

TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 1



Concept #1: Sin | tellnetwork.org

Introduction to the course and opening prayer

Start this course by sharing with students what they are going to study – The four key concepts. If this is their first time studying with you, reassure them that there is no pressure and that no one should feel uncomfortable. The purpose is solely to share what the Bible says. Tell them what they will study: Four Bible stories that teach the four key Bible concepts. Start the course with a short sentence such as this:

Dear heavenly Father, we ask You to bless our study of your word so that we may know your truth. Amen



Watch video 1. *Play the first video. Make sure all participants can see the screen and hear the audio. If you don't have a large enough screen or have trouble displaying the video, ask students to watch the video on their own before class. The Bible story is Matthew 5:20-48.*

Think: A powerful introduction that gets you thinking about an interesting topic, or question.

How would you explain what sin is to your children? Who is guilty of sin? What does sin do to us?

Evaluate: brings more meaning and context to the lesson

1. Who are the characters in the story? *Jesus, the Pharisees, the scribes, the person who speaks to his brother without love, the judge, the person at the altar who remembers that his brother has something against him, the man who commits adultery in his heart, those who want a divorce, the one who swears, the enemy, the Heavenly Father*
2. What are the objects in this story? *The altar, the mutilated body parts (showing the seriousness of sin), the certificate of divorce, the eyes, the teeth, the cheeks, the tunic, the rain*

3. Where did the story happen? *Jesus is sitting on a mountain teaching*
4. When did the story happen? *During Jesus' earthly ministry, after he called his disciples*
5. What is the problem? *This section of Scripture points to sin as the problem and provides a deeper understanding of what sin is. Sin not only includes the wrong things we do, but it also includes our improper words and thoughts. The problem is that no one can do everything Jesus commands here.*
6. What events occurred in this story? *Jesus is teaching his followers, and us, about our natural inclination toward sin and the perfection necessary for communion with our Holy Father. He describes a number of circumstances that show us our sins of thought, word, and deed and also show us what God expects: pure speech, a pure heart, love for our enemies, and full obedience.*
7. Is the problem solved? How? *Yes and no. The text we read concludes with the solution - "be perfect". Only in perfection can we approach the heavenly Father. We, of course, are not perfect, so we need to look at other parts of Scripture to understand what we need. 2 Corinthians 5:21, along with many other passages, shows us that only Jesus can provide the perfection God demands.*

Learn

1. What is the main theme of this lesson? *Allow students to give a summary of what has been studied, and make sure to emphasize that this story tells us what sin is.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *Many sins can be mentioned here based on the text. In reality, every work, word, and thought away from God's perfection should be confessed.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in this lesson? *God's love in this story can be hard to find. Jesus shows us our sin in an extended exposition of the law. God's love is seen in the fact that he shows us our sin as part of his loving desire for us to repent. The first step to repentance is that the Holy Ghost convinces us that we are sinners. God wants us to repent so that we may live (Joel 2:13). The teacher might also point out that the same one who instructed people to be perfect on the mountain was, in fact, the one who provided that perfection through his obedience, which is attributed to us through faith.*

4. What does God teach you to do in this lesson? *The first thing would be to ask God for forgiveness in Jesus once we realize how often we violate God's law based on this text.*
5. *This text can also be used as a guide to Christian life after it has been used as a mirror. Many examples of how to live a pious life based on this text can be mentioned. Remember that the purpose of this lesson is primarily to use the law as a mirror*

Lead (share this with a group of your brothers and sisters in Christ)

1. What would be a good situation in which to share this message? *With someone who has the Pharisee attitude, who thinks he has been able to comply with God's law. We can show them what God truly demands — purity of word and thought, as well as good works and love for our enemies and our friends.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. This lesson focused on the first of the four key concepts, sin. What exactly is sin? *As we see in Matthew 5, sin is any thought, word, or work that is not perfect, not in line with God's commands. These are called sins of commission because we commit them. We also see that sin includes not doing what God demands we do. These are called sins of omission.*
2. Who is guilty of sin? *Everyone who is not perfect is guilty of sin. That means all of us are guilty. Romans 3:23 tells us that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*
3. What does sin do to us? *Sin makes it impossible to enter into the presence of our perfect Father. We deserve eternal death. Romans 6:23 tells us that "the wages of sin is death." That means what we should receive for our sin is a death sentence.*
4. What are the key points to remember from this story when you are sharing it with others? *Answers vary. Emphasize that the focus of this lesson is using the law as a mirror to show listeners that they are sinners in need of a Savior. Often, people may think that the small bad things they do or think are not worthy of condemnation. This story shows us otherwise. Remind them that the other key concepts will come in later lessons.*

Lesson wrap-up

1. Why do we teach sin as the first of the four key concepts? *We begin with sin because, without being aware of sin, people will not see their need for a Savior. We see this attitude in the Pharisees who used the law as if it showed spiritual beauty rather than the grave problem of sin, which they had and which all people still have.*

Closing End with a prayer thanking God for loving us so much that instead of deserting sinners, he pursues us. Or end with a blessing for the group.

Next class: day and time

Additional information for the teacher

Justification through works (*opinio legis*). This is the natural predisposition of people to think that they can save themselves by obeying the law. This subject may arise during class. Be especially aware of students who insist that in order to be a disciple, one must be obedient. It is important to take the time to eradicate that way of thinking and speaking. It is very important to clearly communicate the Word of God. Justification through works is not a Biblical teaching. A deeper study into what Jesus says in Matthew 5 can help show that God expects perfection. Other support passages that could be used are Leviticus 19:2, Isaiah 6, and James 2:10.

