

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?"