

## TEACHER GUIDE

### TELL Bible Pathway

#### Part 1

#### Lesson 7



The First and Second Commandments | [tellnetwork.org](http://tellnetwork.org)

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**Lesson Goal:** Answer the question, “What are the First and Second Commandments and what do they mean to me today?”

**Pre-Lesson Preparation:** Read Exodus 32, the account of the Aaron making the golden calf.

**Live Class** Greet those who are listening to the class.

**Prayer** Asks for God’s blessings, focusing on the theme of the lesson, and effectively ending the greeting time and calling the lesson to order. The following prayer can be used:

*Dear Almighty God, forgive us for not putting you first in our lives. Forgive us for not coming to you in prayer as often as we should. Forgive us for not using your name as we should. We thank you that you have sent your Son to do those things perfectly for us as our substitute and to save us from the punishment that we deserve because of those sins. They are forgiven. Help us live in the joy of your salvation every day of our lives. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.*

#### Introduce The Course

- a. Explain the purpose of the course.
- b. Ask all to show respect for the teacher and other students by writing appropriate questions and comments on the Facebook Live chat.
- c. Explain that the **TELL** method is a teaching style with the goal of telling others what you’ve learned. The letters **T-E-L-L** represent four sections of study: **T** for Think, **E** for Evaluate, **L** for Learn and **L** for Lead.

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

The First Commandment is: You shall have no other gods. The Second Commandment is: You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

What does God want us to do in the first commandment? *God wants us to fear, love, and trust in him above all things.*

How do we find hope in God’s name? *God’s name is all that he reveals himself to be in the Scriptures. Each name teaches something about him. For example, God’s son was*

*given the name Jesus because he would save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). God has revealed himself to be the God who saves us completely and fully without any work on our part. We can find hope in that saving truth.*

**Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)**

1. Who are the characters in the story? *God, Moses, Aaron, the Israelite people*
2. What are the objects in this story? *The golden calf made by Arron at the request of the Israelites.*
3. Where did the story happen? *In the camp of the Israelites and on Mount Sinai*
4. When did the story happen? *After God had rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, when they were living in the desert*
5. What is the problem? *Even though they had been rescued time and again by the One True God and they had been told not to create useless gods for themselves, they still lost sight of God and they talked Arron into making an idol for them to worship.*
6. What events occurred in this story? *Have the participants relate the story details, being sure to emphasize that even though God had brought the Israelites out of Egypt and provided them with all that they needed, they still looked to other gods.*  
*Is the problem solved? How? Many people were punished by God because they turned away from Him, but he continued to care for them and to be their God. He promised that the Savior, Jesus, would come from them and forgive their sin.*

**Learn (identify that sin is the problem and only God has the answer)**

1. What is the main theme of this lesson? *People are quick to forget even the most miraculous of things that God does for us. We are quick to turn away from the God who loves us and worship useless things. For this reason, God sent Jesus to live perfectly in our place and pay the price for our sins.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess?
  - a. Forgetting that God has loved us and provided all that we need and putting our trust in money or relationships instead of God
  - b. Doubting God's goodness by desiring something else more than God
3. Where do you see the love of God in this lesson?
  - a. God could have abandoned all of the Israelites and let them perish, but instead He instructed Moses to continue the journey to the promised land
  - b. God did not abandon the Israelites, and he does not abandon us either. He still used the Israelites to bring about the birth of the Savior of the world.

4. What does God teach you to do in this lesson?
  - a. God wants us to recognize his love for and protection of us
  - b. God wants us to worship Him alone and praise His name
  - c. God wants us to put Him above all possessions

**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? *When friends and relatives are putting relationships or money or worldly possessions above God and need to be reminded that God is the only one who loves and saves us and merits our trust.*

**Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)**

1. Genesis 20:4 says, “You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.” Consider this scenario: Your friend uses this verse to say that we should not have crosses in our houses or in our churches. How do you respond?
  - a. Consider Exodus 26:30-31, “Set up the tabernacle according to the plan shown you on the mountain. Make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen, with cherubim worked into it by a skilled craftsman.” The tabernacle was the place of worship for the ancient Israelites. Cherubim are a type of angel. God wanted his tabernacle decorated with images. Was he ordering something sinful? No. The prohibition of making images is an explanation of the First Commandment, “You shall have no other gods.” If the images we make are our idols, then we are breaking the commandment. Otherwise, we are free to make all sorts of images.
  - b. Images such as crosses are not going to magically protect our homes from thieves or anything else. The images themselves should not be used superstitiously. God is our stronghold and refuge. 1 Timothy 4:7 warns us about treating items superstitiously, “Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.”
  - c. Many believers have crosses and other religious symbols in their homes to remind themselves and others of the truths of the Bible and God’s great love for us. We have examples of this behavior in the Bible. When God miraculously dried the Jordan river so that the Israelites could cross over into the promised land, Joshua, the leader, commanded the following in Joshua 4:1-7, “When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, “Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.” So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, and said to them, “Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before

the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.” If our symbols, artwork, and images point us to God and give glory to him, they are God-pleasing. If we focus on the items themselves as if they are going to help us apart from God, we are in danger.

2. Is swearing in court breaking the Second Commandment? *Not all swearing is a sin. If it were, God would have sinned because God often swears in the Bible. Some examples are Genesis 22:16; 26:3; Exodus 32:13; Psalm 89:35-37; 110:4; Isaiah 45:23; and 54:9. Martin Luther, in his explanation of the Second Commandment in the Large Catechism says, “The question that has troubled many teachers has been easily solved: ‘Why is swearing prohibited in the Gospel, and yet Christ, St. Paul, and other saints often swore?’ [Matthew 5:33-37; 26:29; Acts 21:20-26]. The explanation is briefly this: We are not to swear in support of evil, that is, to support falsehood, or to swear when there is no need or use. But we should swear for the support of good and the advantage of our neighbor. For such swearing is truly a good work, by which God is praised, truth and right are established, falsehood is refuted, peace is made among men, obedience is rendered, and quarrels are settled. For in this way God Himself intervenes and separates right and wrong, good and evil.” We do not want to swear falsely or in vain, but there are times when swearing is God-pleasing.*

### Lesson Wrap-Up

1. What are the First and Second Commandments and what do they mean for me today? *Allow time for various participants to express their understanding of the commandments. Encourage them to remember the great love shown to them by their Father in Heaven.*

**Closing** End with a prayer thanking God for the people he has brought together to learn about him and his Word, or with a blessing for the group.

