

What Is My Conscience?

It's something that makes you tell your mum before your sister does.

It's like a voice inside you.

It's like an angel and a devil sitting on your shoulder, whispering things into your ear.

It's something that makes you feel guilty when you do wrong.

Discuss: What is my conscience?

- 1 My conscience is there as**
 - a) a guide.
 - b) an accuser.
- 2 My conscience is something**
 - a) inside of me.
 - b) outside of me.
- 3 If I didn't have a conscience,**
 - a) I would enjoy life more.
 - b) I would hurt others more.
- 4 If you're not sure something is right or wrong, you should**
 - a) do it and not worry.
 - b) ask for guidance.
- 5 If your conscience clearly tells you to do something even though your friends would not be pleased, you should**
 - a) follow your conscience.
 - b) keep your friends happy.
- 6 A friend really believes something is wrong that you don't. You should**
 - a) respect their conscience.
 - b) tell them to stop being silly.
- 7 As you get older your conscience**
 - a) should grow more mature.
 - b) should stay the same.

**MY CONSCIENCE IS MY MIND
USING GOD'S LAW TO JUDGE
FREELY WHETHER SOME ACT
IS RIGHT OR WRONG.**

- **My conscience is not something outside of me.**

'I' sits somewhere in the middle of the word conscience.

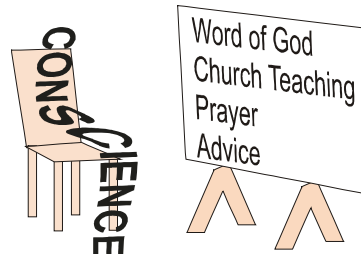


- **The more I ignore my conscience, the easier it becomes to ignore my conscience.**

CONSCIENCE

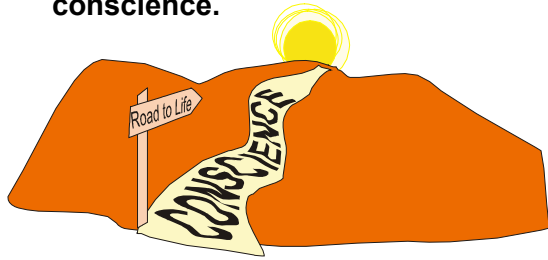
- **I need to educate my conscience.**

I need to 'tune in' more clearly to the Voice of God deep within my being.



I do this, for example, by listening to God's Word, by praying and taking good advice from others.

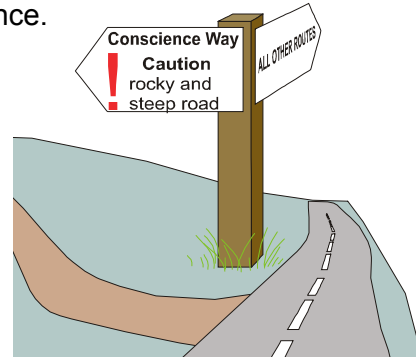
- I should always follow my conscience.



Sometimes when I don't wish to follow my conscience I may feel a 'tug of war' inside. In the end, though, if I wish to do right I must follow my conscience.

- The cost of conscience

Sometimes, it costs us to follow our conscience.



To do

- 1 Can you complete a CONSCIENCE acrostic?

Counsels me to make good choices
Open to the Voice of God
Needs educating, forming a morally
Should always be follow
C
I
E
N
C

- 2 This is an old fashioned picture whose title is 'Conscience'.



Do you think this is a good way to show what your conscience is?

Explain your answer.

Extension

Story of Franz Jägerstätter

Franz Jägerstätter was born in 1907 in a little village in Austria. He was quite a rowdy young man and didn't care too much for the Church, although he had been baptised a Catholic. When he married he calmed down and became more serious about his faith.

Meanwhile Hitler was calling up all young men from Germany and Austria to serve in his army and fight for Nazi Rule. Franz received an order to join the army. He refused to join because he believed Hitler's ideas and plans were evil. Twice more was Franz given orders to join the army. He still refused, believing in his heart that God did not wish him to be part of the Nazi war machine.

Franz was now a father of three little girls; his friends and neighbours told him to join the army. They all knew that Franz would be imprisoned and executed if he continued to refuse. 'Think of your wife and family' was the constant message. Franz loved his family dearly, and yet he knew that to serve in Hitler's army would be to go against his conscience.

Franz Jägerstätter was imprisoned and executed for refusing to be a soldier for Hitler.

- a) Franz had a very hard choice to make. What things made his choice so hard?
- b) Some might say that Franz did a foolish thing in refusing Hitler – his wife was made a widow and his children lost their father. What would you say against this view?