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Dear Leader,

The most significant parenting strategies are those that focus on the heart of a child. God has created an inner motivation system inside each person that involves the conscience and the Holy Spirit. This video series teaches parents how to maximize the conscience in their parenting.

Each session stops in the middle and asks a discussion question. We would recommend that you give clear instructions at that point that say, "Please stand up, form into groups of 4-5 people, and discuss this question for a few minutes." After the group discussion time take an additional few minutes to allow some people to report to the large group their answers.

This Leader's Guide is fully reproducible and provides parents with handouts and support materials. We recommend that you provide parents with a packet of handouts each time they come and suggest to them that they create a notebook to keep them in. You may also want to provide additional blank paper in case people need more room to take notes.

At the end of each video session, parents can form into their groups again and answer the discussion questions provided for each lesson. You might follow that discussion time with a group report asking parents something like, "What are you learning today that you're finding helpful?"

End the time with prayer. If you have time, you might even suggest that people share specific prayer requests about their family and pray in groups. This adds a personal touch and contributes to a sense of support between group members.

We are eager to help you equip parents, so please take time to visit our web site and discover ways that we can support you in your role to strengthen families.

Blessings,

Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, RN, BSN

Parenting  
*Heart*  
WORK

# Everyday Parents **CAN** Raise **Extraordinary Kids!**

VIDEO SERIES

## Leader's Guide

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# Discussion Questions

During each session, the video pauses itself to allow parents to discuss a question on the screen. At the end of each lesson parents can further discuss additional questions provided in a handout. Small group discussion gives an opportunity for parents to digest the material they're hearing and to integrate it into their lives. Furthermore, parents then have opportunity to support and pray for each other. Here are the questions that will appear on the screen in the middle of each session.

**Session 1** What are you hearing so far about the conscience that you're finding helpful?

**Session 2** Of the four areas of the conscience, which one seems strong in your child and how have you seen that demonstrated?

**Session 3** What are some common family rules and then what are the convictions that feed them?

**Session 4** What are some ways that your child has demonstrated honor? How might you show delight when you see demonstrations of honor in your child?

**Session 5** Why does correction of children frustrate so many parents? What would be helpful to reduce that frustration?

**Session 6** When you're faced with a temptation to be dishonest, what is your motivation to do the right thing?

**Session 7** Given the age of your child, how might you raise the awareness level of the conscience?

**Session 8** What is an area where you believe your child needs practice sessions to overcome a weakness? You might share the heart quality and arena you jotted down earlier.

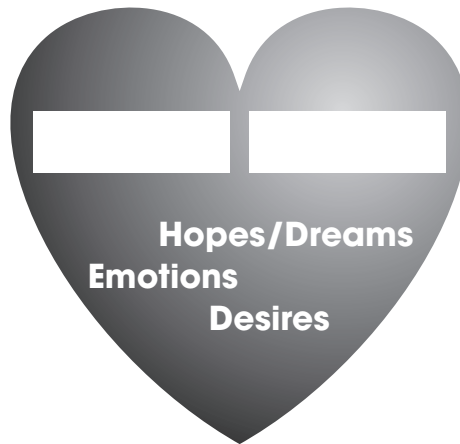


# Session 1

## Moving from External Prompters to the Heart

**A Heart-Based Approach to Parenting Touches Children Deeply and for the Long Term**

**Two Governors of the Heart are:**



**Uses of the word  
“conscience” in  
the New Testament**

John 8:9  
Acts 23:1  
Acts 24:16  
Romans 2:15  
Romans 9:1  
Romans 13:5  
1 Corinthians 4:4  
1 Corinthians 8:7  
1 Corinthians 8:8  
1 Corinthians 8:12  
1 Corinthians 10:25  
1 Corinthians 10:27  
1 Corinthians 10:28  
1 Corinthians 10:29  
2 Corinthians 1:12  
2 Corinthians 4:2  
2 Corinthians 5:11  
1 Timothy 1:5  
1 Timothy 1:19  
1 Timothy 3:9  
1 Timothy 4:2  
2 Timothy 1:3  
Titus 1:15  
Hebrews 9:9  
Hebrews 9:14  
Hebrews 10:22  
Hebrews 13:18  
1 Peter 2:19  
1 Peter 3:16  
1 Peter 3:21

**The Conscience Has Four Parts**



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**Conscience Part #1:  
Do What's Right** —Acts 23:1

**Conscience Part #2:  
Deal with Wrongs** —1 Samuel 25:30-31

**PARENTING  
STRATEGY #1**

**Tighten  
Your Action Point**



**ASSIGNMENT**

Look for ways to capitalize on the internal promptings your child has. What is your child already doing that's good, right, or helpful?

**THEOLOGICAL TRUTH — Salvation**

Ultimately God, through salvation, cleanses the conscience. —Hebrews 9:14

Then we have the responsibility to work that out in daily relationships. —Acts 24:16

What if a child's heart is not sensitive to the ways of God?

## **Session 1**

# **Discussion Questions**

- 1.** One aspect of the conscience's work is to affirm the person for doing what's right. Read 2 Corinthians 1:12. What is the message Paul is communicating to the Corinthians? How might the idea of the conscience be used with children in a similar way to prompt them to do what's right?
- 2.** Romans 13:5 says that some are motivated externally (fear of punishment) others are motivated internally (the conscience). What are some examples of ways your children are externally motivated? What are some ways your children are internally motivated?
- 3.** One aspect of the conscience prompts a person to deal with wrongs. Read 1 Samuel 24:1-6. Using various translations, describe what happened inside of David. How does this same thing happen to our children and how can we take advantage of it when we correct them?
- 4.** How does your child know when you mean business?
- 5.** If you find yourself yelling or nagging, what are some ways that you can change to tighten your action point?
- 6.** Why is a tight action point important and what does it communicate?
- 7.** Can a parent's action point be too tight?

# BIBLICAL INSIGHT ON THE CONSCIENCE

**Insight:** The conscience points us in the direction of doing what's right and avoiding what's wrong.

**Scripture:** Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning against me. That is why I did not let you touch her." (Genesis 20:6)

**Insight:** The conscience is the place where we are reminded of what we've done wrong.

**Scripture:** My master will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the LORD has brought my master success, remember your servant. (1 Samuel 25:31)

**Insight:** Sometimes the things we do wrong are the result of foolishness. A guilty conscience is a painful thing. The solution is to receive God's forgiveness because God takes away guilt.

**Scripture:** David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. O LORD, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing." (2 Samuel 24:10)

**Insight:** A clear conscience gives confidence to speak boldly and act courageously.

**Scripture:** Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said, "My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day." (Acts 23:1)

**Insight:** It is a worthy goal to work on a clear conscience before God and others.

**Scripture:** So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man. (Acts 24:16)

**Insight:** The conscience helps us deal with honesty.

**Scripture:** I speak the truth in Christ — I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 9:1)

**Insight:** We don't just submit to rules to avoid punishment. That's external motivation. We also submit because it's the right thing to do. That's the conscience at work.

**Scripture:** Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. (Romans 13:5)

**Insight:** The conscience is a tool for pointing out right and wrong. It doesn't determine what is actually right or wrong. Innocence and a clear conscience are two different things.

**Scripture:** My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. (1 Corinthians 4:4)

**Insight:** A weak conscience is ill-informed. Regardless, it's a valuable tool and requires protection even if it is ignorant.

**Scripture:** But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. (1 Corinthians 8:7)

**Insight:** A good conscience and a strong faith are foundational for our lives.

**Scripture:** ...holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. (1 Timothy 1:19)

**Insight:** A conscience is not cleared by doing good things. It's cleared by accepting God's forgiveness through the sacrifice of his Son.

**Scripture:** This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper...How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! (Hebrews 9:9,14)





## Session 2 Internal Prompters and the Conscience



**Conscience Part #3:  
Be Honest** —Romans 9:1

**Conscience Part #4:  
Care About Others** —Luke 10:25-37

Everyone has a conscience (Romans 2:15) but it can be damaged or corrupted (Titus 1:15, 1 Timothy 4:2)

**PARENTING  
STRATEGY #2**  
Recognize  
the Power of Your Voice

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

—Deuteronomy 6:6-9

## **THEOLOGICAL TRUTH — The Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is not the conscience but may use the conscience to prompt a child internally.

The Holy Spirit works on the heart in similar ways as the conscience.

- Convicts of sin —John 16:8
- Motivates towards forgiveness —1 John 1:9
- Helps fight temptation —1 Corinthians 10:13
- Provides power to do right and avoid wrong —Ephesians 6:10-18
- Guides into truth —John 16:13
- Confirms honesty —Romans 9:1
- Reminds of the right thing —John 14:26
- Lives inside believers —John 14:17
- Makes God's teaching clear —1 Corinthians 2:10-14



### **ASSIGNMENT**

Ask your child about times God has spoken to him or her. Share your answers to the same question.

## **PARENTING STRATEGY #3**

**Develop a Spiritual Relationship with Your Child**

## Session 2

# Discussion Questions

- 1.** One aspect of the conscience encourages a person to be honest. Read 2 Corinthians 4:2. Paul is saying that deception and distorting the truth are harmful, but telling the truth about God's Word touches a person's conscience. In short, honesty strengthens the message. What are ways that honesty contributes to relationships in general?
- 2.** Another aspect of the conscience encourages a person to care about others. How does caring about others address selfishness in a child's heart?
- 3.** Romans 9:1 distinguishes between the conscience and the Holy Spirit. If a person were confused and thought the conscience and the Holy Spirit were the same, how might you explain the differences? How are they similar?
- 4.** What are some nurturing comments your parents made when you were growing up that have stuck with you over the years?
- 5.** Describe the difference between firmness and harshness. How does that distinction help parents?
- 6.** Why is it difficult for some parents to share spiritually with their children? What are some things a parent might do to overcome that uncomfortable feeling?
- 7.** What are some principles and thoughts that you'd like your children to remember and how can you use the power of your voice to communicate that?

# PARENTAL VOICE EVALUATION WORKSHEET

As you work with your children in the coming days take time and write down some of the things you say. Then step back and evaluate the message your child might be receiving. We've listed a few examples to get you started.

<b>WHEN PARENTS SAY...</b>	<b>CHILDREN HEAR...</b>
You're making me angry.	What I'm doing is wrong because it's upsetting Mom. Her emotions are controlled by me.
You'll be in trouble when your dad gets home.	Mom doesn't have the authority or power to discipline me.
Have fun (as the child heads out the door).	My goal in life is to have fun.
Be careful. Watch out. You're going to get hurt.	Safety is the most important value. I better not try anything new because I might get hurt. Risk is bad.
Clean up. It's time to go. (for the third time with no apparent action required)	My mom is getting ready to go but it isn't time for me to get ready yet. I'll wait until she shows me a little anger. Then I'll know we're getting close.
Be nice to your friends or they won't like you anymore.	We're kind to others so that people will like us.
If I find out you're lying, you're going to be in big trouble.	Lying is wrong when you get caught.
Come now or I'm going to leave you here.	I need to obey so that I don't get left behind.



## Session 3 Doing What's Right Starts with Convictions



Motivating Emotion:

**Children already have convictions.  
Unfortunately many of those beliefs need to change.**

**PARENTING  
STRATEGY #4**  
**Use Rules  
to Teach Convictions**

But Daniel purposed in his heart  
that he would not defile himself  
with the portion of the king's  
meat.

—Daniel 1:8 (KJV)

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## Enemies of the Conscience

### PARENTING STRATEGY #5

**Coach**  
**Children to Handle Emotions**

How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.

—Psalm 119:9

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

—Psalm 119:11



### ASSIGNMENT

Read Proverbs chapter 1 with your child and ask the question, "What's a verse in this passage that applies to children, maybe not you in particular, but other kids?"

### THEOLOGICAL TRUTH — Scripture

The scriptures are the authority and provide the basis for solid convictions and a strong conscience.

### PARENTING STRATEGY #6

**Show Children**  
**that the Bible is Exciting**  
**and Relevant**

## Session 3 Discussion Questions

1. What does Paul mean in 1 Corinthians 4:4 and what does that teach us about the conscience?
2. Read Deuteronomy 6:6-9. What were the Israelites commanded to do? What were some creative strategies they were given to accomplish that? What are ways you can pass godly values on to your children?
3. In what ways are emotions helpful? In what ways can they be dangerous? What are some strategies that can help children stop before they get carried away with their emotions?
4. Why is it helpful to talk about the convictions behind the rules?
5. In 1 Timothy 1:5, 1:19, and 3:9, what does Paul connect with the conscience? What are some ways that parents can pass their faith on to their kids?
6. Why is activity a powerful teaching tool for children? How can parents use activity more in teaching spiritual truth?
7. Why do many parents get angry when their children are angry? What can parents do to remain calm in those frustrating moments?

# NEWS ARTICLE:



## Man Finds \$2,000 in Take Out Box

INDIANAPOLIS, IN — After ordering food from Kentucky Fried Chicken, the man was handed a bag supposedly containing his food. When he got out to his car, drove to the park, and opened up his meal he found no food but over \$2000 in bills and change instead.

Apparently the manager

was accustomed to taking money to the bank disguised in the take-out containers. As he was preparing to leave the store, one of the servers grabbed the wrong bag and gave it to the customer providing him with a surprise and an ethical dilemma.

A few minutes later the man re-appeared at the

counter with the money. He said, "I knew there must be some mistake and I wouldn't have felt right just keeping the money. I was just hoping I could get my food instead." The manager gave twice as much food as he had ordered in the first place.

## TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT THE CONSCIENCE

### QUESTIONS:

- What's wrong with "Finder's Keepers, Losers Weepers?"
- How would you decide whether to keep something you found?
- How do you think the man might have felt had he kept the money?
- How do you think the man felt when he returned the money?

### SUGGESTION:

Emphasize the feelings associated with doing right or wrong and help children understand that those feelings come from the conscience.

### FURTHER QUESTIONS:

- Why is a clear conscience important?
- If the man would have kept the money, how might his conscience have bothered him?

### BIBLE STORY:

- Read the story of David in 1 Samuel 24:1-19.
- Why did David believe that cutting off part of Saul's robe was the wrong thing to do?
- How did he feel when he did the wrong thing?
- When David revealed to Saul that he had cut off part of his robe, Saul stopped pursuing him. Why? How does this relate to the conscience?





## Session 4 A Strong Conscience Helps Children Care About Others



Motivating Emotion:

Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way.

—Hebrews 13:18

### Honor Definition

Treat people as special, do more than what's expected, and have a good attitude.

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

—Philippians 2:4




**Teach Children  
to Honor Others**

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## PARENTING STRATEGY #8

Equip Children to Take Initiative

The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.  
—Luke 6:45



**ASSIGNMENT**

Plan secret acts of kindness for your child and then have your child partner with you to plan secret acts of kindness for someone else.

### THEOLOGICAL TRUTH — Man

God created humans to be different than animals. People have hearts. The heart contains the operating principles of a person. When the heart changes, then actions, speech, and attitudes change as well.

### To Help Develop a Heart of Compassion

- Build empathy
  
- Practice kindness toward others

## Session 4 Discussion Questions

1. In Psalm 103:13 a father is characterized by compassion. What are some ways that compassion is demonstrated in family life?
2. In Luke 15:20 the prodigal son's father eagerly welcomed him back, prompted by what emotion? How can parents move from anger to compassion when their children do the wrong thing?
3. In the video Scott talked about a cue of a dog whining to go out. Joanne talked about the clock as a cue. What are some other cues in family life that parents can help their children become aware of?
4. Empathy is often fostered when children tune in to the emotions of others. How can parents help their children develop empathy?
5. Romans 12:10 says, "Honor one another above yourselves." What are some practical ways to raise the level of honor in family life?
6. Honor encourages people to do more than what's expected. What might that look like for children of different ages? What does it mean for parents?
7. The conscience prompts a person to care about others. How have you seen that demonstrated in your family?

# BENEFITS OF A STRONG CONSCIENCE

Parents wish that their children were internally motivated, choosing to do what's right, taking initiative to help out, and apologizing on their own. In fact, as you think about the conscience, you realize that many of the things on your wish list are found within its parameters. Here is a list of practical ways the conscience plays out. Choose one of your children to evaluate. Check boxes in the first column to indicate areas where your child is already strong. Check boxes in the second column to indicate areas where you'd like to see improvement.

**Already Strong**

**Needs Improvement**

## DO WHAT'S RIGHT

- |                          |                          |       |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child does what I say without resistance.                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child completes a job instead of doing it part way.          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child does what's right even when no one is around to watch. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child is able to stand against peer pressure.                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child works hard to complete a job that's difficult.         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child takes a stand for what's right.                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child reports back when a job is completed.                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | _____   |

## DEAL WITH WRONGS

- |                          |                          |       |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child admits when he's done the wrong thing.                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child responds well to correction.                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child values correction and learns from it.                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child accepts responsibility for his part of the problem.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child feels remorse for an offense.                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child takes initiative to make wrongs right.                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child feels uncomfortable with wrong and seeks to avoid it. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | _____  |

## BE HONEST

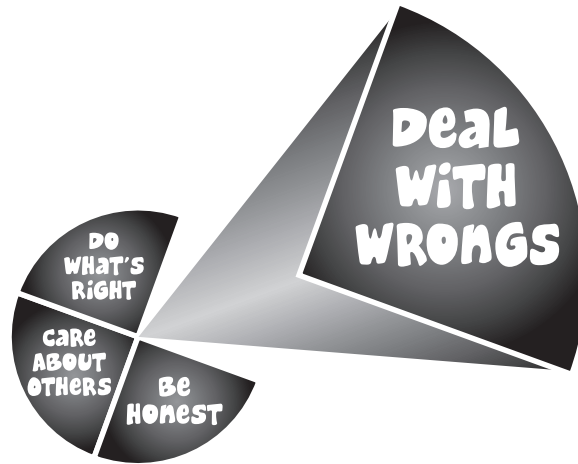
- |                          |                          |       |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child tells the truth.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child is honest when no one is watching.                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child avoids stealing, cheating, and lying.                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child speaks honestly when confronted with an offense.               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child takes a stand for integrity when faced with dishonest options. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child tells a story without exaggerating or embellishing it.         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | _____   |

## CARE ABOUT OTHERS

- |                          |                          |       |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child thinks about the feelings of others.                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child is kind to siblings, friends, and others.                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child is on the look out to help people.                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child cleans up his messes and contributes to the clean up of others too. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child looks for things that need to be done and does them.                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | My child wants to make the world a better place.                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... | _____  |



## Session 5 The Conscience is a Tool for Clearing Up Offenses



Motivating Emotion:

### **THEOLOGICAL TRUTH — Sin**

All have sinned, both parents and children. God has provided a motivator called guilt to prompt us toward repentance. Guilt is basically a good emotion and needs to be handled correctly.

The corrections of discipline are  
the way to life,

—Proverbs 6:23

**PARENTING  
STRATEGY #9**

**Help Children  
Value Correction**

---

## **PARENTING STRATEGY #10**

**Provide a Way to Think Rightly About Offenses**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

—1 John 1:9

## **PARENTING STRATEGY #11**

**End Discipline Times with Affirmation and Forgiveness**



### **ASSIGNMENT**

Have a discussion with your child around these questions, "In what ways is correction helpful in life? In what ways is it not helpful?"

## **Session 5**

# **Discussion Questions**

- 1.** What are some positive things that come from correction? What are some negative things that come from correction?
- 2.** Why do you think Proverbs 6:23 says that the corrections of discipline are the way to life?
- 3.** If correction is positive and helpful, why do parents often get frustrated when they have to do it? Why do children often react poorly to correction?
- 4.** In what ways might you find the Positive Conclusion to be a helpful tool in your parenting? List several ways the Positive Conclusion contributes to a godly way of thinking about mistakes.
- 5.** How can parents avoid shaming their children? How can parents take advantage of the guilt produced by the conscience?
- 6.** God is forgiving and merciful, and at the same time righteous and just. In what ways do parents emulate these attributes of God in their parenting?
- 7.** Of course, parents too are imperfect people and make mistakes. How can those mistakes be used in a positive way with children?

# GUILT VS SHAME

**Guilt** is a feeling of conviction for doing the wrong thing.

**Shame** is a feeling of inadequacy because I'm a failure.

**Guilt** is a healthy emotion that motivates a person to admit an offense and take proper action to make amends.

**Shame** is an unhealthy emotion that cripples a person with feelings of helplessness and hopelessness.

**Guilt** can be used by God to motivate repentance.

**Shame** is unhelpful and makes a person stop trying.

Parents can take advantage of the natural **guilt** that children feel and help them deal with offenses. Some children cover up their guilt feelings with anger, excuses, blaming, or rationalizing their offense.

Parents make a mistake of using **shame** to get their kids attention, drill the offense home, or somehow make an impression on the child. Sometimes parents even take out their own frustration on their kids by shaming them.

**Guilt** is ultimately solved through the gift of Jesus Christ as a sacrifice for our sin. The most complete response to sin is to seek God's forgiveness through faith in Jesus. Then each person can do what's necessary to seek forgiveness from other people and make amends for an offense.

**Shame** can prompt children to feel inadequate. Some kids have perfectionist tendencies that provide an internal message that says, "You'll never measure up." Other kids have a fear that admitting an offense somehow makes them a bad person. These errors in thinking about guilt hinder a person's ability to respond properly to the conscience. Parents can look for ways to help these children get rid of their thinking errors and process offenses correctly.

To help strengthen the conscience parents can teach children how to process offenses. Help children confess what they did wrong and then receive forgiveness from God, you, and others. Feeling forgiven is one of the benefits of a clear conscience. As you process offenses with your children you are exercising that area of the conscience with them.





## Session 6 Honesty is Foundational to Relationships



Motivating Emotion:

**PARENTING  
STRATEGY #12**  
**Teach Children  
About the Truth**

- Dishonesty always occurs under pressure.
- Children who are dishonest are often weak in the problem solving department or are lazy or both. So sometimes the solution to dishonesty involves other strategies such as giving children more work to do.

## PARENTING STRATEGY #13

### Raise the Importance of Integrity

#### The Integrity Package

- You receive the benefit of the doubt
- You are trusted and believed to be trustworthy
- You receive the privilege of privacy
- You have an internal freedom and peace

And my honesty will testify for me in the future, whenever you check on the wages you have paid me. Any goat in my possession that is not speckled or spotted, or any lamb that is not dark-colored, will be considered stolen.

—Genesis 30:33

## PARENTING STRATEGY #14

### Maintain High Accountability

- The road back

#### ASSIGNMENT

Explore with your child the idea that dishonesty always occurs under pressure. What are some examples and what does one do about it?

#### THEOLOGICAL TRUTH — God

A study of the conscience provides a greater appreciation of God's character. Trust is foundational to relationships. Not only do human relationships require trust, but trust is the basis for a relationship with God as well.

## Session 6 Discussion Questions

1. According to 1 Timothy 4:2 what can happen to the conscience if a person develops a habit of lying?
2. What is the “benefit of the doubt” and why is it important?
3. What are some ways parents can communicate to children the value of being trustworthy?
4. How would you respond to a teenager who has been dishonest, yet says she has a right to privacy?
5. What are some ways that parents can demonstrate integrity as an example to their children?
6. How can the reality that God is good and God is trustworthy help a child to be honest?
7. In the video Scott said that dishonesty always occurs under pressure and Joanne said that dishonesty is a short cut in life. How can a child develop a heart that is strong enough to withstand the pressure to be dishonest?

# NEWS ARTICLE:



## Send a Gift to Relieve Your Conscience

WASHINGTON, DC — In 1811 the Internal Revenue Service opened the Conscience Fund. Since then over \$6 million dollars have been donated voluntarily to appease a guilty conscience. One check to the Conscience Fund was \$640,000 but the average gift is just \$100. Letters often accompany the gifts providing some kind of explanation.

One envelope contained a gift of \$10 with an explanation that the donor's sister had taken a pair of scissors

home from her government job years ago. She had given the scissors to him before she died.

The fund was set up for people who cheated on their taxes or somehow stole things from the government. Sometimes people send money to the Conscience Fund because they have offended or hurt someone else. The common experience is guilt. People don't like to live with guilt and are looking for a way to make restitution for wrongs.

Spokesman Bill Poling reports, "It's interesting that people feel a need to make things right. Years after they stole a pen or stapler from the government they want a clear conscience. At the time they probably thought no one would know, but in the end they realized that they knew and that was enough."

## TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT THE CONSCIENCE

### QUESTIONS:

- Why do people give money to the Conscience Fund?
- Why does restitution help people feel better in the conscience?
- What feelings come with doing the wrong thing and what feelings come from making that wrong thing right?

### SUGGESTION:

Talk about the value of a clear conscience as opposed to simply avoiding the pain of getting caught or the embarrassment of someone else knowing of your offense. Keep in mind that God is ultimately the one to clear the conscience.

### FURTHER QUESTIONS:

- Why is guilt such an uncomfortable thing to live with?
- What are some ways to get rid of guilt feelings?

### BIBLE STORY:

- Read Luke 19:1-10
- What might Zacchaeus have thought that allowed him to cheat people?
- What prompted Zacchaeus to give money back to people he cheated?
- Why did Jesus say, "Today salvation has come to this house?"



## Session 7 The Power of a Clear Conscience

**A Clear and Strong Conscience Involves the Work of Both God and the Person.**

Hebrews 10:22

Acts 24:16

### **PARENTING STRATEGY #15**

**Talk About  
the Value of a Clear Conscience**

A clear conscience produces peace, boldness, courage,  
and a sense of accomplishment

### **PARENTING STRATEGY #16**

**Practice  
Conscience Development in Your Parenting**



## PARENTING STRATEGY #17

### Create an Environment for Your Child to be a Hero in Training

A Clear Conscience happens in four areas

- 1 • Do what's right
  
- 2 • Deal with wrongs
  
- 3 • Be honest
  
- 4 • Care about others



### ASSIGNMENT

Partner with your child to see things that need to be done and do them. Focus on helping others in particular and talk about how taking initiative is part of what it means to be a hero.

### THEOLOGICAL TRUTH — God's Will

God uses ordinary people to do great things. They must just be available and obedient, ready to act when he prompts.

## Session 7 Discussion Questions

1. As parents become more aware of the work of the conscience in a child's life, how might it affect their parenting? How might it affect the children?
2. When helping children deal with unfair situations, parents often encourage their kids to stand up for themselves or ignore the problem. How might 1 Peter 2:19-21 provide an additional solution?
3. Modeling a clear conscience is one way to teach the benefits to children. Describe a time when you responded to the internal prompting of the conscience to do what's right even when it was hard. How might a parent share these kinds of stories with children?
4. Teaching children to follow instructions is part of family life. How can a parent use the instruction process to strengthen the conscience?
5. Read Acts 24:16. Paul talks about the importance of a clear conscience. What does it mean to have a clear conscience?
6. What are some ways parents typically praise their children? How might you adjust the way you praise or affirm your child in order to encourage conscience development?
7. How can you use the child's natural attraction to heroes to raise the awareness level of the conscience?

# NEWS ARTICLE:



## From Tragedy to Success to Ministry

GAP, PA — Just in her mid twenties, Anne Beiler lost her baby daughter in an accident. The tragedy so upset her that she pulled away from everything including her husband. He asked her to go to counseling with him at their church and reluctantly, she agreed. Their marriage improved along with Anne's relationship with the Lord.

To help out their family finances, Anne opened a small stand at the Downingtown, Pennsylvania Farm Market.

She sold baked goods of various kinds but the favorite of all was the handmade pretzels. It wasn't long before Auntie Anne's Pretzels became famous with small shops set up in malls and airports around the world.

But Auntie Anne wasn't content to make money by expanding her business. She gave away much of the money she made. In fact, in 1999 she created the Angela Foundation named after her deceased daughter. Every year money is

given to help missionaries and charities all over the world. She also has a counseling center in Gap, Pennsylvania to help families and individuals face life's challenges with God's strength.

Auntie Anne is a good example of a person who experienced pain in life and turned it into compassion to help others.

## TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT THE CONSCIENCE

### QUESTIONS:

- Anne became rich with her pretzel business but she used her money to help others. What prompted her to do that?
- How does a painful situation help a person become more compassionate and care about others?
- How do you think Anne felt when she was able to help other people who were hurting?

### SUGGESTION:

Talk about ways that the conscience prompts a person to think about others and not just oneself.

### FURTHER QUESTIONS:

- What happens to a person who is generous and gives to others?
- What are some simple things we could do to show others that we care?

### BIBLE STORY:

- Read Matthew 20:29-34
- Why do you think the crowds told the men to be quiet?
- Why do you think the blind men were calling out?
- How was Jesus different than the crowds of people?
- How does compassion relate to the conscience?





**Session 8**  
**A 30-Day Plan**  
**for Change**

Heart Quality	Arena

**PARENTING STRATEGY #18**

**Provide Hope for Your Child**

**THEOLOGICAL TRUTH — Eschatology**

God provides hope. It's never too late to start fresh and new. God is at work in your child's life. Now is the time to move forward.

**God's Prescription for Hope**

Suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

—Romans 5:3-4

**PARENTING STRATEGY #19**

**Raise the Character Threshold**

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## **PaRENTiNG STRaTEGY#20**

### **Develop a Written Action Plan**

- 1 • Firmness
- 2 • Visioning
- 3 • Prayer
- 4 • Teaching
- 5 • Coaching



### **ASSIGNMENT**

Create a written action plan for each of your children.

## **PaRENTiNG STRaTEGY#21**

### **Communicate the Plan to Your Child and Provide Opportunities to Practice**

## Session 8 Discussion Questions

1. Romans 5:3-4 teaches that suffering can be beneficial. What are some examples of ways your child has struggled and grown stronger as a result?
2. What are some things parents can do to take advantage of the existing suffering in a child's life? What kinds of suffering do parents create for children to help them grow?
3. What are some practical ways that parents can provide hope for their children?
4. How can the fact that "change takes time" be encouraging for parents?
5. Visioning is an important part of a good parenting plan. Using the heart quality you've already identified, what are the benefits of developing that quality in your child's life? What are some practical ways to communicate this vision to your child?
6. Teaching is another important part of a good parenting plan. Using the heart quality you've already identified, what are things you'll need to teach your child in order to see progress?
7. Why is a coaching attitude so important? What are some ways you can coach your child to success in this area?

# ACTION PLAN WORKSHEET – EXAMPLE

**The Problem** *George, age 10, is disrespectful to his parents when we correct him or interrupt him.*

**The Area of the Conscience That Needs Help** *Do what's right and deal with wrongs.*

**Heart Quality to Develop and the Arena** *Humility toward parents when interrupted or corrected*

## Action Steps in 5 Categories: Firmness, Visioning, Prayer, Teaching, Coaching

*Firmness: Point out disrespectful words and require George to take a break.*

*Firmness: Interrupt George more often and have him practice right responses.*

*Visioning: Talk about the importance of humility and graciousness as he works with coaches and teachers, employers some day too.*

*Prayer: Pray for George before correcting or confronting.*

*Prayer: Pray with George daily about this issue.*

*Teaching: Talk to George about honoring speech and how honor and disrespect make people feel.*

*Teaching: Talk to George about how to respond and what to say when corrected or interrupted.*

*Coaching: Encourage George when he admits a mistake and apologizes.*

*Talk about how good it feels inside. Prompt George with right responses before we interrupt him.*

# ACTION PLAN WORKSHEET

**The Problem** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The Area of the Conscience That Needs Help** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Heart Quality to Develop and the Arena** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Action Steps in 5 Categories: Firmness, Visioning, Prayer, Teaching, Coaching**

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# Do VBS Differently this Year... Train the Parents Too!



## VBS

Get your kids ready for the training of a lifetime!

Five days of fun-filled activities, children rotate from Station to Station, learning how to be heroes in daily life. Support materials are available to help publicize the event, train the leaders, teach the preschoolers, and get the kids involved.

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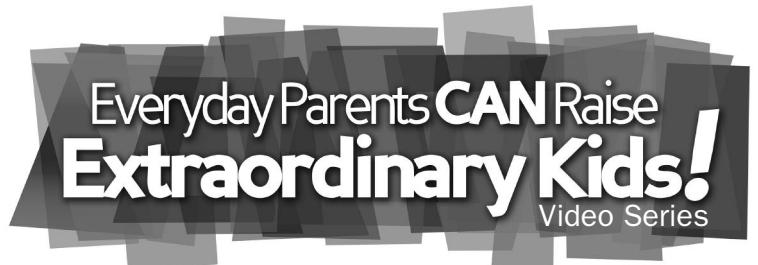


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## Family VBS Plus



**FOR KIDS**



**FOR PARENTS**

Include the parents so that families are learning together. Part of the time parents work with kids. The other part parents and children learn separately. Everyone learns about the biblical concept of the conscience to motivate kids to do what's right, deal with wrongs, be honest, and care about others.

Learn more at [biblicalparenting.org](http://biblicalparenting.org)

# Free

## EMAIL PARENTING

## Tips



**Receive guidance and inspiration a couple of times a week in your inbox.**

### Free Parenting Tips

Get practical suggestions to help you relate better to your kids and help your kids change their hearts, not just their behavior.



The tips are gleaned from the live seminars, books, and articles of Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, RN, BSN. Here's what parents are saying about these short words of encouragement.

*"We have a three-year-old and an eight-year-old, and so many tips apply to both. It's exciting for me when God delivers a tip on something we're struggling with and I'm able to share it with my husband. It gets conversation started and good things happen."*

—mom of two, Wichita, KS

*"Just wanted to let you know what a blessing your parenting tips have been to me and the others I share them with. I make copies of them to pass around and also save them in a file. They truly help me and other parents learn practical and biblical principles of parenting."*

—children's pastor, San Diego, CA

*"These tips are very helpful and actually seem to come at a time when I need them. I have three teenagers ages 16, 14, and 13, so I always need help with something."*

—mom of three, Ewing, NJ

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# Two more parent training video packages

## The Heart Work Church Kit

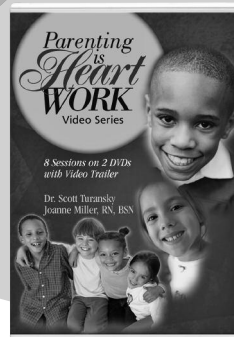
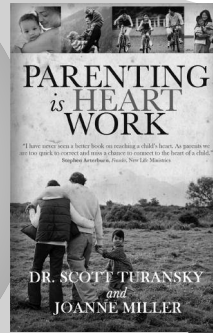
provides you with eight video sessions focused on practical tools for family life. The Leader's Guide includes fully-reproducible participant pages and questions for group discussion. Each lesson even has a homework page for parents to work on with their kids at home.

### In this video series you'll learn:

- A 5-step process for giving instructions that will build cooperation and responsibility in kids.
- Seven categories of consequences to fill up your "Toolbox."
- How to address thinking errors in children.
- A plan for correction to help kids make lasting changes.
- Plus many more practical ideas to use every day.

Each video session is 35 minutes long. There are eight lessons in the series. The videos were filmed before a live audience of parents and teens. Using drama, Bible stories, and lots of illustrations, Dr. Turansky and Mrs. Miller will energize you and provide you with tools you need to strengthen your family. This series is for parents of children age 2 to 18.

## Parenting is Heart WORK Video Series



# #1

**\$199.95** includes the book, DVDs, and Leader's Guide

## Say Goodbye to Whining, Complaining, and Bad Attitudes... in you and your kids! Video Series

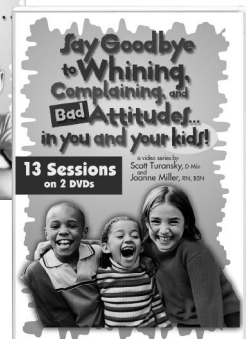
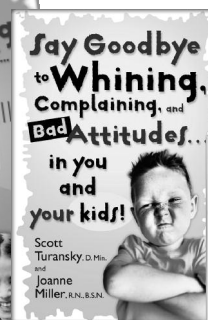
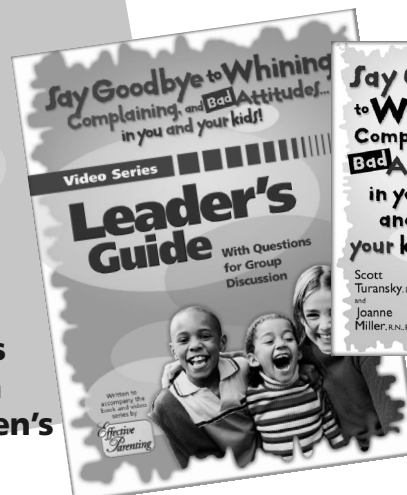
# #2

**\$249.95** includes the book, DVDs, Leader's Guide, plus outreach resources and children's curriculum

**The Honor Church Kit** provides you with material for 13 sessions, all focused on honor. The Leader's Guide includes fully-reproducible participant pages and questions for group discussion.

### Includes the following:

- Thirteen 30-minute videos on 2 DVDs
- Leader's Guide, Outreach Manual, and Kids Honor Club
- Say Goodbye to Whining, Complaining, and Bad Attitudes... in You and Your Kids book



This video series talks about the concept of honor in very practical terms. Learn how to teach children to add energy to family life instead of draining it. Three of the sessions focus on sibling conflict directly, but all the sessions deal with family relationships and how honor can change the way you relate. This series is for parents of children age 2 to 18.