

YOU NEED A CLEAR CONSCIENCE TO BE HAPPY

To have true happiness, you must have a clear conscience. You must know in your heart that you are right with God and right with other people. The Apostle Paul said, "So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man. (Acts 24:16) We should do this also.



If your conscience tells you that you are wrong, listen! Make things right with God by confessing your sins to Him. When you sin against others apologize, ask for forgiveness and, if necessary, return stolen property or pay for damage you have caused. No one should be able to say to you, "You did me wrong and you never apologized or tried to make things right with me."

IS GOD SPEAKING TO YOU NOW?

- ★ Make a list of the wrong things you've done.
- ★ Go to the person and apologize.
- ★ Apologize correctly.
- ★ Make things right with the other person.
- ★ Don't make excuses.

Remember, your conscience is one way God speaks to you!



SUMMER LESSON AGES 10-12

Write your answer choice in the box provided for each question.

1. When we are right with God and right with others, we have:

- a. a guilty conscience.
- b. a clear conscience.

2. To make things right with God, we must:

- a. confess our sins to him.
- b. go to church and do good things.

3. The best way to apologize is:

- a. to ask someone else to tell the person you offended that you are sorry.
- b. to go to the person you offended and speak to him or her.

4. An example of the right way to apologize is to say:

- a. "I'm sorry I lost my temper, but you made me do it."
- b. "I'm sorry I lost my temper. Will you forgive me?"

5. If you stole from someone, you should:

- a. ask for forgiveness and return what you stole.
- b. just ask the person to forgive you.

6. If you have offended someone:

- a. you can make up for it by doing something nice for them.
- b. go to the person and ask them to forgive you.

7. If you were partly wrong and the other person was partly wrong:

- a. you do not have to apologize to them.
- b. you are still responsible to apologize for your part.

8. If your conscience tells you that you are wrong

- a. listen to your conscience!
- b. ask someone else what they think about it.

Name _____ F ____ M ____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Prov _____ PC _____

Birthday _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Here's How

Read the story first and answer the questions. Complete the answer sheet and send it back. We will then send you your next lesson.

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YOUR
CONSCIENCE
THE VOICE OF GOD

YOUR CONSCIENCE - THE VOICE OF GOD

Have you noticed that you get an uneasy feeling down inside of you when you say or do something wrong? This is your conscience. It is that little voice inside of you that tells when you are right and when you are wrong. You must learn to listen to your conscience because this is one way God **speaks** to you!

When you have a right relationship with God and with others, you will have a clear conscience.

When you sin against God or another person, you will have a guilty conscience.



The only way to get rid of your guilty conscience is to make things right with God and with people you have **sinned against**. When you do this, you will have a clear

conscience once again.

HOW DO I MAKE THINGS RIGHT WITH GOD AND PEOPLE?

To make things right with God, you must admit your sins to Him. The Bible says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9). When you confess your sins to God, He forgives you

and makes your heart clean.

There is one more thing you must do. When you wrong anyone in any way, it is called an offense. To have a clear conscience, you must not only make things right with God, but also with the people whom you have offended. Allow God to search your heart and show the offenses (wrong things) you have done to other people. Let us consider the steps to make things right with others:

1. Make a list of the wrong things you have done. Begin making a list of the wrong things you have done and the people you have hurt or offended. Write down every offense you can think of. Do not be in a hurry. Some things will come to your mind quickly. It may take time to think of other offenses. When you have completed your list it may look like this:

- ★ I lied to my mother
- ★ I stole from Mr. Brown
- ★ I have never forgiven my father for what he did to me

2. Go to the person and apologize.

Once the Lord has shown you that you need to apologize to someone, do it promptly.



not try to blame someone else.

3. Apologize correctly:

When you apologize to someone, say what you did wrong and ask that person to forgive you. Do

not try to blame someone else. Many times, people apologize in a wrong way. If you apologize in the wrong way, the offense is not cleared up and it will still be on your conscience.

WRONG WAYS TO APOLOGIZE:

"If I did anything wrong, I'm sorry." This is not a real apology because you have not admitted that you did anything wrong. You have not said what your offense was or asked for forgiveness.

"I was wrong, but you were wrong too." This is wrong because you are trying to excuse yourself. You must take full responsibility for what you did, regardless of what the other person did.

"I'm sorry I lost my temper, but you made me do it." This is also an example of the wrong way to apologize because you are blaming the other person for what **you** did!

THE RIGHT WAY TO APOLOGIZE:

- a. Say what you did was wrong.
- b. Do not blame anyone else.
- c. Ask the person to forgive you.

Here is an example of the right way to apologize: **"Brian, I talked mean to you the other day. Will you forgive me?"**

4. Make things right with the other person.

If you have stolen from someone, make things right with that person. It is not enough to say "I'm sorry that I stole from you. Please forgive me." You must also return what you have stolen or pay for it.

If you stole money, pay it back. If you are unable to do this immediately, make arrangements to pay a certain amount each week until it is paid back. Be sure to keep your word and do what you promised to do.



5. Don't make excuses. Sometimes you know what you should do, but make excuses for not doing it. It is wrong to allow an excuse to keep you from apologizing to someone when you know you should do it. Here

are some common excuses:

"I'll do something special for that person to make up for my offense." You cannot say "I know that I was rude to my mother, so I'll help with the dishes tonight to make up for it." This will not clear up your offense. You need to go to your mother and ask her to forgive you. Then, if you want to do something special for her, that is fine.

"I'll apologize later." Putting things off is a bad idea. Jesus said that we should go quickly to those we have wronged and ask for forgiveness.

"I was wrong, but the other person was wrong too." That may be true, but you are still responsible for what you did that was wrong. When you apologize for your wrongdoing, perhaps the other person will apologize too. Even if they don't, you have done what is right.