

Galileo Searches for Truth

Galileo lived in Italy from 1564-1642. People in those days believed that the earth was the centre of the universe. They thought that the sun, moon and stars moved around the earth. Because the great teacher, Aristotle, had said that this was so, everyone believed it. Everyone, that is, except Galileo. He was one who wanted to find out truth for himself.

Galileo's brain couldn't rest. He had heard of a boy in Holland who had looked through a tube with spectacle glass in each end, and who found that distant objects looked much bigger. Galileo was determined to work out how this gadget worked.

He soon did. But Galileo's invention was far superior to the Dutch one. Through his telescope he could see Jupiter, which had four moons, Saturn with its rings, the spots on the sun and the milky way. Now that he had seen these things for himself, he was sure that the earth moved around the sun, and not the sun around the earth.

Galileo was very excited. He now understood that God's creation was greater than people had ever realised. Enthusiastically he started telling people of his discovery. However, trouble lay ahead. Galileo was called before the Pope. "How dare you defy the teachings of Aristotle!" shouted the Pope. "You must promise not to talk or write about your theory!"

Galileo kept quiet for seventeen years, but continued working silently. Then finally, he could keep quiet no longer. He published a book of his discoveries. He was brought before the Pope again. "Deny your theory or you will be imprisoned!" the Pope demanded.

Now quite old, and unable to bear the thought of imprisonment or torture, Galileo decided to agree that he had made some mistakes. But in his heart he knew that he had discovered the truth. Galileo lived the rest of his life quietly, working until his death in 1642.

In due time, the world found out that his discoveries were true, for truth cannot be stopped by threats of imprisonment or torture. Soon others took up the teachings of Galileo, which opened people's eyes to the laws of the Creation and the glory of the stars.

Activities – Galileo searches for truth

PART A

1. Where did Galileo live?
2. Which great teacher did everyone believe in those days?
3. What did people believe about the earth?
4. Draw a picture of the earth in the centre and the planets, sun moon and stars orbiting around it.
5. How did Galileo prove that this was not so?
6. Now draw the solar system as it really is.
7. How do you think Galileo would have felt when no one would believe him?
8. How does God feel when so many people do not believe the truth about Him?

PART B

God is truth

It is not always easy to see the truth. There are so many ideas that *could* be right. Some ideas _____ right at first. We have to search for truth, like searching for _____. To the people in Galileo's day, it seemed right that the earth was flat. If they had have searched for the truth as Galileo did, then they would have believed Galileo. Many people do not believe in the Bible because the have not searched to _____ Jesus. Many people don't want to take the time to think about Jesus because they know that they will have to _____ their way of living.

Missing words: know sound change gold

How can I help someone to find the truth?

I can share God's _____ with others.

I can pray for people who don't _____ Jesus.

I can _____ people what God has done for me.

Missing words: know tell love

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