


Overview

In Chapter 3 the students learned about free will, choices, and sin. In this chapter the students will learn about conscience and the way it helps them make good choices and brings them closer to God and others.

Doctrinal Content		For Adult Reading and Reflection <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>
The students will learn:		Paragraph
• God calls us to be close to him.....		1776
• God gives us the gift of conscience.		1777
• We form our conscience.		1785
• We examine our conscience.....		1454



conscience
examination of conscience

Catechist Background

Who helped you form your conscience?

“Deep within his conscience man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself but which he must obey. Its voice, ever calling him to love and do what is good and to avoid evil, sounds in his heart at the right moment” (CCC 1776; *Gaudium et Spes*, 16).

Along with free will God gave each of us a conscience. Our conscience is the ability to judge between good and evil. When we have to make difficult moral decisions, our conscience helps us to choose good and reject evil.

Like most human gifts, however, conscience does not work automatically. We must continually educate, or form, our conscience. We do this through listening to the authentic voices of authority who assist us in understanding and appreciating

Go to www.webelieveweb.com, Catechist/Teacher, We Believe Correlations for this chapter’s correlation to:

- Six Tasks of Catechesis
- Catholic Social Teaching
- *Catechetical Formation in Chaste Living.*

the teachings of the Church. In a unique and special way, the pope and bishops, as the Magisterium or teaching office of the Church, use Scripture and Tradition to provide these teachings.

In addition to forming our conscience, we are responsible for examining our choices to see if we are overcoming our weaknesses. This periodic examination of conscience also allows us the opportunity to thank God for all the good things in our lives and to ask God’s forgiveness for our sins.

Do you take the time at the end of the day to examine your conscience and consider the consequences of your decisions?

Lesson Planning Guide

Lesson Steps

Presentation

Materials

1 WE GATHER

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Prayer



Focus on Life

- Listen to Scripture.
- Pray responsorial prayer.
- Discuss questions and students' ending to the *Chapter Story*.

For the prayer space: photos of different places where nine and ten year olds spend time and a sign that says *God Is with Us Always*

2 WE BELIEVE

page 44

God calls us to be close to him.



Luke 15:11–12, 14, 17–20



Describe characters in the story and answer questions.

- copies of Reproducible Master 4, guide page 43C

page 45

God gives us the gift of conscience.



- Read and discuss God's gift of conscience.
- Respond to the question.

page 46

We form our conscience.



- Discuss conscience formation.
- Reflect on ways conscience guides us in making difficult decisions.

page 47

We examine our conscience.

- Read and discuss examining our conscience.
- Read and discuss the *As Catholics* text about the teaching Church.

3 WE RESPOND

page 47

- Pray and use the examination of conscience.

pages 48–49
Project Disciple

- Complete the **Project Disciple** activities.
- Explain the *Take Home* activity.
- Discuss/send home **Sharing Faith with My Family** reproducible master for this chapter.

- colored pencils or crayons
- copies of **Sharing Faith with My Family** reproducible master, Chapter 4 (back of book)

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Chapter 4 Test

- Complete **Chapter 4 Test**.
- Work on *Alternative Assessment* activity.

- optional: copies of Scripture reproducible master, *What's the Word?*, Chapter 4 (back of book)