

Topic: Creation – Man Awesomely and Wonderfully Made (13)

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

Focus: When God made man, He made man with a conscience and a will. God wants us to use our will to agree with what our conscience is saying.

Practical Application: If our conscience tells us “no,” then we must use our will to choose to not do what our conscience is telling us not to do. We might see cookies that we really want to eat but we don’t want to ask our mother for permission to have them because we think she would say “no.” So we might think about taking the cookies without asking. While we are thinking about taking the cookies our conscience will be telling us, “No, don’t take the cookies without asking.” We need to use our will to listen to what our conscience is saying.

Intermediate:

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

Focus: Man has both a conscience and a will. Our will needs to be trained to be strong to stand with what our conscience is saying. Our will should be quick to agree with our conscience.

Practical Application: One day we might say something mean to our sibling or a friend. Our conscience bothers us about what we said and tells us that we should say sorry. We need to train our will to quickly respond and to do what our conscience is telling us to do. We should not “push down” our conscience but rather agree with what it is telling us to do. If we do not train our will to agree with our conscience and if we try to ignore what our conscience is telling us, eventually we could lose the feeling of our conscience.

Advanced:

Verse: “And that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem” (Luke 24:47).

Focus: Even though man has become sinful, God has preserved in man the use of his conscience and will. Our salvation depends upon us using our will to agree with what our conscience is saying. To agree with our conscience is to agree with God.

Practical Application: Our conscience is God’s representative telling us what God condemns and approves. When we do something that God condemns, our conscience will condemn us (make us feel bad inside). Our will is that part of us that chooses to agree with God or disagree with God. Therefore, our will needs to be trained to agree with our conscience. The first thing people must do to receive God’s salvation is to repent. This means that they use their will to agree that they have been wrong and that they need God’s salvation.