

## WOW - Discovering Genesis Together

### Session 11 - UNIQUENESS OF EARTH

#### Key Points

- There are eight planets in the solar system. The four closest to the sun are called terrestrial planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars. The four farthest from the sun are called the gas giants: Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. Pluto recently lost its planet status and is now classified as a dwarf planet.
- The Big Bang theory assumes there are no special places in the universe and that everything around us is the result of a cosmic accident, with no planning or purpose.
- Secular scientists estimate, using information gathered by the Hubble Space Telescope, that 1 in every 200 visible stars may have a planet with conditions necessary for life.
- Earth is the only planet in our solar system capable of sustaining life as we know it.
- Evidence of other planets capable of sustaining life is wishful thinking by scientists—no hard evidence for this exists.
- Secular scientists believe everything arose from random processes in primeval chaos, but the evidence supports the Bible when it says Earth was designed for man.

#### Talk about it

1. What do secular scientists use as evidence to suggest there is life on other planets?
2. What makes Earth uniquely suited for life? Is there Biblical evidence for this?
3. If, as Carl Sagan said, “we live on an insignificant planet of a humdrum star, lost in galaxy,” what does that say about our individuality, our relationships, and our life purpose?

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## Evolution vs Creation Perspectives

1. One of every 200 visible stars may have a planet with conditions necessary for life; Kepler-22b is a possible planet.

### Evolution says

- a. Kepler-22b might be right for life because of its location. Secular scientists believe Kepler-22b & the rest of the universe arose from random processes in primeval chaos

### Creation says

- a. There are multiple physical evidences of why Earth is optimized for life.
  - **The sun.** It goes through an 11-year activity cycle. But the highs and lows of the cycle do not negatively impact life on Earth.
  - **Orbital distance.** We're at the right spot for water to exist in the liquid state—a requirement for the chemistry of life to interact inside cells. If Earth's orbit were any different, the oceans would boil at the closest point to the sun and freeze at the farthest.
  - **The atmosphere.** It maintains thermal equilibrium suitable for life and protects us from space debris. Light energy from the sun warms the earth's surface, which in turn warms the air close to the surface. This less-dense air rises, helping maintain a temperature at which life can exist.
  - **The size and position of the moon.** If it were larger or nearer Earth, huge tides would overflow the lowlands and erode mountain ranges
  - **Earth's tilt.** Tilted on its axis 23.4 degrees relative to its orbit around the sun, it's perfect for sustaining life.
  - **Earth's electromagnetic field.** This field is not so strong that it disrupts life's vital chemistry or so weak that it permits destructive solar particles to enter the atmosphere.

**Key Verses:** Job 26:7; Isaiah 40:22; Isaiah 45:18; Genesis 1:16;  
Genesis 1:9-10; Genesis 1:20-21

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