

## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

*This chapter explains that it is necessary to develop a well-formed conscience in order to choose good over evil.*

### Scripture



Read **Isaiah 11:1–4a** to find out about the Savior God promised to send.

### Catholics Believe

- God's grace helps us use our reason and free will to make good choices.
- Conscience is our God-given ability that helps us judge right from wrong.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1776–1782 at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).

### People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Charles Lwanga, an African martyr who was known for following his conscience.

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

**How They Understand Free Will and Conscience** Fourth grade children understand well that adults do not always see what they say and do. They also know that there are limits to the ability of authority figures in their life to enforce their will. Being a moral person, then, becomes a series of choices. They need to understand that these choices are given to us so that we can have the freedom to choose the good. This is also the beginning of the understanding of conscience. As children become more aware of their inner thoughts they can form and listen to their conscience to help them make good choices.



## CONSIDER THIS >>>

*Have you ever considered the difference between a well-formed conscience and your opinion?*

It can be all too easy to seemingly speak with authority even when we may not be well informed. There is a distinction between opinion and our conscience. As Catholics, we know that “a good conscience makes judgments that conform to reason and the good that is willed by the Wisdom of God. A good conscience requires lifelong formation. Each baptized follower of Christ is obliged to form his or her conscience according to objective moral standards” (*USCCA, p. 314*).

## LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain how all choices have consequences.
- Talk about a time when someone in the family had to make an important decision. How did the family help him or her?

## LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Charles, pray for us that we may follow our consciences, even when it hard to do so. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).