On August 21, in a 70-mile-wide stretch across America, day turned to night as the "Great American Eclipse" swept across the United States. Millions of Americans looked through protective glasses, telescopes, and cameras to watch the moon cover the sun. Millions more watched it on television. Some people cheered, some laughed, and some cried. Many said that it made them realize how small and insignificant man is in the vastness of the universe. Others said they felt awe and wonder, seeing God's power and majesty in creation. When photographer Mark Bender witnessed the 1999 eclipse in England, he said that it awoke something inside him. Bender said, "I now suddenly believe in God, completely believe in God." Mark Bender now travels the world filming eclipses. He says he uses his work to try and capture the spiritual journey he began that day. He wants to share the awe of God's creation with others.

THE BEAT

September 3, 2017
Lesson 1

Think About It . . .

- Why do you think people respond to eclipses the way they do?
- What do you think about God when you look at what He created?

The Vastness of God's Creation

On the board, draw a large oval and label it "water." Next to it draw another large shape and label it "land." Label the space around them "air." Ask preteens to think of things they've seen in nature that demonstrate God's vastness and power. Tell students to write their ideas in the appropriate shapes. Then SAY: **Let's dig into God's Word to find out how God's power and love are seen in creation.**

Will you praise and thank God that His power and love are seen in creation?

Article and activity by Rebecca Haynes Mott

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