

SERMON SERIES DISCIPLING GUIDE

Series: Abundance • Week Two: The Confidence of a Clear Conscience • Date: Feb. 2/3, 2019 • Speaker: Matt Boda

STORY

Between 1983 and 1994, English woman **Ffiona Campbell** walked around the world, becoming the first woman to accomplish such a task. Upon her return, though, her joy was short-lived. Despite the praise she received, something troubled her. At one point, guilt overtook her and pushed her to the brink of a nervous breakdown. What was bothering her? *"I shouldn't be remembered as the first woman to walk around the world,"* she finally admitted. *"I cheated."* She confessed that during her worldwide trek, she had broken the guidelines of the Guinness Book of World Records by riding in a truck part of the way. To clear her conscience, she called her sponsor and confessed her deception.

ICEBREAKER

Can you remember an event - perhaps from your childhood - when you felt compelled to confess something you had done wrong? What was it? What feelings do you remember from that experience?

QUESTIONS FROM VARIOUS SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

1. Read **Romans 2:14-15**. What do these verses tell us about ourselves?
2. From what you read here, how would you define the conscience and its purpose?
3. Read **Psalms 26**. In what ways does David describe himself to God as he writes this poem to God?
4. In this psalm, does David describe himself in positive or negative terms? How is he able to do this?
5. Read **Psalms 32:1-5**. What is the result of a clear conscience in our lives? What is the connection between a clear conscience and the experience of abundance in your life?
6. Read **Hebrews 9:14** and **1 John 1:9**. How do we begin to come to a conviction of a clear conscience? What is it that Jesus does for us?
7. Author Kevin DeYoung describes our conscience as the moral faculty within human beings that assesses what is good and what is bad. Can you give an example of when your conscience has "worked" for you?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Think back to what **Psalms 32:1-2** says. Have you ever had this experience? What was it and how did it feel?
2. Read **John 16:7-15**. What practices could we build into our lives that would benefit us spiritually by taking advantage of the conscience God has given us and the Holy Spirit who lives in us?
3. What do you need to talk to God about today so that you can clear your conscience?

PRAYER

Ask your group to take 1-2 minutes of quiet before the Lord. In His presence, ask each group member to go back through this study and the Scripture verses connected to it. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you about any truth He wants to remind you of or reveal in your life.