
Astronomy 312

'Galileo's Battle for the Heavens' - 2 hours

Questions to accompany a viewing of the movie.

"The Bible tells us how to go to Heaven, not how the Heavens go."

- Galileo Galilei

Discussion Questions

1. How does the church add 'spiritual significance' to Aristotle's geocentric model?
2. What interpretation of the Earth's position 'at the center' does the church propose?
3. What drew Galileo to mathematics?
4. What benefits did the University of Padua offer the young Galileo?
5. What were original telescopes used for? How did Galileo improve them?
6. How would you describe Galileo's character?
7. Why did Galileo wish to return to Tuscany (Florence)?
8. Why was Galileo fixated on finding physical evidence to support the heliocentric model?
9. What evidence did Galileo find for the motion of the Earth? Was he always correct?
10. How did Galileo answer to criticism that his ideas contradicted scripture?
11. Do you think Galileo *meant* to purposefully satirize the church in his Dialogues...?
12. In what way was Galileo's house arrest an unexpected benefit?