

Name _____

Date _____

Your Life in Christ: Foundations of Catholic Morality

Directed Reading Worksheet

Chapter 5 *Conscience Formation*

Directions: Read through the chapter and fill in the missing information. All the questions run sequentially with the chapter — the first questions relate to material presented first in the chapter, etc. If a true/false statement is false, correct it.

1. What is a dictionary definition of conscience?
2. Identify one of the six incomplete or wrong ideas of conscience being described below:
 - a) Conscience is the creation of organized religions to help control people through guilt.
 - b) Conscience is the leftover rules of childhood that we carry around in our subconscious.
 - c) Conscience is an internal voice that lives inside us, dictating to us what we should do.
 - d) Conscience is simply a matter of doing what the crowd does.
 - e) Conscience is making decisions based on what feels right or acting on a hunch.
 - f) Conscience is what the individual creates as his or her own moral rules.
3. What is the definition of conscience from the CCC?
4. What are three aspects of conscience revealed in the definition from the Second Vatican Council?
5. The *Church in the Modern World* tells us that our _____ conscience must join the human community in a search for _____, but the Christian vocation applies also to our lives _____. It is a Christian's responsibility to help the community examine its conscience and _____ the morality of our life together.
6. Most of the decisions of conscience are made from rote or _____, resulting from already-acquired _____ and attitudes. Therefore, becoming _____ is important because virtues are like muscles.
7. What do the four letters in the acronym SEER stand for? What is a seer?
8. What are the two important principles regarding conscience?
9. Conscience is concerned with discovering _____ truth which means we should gather information about the moral object, the _____, and the circumstances. It also involves seeking the _____ of trusted moral mentors.
10. According to the *Declaration on Religious Freedom*, who is the teacher of truth?
11. True or False? When choosing the right course of action it is important to make prayer a part of the decision making process.

12. True or False? When putting into action what you have decided in conscience is the right course of action, it is important to be a reactor, not an actor.
13. Conscience also helps us _____ and reflect on actions we have already performed. Our consciences will be _____ if we have taken steps to develop a good conscience. But if we have gone against them, our consciences call us to _____ and reform.
14. True or False? Not following what your conscience instructs you to do makes you guilty of sin.
15. True or False? A well-formed conscience will never make mistakes.
16. What is one of the major reasons for an erroneous conscience?
17. One type of ignorance results from _____ in which a person makes little or no effort to _____ what the truth is or where goodness lies. Another sign of an insincere conscience is someone who has fallen into a _____ of sinfulness that makes choosing evil an _____ thing to do.
18. What are some factors that can lead us into making bad conscience decisions according to the *CCC*?
19. True or False? Following one's conscience does not mean one can do whatever one wants to do.
20. Catholics form their consciences in a Christian _____ that believes in _____, who continues to teach us through the _____ and the bishops. We cannot form a Christian conscience without the help, advice, and teaching of our Church _____ who want to guide us to holiness.
21. True or False? Peer pressure is primarily just a problem with teens.
22. True or False? Some conformity can be good, some can be neutral, some can be bad.
23. What is destroyed each time we go along with the crowd?
24. To do the right thing is the moral virtue of _____. It has an active dimension that prompts us to work for God's _____ and a passive side that involves patient _____.
25. How do prudence and justice help us exercise the virtue of fortitude?
26. What is the ultimate act of fortitude?
27. With God's help, we can practice spiritual _____ that help us grow in the virtue of fortitude. _____ helps to build character. It will transform us into _____ persons and help us get involved in other _____ issues.
28. People often fail to do the right thing out of _____ of what others might think. But "going along" can turn us into _____ without moral _____. Fortitude can help us _____ negative peer pressure.
29. What pointers are given to help us resist peer pressure?
30. True or False? Archbishop Oscar Romero knew that if he did the right thing it would likely lead to his death.

31. True or False? Archbishop Oscar Romero spoke out on behalf of the rich and powerful in El Salvador.