

Daniel Is Our Conscience Stones

Materials Needed for Each Student

copy of the *Daniel Stone* from p. 2; crayons or markers; a smooth river stone, large glass aquarium stone (sold in a dollar or pet store), or large bottle cap; glue or tape

Prepare in Advance

Collect or purchase stones or find caps to mount the project. Print *Daniel Stone Templates* p. 2. Make a sample to show.

New Church Concept Conscience

With regenerate people there is a conscience concerning what is good and true. From conscience they do what is good and from conscience think what is true. The good they do is the good of charity, and the truth they think is the truth of faith. With one who is not regenerate there is no conscience. If there is any it is not a conscience about doing good stemming from charity or about thinking truth deriving from faith. It derives from love involving self or the world, and is therefore a false conscience. See *Arcana Coelestia* 977

At birth, human beings know nothing. As we learn true ideas from the Word, conscience starts to develop. The more true ideas a person learns, the stronger conscience becomes. Conscience is the Lord's voice within us. It warns us when we are thinking of disobeying the commandments and when we are making selfish choices. It has the power to raise us towards heaven. Daniel represents our conscience. At first he is tentative—he asks the king's servant if he can eat vegetables and drink water (true ideas) instead of eating the king's food (selfish ideas). But by the end of his story he rules the kingdom. Children will make a Daniel stone to remind them of their conscience. This can help them choose words and actions that are true, kind and useful.



1. Daniel was captured and taken to a country far from home. Daniel pictures our conscience. Conscience is the part of our mind where the Lord speaks to us. In what ways does conscience help us do what's true, kind and useful?
2. Our conscience is always with us. When we learn new ideas from the Word it grows stronger. When we stop thinking about the Lord and think and do only what we want, conscience is "captured". Even though we may ignore our conscience, it never goes away.
3. We're going to make a mini "Daniel" to help us remember that the Lord is always with us, helping us do what is true, kind and useful.
4. Hand each child a copy of the *Daniel Stone* (p. 2), crayons or markers and a stone or lid. Color and cut out the picture and the words, "Daniel Our Conscience". Have students choose which size will work best with their stone or lid.
5. Use glue or tape to mount the picture on a lid, bottle cap, smooth stone or large glass aquarium "stone". Mount the words "Daniel Our Conscience" on the back of the project.
6. Encourage children to keep the *Daniel Stone* somewhere where it reminds them to think about whether what they are thinking or doing is true, kind and useful—perhaps in a pocket, on a dresser, or near a mirror.

Daniel Stone Templates



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