so far. But this spacecraft was not done yet. Soon, our world would be looking at spectacular high resolution pictures of a planet three billion miles away. We’ve learned so much about this dwarf planet, all because of the New Horizons spacecraft.

It’s good to have a goal for the future, isn’t it? It’s even better to be determined enough to get there. Sometimes, your dreams may seem a long ways away. It could seem like 3 billion miles away!

You just need to keep that same determination that got you this far. Never give up, and never surrender. Your new horizon is closer than you think!

DAY TWENTY-THREE



***“I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life.”
John 8:12 NIRV***

Ninety-three million miles away, the sun shines constant. It shines when we see darkness at night, and it shines still when clouds cover our skies. No matter what it seems, the sun rests there in the heavens, providing us warmth, light – and gravity. And we can’t live without it.

People used to think the sun – and everything else in the universe – orbited around the earth. That’s a terribly selfish way to think, but that’s how we all act occasionally. We think the whole world revolves around us!

Of course, astronomers discovered that’s not the case. The Sun is at the center! And just as the earth revolves around the sun – our lives should revolve around the Son. That’s S-O-N. And yes, that’s Jesus. He’s the One who was there before anything was created. He’s the one that holds everything together! When you put him at the Center, you’ll feel the warmth of His love. His light will shine into your life, chasing away the darkness.

The Son is the light of the world. We have no other light. Without Jesus, we are aimlessly floating around in the darkness, lost, and probably running into things we don’t need to. Thankfully, we have the light of the Son to shine the way!

When we put Jesus in the center, we have direction, hope, and life! And yet there are many around us still struggling to find their way. That’s why it is up to us to shine that light. Like the moon, we don’t have any light on our own – it’s His light that we reflect. In our lives, we must let that light shine before everyone, helping those lost in darkness to see the way.

He is the light of the world, and with His help you can shine that light. Put Jesus at the center.

DAY TWENTY-FOUR



***“Go into all the world. Preach the good news to everyone.”
Mark 16:15 NIRV***

On the launch pad, when Mission Control declares, “all system go,” that means everything is functioning properly, and big things are about to happen. It’s definitely a word of action!

It’s a word Jesus used frequently, a word filled with promise. With just one simple word, he told us what we needed to do: GO.

One of the first times we heard him say it was to a blind man. “Go,” said Jesus. “Your faith has healed you. “ Like that man Jesus was speaking to, we all were once blind, stumbling around in darkness. But with His light of the world, now we can see clearly! We didn’t do anything to deserve salvation and hope, but God gave it to each of us anyway. So go: our faith in Him has saved us, and given us help, healing and hope.

But Jesus wasn’t done telling us to go. Early in his ministry, Jesus stopped the Pharisees from throwing stones at a woman – their aim was to punish her for sinning. But he stopped them short when he asked, “Has any one of you *not* sinned? Then you be the first to throw a stone at her.”

Stones were dropped left and right. Jesus knew it very well: nobody is without sin. And yet his next command for us was a simple one: “Go, and sin no more.” He’ll forgive us when we ask, but we simply must turn away from doing those things that God isn’t pleased with.

How fitting that he ended his ministry with one final “Go.” Once the people there were healed and turned from their sins, there was one final mission from Jesus: “Go into all the world. Preach the good news to everyone.”

This is our mission too: Go into all the world! You’ve been given a gift, one that God wants shared with the world. It is our Great Commission, and God’s great hope that all the world can have everlasting life!

So get ready for action, and get ready to go: Go, because your faith has healed you. Go, and sin no more. And go into all the world and preach the good news to everyone. All systems go!



“Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion. They will always be secure. They will last forever.” Psalm 125:1 NIRV

In 2012, NASA sent to Mars a message: “In God We Trust.” We weren’t exactly expecting to find any aliens on Mars to read the message, but nevertheless, there it was, neatly engraved for all to see. In fact, it was visible in quite a few of the pictures sent back to earth, a reminder of who we put our faith in.

In August of that year, a rolling probe named the Curiosity began to explore the surface of Mars, taking soil samples and taking incredible pictures of the red Martian landscape. The entire earth was captivated at the images that came back from Mars.

But when taking pictures, NASA needed an object – any object – to show the scale of things. Just how big is that red Martian rock they are taking a picture of? One good and simple way to find out the answer is to compare it to some other everyday object.

NASA scientists decided a penny was perfect for the job, so they sent it off into space, fixed to the side of the Curiosity. Who says a penny in today’s world doesn’t go very far? In 2012, one went all the way to Mars!

This penny is from 1909 – you can see that clearly enough in the photos. It is deemed a “lucky” penny, and rightfully so, having made the tremendous journey to Mars and landing there safely. And right there at the bottom are the words, “In God We Trust.”

How many other phrases from earth have been written and sent to another planet? Intended or not, we sent a message to Mars: “In God We Trust.”

Nobody is there to read it right now, but for all time, let it be known that the message “In God we trust” was sent to Mars first!

Back in 1909, this was a national belief that was so strong, we had it engraved on all of our currency. Hopefully it is still our national belief when astronauts themselves someday happen upon the Curiosity, going back to get that penny!



DAY TWENTY-SIX



“Then the Lord God formed a man. He made him out of the dust of the ground. God breathed the breath of life into him. And the man became a living person.” Genesis 2:7 NIRV

A space walk can be as invigorating as a breath of fresh air! In 2009, the Space Shuttle Atlantis had many jobs to accomplish. But an important one involved astronauts Randy Bresnik and Robert Satcher Jr., who spent five hours and forty-two minutes out on a space walk, doing some ‘chores.’

The one big thing they needed to do: install a new oxygen tank on the International Space Station. This was a 1,200-pound tank of high-pressure oxygen, something they use to this day to replenish oxygen lost when spacewalkers enter and exit the station.

When done, they looked down at the earth from 220 miles away. It was an amazing view, one that took their breath away. They were over Micronesia, a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean. And if it weren’t for oxygen, these astronauts wouldn’t be there. Of course, if it weren’t for oxygen, the people in Micronesia wouldn’t be there either. Pure and simple: without oxygen, astronauts and people on earth cannot breath.

It is essential to living. But even more important than the air we breath is God’s presence in our lives. Without Him, we’re lost. Without Him, we’re in a desperate situation.

Yes, we need Him more than we need oxygen. Take a deep breath.

Take a deep breath, and listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah: “Who has measured the oceans by using the palm of His hand? Who has used the width of His hand to mark off the sky? Who has measured out the dust of the earth in a basket? Who has weighed the mountains on scales? Who has weighed the hills in a balance?”

This is the God we serve, the Creator of all the heavens and the earth – and the one who loves you so very much.

Take a deep breath again. With each breath you take, remember God’s creation, from the stars in the skies, to each little atom of oxygen you breathe. But remember most His amazing love for you. Be desperate for Him.



“The Lord makes secure the footsteps of the person who delights in Him.” Psalm 37:23 NIRV

Why aren't there any restaurants on the moon? Because there's no atmosphere!

It's a silly joke, but it is true that there's no atmosphere. And because there is no atmosphere, there is no erosion by wind, and any water on the moon is frozen as ice. Nothing will ever wash away.

This is why to this day you'll find twelve sets of footprints still on the moon. Only twelve men have walked upon the moon, and to this day you can see the evidence of their paths: just follow their footsteps.

People will see your footsteps too, of course. But they won't necessarily see the actual ones in the ground. What people can see is the life you're living, and the path you are taking. In that way, years from now, people will be able to look back and see the footprints you left.

Do those footprints lead to Jesus? In other words, are you living in a way that others can easily tell that you were a Christian? Do your footsteps lead others to Jesus?

We all leave a legacy, even those of us that are very young. Some footprints are big and strong, and others faint and barely there. But the important thing is that they lead others the right way.

Spend your time helping others, telling others about Jesus, going to church, praying, reading your Bible, and living for God. Let Him guide your steps in a walk of faith, and you'll leave some very deep footprints.



“They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to it.” John 17:16 NIRV

We are in this world and not of it. An older translation of the Bible even goes so far as to say we are aliens in this world. Of course, that doesn't mean we have green skin and large bug eyes. What it means is that this planet is not our heavenly home. Though the earth has a lot of good things to offer, God has something even better in mind for all of us.

That's why it's important not to focus on the stuff around us so much. Many times, we all can get caught up in what's going on right here on earth. Did your favorite sports team just lose again? Are you looking forward to that big vacation? Is that new superhero movie coming out soon? How can you save up some money to buy that one outfit? Have you gotten past that tough level on your favorite video game?

There's nothing wrong with any of that. But we need to ask these sorts of questions too: Have you visited that sick friend yet? Have you spent time with family? Have you prayed or read your Bible lately? Have you helped out at the church?

As we spend time on earth, we need to remember there are more important things to do. God wants us to have fun as well, but we can't do it at the expense of doing what is important. In other words, we have to remember that this is not our home. Our final home is not the earth, and there is only one thing we can take with us to heaven: those other people we tell about Jesus.



"I know what it's like not to have what I need. I also know what it's like to have more than I need. I have learned the secret of being content no matter what happens. I am content whether I am well fed or hungry. I am content whether I have more than enough or not enough. I can do all this by the power of Christ. He gives me strength." Philippians 4:12-13 NIRV

Some time ago, a dad did something fun with his five-year-old son: he showed him static electricity! Have you ever shuffled along in socks on a thick carpet, building up static electricity? It's fun to touch someone else and zap them!

You could say the entire space race was launched at that one moment. This five-year-old was inspired to figure out electricity, experimenting and always curious about discovery. His father frequently encouraged him to go farther, higher, and faster.

One day when he was cutting some tree limbs off of a cherry tree, he looked to the skies – and he saw the future. He dreamed of building a rocket that could leave the earth's atmosphere and go into the stars.

It was 1899. He came down from that tree with a burning passion to build a rocket. He would get us to space, he just knew it. He once said, "We have learned that we are too ignorant to safely pronounce anything impossible," and he meant it. The sky is the limit!

But he was mocked. The New York Times was especially critical. They said all his thinking was flawed, and that man would never land on the moon.

After one experiment in 1929, he launched a rocket just 90 feet up. The local paper wrote, "Moon rocket misses target by 238,799½ miles."

Still, he kept the faith in his vision. Fortunately for all of us, he kept his eyes on the stars. Rockets did eventually go to the moon, and those who built them all openly acknowledged the work of this one man, Dr. Robert Goddard. As for the critical newspapers, they had to eat their words, again. After we landed on the moon, they issued a correction, regretting the error. History proved who was right and who was wrong.

Like Dr. Goddard, if you have a vision for where you will be, you have to listen to the right people. If God has given you a dream, then it doesn't matter what anyone else says. God has the last say. Remember what Dr. Goddard once told us: "anything is possible." Soon enough, all those naysayers will be eating their words. Just keep your vision towards the skies, and never give up.

DAY THIRTY

