**Lesson 4** Ethical theories and ethical problems**.**

Ethical dilemmas.

How do we know how to act in the right way? Think about it, maybe ask someone in the house, then jot down three sentences that sum up your answer.

A dilemma is a ***problem.***

An ***ethical*** dilemma is a problem to do with how I should ***act.***

Key Words:

Morality: Our experience of life that is good or bad.

Ethics: Theories to help us decide whether an action is good or bad.

Moral Philosophy – the same as Ethics.

Why does morality matter?

* Because we care / mind about what people do and how they affect others?
* Because we should be held responsible for our actions and their affects on others?
* Any other reason?

Most people believe there are certain ethical decisions that matter. Copy out and fill in the form below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Ethical ideal | Why does it matter? When might it not matter? |
| Keeping a promise |  |
| Telling the truth |  |
| Treating others with respect |  |
| Being true to yourself |  |
| Doing your duty |  |
| Acting justly |  |
| Exercising self-discipline |  |

Which of the two ideals do you think are the most important, and why?

Which do you think are not essential and why?

What do you do if there is a conflict between two of the ideals? E.G. If you promise to keep a secret but then can’t help that person? Should you break the promise and get help or keep the promise and not help them?