

Topic: Creation – Man Awesomely and Wonderfully Made (11)

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

Elementary:

Verse: “Because of this I also exercise myself to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men” (Acts 24:16).

Focus: God created man with a conscience in our spirit. Our conscience is the part of us that feels happy when we do things God likes us to do and sad when we do things God does not like.

Practical Application: Ask the children how they feel if they do something that they are not supposed to do, e.g., lying to their parents, not listening to their teacher, grabbing a toy without asking, etc. That bothering feeling is our conscience. It alerts us when we do something wrong. What do we do when our conscience bothers us and we feel bad inside? We need to say sorry, and make things right.

Activity suggestion: Have the children walk in a circle. As they are walking, tell them different situations (e.g., helping a friend, listening to your teacher, talking back to your parents, hitting someone, etc.). If the children think that a certain situation bothers their conscience (bad feeling), they need to stop walking. If it does not (good feeling), they can keep walking. Our conscience is the red light/green light in us. We need to pay attention and stop if something we do bothers our conscience.

Intermediate:

Verse: “...Men, brothers, I have conducted myself in all good conscience before God until this day” (Acts 23:1).

Focus: God created man with a conscience in our spirit. Our conscience is God’s representative approving what God approves and disapproving what God disapproves. Animals do not have a conscience.

Practical Application: Although animals have feelings, they do not have a conscience. They do not feel guilty or sorry about their bad actions. Our conscience is special because it gives us a lot of feelings. We need to take care of these feelings or we may lose the sensitivity in our conscience. There may be occasions when our conscience bothers us even if our friends approve of what we do. In these situations, we should listen to our conscience even if it would mean facing consequences. Discuss some examples and experiences (e.g., cheating in class, stealing someone’s belongings, being disrespectful to the teacher, making fun of other kids, etc.).

Advanced:

Verse: “I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie, my conscience bearing witness with me in the Holy Spirit” (Romans 9:1).

Focus: God created man with a conscience in our spirit. We need to learn to obey the sense in our conscience. When our conscience condemns us, we need to take care of the problem right away.

Practical Application: We have a conscience that bothers us when we do something wrong, even when no one else sees or knows. At times, we try to reason or justify our actions but inside, we feel bad or condemned. At such times, we need to confess according to our conscience. If our conscience bothers us because we lied to our parents, we need to confess to the Lord because we lied and also to our parents. If we ignore the feeling or don't respond to it, the sense in our conscience can grow dull. Help the children understand they need to take care of the feelings/sensations in their conscience all the time by confessing in a specific way and by confessing right away.