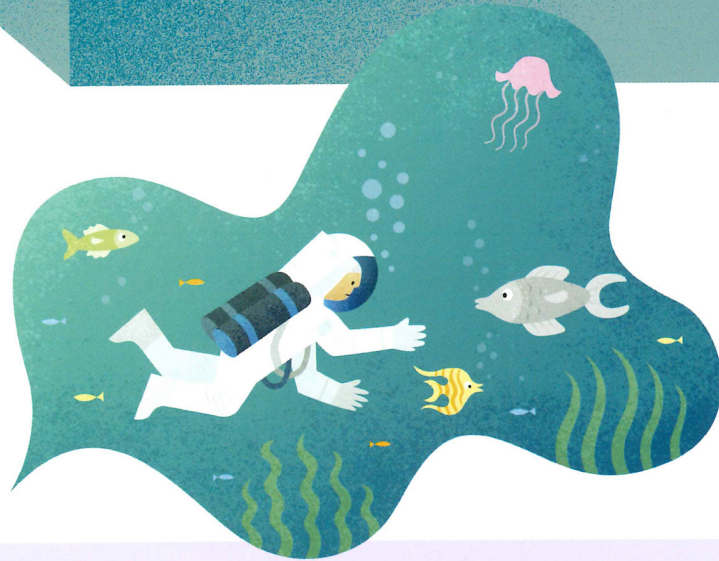


WANT TO BE AN ASTRONAUT?



God loves you. And we know that he has chosen you to be his.

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WANT TO BE AN astronaut? NASA is taking applications! There are a few requirements, though. First, you have to be an American citizen. You also need an *advanced* college degree in something like math, computer science, or engineering. Most astronauts are between the ages of twenty-six and forty-six, so you'll need to have a few more birthdays. Oh, and you'll also need to know how to scuba dive. *Wait! Scuba dive?* Yep! Diving deep into the sea helps astronauts practice weightlessness.

If you're accepted, you'll spend two years in training. Then you'll have to pass tests on things like spacewalking, handling robotic equipment, flying a jet, and speaking Russian! For the Artemis missions, which will focus on

exploring the Moon's surface and preparing for missions to Mars, only ten people out of over twelve thousand were accepted. More than 11,990 were rejected. And you thought getting a spot on the A team in basketball was tough!

Rejection hurts. And it happens to us all. Maybe you're rejected for astronaut training, the part in the play, or a seat at the table. Or maybe it's when someone says they don't want to be your friend. When rejection happens, you might start to wonder if something is wrong with you. That's when it's time to remember *who* made you: God! And He made you amazing!

Talk to Him about what's going on. Ask Him to help you figure out what to do. You might need to practice and try again. You might need to try something different or new. And you might need to move on and find a different set of friends. Just remember, being rejected isn't the end. It's the beginning of a new part of God's perfect plan.

**GOD, YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE
LAUGHED AT AND REJECTED. IT HURTS.
I'M SO THANKFUL I CAN ALWAYS COME
TO YOU. AMEN.**



DID YOU KNOW?

Even Albert Einstein got rejected! He may have been one of the most brilliant people ever, *but . . .* he flunked his exams in botany (the study of plants), zoology (the study of animals), *and* language. And he couldn't get into school until he passed them. Even then, some of his professors said he'd never graduate. But Einstein kept working—and he later made discoveries in math and science that changed the way we understand the universe!