

TEEN LESSON: THE BEGINNING OF EXPLORATION; Theme: LESSONS FROM ADAM

Memory Verse: Gen. 1:14; And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years."

Most "Fairy Tales" begin with "Once upon a Time" These stories are not facts, they are imaginary.

God's story does not begin this way. He says "In the beginning."

God's stories are facts, they are HIS-STORY.

From the beginning, God gave us times and numbers by which we can measure and calculate. Look at Genesis chapter 1 ; The first day God separated night from day. This was the first measurement of time. Each day God spoke, and new things appeared. The days were numbered. On the fourth day God made lights in the heavens. These are the sun, moon and stars. God said "Let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years."(Gen 1:14). Since then, man has used the sun, moon and stars to calculate time. Stars are used to navigate ships on the ocean. The sun is used to calculate hours and minutes and years.

Adam lived for nine hundred and thirty years. Adam and Eve had children and they began to populate the earth. Every day as they worked, they must have remembered what it was like before they disobeyed God. In those days, information was passed from one generation to the next by telling stories. Adam and Eve must have told their children about those days and about their choices. They were still intelligent and talented people. Just as they discovered and named the creatures in the "garden," they must have continued to discover and explore the things around them. They must have shared their discoveries with their children. Gen. chapter 4 tells about some of Adam's descendants who made musical instruments and tools.

Just as Adam had to make choices about what to do with what he was given, so did his descendants. Some chose to please and obey God and some chose to do evil and to please only themselves.

We have the same choice to make. Will we find ways to use our talents to please and obey God, or will we only please ourselves? Many of the explorers and scientists in history, looked for new ways to help people. Eg: The biologist, Alexander Fleming, who in 1928 discovered penicillin, a powerful antibiotic. Penicillin is used to treat many illnesses. How you think this would please God?

ASSIGNMENT This week: Get on a computer or go to a library. Study a scientist or explorer. Find out what they did and consider, would they be pleasing to God. Next week we can share some of these studies.