

MORAL COMPASS

The Christian Teachings of Virtue (Series 1, Part 7, Teaching #7)

Leader Guide...

See the back page for detailed facilitator instructions.

Instructions: Watch video, read aloud, underline what stands out to you most, discuss

You were not born with a full mind, but you were born with a moral compass. Etched into your soul is a longing for the good—a silent but steady pull toward truth, beauty, and virtue. This compass doesn’t come from culture, education, or experience. It comes from God. It is His quiet imprint, woven into your very being, drawing you toward what is right and away from what is wrong. And when you live in alignment with it, you find peace.

You cannot cheat this compass.

Scripture says you “must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience” (1 Timothy 3:9). So when you lie, slander, lash out, or indulge in selfish desires, you may feel a fleeting rush—but it is followed by hollowness. Your soul knows. Even if you try to silence your conscience or numb your heart, you will feel it: the quiet ache within, the restlessness of disorder, the sorrow of being out of step with your purpose.



But when you choose what is good—even when it’s hard, even when it costs you—something remarkable happens. You may not be applauded. You may not even be seen. But your soul will know. You will feel the deep satisfaction of being in harmony with your created purpose. When you speak truth, show mercy, act with courage, or choose humility over pride, you’re not just doing good—you’re becoming good. Fulfillment doesn’t come from ease or indulgence. It comes from integrity, from character, from virtue.

In short, when you do God’s will, you are fulfilled. When you resist it, you are not. The more you pursue what is right, the more whole you become. The more you stray from it, the more your life unravels. No matter how much pleasure, success, or comfort you acquire, if it is gained outside the will of God, it will leave you empty.

It is said, “What most counts is not merely to live, but to live right” (Socrates). In other words, what fulfills us most is not merely to live, but to live rightly.

But before you can live the right life, you must learn the right life. To that end, “Let virtue lead the way” (Seneca). For the more closely you walk with virtue, the more clearly you will walk with God—and the more deeply your soul will be satisfied.

This is why God has given you more than just a conscience—He has given you faith. More than instincts—He has given you Scripture. More than a compass—He has given you the wisdom of Christian virtue through the perfect example of Jesus Christ.

“If, then, you are looking for the way by which you should go, take Christ, because He Himself is the way” (St. Thomas Aquinas). This is why the teachings of virtue matter. They form the soul in the character of Christ, which orders the life and fulfills the heart.



Watch Video: Scan the QR code to access the video for this teaching as well as additional resources such as related Scripture, quotes, and more.
Or, visit horseandchariot.com/moral-compass

God has placed within you a conscience—a moral compass drawing you toward what is good and away from what is wrong. But that compass must be properly formed and faithfully followed. Through Scripture, virtue, and the example of Christ, you learn not only to recognize the good, but to choose it. The more your life aligns with God's will, the more fulfilled your soul becomes.

1. Your conscience points toward the good. God created you with an inner awareness that your choices matter. → Are you listening to your conscience or ignoring its promptings?

2. You cannot cheat your conscience. Sin may offer temporary pleasure, but acting against what is right brings disorder within. → Where are your choices causing restlessness in your soul?

3. Doing good forms you in goodness. Every virtuous choice strengthens your character. → What difficult but virtuous choice is before you now?

4. Integrity brings inner harmony. Fulfillment grows as your choices align with God's will. → Where do you know what is right but struggle to live it?

5. Your moral compass must be formed. Scripture, faith, and virtue teach you to discern rightly. → What is shaping your conscience most today?

6. Christ is the surest way. Jesus perfectly reveals the character you are called to imitate. → When uncertain, are you looking to Christ as your way?

CHARACTERISTICS OF A WELL-FORMED MORAL COMPASS

Those who faithfully follow their conscience exhibit these traits:

1. Discerning. They seek what is truly good, not simply desirable.

2. Truthful. They refuse to distort truth to justify their desires.

3. Sensitive. They remain attentive to the promptings of conscience.

4. Courageous. They choose what is right even when it costs them.

5. Integrated. Their beliefs, choices, and actions align.

6. Christ-Centered. They look to Jesus as their ultimate standard.

Think: God has placed within me a longing for what is good, but I must learn to recognize, form, and follow it. Every choice either brings me closer to His will or draws me away. When I choose virtue, I am not merely doing good—I am becoming good. I will let virtue lead the way and keep my eyes fixed on Christ.

Pray: Lord, form my conscience according to Your truth. Give me wisdom to recognize what is good, courage to choose it, and humility to turn back when I stray. Through Scripture, virtue, and the example of Christ, keep my moral compass pointed toward You and my life aligned with Your will. Amen.

Signs Your Moral Compass Is Becoming Distorted...

- You justify behavior you know deep down is wrong.
- You allow feelings or desires to define what is good.
- You suppress guilt rather than examining its cause.
- You compromise your principles when they become costly.
- You compare yourself to others rather than Christ.
- You let culture form your beliefs more than faith.
- You choose what is easy despite knowing what is right.

SELF-EVALUATION & ACTION STEP

Of the areas you underlined throughout this teaching, which stood out to you most and why?
(Reflect, write down, discuss)

Rate yourself from 1-10

1 = I often ignore what I know is right

10 = I consistently follow my conscience in God's truth

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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(avoid 5)



Why did you give yourself this rating?

Where is your conscience telling you something you would rather not hear?

What desire, fear, or habit most often causes you to compromise what is right? Which virtue would strengthen your ability to follow your moral compass?

What choice will you make this week to better align your life with God's will?

Daily Affirmation: Today, I will listen to the moral compass God has placed within me. By His grace, I will choose what is right over what is easy, let virtue lead the way, and follow Christ toward greater wholeness and fulfillment.

FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS

Courageous Facilitator,

Your willingness to step forward and lead is a gift of grace to your community and a brave act of faith. God bless you for answering the call to inspire others to grow in virtue and pursue the character of Christ.

The Holy Spirit thrives in fellowship and community, working powerfully through the connections and shared experiences of small groups. That's why these lesson plans are designed to cultivate genuine relationships, inspire meaningful conversations, and foster a spirit of transformation through shared wisdom and grace.

Facilitating these lessons is both simple and impactful. While many forms of teaching rely on one-way communication, where one person speaks and others listen, true transformation happens through two-way communication. In this format, ideas aren't merely taught—they're explored together. You'll guide, but everyone will share and learn from one another, creating a rich environment where the Holy Spirit can move and grow each mind, heart, and soul.

These lesson plans succeed because they:

- **Encourage connection** in a collaborative small group setting that fosters action and accountability
- **Empower every voice** with opportunities for each participant to share and contribute
- **Inspire growth** through educational, inspirational, and transformational teachings

Your role as a facilitator is to:

- **Follow the instructions and trust the process**—the wheel is already built, you're here to guide it.
- **Honor the schedule** by being punctual and respecting the time of your group.
- **Lead with love** and rely on God's grace to inspire, guide, and uplift everyone in the group.

Your courage to create a space for growth and fellowship will not only bless others but will deepen your own journey of faith and virtue. Together, with God's help, lives will be transformed.

To God be the glory!

FACILITATOR CHECKLIST

1. Getting Started (5-10 mins)

- ☐ Give everyone a few minutes to join before getting started. Be friendly and greet people as they arrive. Get them talking! Come prepared with some good ice-breaker questions you can ask during this time.
- ☐ 3-5 minutes in, do quick introductions for anyone new to the group. What brought them to the group? Spend a moment getting to know them.
- ☐ Open with a short prayer (facilitator or volunteer).

2. Watch & Read the Teaching (5-10 mins)

- ☐ Watch the video of the teaching as a group.
- ☐ Have a volunteer read all of page 1. Have others follow along and underline what stands out to them most.

3. How it Applies (5-10 mins)

- ☐ Have a volunteer read all of page 2. Have others follow along and underline what stands out to them most.

4. Reflection & Discussion (20-30 mins)

- ☐ Have everyone quietly take 5 minutes to complete the "Self-Evaluation & Action Step" on page 3.
- ☐ Then, going around the group, have each person take a minute to share what stood out to them most about the teaching and why.
- ☐ If time allows, continue the discussion using the remaining self-evaluation questions as a guide.

5. Wrap Up (5 mins)

- ☐ Remind everyone to do the daily affirmation until you meet again next time.
- ☐ Ask for any prayer requests from the group.
- ☐ Close with a short prayer (facilitator or volunteer).