

08.05

Matt the Moose Talks about the North Star/Polaris
by Marilyn Alexander

Hi, kids. Do you like to look at the stars? I do. I would guess that Abram especially liked looking at the stars after God told him his children would number so many. How many stars do you think you can see without a telescope? About 5000, but there are many more.

See this photo? [Show photo of stars traveling around North Star.] Isn't it interesting? What's going on? It shows a time-lapse of stars traveling around one star. I want to tell you about that star in the middle.

Some people think it is the brightest star in the sky, but 49 other stars are brighter. That's still pretty bright. Its name is *Polaris* or the *North Star*. It is almost perfectly in the north. If you were to go to the North Pole and look up, this star would be directly overhead. It stands perfectly still while the entire northern sky wheels around it as you can see in this photo. Isn't that cool?!

You should be able to see the North Star nearly every clear night. I'll tell you how to locate it. Have you ever seen the constellation (the group of stars) called the Big Dipper? It's the easiest constellation to find. [Show picture.] To locate Polaris, all you have to do is to find the *stars that* outline the outer part of the Big Dipper's bowl. Simply draw a line from those two stars and go about 5 times the distance between those stars to Polaris. There you are at the North Star! (Heh, heh. I'm a poet and know it.)

And guess what. The North Star is also the last star in the handle of the Little Dipper constellation. See? [Locate in the picture.]

Back to the Big Dipper. Let me tell you that it, like a great big hour hand, goes *counter clockwise* full circle around Polaris in one day. No matter what day of the year (its appearance changes throughout the year) and what time of the night, the Big Dipper's *pointer stars* always point to the North Star.

Do you remember that the North Star stands still—never moves? Through the ages this fact has been the single most important travel aid, for everyone could trust the North Star to guide them and keep them from getting lost.

The North Star makes me think about Jesus Christ. How? Well, we can trust Him; He is our unmovable Guide. The Bible calls Him the bright and morning star (Revelation 22:16). Just as the North Star is the center of the stars' movement, so Jesus should be the center of our lives.

I hope you are able to find the North Star and to think about Abram's story and the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Polaris is the North Star," Bruce McClure, Astronomy Essentials| Brightest Stars, May 23, 2017.
<http://earthsky.org/brightest-stars/polaris-the-present-day-north-star> (altered)



Polaris, the North Star

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