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# lesson 1: introduction

## I. The Myth of Adolescence\*

**Question:** When do you think the term “teenager” was first used?

- KJV in 1611
- Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet in 1623
- Benjamin Franklin’s Poor Richard’s Almanac in 1739
- Reader’s Digest in 1941
- An essay Jason wrote in 10<sup>th</sup> grade

**Question:** So, what were they called up until then?- adults

- for much of history, this began once you hit puberty
- you took on the responsibilities of an adult

### A. Famous teens of the past

- ALEXANDER THE GREAT founded his first colony at 16
- DAVID FARRAGUT (Navy’s first admiral) commanded a ship at age 12
- CLARA BARTON (began Red Cross) was a nurse at 14 and teacher at 16
- GEORGE WASHINGTON was a surveyor in VA at 16

**Question:** What are famous teens of the 2000’s? What are they famous for?

- singing a song, acting, doing something stupid?

### B. Something changed...the idea of a period between childhood and adulthood began in 1904

- The time of “growing up” became longer and longer

\*Early 1900’s, adolescence was from 14 ½ to 16

\*In 1970, adolescence was 13-18

\*Today, adolescence starts at 11 and sometimes lasts until 30

-30?! The reason is because this is seen as a period of immaturity where you really can’t do anything of importance

- Expectations of teens during this time became lower and lower

\*How come people of the past were able to do great things, but it doesn’t happen anymore? It is our expectation of what we think teens can/can’t do. It is what the media and our culture leads us to believe.

**Question:** Have you ever been in an advanced class and found that you did better?

\*One article online gave a list of expectations for teenagers:

\*by 14- make bed daily, take message on phone, clean room weekly with help

\*over 14- do 1 daily chore, keep gas in car, clean room weekly without help

-the article then said not to be alarmed if your teen doesn’t do all of the above

\*Just type in "Teens and" in your internet search engine and it tells you what the world thinks about teens:

-Teens and...depression, drugs, alcohol, money, peer pressure, drunk driving

## II. There's Got to Be More

A. God doesn't view this season of your life as a WASTE OF TIME

\*We can't live our teenage years thinking there are 2 choices:

- 1) Get drunk, smoke, do drugs, and rebel
- 2) Sit back, by shy, and do nothing

B. Maybe there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> choice (**I Corinthians 13:11**)

-Paul separated childhood and adulthood, but didn't put something in between. He said, enough is enough with acting like helpless babies. It's time to get busy and be who God has called us to be!

\*No more sitting back and watching others take the lead. No more talking about what could happen. No more being quiet.

\*We need some teens that will say "Being GOOD is not GOOD enough!"

**Think About It:** Could it be that God wants to use YOU to change your school and your world? YES!

## III. Example of a Teen in the Bible- Mary

A. Mary knew that she was given an extraordinary, or IMPOSSIBLE task (**Luke 1:26-36**)

B. Mary recognized that God's will is BIGGER than her own and OBEYED, calling herself God's "slave" (**Luke 1:37-38**)

## Put It Into Action:

What are some passions or gifts you have?

What are some wild and crazy ideas or goals you wish to see happen?

What are you going to do about it?

## Take it Home Challenge For week 1

If God lays on your heart to do something out of the ordinary that you don't think you can do, but you think it is the right thing to do...do it quickly before you have time to rationalize!

Also, memorize I Timothy 4:12 by next Wednesday.

*\*ideas for this lesson were taken from "Do Hard Things" by Alex & Brett Harris (Chapters 3-4)*