



BIBLE PATHWAY

PART 1



Teacher Guide

TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Introduction

tellnetwork.org



To The Teacher

Dear brother in Christ,

The following document is a course written to help you teach your group the foundational doctrines of the Bible. It is called TELL Bible Pathway Part 1.

TELL Bible Pathway Part 1 is what a leader uses to begin teaching his Growth Group. These are the first Bible classes you will teach your group. The class videos, teacher guides, and student guides can all be found on tellnetwork.org/leader. The expectation is that the leader teaches one lesson per week to his group.

TELL Bible Pathway Part 1 consists of the following lessons:




1.	4 lessons	Four Key Concepts, which teaches about sin, grace, faith, and works
2.	8 lessons	Jesus' Teachings: The Ten Commandments
3.	8 lessons	Jesus' Teachings: The True God
4.	8 lessons	Jesus' Teachings: Sacraments and Prayer

Growth Group members who agree with the teaching in TELL Bible Pathway Part 1 can be brought into doctrinal agreement. The leader may ask his group if any are in agreement with what has been taught. The leader can then recognize doctrinal agreement with those group members.

All the lessons are taught through a series of Bible stories that illustrate the main point. Try to stay "within the story" to the greatest extent possible. We want to avoid giving the impression of being a Bible teacher who chooses certain parts that agree with what he is teaching, while ignoring others. In short, the Bible story is the main instrument for teaching the concept. However, the teacher may need to use other parts of the Bible in order to fully teach the concepts, especially when reviewing the key questions at the end of each lesson.

You will decide the best time and place to teach your group. Some groups may desire a longer time to do several lessons at once. Others may want to slow down, doing one lesson per week. You can decide which method will work best for your group.

To teach this course, you will have three resources:

1.		The video in which each of the key concepts is presented and tells the story.
2.		The student sheet which you print and give to students when you meet with them personally.
3.		This teacher's guide (this document), which was written as a resource for the class teacher.

We strongly encourage you to study the teacher's guidance and Bible passages in the lesson before teaching each class.

TELL has created this course as a first step. It is our desire that those who gather to study these lessons will continue to study the Bible in TELL Bible Pathway Part 2.

In Christ,

TELL



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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.



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Lesson 2



Concept #2: Grace | tellnetwork.org

 **Watch video 2.** *Play the second 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 Luke 18:9-14.*

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

In lesson 1, we talked about a Pharisee. In this story, we see a Pharisee again and we also meet a tax collector. Why do you think tax collectors were NOT very popular people in Jesus' day?

Let students reflect on this. Tax collectors were not very popular for three reasons. First, they collected taxes. No one likes to pay taxes. Second, the Jews were especially displeased in Jesus' day because they were ruled by foreigners (the Romans). Jews who collected taxes for a foreign government were seen as traitors. Finally, the tax collectors were not honest. They used to charge more than people owed to enrich themselves.

Helping students understand how people back then regarded tax collectors as the worst sinners will help highlight the key concept of grace. The fact that the tax collector went home justified was totally undeserved. That's the grace!

Evaluate: brings more meaning and context to the lesson

1. Who are the characters in the story? *Jesus, some who trusted in their own righteousness and belittled others, the Pharisee of the parable of Jesus, and the tax collector of the parable of Jesus*
2. What are the objects in the story? *The foods that the Pharisee did not eat and the tithes he gave*
3. Where did the story take place? *Where Jesus was when He recounted the parable is not mentioned. The parable he told took place in the temple. The teacher could add that the tax collector was praying far away from the pharisee, who was the center of attention.*
4. When did the story take place? *Probably near the end of Jesus' public ministry on earth*

5. What is the problem in the story? *The problem is sin. The Pharisee's problem was that he did not recognize his sin. The tax collector had the same problem of sin, but he recognized his sin and knew where to turn for mercy.*
6. What events occurred in this story? *Jesus told the parable to those who considered themselves righteous. The parable is the story of two individuals. The Pharisees, of course, were considered righteous and better than others by many in society. The tax collector was the opposite. He would have been called a sinner. They both went to the temple. The Pharisee's prayer is a report of his own righteousness before God, although in reality he was a sinner. The tax collector simply asked God for mercy. Jesus says that the tax collector was justified, not the Pharisee.*
7. Is the problem solved? *Yes! Jesus says the tax collector "went home justified." We can see in Ephesians 2:8-9 that he was saved by grace through faith. The Pharisee's problem was not solved. He did not return home justified. His dependence on his own works meant that he had separated himself from God's grace. See Galatians 5:4 for a similar passage.*

Learn

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *As the story in the previous lesson gave us a definition of sin, this story tells us what grace is. The early listeners of this story had a strong belief that the tax collector did not deserve God's mercy or forgiveness. They were right. What they were wrong about was thinking that the Pharisee did deserve grace. That's what grace is all about! God's love is not deserved. Because of Jesus, He forgives those who do not deserve it.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess?
 - a. *Being like the Pharisee, a hypocrite who believed himself to be just according to his own works, standing in front of the crowd praising ourselves rather than God.*
 - b. *Being openly sinful as the tax collector was. We should confess just as he did, from afar and in anguish.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson?
 - a. *Although the tax collector was a public sinner, someone everyone knew did not deserve God's love, he received God's grace and was justified before God. Jesus told this story as he was on his way to Jerusalem to suffer, die, and be resurrected. You see God's grace in the concrete deeds of Jesus – receiving the guilt of our sin so that we could be declared innocent.*

Next class: day and time

Additional information for the teacher: Topics that may arise during class

Additional passages that can be used. Obviously, there are many passages that can be used that are not mentioned in this lesson. Here are some additional passages about grace: 1 Timothy 2:4, Ezekiel 33:11, 2 Peter 3:9, Deuteronomy 23:5, Psalm 136:1-3, Ephesians 2:4-9, Titus 3:3-5, John 3:16, Ephesians 1:6-7, 1 John 4:9-10, Galatians 4:4-5, Hebrews 4:15, 1 Peter 2:21-22, 1 John 3:5, Isaiah 53, Romans 4:25, and Romans 5:8.



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Lesson 3



Concept #3: Faith | tellnetwork.org

 **Watch video 3.** Play the third 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 Luke 23:39-43.

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

What is the difference between those who are saved and those who are not?

Evaluate: brings more meaning and context to the lesson

1. Who are the characters in these stories? *Jesus and the two criminals who were crucified with him*
2. What are the objects in these stories? *The crosses and nails*
3. Where did the story take place? *The place called "The Skull"*
4. When did the story happen? *Good Friday, the day Jesus died*
5. What is the problem in this story? *The criminal knew he was being put to death justly, but he was worried about what would happen next. He feared God.*
6. What events occurred in this story? *The story begins with a conversation between the evildoers on each side of Jesus. One insults Jesus. The second rebukes the first, reminding him that they both deserve their punishment, but Jesus doesn't. The repentant evildoer then looks at Jesus in faith and asks that Jesus remember him when he comes to his kingdom. Jesus promises him paradise, which is given to him by grace through faith.*
7. Is the problem solved? *Yes! Jesus' response in verse 43 leaves no doubt about solving the problem. We see that the man recognizes his own sin. He also knows that Jesus did not commit any crime. We can see that the man trusts in Jesus' power to save. Finally, we hear Jesus' promise of paradise.*

Learn

1. What is the main theme of these verses? *Let the participants retell the story and be sure to emphasize the key concept of faith.*
2. What sins am I taught to confess in these verses? *This story leads me to repeat the words of the criminal, recognizing what my deeds deserve.*
3. Where do I see God's love in this story? *Jesus truly shows love to the sinner and offers him eternity in heaven, not through works but through faith. Notice that the wrongdoer was not in any position and did not have time to do any good works. He came to faith in Jesus as his Savior from sin right there on the cross in his dying moments. As a result, Jesus promised him paradise through faith, not by works. Jesus won forgiveness for all. He loved and forgave the criminal just as he loved and forgave his disciples.*
4. What does God teach you to ask and do? *God teaches me to call on Jesus for forgiveness, just as the criminal on the cross did. I should put all my faith and trust in Jesus alone and not in my own works. I should encourage others to trust Jesus as well.*

Lead a group of your brothers and sisters in Christ

1. What would be a good situation in which to share this message? *This would be a good story to share with someone who doubts that God could forgive him because he has done so many bad things. We do not know what the wrongdoer had done, but even he says he deserved the slow and painful death he received on the cross. Despite his sin, however, Jesus forgave him completely and freely through grace by faith.*

Additional questions – add depth to the lesson

1. What is faith? *Faith is trust in Jesus alone for the forgiveness of sins, spiritual peace, and eternal life. Make sure the answer to this question is not based on our own thinking and understanding (see James 2:19 or Matthew 8:28), but is focused on trusting in Jesus' saving work (see Isaiah 12:2, Romans 3:22, Galatians 2:20, and Hebrews 11:1).*
2. Does faith save us? *Yes, faith in Christ Jesus saves us. (You may refer to the passages above).*
3. How does a person come to faith or get faith? *Notice that the criminal on the cross saw Jesus' saving work and came to faith in Him. Faith was given to him; he did not work for it. We are connected to that same saving work through the gospel in the Word (Romans 10:17) and the sacraments (Titus 3:5). Faith is given to us through this Word and sacrament.*

4. What are the key points from this story to remember when you are sharing it with others? *The answers may vary. Be sure to return to the fundamental truth we see in the history of the wrongdoer on the cross: we are saved by the grace of God given to us through faith in Jesus. The result is that we have the sure hope of eternal life.*

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. What is the difference between those who are saved and those who are not? *The difference is faith in Christ Jesus. God rejects anyone who says he is saved because of his own works. Anyone who believes in Jesus' work on his behalf is saved.*

Closing End with a prayer thanking God for your faith and asking for stronger faith.

Next Class: day and time

Additional information for the teacher: Topics that may arise during class

Decision theology. It is likely that many and even most students will have a background involved in decision-making theology. At this point in the program, you will have studied many courses that will have given you solid instruction on this matter, but there may be some persistent vocabulary that we use that suggests that we should "accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior". This lesson is a good opportunity to refute that idea. Point out that faith is different from works with true Biblical vocabulary, especially by pointing out the words of Romans 3:28, Ephesians 2:8-9, and 1 Corinthians 12:3. In short, after all the classes people have taken, it's time to push them to use solid vocabulary, and since we're teaching teachers, insisting on speaking in a way that's in harmony with solid doctrine.

"With me" in paradise. The question might arise about how Jesus, who was hanging on the cross, could be with the wrongdoer in paradise. Although a little off topic, as they discuss the details of the story, students might wonder how Jesus could be buried that day and also be with the man in paradise. For the most part, this could simply be a mystery of the incarnation since Jesus is true man and true God at the same time. The instructor might simply say that it is something beyond our human understanding (see Isaiah 55:8-9 or Romans 11:33-36). To get deeper into the subject, the instructor can point out that Jesus, who died that day, never ceased to be true God. Although he set aside the full use of his power and glory, he remained "in the form of God" the omnipresent and eternal Son of God (see Philippians 2:6-7) and therefore was with the wrongdoer in paradise that day.



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Lesson 4



Concept #4: The Works | tellnetwork.org

 **Watch video 4.** *Play the fourth 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 John 8:2-11.*

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

According to what we saw in the video, in five words or less, explain why we do good deeds?

As students answer this question, be sure to lovingly correct answers that give the idea that we do good works out of fear, obligation, or to gain something from God.

At the end of the discussion, you can conclude with the following answer to this question: "For Jesus died for me" or another answer that clearly shows that we do good works in gratitude for what Jesus did in saving us.

Evaluate: brings more meaning and context to the lesson

1. Who are the characters in this story? *Jesus, the people gathered around him, the scribes and the Pharisees, the woman who had committed adultery*
2. What are the objects in this story? *The stones, the ground on which Jesus wrote (Note that the text does not say what or why Jesus wrote on the ground.)*
3. Where did this story happen? *Near the temple in Jerusalem*
4. When did this story happen? *According to verse two, it was dawn.*
5. What is the problem? *The woman who had been accused of committing adultery was about to be stoned. The scribes and Pharisees brought her before him as a trap. If he had said she should be executed, he would have broken Roman law that forbade them to execute people themselves. If he had said she was not to be executed, he would have*

broken the law of the Old Testament. See also Deuteronomy 22:22-24 and Leviticus 20:10. See additional resources to learn how to handle questions about civil and moral law.

6. What events occurred in this story? *Jesus arrived at the temple in the morning. People were coming to listen to him. The scribes and Pharisees brought before him a woman accused of committing adultery. They asked if the woman should be executed. Jesus responded in such a way that all who were about to stone the woman left, leaving only him and her. Jesus announced forgiveness to her by saying that he did not condemn her. Then he commanded her to give up her sinful life.*
7. Is the problem solved? *Yes, it is. Jesus saved the woman from being stoned and also saved her eternally by proclaiming, as the Son of God, that he did not condemn her for her sins.*

Learn

1. What is the main theme of this lesson? *A brief review of Old Testament law and Roman law would help here. Pay special attention to the fact that Jesus encouraged the woman to leave her sinful life after forgiving her. His instruction to her to leave her sinful life behind emphasizes the point that we are not saved by our good works, but that we do good deeds because we are saved.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *Most of us can identify with both the condemned woman and those who wanted to kill her. Sometimes we are convinced that we are better than others and we belittle those who sin. At other times, perhaps we have been caught in public sins and our guilt is obvious to all. In any case, we are guilty and we have much to confess.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in this lesson? *As we saw in the previous story, it is obvious that the love Jesus showed the woman was totally undeserved. She had sinned and, in front of Jesus, could only stand there in shame. Jesus forgave her because of his great love for her.*
Jesus did not stop with forgiveness. He showed his love to her by helping her change her life of sin and live in thankfulness to him.
4. What does God teach you to do in this lesson? *Just as Jesus said to the woman, "Go and sin no more," so he also commands us to leave our sinful lives. We do that with the same motivation that the woman had. Jesus did not condemn her, and he does not condemn us (Romans 5:8 and 8:1). His forgiveness motivates us to separate ourselves from sin. We*

recognize that we are not able to change our lives perfectly and permanently, but we continue to try to do so motivated by God's grace given to us in Jesus.

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? *This is an excellent story for the new Christian who is still immersed in a life of sin, for a long-time Christian who has fallen into repetitive sin, or for a person who thinks he cannot be forgiven for his obvious life of sin. This story reminds people of their motivation to leave a sinful life – the love and forgiveness of Jesus.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. What role do good works play in our salvation? *None! We are saved without the works of the law (Romans 3:28).*
2. Why do we do good deeds? *We do good deeds for the same reason that the woman in the story would leave her sinful life. We desire to do them in gratitude for our salvation and for the grace shown to us in Jesus. The love of Christ compels us. Through our works, we glorify God and serve our neighbors.*
3. How do we do good deeds? *We are able to do good works only by the power of the Holy Spirit. Notice that good works in Galatians 5:22-23 are called the "fruit of the Spirit." The Holy Spirit works in us through the means of grace.*
4. What guidance does God give us to help us learn what he considers "good"? *Returning to something we saw earlier in the course, we see clear and prescriptive passages from scripture (see Psalm 119:105, 135).*
5. What are the key points to remember from this story when you are sharing it with others? *Allow time for answers. Conclude the discussion with these two particular points: 1) the works are motivated by the gospel and 2) we begin by encouraging others to leave their sinful lives.*

Lesson wrap-up

1. Ask the key question: Are we required to do good deeds? *Good deeds are not required for salvation, but God does command them. In that sense, they are required. We can't help producing fruit once we become attached to the vine of Jesus.*

Closing End with a prayer thanking God for his promises and his faithfulness in keeping them, or with a blessing for the group.

What is next?

*As you discuss the next step, you, as leader, will have the opportunity to encourage your students to continue their growth in God's word with the upcoming course called **Learn from Me**, also offered by TELL. Tell your students that through this course, they will learn the contents of the books of the Old and New Testaments, as well as about Jesus Christ's teachings on forgiveness, repentance, baptism, Holy Communion, the last days, and much more. Express your deep desire to continue studying with them.*

Additional information for the teacher: Topics that may arise during class

Textual criticism. Students who are reading from the NIV will see a textual note about this story that says it is not included in all the ancient manuscripts. If instructors face questions about this, they are encouraged to study the topic in more depth so that they can offer students a complete and patient answer, as confidence in the reliability of the text of Scripture is extremely important. One good place to look for answers is *The People's Bible: John*, page 121.

Civil law vs. moral law. Note that this story is also good for teaching the difference between Old Testament civil law and moral law. An example of civil law here would be executing someone caught committing adultery. That was God's will for his people at that time. As we read the law of the Old Testament in the light of the New Testament, we see that the execution of those who were caught committing adultery no longer remains God's will for us who live after Christ. However, we also see God's moral law in this story. We see from the New Testament that it is God's will that we live pure and decent lives and flee from sexual sins such as adultery. Since we see both moral law and civil law in this story, it would be a good opportunity to teach the difference between the two if the question arises.



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Lesson 5



The Bible and Inspiration | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this first lesson is to introduce yourself, introduce the class objective, and answer the questions “Whose word is the Bible?” and “How do we interpret Scripture?”

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read Acts 17:1-12 about some of the people to whom Paul preached the gospel.

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 Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of your Holy Scripture so that we can learn about your great love for us and the salvation you have won completely for us. I ask that you bless this class and all of the participants in it. Send your Holy Spirit to root us deeply in your Word as we learn more and more about you. 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

How did the Bible come into being? *Over the course of 1600 years, God used dozens of men to write down his Word. These men spoke their own languages and wrote with their own educational backgrounds and styles. They were not robots in the process, but, through the Holy Spirit’s inspiration, every word of the Bible is God’s Word, exactly as he wanted to communicate it.*

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in this story? *Paul, Silas, Timothy, the Thessalonians, and the Bereans*
2. What are the objects in this story? *The Scriptures*
3. Where did this story happen? *The Jewish Synagogues in Thessalonica and Berea*
4. When did this story happen? *After the ascension of Jesus, as Paul was traveling on his second recorded missionary journey (49-52 AD)*
5. What is the problem? *The Thessalonian Jews were jealous. They did not believe Paul and Silas as they preached the Word. They even followed Paul and Silas to Berea to cause trouble there.*
6. What events occurred in this story? *Let the participants tell the story, but guide them when they deviate, get confused, or overlook an important detail.*
7. Is the problem solved? *For the Thessalonians who refused to believe that Jesus was the fulfillment of Scripture and was indeed their Savior, the problem was not solved. The Bereans believed, so Scripture was the solution to their problem of needing a Savior.*

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

1. What is the main theme of this lesson? *Despite being recorded by a number of human writers and translated from the Hebrew and Greek, the Bible is and will remain the Word of God. The law that is written in it, then, is God's law. We should not try to interpret it based on our human understanding, but we should let Scripture inform Scripture. WE should test what our teachers say against the Word we read, as the Bereans did.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess?
 - i. Jealousy – *The Thessalonian Jews were jealous because the people were listening to Paul rather than to the traditional teachers of the law. We so often want to be right and to be respected and loved by those around us. Sometimes teachers of truth get in our way.*
 - ii. Pride – *The Thessalonian Jews were certain that they would always be God's people and that they knew what was right. They refused to search the Scriptures for signs of the Savior that had been fulfilled.*
 - iii. Absence from the Word – *Staying away from hearing the Word is detrimental to our spiritual health. We need to be like the Bereans who listened and studied.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in this lesson? *God shows His great love for me by giving me His Word. As Paul wrote to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:15, "From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." He has also sent faithful preachers like Paul throughout the generations to proclaim His plan of salvation.*
4. What does God teach you to do in this lesson? *To recognize His Word as the truth and to see His law as a blessing. Jesus said in John 17:17, "Sanctify them by the truth; your (God's) word is truth."*

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 children, with people newly introduced to the Word, in academic or scientific environments, with someone who thinks he can only know the truth if God speaks to him directly.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. What is the main point of the Bible? *The main point of the Bible is to show us that we have a broken relationship with God and that we ourselves can do nothing to fix it. Only God could fix it, and He did. He sent his Son to be our substitute, to live and to die for us. The Son is our Savior.*
2. Why can we continue to trust in the Bible even though we only have copies? *God not only gave us his Word; He also has preserved his Word through the ages. We have God's promise of that preservation in passages like Isaiah 40:8, "The word of our God stands forever." Scripture also tells us accounts of God's preservation of his word such as in Jeremiah 36 where an evil king wanted to destroy the Word but was not able to. We can also examine all the handwritten copies of the Scriptures which still exist and see that there are no differences in the copies which change or cast doubt on doctrine.*
3. What is God's biggest desire for us? *God's biggest desire for us is our salvation. 1 Timothy 2:4 says, "God wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*
4. Is that desire completed in the Bible? *Yes. The Bible has everything that we need for salvation. 2 Timothy 3:15 says, "From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." We don't need anything else.*
5. If God were to speak again, would he contradict or change anything we already have in the Bible? *God would not change anything he has already said. Therefore, if we hear people saying, "God told me this," and they teach something that is not biblical, that means that God did not speak to them. Comparing what we hear with what the Bible says is a very good practice.*
6. Why should we have a healthy suspicion when we hear people claiming to have received messages directly from God? *2 Corinthians 11:14 says, "Satan masquerades as an angel of light." The devil is very cunning and deceptive. He often looks good and offers a seemingly godly message, but underneath the sheep's clothing he is a ferocious wolf looking to devour us."*

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. Ask the key question: Whose word is the Bible? How do we interpret Scripture? *Allow time for various answers. Be sure to emphasize that, although God allowed humans to record his Word, his Holy Spirit inspired every part of it, and He has continued to preserve it for our good. We should not look for God to talk to us directly, but we should study Scripture.*

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.



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 6



God's Law | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: To discover the different types of laws established by God and the main purpose for the law.

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read Matthew 9:9-13, the calling of Matthew as a disciple.

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:

Gracious Father, you have given us your law and your gospel for our salvation. Teach us to use these two teachings correctly and apply them to our lives and the lives around us so that you have all the glory. Teach us to see our sins so that we can see Jesus more clearly. Show us our sin and show us our Savior. 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

What are the three types of law? What are the three purposes of the law?

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *Jesus, Matthew, "tax collectors and sinners", the Pharisees*
2. What are the objects in this story? *The tax collector's booth, food*
3. Where did the story happen? *Near The Sea of Galilee*

4. When did the story happen? *During Jesus' earthly ministry*
5. What is the problem? *The Pharisees did not like Jesus spending time with "tax collectors and sinners" and even calling one of those tax collectors to be a disciple.*
6. What events occurred in this story? *Have the participants relate the story details, but guide them when they deviate, get confused or overlook an important detail*
7. Was there a solution to the problem? If so, what was it? *The problems of the sinners were being solved. Jesus explained that he had come to make them spiritually well. It is doubtful that any of the Pharisees took Jesus' words to heart.*

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

1. What is the main theme of this lesson? Jesus came to fulfill the law in the place of those sinners who would trust Him. The Pharisees, who were trying to earn their way to heaven through adherence to the law did not recognize God's grace to them.
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess?
 - A. Looking down on people I consider bad and thinking them less worthy of God's love
 - B. A tendency to depend on my church affiliation or my family's traditions or any laws of God for my salvation
 - C. Lack of recognition of myself as a sinner in need of Jesus
3. Where do you see the love of God in this lesson?
 - A. Jesus loved people who were not respected by society – the tax collectors and sinners – and He came to tell them that His sacrifice would pay the price for their sins.
 - B. Jesus called Matthew, not only to faith, but also to be a disciple and to help preach the true Word of God.
 - C. Jesus lovingly tried to show the Pharisees their errors.
4. What does God teach you to do in this lesson?
 - A. To see myself as equal to all other sinners, as we all fall short of God's perfection and need of a Savior
 - B. To rely only on Jesus for salvation and not depend on my family or my church or any laws to earn my way
 - C. To show people around me that they are sinful and then to proclaim the gospel to them

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?
 - A. With people around us who think they are too sinful to be forgiven
 - B. With people who think that their adherence to rules will earn them a place in heaven

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. What are the two main teachings of the Bible?

The two main teachings of the Bible are the law and the gospel. The law shows us our sin, and the gospel shows us our Savior. The word "gospel" means good news." The message of Jesus is

certainly good news because it tells us we don't have to do anything to be saved because Jesus did it all.

2. Where are the law and the gospel found?

The law and the gospel are both found in the Old Testament and the New Testament. For example, we find the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20, but we also find the first promise of a Savior in Genesis 3:15. In the New Testament we find the law, such as in Matthew 5 and 6 in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. We also see the gospel in Jesus' sacrifice. The law and the gospel go together. We need them both

3. What are the three types of law?

- A. The three types of law which we find in the Bible are the civil law, the ceremonial law, and the moral law. The civil law was for the Israelites in the Old Testament and told them how to run their government. An example would be the laws for the king in Deuteronomy 17:14-20.
- B. The ceremonial law regulated the worship life of the Old Testament people and pointed to Christ. An example would be the celebration of the Day of Atonement in Leviticus 16.
- C. The moral law is what God wants from all people of all time. An example of this would be the prohibition of stealing in Exodus 20:15.

4. What are the three purposes of the law?

The three purposes of God's law are to act as a mirror to show us our sins, to curb our sinful nature with threats of punishment so that we think twice before acting upon our darkest impulses, and to serve as a guide for believers who are looking for ways to thank God for his forgiveness and love for them.

5. According to Romans 3:20, what is the main purpose of the law?

The main purpose of the law is to show us our sins, to act as a mirror so that we see our hopeless state, all in preparation for telling us the news of Jesus who has done all for us.

6. Why do we want to apply the law first before the gospel?

By nature, we think that we can do something to merit some of God's favor and forgiveness. We are proud of being better than someone else, doing a good work, or progressing in our behavior. However, God's standards are perfection. He has to knock us down, destroy us, and devastate us so that we find no hope in ourselves. Then, he lifts us up again with the message of his Son who lived a perfect life for us and died a horrible death to pay for our sins. Nothing depends on us. We need the law message first so we appreciate and listen to the message that says, "Everything depends on Jesus."

7. Does obedience bring blessing?

- A. When we outwardly follow God's commandments, we may generally have fewer problems. For example, if we are not sleeping with other people, we have a better opportunity for a good relationship with our spouses. However, we also want to keep in mind passages like 2 Timothy 3:12, "Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." Following God's commands also brings us troubles. Jesus promises his followers a cross (Luke 9).
- B. Our obedience does not bring the greatest blessing, a relationship with God. God demands perfection (Matthew 5:48). We are not perfect because even one sin damns us (James 2:10).

If we try to achieve a good relationship with God by our own obedience, we will be lost. Galatians 3:10 says, “All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.’”

- C. All the promises and curses in sections of the Old Testament, such as Deuteronomy 28, can be difficult to understand. The ancient Israelites had a two-way covenant with God. If they fulfilled their end of the pact, God would fulfill his end. It was law-based. The main purpose of the law is to show us our sins. The two-way covenant did just that. It showed how Israel failed. They could never do everything perfectly. They needed a savior. Jesus is the embodiment of the New Covenant, a one-way covenant.

8. What is Jesus’ relationship with the law?

- A. Jesus had to obey God’s law. Galatians 4:4 says, “When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.” Jesus became our substitute by living a perfect life in our place.
- B. Jesus obeyed God’s law perfectly. Hebrews 4:15 says, “We do not have a high priest (Jesus) who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.”
- C. Jesus’ perfect obedience is attributed to us as our own. Romans 5:19 says, “Just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.” We now have Jesus’ perfect record as our perfect record.

9. Are we able to fulfill the law?

Some people may be convinced that we have the power to fulfill the law. “If God commands it, we must be able to do it,” they claim. This is not true. By nature, we are dead in our sins (Ephesians 2:1) and are enemies of God (Romans 8:7). We had no desire or ability to fulfill what God demands. Even as believers, we constantly struggle with our sinful nature (Romans 7). The purpose of the law is to show us our sins (Romans 3:20). The law cannot save us or show us how to save ourselves. It gives us the standard but does not help us reach that goal.

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. What is the proper understanding of the law of God?

God gave us his law to show us what perfect obedience looked like and to show that we are not capable of reaching this standard. When we are saddened by this fact, the gospel shows us that Jesus obeyed for us and paid the penalty for our disobedience. Jesus showed this proper understanding of the law when he told the Pharisees in our story, “I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

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.



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 7



The First and Second Commandments | tellnetwork.org

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

- Explain the purpose of the course.
- Ask all to show respect for the teacher and other students by writing appropriate questions and comments on the Facebook Live chat.
- 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.



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 8



The Third Commandment | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this lesson is to understand the Third Commandment and its importance to our faith.

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read Matthew 4:1-11, the account of Satan tempting Jesus in the wilderness.

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 Holy Spirit. We thank you for your life-giving Word in which we learn about our Salvation and the great love the Holy Trinity has for us. Forgive us the times when we have not appreciated the Word as we should. Give us hearts eager to learn more and more from the living message. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Introduce The Course

- Explain the purpose of the course.
- Ask all to show respect for the teacher and other students by writing appropriate questions and comments on the Facebook Live chat.
- 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

What does it mean to remember the Sabbath Day?

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

- Who are the characters in the story? *Jesus, the Devil, the angels*
- What are the objects in the story? *The wilderness, a mountain, the Temple*
- Where did the story take place? *In the wilderness*

4. When did the story take place? *After Jesus was baptized by John. He then spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness.*
5. What is the problem in the story? *The Devil is tempting Jesus to turn away from the Father and worship him instead.*
6. What events occurred in this story? *Note that the Devil misuses the Word of God, while Jesus returns to the Word again and again to rebuff the Devil.*
7. Is the problem solved? *Jesus never sinned, even amidst these difficult temptations. He remained perfect in our place.*

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

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *Physical food is certainly a needed blessing from the Lord and we pray for it in the Lord's Prayer—"Give us today our daily bread"—however, our deeper spiritual need is only satisfied with God's Word. Only in God's Word can we see the true depth of our sin and the true extent of God's love for us in Jesus. Every time Satan tries a new temptation to trick Jesus into worshiping him, Jesus goes back to the Word of God.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess?
 - A. Apathy – Hebrews 10:25 tells us, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." God wants us to meet together regularly to worship Him, to encourage each other, and to study the gospel together. We should follow Jesus' example by knowing God's Word and using It to resist temptation.
 - B. A lack of appreciation for God's Word – Jesus showed reverence for the Word and its teachings. Even though he was hungry and he was capable of creating bread for himself, he valued God's Law above his discomfort. Psalm 1:2 says, "His delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night." We sin when we do not appreciate God's Word perfectly and constantly, always with a good attitude.
 - C. The Devil used the word of God to teach falsely. Jesus did not succumb to his temptations. Romans 16: 17 says, "I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them." We sin against the Third Commandment when we teach things as God's Word when they are not biblical. We also sin when we allow false teaching and false teachers to remain with us as if their teaching were not dangerous. Jesus' stubborn clinging to the Word caused the Devil to leave him.
3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson?
 - A. God showed us how to deal with temptation by giving us Jesus as an example and by giving us Jesus as a substitute. We can expect to fall into temptation, but Jesus did not.
 - B. God provided angels to serve Jesus when he needed them most. He provides his love, his Word, and his angels when we need them.
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson?

God wants us to value hearing his Word, to support one another with his message, and to steer clear of false teachers.

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

1. What would be a good situation to in which to share this message? *With people who say that they can worship God without relying on or listening to the Bible.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. How did Jesus fulfill this commandment in our place? *Ask the students to remember examples from the Bible of Jesus keeping the Sabbath holy. One of the best examples is found in Luke 4:16: "Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom." Jesus regularly gathered with others to be in the Word. His perfect attendance now counts as our attendance.*
2. God wanted the Israelites in the Old Testament to worship on Saturday. Why don't we have to worship on Saturdays? *The teacher will want to let the students discuss this. Some import ideas follow. There are three types of law – moral, civil, and ceremonial. The three types of law are mixed together in the Third Commandment. God wants all people of all time to obey his word, but he only wanted the Israelites to worship on Saturdays. Colossians 2:16-17 says, "Do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ." Observing the Sabbath day on Saturdays was part of the ceremonial law. That ceremonial law pointed to Jesus, who fulfilled it. We are no longer under those regulations that dictated the worship life of the ancient Israelites. The Sabbath Day pointed to the true spiritual rest we now find in Jesus.*
3. Why do we often have church services on Sundays? As New Testament believers, we don't have any specific rules about when we should worship. God does want us to hear his word regularly and to meet together regularly. It seems that meeting on Sunday quickly became a regular custom for most of the church, even as early as the time when the New Testament was being written (Acts 20:7 and Revelation 1:10). We do not have any biblical explanation for why Sunday was chosen. Perhaps they began to gather together on Sundays because it reminded them that Jesus rose triumphant from the dead on a Sunday. Any day of the week is a good day to gather together and to worship our Savior God.

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. Why is the Third Commandment important for us today? *Allow time for participants to share their answers, but emphasize that God's Word shows us His plan for salvation. Meeting together to study it reminds us that we are saved by his grace and helps us to encourage one another in the faith.*

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.



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 9



The Fourth and Fifth Commandments | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to learn about the respect God wants us to show to those in authority and the love we are to show others.

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read Matthew 22: 15-22 and 34-40.

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 Heavenly Father, you have given us precious gifts which we don't deserve. Today we consider your gifts of the people you put in authority over us and the gift of life. Convict us of our sin and soothe us with the message of your Son. Guide us into a deeper appreciation for these gifts of yours and help us to navigate this sinful world so that we may honor you in the best way possible. 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

Think about those who have authority over you. Do you like them? Do you respect them? Do you see them as agents of God's will?

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in these stories? *The Pharisees, Jesus, Caesar*
2. What are the objects in these stories? *The denarius that was used to pay taxes*
3. Where did the story take place? *Jerusalem*

4. When did the story happen? *After Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered Jerusalem triumphantly. He then preached to the people and talked to the Pharisees. He would soon be arrested and crucified.*
5. What is the problem in this story?
 - a. *The Pharisees are trying to trick Jesus into saying something wrong.*
 - b. *The Pharisees are not interested in Jesus' teachings but in getting rid of Jesus.*
6. What events occurred in this story? *Focus on Jesus' authority. The Pharisees tried everything they could to prove that Jesus was acting either against the government or against God because they were jealous.*
7. Is the problem solved? *The Pharisees were not able to trip up Jesus because Jesus is true God. He answered their questions about the law and about submission to authority perfectly. They still managed to arrest and kill him, but that death on the cross solved all of our problems. It did not solve the problem for most of the Pharisees because they refused to believe.*

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

1. What is the main theme of these stories? *Jesus perfectly and succinctly sums up the Law of God for the Pharisees, focusing on loving God above all else and loving our neighbors as ourselves. He also showed them that God wants us to submit to government authorities.*
2. What sins am I taught to confess in these stories?
 - a. *Not offering my respect and courtesy to those in authority over me*
 - b. *Putting my own interest above the needs of those around me*
 - c. *Loving anything more than I love God*
3. Where do I see God's love in these stories?
 - a. *God puts people in authority over us to fulfill his will*
 - b. *We are able to love others and love God because he loved us first*
4. What does God teach you to ask and do? *God wants me to focus on putting Him and His glory first in my life in what I say and do. He wants me to love the people around me as much as I love myself and honor and respect all those in authority over me, including parents, governments, and teachers.*

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 people refuse to respect their government officials because of political disagreements and when those around us are tempted to abuse someone they do not like*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. How did Jesus summarize the whole law? *The one-word response is “love,” but there are two recipients of our love— God and our neighbors. In addition, we see a natural divide in the 10 commandments along these lines. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God, and the rest concentrate on our relationship with our neighbors.*
2. Besides our parents, who are some of the authorities included in the Fourth Commandment? *church leaders, government leaders, and supervisors and bosses at work. Others may include the police, teachers, airport control, etc.*
3. What is God protecting in the Fifth Commandment? *Our lives and physical wellbeing*
4. How do we act under evil and corrupt authorities? *We will want to act always in love and respect. We will want to refuse to act against God’s will. We will want to use the established legal means and ways of influencing our governing officials (e.g., voting, petitions, etc.).*
5. Is it wrong for governments to practice Capital Punishment?
 - a. What is Capital Punishment? *The practice of a government to put people to death for certain crimes.*
 - b. What does Scripture say about the government’s right to use capital punishment? *Romans 13:1-4, “Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.” The last verse shows specifically that God gives governments the right to execute people for crimes. It is taking a life, but it is not murder. They are acting in God’s behalf.*
 - c. Does a government have to use Capital Punishment? *No. It can choose to abstain from that God-given right.*
 - d. What are some of the benefits of Capital Punishment? *Capital punishment not only stops a criminal from continuing his destructive and evil behavior, but it also can serve as a deterrent for others who may consider severely hurting others.*
6. The Fourth Commandment adds a promise. It says, “Honor your father and your mother so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” What does the added promise tell us about the commandment? *The added promise shows God’s gracious concern for our welfare here on the earth. Generally speaking, when we listen and obey our authorities, earthly blessings follow. If I follow my parents’ wise advice in selecting a spouse, it is more likely I will have a happier relationship. If I follow my teacher’s model of studying, I will likely learn more. If I obey traffic laws, I am more likely to stay out of accidents. But these blessings are a gift from God, and we have no right to demand them.*

7. What do we learn about sin from these passages? Matthew 5:21-22, ““You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.” And Proverbs 30:17, “The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures.”
8. *God is very serious about sin.*
9. *God considers our thoughts and our words as sinful. We are completely sinful. Sin comes from the heart as Matthew 15:19-20 indicates, “For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.”*
10. *We can have hope only through Jesus. He was perfectly pure in our place. 1 Peter 2:22 proves it. “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” And he also paid the punishment of hell that we deserve because of our sins against these commandments.*

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. Are there times when we may need to rebel against authority? How can we love God and our neighbors and act in respectful submission to those in authority over us? *While there are reasons we may need to disobey authority, we are to do so with love and respect. We may need to disobey if the person in authority over us is asking us to do something against God’s will or if we are putting ourselves or our neighbors in danger. Living with an abusive parent or being asked to support abortion, which is murder, are two times when we may need to disobey. We are only able to love God and our neighbors and respect authority through the Holy Spirit and because God loved us first.*

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.



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 10



The Sixth Commandment | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this lesson is to discuss the Sixth Commandment and its importance for Christians.

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read Genesis 39.

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 Heavenly Father, we ask your blessing on our study today. We do not ask on the basis of our own merits, but on Christ's merits. Open our hearts to learn and to believe what you have to teach us today. In the name of your Son Jesus, 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

Think about this: What is the Sixth Commandment? Why did God institute marriage? What are the blessings of marriage? Why is faithfulness in marriage so important?

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in this story? *Joseph, Potiphar, Potiphar's wife*
2. What are the objects in this story? *All of Potiphar's possessions and his home, Joseph's outer garment, the jail*

3. Where did this story happen? *This story takes place in Egypt after Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery. Part of the story takes place in Potiphar's house and part in the jail.*
4. When did this story happen? *A few centuries after the flood, about 1544 B.C.*
5. What is the problem? *Potiphar trusted Joseph completely with his household, but Potiphar's wife wanted Joseph to commit adultery with her. When Joseph refused, she framed him and got her husband to put him in jail.*
6. What events occurred in this story? *Let the participants tell the story. Lead the group to see the importance Joseph placed on following the commandments of God. He may have been able to "get away with" this sin of adultery if no one found out. But Joseph took sin against God very seriously.*
7. Is the problem solved? *God is with Joseph throughout his ordeals. He continues to watch over Joseph and to give him the gift of being able to interpret dreams. God enables Joseph to become an important person in Potiphar's home and in the jail. Eventually, Joseph is let out of jail and becomes a very important person in Egypt.*

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

1. What is the main theme of this lesson? *Adultery is not just a sin against people, but it is a sin against God.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess?
 - A. Thinking that sexual sins only affect the people who are involved and that the actions of "consenting adults" do not matter to God
 - B. Our desire for sexual satisfaction that has not been granted to us. Our thoughts that a God who loves us would certainly want us to be happy and would put our happiness above our obedience to his commands
3. Where do you see the love of God in this lesson?
 - A. *It may seem like Joseph paid a huge price for his rebuff of Potiphar's wife. However, God was always there to keep Joseph safe, and He eventually used this situation to make Joseph an even greater asset to Pharaoh.*
 - B. *God allowed Joseph to interpret Pharaoh's dream and save the Egyptians from starvation.*
 - C. *God eventually reunited Joseph with his family, enabled Joseph to forgive, and saved his family from the famine in their land.*
4. What does God teach you to do in this lesson? *God wants us to trust him in every situation, even when it would be easier and more fun to give in to temptation. He is able to help us stand up against temptation and to change seemingly terrible situations into good for us.*

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 a friend is tempted to commit adultery, thinking that they will be happy if only they can have the person of their dreams.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. What are some of the blessings of marriage?
 - a. Companionship as we see when God created Eve for Adam and said, "It is not good for man to be alone"
 - b. Sexual satisfaction as we see in books such as Song of Solomon
 - c. Children as we see in a number of the Psalms, such as Psalm 127
2. Who instituted marriage? *God, on the sixth day of creation*
3. How does God use the image of a marriage to demonstrate the gospel? *In Ephesians 5, God compares Jesus with a loving groom and the church with a bride who is made radiant by the work of Salvation which Jesus completed.*
4. Does the sin of adultery only include physical activity? *The Sixth Commandment, like all of the commandments, speaks to our thoughts, our words, and our actions. The commandment certainly includes explicit cases of affairs and having sexual relations with people outside of marriage, but it also includes our thoughts and our words. Jesus said in Matthew 5:27-28, "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." Paul says in Ephesians 4:29, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths." All people have broken this commandment, whether they are single or married, divorced or celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary, old or young.*
5. What if we know we are guilty of the breaking the Sixth Commandment? *Jesus is the answer to all our sins, including those against the Sixth Commandment. Now, in thanksgiving to God, we can seek to live lives which give glory to him in the way we view marriage. Single people will seek to live contently and chastely as Joseph did in Genesis 39, thanking God for their single status and, if God gives them spouses, thanking God for his providence. Married people will seek to love their spouses modeling their Savior's love in their relationship.*
6. Comment on each of the following words and their relation to marriage.
 - a. Covenant: Many people say that marriage is based on love. The feelings of love in a marriage are certainly blessings from God. However, the foundational element of marriage is the solemn promise, the covenant, which the man and the woman make between themselves. The feelings come and go, but when a husband and wife base their actions on the promise they made, they have a firm anchor for their relationship.
 - b. Love: Love is more than emotions. Love is also attitude and action. As one author described it, "Christian love is a deep concern for another that leads us to act in that person's best interests." This type of love, which can be shown even if feelings of love are not there, has its basis on God's love for us. As 1 John 4:19 says, "We love because he first loved us."
 - c. Forgiveness: In every marriage, two sinners marry each other. A husband and wife will want to learn how to talk about their sins with each other. They will want to confess to each other and then they will want to forgive each other. The motivation and the power for this forgiveness come from the forgiveness that God gave to us. As Ephesians 4:32 says, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

- d. **Sacrifice:** Motivated by God’s love and salvation, a husband and wife will want to place each other’s interests above their own. Philippians 2:4 says, “Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” This action of love involves sacrifice—a sacrifice to serve.
7. What does God say about divorce and remarriage?
 - a. God has very strong feelings about divorce. God says in Malachi 2:16, “I hate divorce.” In Matthew 19:4-6, Jesus says, “Haven’t you read that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.” A divorce always involves sin and is not what God desires.
 - b. Since all married people are sinners, there are times when, because of sin, the marriage bond has been broken beyond repair and a divorce is announcing a reality that has already happened in private. As 1 Corinthians 7:15 says, “If the unbeliever leaves [a marriage], let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.” Jesus gives one specific example of those circumstances in Matthew 19:9 when he says, “I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.”
 - c. A divorce involves sin, so repentant spouses will want to produce fruits of repentance. There is no specific list of the expected fruits of repentance because every situation is unique and complicated. However, one of the first fruits of repentance that a person will consider is reconciliation with their first spouse. If this reconciliation is impossible (the spouse does not want reconciliation, has died, or has already remarried), the spouse will want to look for other fruits of repentance. Their actions may take a number of different forms. Perhaps they will want to remain single. Perhaps they will remarry, something that is not a sin if reconciliation with their spouse was not possible. All depends on the person and the situation.

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. Ask the key question: Why is the Sixth Commandment important for Christians? *Allow time for various answers. Be sure to emphasize that trust in God relies on his promises, not on our own determination.*

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.



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 11



Commandments Seven, Eight, Nine and Ten | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: To understand the Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Commandments and to remember the purposes of these laws.

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read 1 Kings 21.

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:

Oh Holy Spirit, as we consider these final commandments, convict us of our sin. Make us sad that we are sinners. Then, use your gospel message of Jesus to lift us up and make us happy. Work your law and gospel in us today. In the name of Jesus, 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

Think about this: What are the Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Commandments? What do they have in common? What important things do we need to remember about the laws of God and their purposes?

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *Naboth, Jezebel, King Ahab, God, the elders and nobles, Elijah*
2. What are the objects in this story? *Naboth's vineyard, stones, sackcloth*

3. Where did the story happen? *In Jezreel, close to the palace of King Ahab, king of Samaria*
4. When did the story happen?
 - a. After God had helped King Ahab win a battle against Ben-Hadad
 - b. Around 850 BC
5. What is the problem? *God had brought King Ahab victory in battle and given him all the possessions he needed, but Ahab wanted Naboth's vineyard. Ahab and Jezebel coveted the property and bore false witness against Naboth.*
6. What events occurred in this story? *Have the participants retell the story. Be sure to point out that God had given King Ahab everything that he needed but Ahab still sinned. Ahab and Jezebel coveted Naboth's vineyard and lied about him in order to get it. Their actions brought disaster upon their family.*
7. Was there a solution to the problem? If so, what was it? *Ahab did realize that he had sinned. He put on sackcloth and prayed. Because of this repentance, God put off his punishment.*

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

1. What is the main theme of this lesson? *Unrestricted covetousness leads one to other sins such as lying, stealing, and even murder.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess?
 - A. Being ungrateful for the many gifts God has given us
 - B. Wanting what others have and scheming to get it
3. Where do you see God's love in this story?
 - A. God made these laws to protect the property of people and their good name
 - B. God sent a prophet to show Ahab his sin.
 - C. God protected His people in order to bring about the birth of our Savior so that our covetousness, our lies, and our thievery would be forgiven.
4. What does God teach you to do in this lesson? *He shows us in this story what disasters our breaking of these commandments can bring. He shows us that we are as guilty as Ahab and that we need a Savior. He wants us to remember the many blessings we have and to cultivate grateful hearts.*

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?
 - A. When people are struggling to see the many blessings God has given them
 - B. In situations where a friend or fellow believer seems to be caught in sins that break these commandments

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. What are the last four commandments and what is their purpose?
 - a. *The Seventh Commandment is "You shall not steal." In the Seventh Commandment, God is seeking to protect the material blessings he places in our lives. These things, both big and*

- small, are gifts from his gracious hand and are included in verses like James 1:17, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."*
- b. *The Eighth Commandment is "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor." Proverbs 22:1 says, "A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold." One of the greatest gifts God can give us is our reputation. With the Eighth Commandment, God is protecting that gift. We don't want to ruin someone's reputation by lying or by gossiping but will rather want to defend that person's reputation where possible. This commandment, however, does not prohibit us from showing someone their sin by applying the law and gospel in the way that least ruins their reputation.*
 - c. *The Ninth Commandment is "You shall not covet your neighbor's house."*
 - d. *The Tenth Commandment is "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, workers, animals, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."*
2. *How might coveting lead to other sins, as it did in the story of Naboth's vineyard?*
 - a. *According to James 1:14,15, "Each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death." Every sin is born from our sinful hearts. It starts as a sinful desire and eventually leads to other evil actions or omissions of things God wants us to do.*
 - b. *"When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it" (Genesis 3:6). The first sin is an example of where a covetous heart can lead us. Adam and Eve were not content with what God had given them. Their desire led them away from God and brought them into sinful action and eventually the consequences of sin.*
 - c. *1 Timothy 6:10 says, "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." Money is a gift from God. It is not a sin to have a lot of material blessings, and it is not a sin to have little. However, the ungodly desire for money can lead us to do things that are against God and injure ourselves and those around us.*
 3. *Read Romans 3:20 and Romans 7:25. Why is it important to remember these verses while studying the commandments? These verses remind us first that the commandments of God are his law, and the purpose of God's law is to show us our sins. Someone who truly comprehends what God is telling us to do in the 10 Commandments will quickly despair. He will realize that he is not perfect and that he cannot save himself. He will need to quickly retreat to his Savior who has washed him from his sins and has given him a perfect record of obedience.*
 4. *What is meant by the terms The Old Man and The New Man? All Believers have inside of them both a new creation that loves God and wants to do what God says and their old sinful nature that despises everything of God. As believers, our identity is with our new creation. We are sons of God and heirs of eternal life. The old nature is something foreign to us now, and we battle against it every day. This fight is part of our lives as believers, the life of sanctification. Ephesians 4:22-24 tells us, "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." The Apostle Paul described this battle in Romans 7:15-25. "I do not understand what I do. For what I*

want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!” The answer is always Jesus.

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. Ask the key question: What is important about the last four commandments? *These four commandments can be summed up by the overall command to love our neighbors as ourselves.*

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.



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 12



The Law and the Gospel | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: Answer the question “How are law and gospel properly applied?”

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read John 4:1-42.

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 Holy Spirit, help us learn to apply law and gospel to our own hearts as we seek to apply it to the hearts of the people around us. 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

Think about this: Why do I need to share both law and gospel with others?

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *Jesus, the Samaritan woman at the well, the disciples, the other Samaritans*
2. What are the objects in this story? *Jacob’s well*
3. Where did the story happen? *In the town of Sychar in Samaria*
4. When did the story happen? *During the earthly ministry of Jesus and His disciples*

5. What is the problem? The woman who comes to the well to draw water is leading a sinful life. She knows that the Jews are expecting a Savior, but she does not know that Jesus is that Savior.
6. What events occurred in this story? *As the story is told, point out how Jesus uses the law and the gospel to bring this woman to faith in him.*
7. Is the problem solved? How? *Yes. At first, the woman believes that Jesus may be the Christ because He is able to tell her all about her life of sin. Later, she and many others in the town become believers because Jesus tells them the good news of salvation through faith in Him.*

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

1. What is the main theme of this lesson? Jesus is the living water. He is the only way to a relationship in our forever home with God. We all, like the Samaritan woman, need to hear that we are sinners in need of Jesus.
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *Not taking opportunities to share law and gospel with people who need to hear.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in this lesson?
 - a. *Jesus revealed himself to this ordinary sinful woman and brought her to faith in Him.*
 - b. *Not only did the woman believe, but many others believed also because she shared her experience.*
4. What does God teach you to do in this lesson?
 - a. *To love people around me who are sinners just like me*
 - b. *To share God's love with these people by giving them the law and the gospel*

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 we meet people who are still lost in their sins, we can reach out to develop relationships with them as Jesus did with this woman. Once we have formed relationships with people, we can show them their sin with the law and show them their Savior with the gospel.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. What are the two main teachings of the Bible? *The two main teachings of the Bible are the law and the gospel. They are both from God, and they are both needed in our lives. The law is what God wants us to do, what he wants us not to do, and how he wants us to be.*
2. What is the main purpose of the law? *The main purpose of the law (Romans 3:20) is to show us that we do not live up to God's perfect standards (Matthew 5:48) and that we cannot save ourselves. The law tells us that God hates both the sin and the sinner (Psalm 5:5). God cannot have sinners in his presence and promises to punish them in hell forever.*
3. What is the gospel? *The gospel is the good news that God has done everything in the work of Jesus Christ to save us from our helpless situation of sin. It is the message that God loves us from eternity and has chosen us to be saved in Christ. He has provided the perfect substitute to live*

the holy life we could not live and to die the death we deserved. We are now perfect in God's sight and heirs of heaven.

4. How do we apply law and gospel? *Learning to apply the law and gospel correctly and in the right circumstances is a life-long project. Only the Holy Spirit can teach us to apply it properly in our life circumstances as we study God's Word.*
5. Why do we need to apply law and gospel to ourselves repeatedly? *Though we sin when we do not obey the law, we believers are not under the accusation or the obligation of the law (Romans 8:1), but we still have the sinful nature which needs to be drowned in daily application of the law.*
6. Can a loving God send people to an eternity in hell? *Those who think a loving God could not send people to hell for eternity are forgetting that God is also holy. Sin and sinners cannot be in the presence of a holy God. A good Bible account to share with the students is the Prophet's commissioning in Isaiah 6:1-8. Isaiah realized that he deserved to be destroyed for being in God's presence. The teaching of hell is the preaching of the law. We need it. We also want to remember that God suffered the eternity of hell in one day on the cross and he did it to save us sinners. We can see the wrath of God and the love of God in one place—the cross.*

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. Discuss ways to establish relationships that will enable you to share law and gospel with people who need to hear it. *Allow time for various participants to express their thoughts or concerns, especially regarding their own experiences or choices. Encourage them that they are capable as believers of sharing the law and gospel.*

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.



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 13



God, the Trinity, the Creator and the Provider | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to answer the question “What is a creed?” and to understand what the word Trinity means. Students will also learn about how God the Father continues to care and provide for us.

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read the story in Exodus 16:2-18.

What is the definition of the word creed?

What does the word Trinity mean?

God sometimes uses miracles to provide for us. However, what is his normal way of caring and providing for us?

Since many students probably do not have much experience with Creedal (confessional) churches, it may be wise to also share a copy of the Apostles’ Creed.

Live Class Greet those who are listening to the class.

The prayer asks for God’s blessings, focuses on the theme of the lesson, and effectively ends the greeting time and calls the lesson to order (2 minutes). The following prayer can be used:

Dear Holy Trinity, we thank you for this opportunity to come together and learn about what you do in the world. We thank you for the creation and especially the salvation that you have completed. Give us eyes to see your true greatness. All this we pray because Jesus has given us complete access. 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

Think about this: What does the word creed mean? If we've never read about a creed in the Bible, why would it still be important? *We use the Apostles' Creed to summarize the gospel message—what the Triune God has done for us. So what does the word Trinity mean when referring to God? It means three in one. But if the Bible says that there is only one God (Deuteronomy 6:4), how is it possible that there are three persons in one God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? In this lesson we will learn more about God the Father and how he preserves and cares for us. We will answer these questions as we evaluate the Bible story that you read—Exodus 16:2-18.*

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *The people of Israel, Moses, Aaron, the LORD*
2. What are the objects in the story?
3. Where did the story happen? *In the Desert of Sin, between Elim and Sinai*
4. When did the story happen? *After the LORD had delivered the people of Israel from their captivity in Egypt*
5. What is the problem? *The people of Israel complained that the LORD was not providing for them*
6. What events occurred in this story? *The people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron because they felt they weren't being provided for while they were in the desert. The LORD (God the Father) rained down quail and manna from heaven to provide for them.*
7. Is the problem solved? What is it? *Yes. The LORD provided for the people of Israel by supplying quail from heaven in the evening and manna from heaven in the morning—just as much as each of them needed.*

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

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *The people of Israel sinned against God by not trusting that he was providing for them.*
2. What sin or sins does this lesson teach you to confess? *Not trusting in God the Father to provide for my needs*
3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *God the Father deeply loves me and preserves and protects me*
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *God teaches me to put my trust in him to provide for me. Sometimes he uses supernatural miracles to provide for me (like in the lesson from Exodus). But more often, he uses normal, everyday ways. He provides doctors and nurses to keep us healthy, firemen and police to keep us safe, teachers to educate us, and jobs for our parents.*

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? *We can share this message with someone to remind them that God the Father loves them deeply and will provide for their*

needs. He loves us because we are the crown of his creation, and he especially loves us because we are his redeemed children.

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. What is the definition of the word creed? *A creed is a declaration of what a group believes and teaches. A creed can be useful in summarizing biblical truths to be taught and shared. We can also examine the creeds of others to see if they align with God’s Word.*
2. What does the word Trinity mean? *“Trinity” and its related term “triune” mean three in one. It is a term that describes a teaching we find in the Bible—that there is only one God, but there are three persons in that one God. We can’t comprehend it, but the truth is clearly taught in the Bible.*
3. God sometimes uses miracles to provide for us, like in Exodus 16:2-18 when he provided manna and quail to sustain the people of Israel in the desert. However, what is God’s normal way of caring and providing for us? *God uses common, everyday relationships to provide and to care for his world and the crown of his creation—human beings. For example, he uses the vocations of parents, farmers, truck drivers, store owners, and many more to provide people food. God isn’t a watchmaker who makes a watch, sets it, and walks away. God is still deeply involved in the preservation and protection of his creation, especially us as his loved, redeemed children.*
4. What do we mean when we say in the Apostles’ Creed, “I believe in God”? *Let the students discuss. As needed, add the following thoughts.*

Is faith merely knowledge? Faith is not merely or even essentially knowledge, as James 2:18 says: “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.” Note that James is using the word “believe” in an ironic, secular sense and not in the full trusting sense. Faith, then, is essentially not knowledge, but trust. However, knowledge can and should be added to faith.

What is saving faith? Saving faith is simple confidence in God’s promises of salvation found in Jesus Christ. Most people will instinctively cite Hebrews 11:1 without understanding its meaning. Lead the students to see the simple confidence found in that verse.

How do we obtain faith? You can use a combination of Romans 10:17 and 1 Corinthians 12:3 to show that the Holy Spirit uses his Word to create faith in peoples’ hearts. Emphasize the fact that humans by nature are unable to produce faith in our own hearts.

5. The doctrine of vocation is the teaching that God uses our everyday roles, jobs, and duties to serve him and to care for others. A mother helps her daughter. An employee works faithfully for his boss. A senator legislates beneficial laws. In a sense, God uses people as his “masks” to love others. How can this truth comfort you? *Let the students discuss. As needed, add the following thoughts.*

How does this truth help you when you feel like you are not important? Even when we feel down and don’t think that our work and responsibilities are very important, we can remember that God has placed these things in front of us, and we can thank him for his love by striving to do each one faithfully. He is the one who planned these good works for us to do (Ephesians 2:8).

How does this truth change your perspective on people? When we are working for someone, serving, or helping them, we can remember that God has placed them in our lives and that we

are, in a very real sense, serving God through them (Colossians 3:23-24). We can remember that God is using us and them.

How does this truth help you see the details in how God governs the world? Consider how many people God used to bring you the food you are going to eat tomorrow. Hundreds and maybe even thousands of people were involved in the growing, transportation, and production of the food. God coordinated the whole process to feed you. We can stand in awe of God's providence.

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. What is a creed?
2. What does Trinity mean?
3. How does God the Father continue to care and provide for us?

Allow time for answers and various wordings, but make sure that everyone is very clear that a creed is a statement of beliefs, in which we confess our belief in the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There is only one God, but there are three persons in that one God. We can't comprehend it, but the truth is clearly taught in the Bible. God the Father sometimes uses miracles to provide for us, but also uses common, everyday relationships to provide and to care for his world and the crown of his creation—human beings.

Closing End with a prayer connected to the lesson) or a blessing.

Extra Information for the Teacher: Topics that May Come Up During the Class

- **Why do bad things happen if God controls all things?**

This question is obviously complex and emotional. Some of the themes you will want to add to the conversation are the following:

God controls all things; even the devil has to obey him (Job 1).

God uses all things, including the bad things, for the good of his church (Romans 8:28).

The issue of pain and suffering is not a foreign question to the Bible (Job, Genesis 3, 1 Peter, etc.).

Heaven will have no suffering (Romans 7).

The God who controls all things, even bad things, is the God who loves us (Isaiah 45:7).

Possible extra question: What characteristics of God would you like to bring up in a conversation with someone who is struggling with the question of why bad things happen?

- **A bit of history about the Apostles' Creed.**

A creed is a statement of what a person or a group of people believes and teaches. The creed that we will be studying is called the Apostles' Creed because it is a brief statement of the gospel truths which were taught by the apostles.

The Apostles' Creed developed in the early Christian church because people felt a need to have a brief summary of what they believed and taught as Christians. The wording of the Apostles' Creed developed gradually, but it soon was used wherever the Christian church had spread. Christians used it to tell others what they believed and also to confess their faith with one another when they met for worship. The Apostles' Creed also was used in the early church to teach children the basic gospel truths of the Bible.

The gospel is summarized by the Apostles' Creed in three parts because the true God is three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each part of the Apostles' Creed is called an article, and each article tells us what one of the divine persons has done and is still doing to bless us and to save us. Thus the gospel message of the Apostles' Creed is the good news that our God has made us, that he has redeemed us, and that he sanctifies us.

There also are two other Christian creeds that are similar to the Apostles' Creed. They are the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed. When some false doctrines about God arose in the early Christian church, these two creeds were written to confess the Bible truth about God and to reject the errors. We will not be studying either of these two creeds, but they are also good to know because we use them at times in our worship services to confess our faith (from Kuske's Catechism, p. 131).

Possible extra question: Some people think that creeds and other doctrinal confessions damage the church. Explain why that is not true.

- **How does faith grow?**

God is certainly the one who makes faith grow through his use of the means of grace (the sacraments and the Word). As Christians who have a New Person living in us who wants to please God, we will want to look for ways to water our faith (in the gospel). We do not want to neglect our faith or, like a plant, let it wither and die.

Possible extra question: How does God strengthen our faith?



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 14



The Person of Christ | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to examine the dual nature of Jesus—both true man and true God. We will also answer the question as to why Jesus needed to be both in order to carry out his plan of salvation.

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read the story in John 11:1-44, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

What parts of John 11 show Jesus' humanity?

What parts of John 11 show Jesus' divinity?

Is it OK to say that God died on the cross? Explain.

Why did Jesus have to be both true man and true God?

Why do we call the Bible "Christocentric"?

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 heavenly Father, we thank you that you sent your Son, Jesus, to be our mediator. Without him we would be lost. Help us to understand our salvation more and more so that we may be truly grateful for your grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Introduce The Course

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- 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

Think about this: What is the best way to get to know someone? *I think most people would agree we need to spend time with someone in order to know them. So, let's do that with Jesus. After that, we'll talk about some key aspects of Jesus' character essential to him as our Savior. We will learn more about that as we read John 11. One of Jesus' friends, Lazarus, was sick. He and his sisters lived in a small village outside of Jerusalem. Knowing that Jesus could heal their brother, the sisters sent word to Jesus, saying, "Lord, the one you love is sick." However, for reasons of his own, Jesus waited and did not immediately go to help Lazarus. When Jesus finally arrived, Lazarus had died and was buried for four days. Martha, one of Lazarus' sisters, went to meet Jesus as he approached the town.*

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *Jesus, the disciples, Martha, Mary, Lazarus, Jews*
2. What are the objects in the story? *Tomb, grave clothes*
3. Where did the story take place? *The village of Bethany, near Jerusalem*
4. When did the story take place? *During Jesus' ministry on earth, before he was arrested and crucified on the cross*
5. What is the problem? *As a result of sickness, Lazarus died.*
6. What events occurred in this story? *Jesus' friend Lazarus became sick. Lazarus' sisters, Mary and Martha, sent word for Jesus to come because they knew that Jesus could heal their brother. However, Jesus did not come and Lazarus died. Four days later, Jesus went to visit Lazarus' tomb and wept at the loss of his friend. After that, he performed a miracle and raised Lazarus from the dead.*
7. Is the problem solved? *Yes. Jesus, who has power over death because he is fully God, raised Lazarus from the dead. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life" (v. 25). Whoever believes in Jesus will live forever in heaven.*

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

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *The lesson shows us that Jesus is 100% human (through his tears over his friend Lazarus' death and his compassion on Mary and Martha in their grief) and 100% God (through his miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead).*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *Not loving Jesus as we should as our brother, and not trusting Jesus as we should as our Savior*
3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *God loves us so deeply that he sent his Son, Jesus, to earth to be fully human so he could die as our substitute.*
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *God teaches me to love Jesus as my brother because he became fully human in order to experience all the things that I experience: love, pain, grief, tears. God also teaches me to trust Jesus as my perfect Savior—the only one who could live a sinless life and die in my place so I can someday live in heaven.*

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? *We can share this message with someone when they have lost a loved one to death. We can assure them that although we will die on this earth, we will live forever with Jesus in heaven because he paid for the sins of the world on the cross and substituted his perfection for our imperfection. Only God could do that.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. Why do we call the Bible “Christocentric”? *That term means that all of the Bible points to and is about Christ. The Old Testament believers looked to the future salvation that Jesus would bring about. We, in the New Testament era, look to the past to the salvation that Jesus did accomplish.*
2. What parts of John 11 show Jesus’ humanity? *We see Jesus’ humanity in his tears shed over Lazarus’ death. We also see him interacting with others as any human being would, such as conversations, traveling from place to place, etc.*
3. What parts of John 11 show Jesus’ divinity? *We see Jesus’ divinity in his raising Lazarus from the dead, but we also see it in the words he spoke: “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die” (vv. 25-26).*
4. Is it OK to say that God died on the cross? Explain. *Yes! In fact, we need to say that God died to be faithful to the Scriptures. It would be incorrect to say that God the Father died on the cross or that God the Holy Spirit died on the cross. However, since Jesus is God and Jesus died, we can say that God died on the cross for us.*
5. Why did Jesus need to be both true God and true man? *Let the students discuss. As needed, add the following thoughts:*

Galatians 4:4-5: Jesus had to be a human being so that he could be under the law to fulfill it in our place. He also had to be God so that his fulfillment of the law could be attributed to all people (Romans 5:19).

Hebrews 2:14: Jesus had to be human to be our substitute and to be able to die for us.

Psalms 49:7-8: Jesus had to be true God so that his work would count for all people. A mere person cannot die for the sins of all.

Lesson Wrap-Up

Ask the key questions:

Why do we call the Bible “Christocentric”?

What parts of John 11 show Jesus’ humanity, and what parts show his divinity?

Why did Jesus need to be both true man and true God?

Is it OK to say that God died on the cross?

Allow time for answers and various wordings, but reinforce the fact that Jesus needed to be both true man and true God to secure our salvation. If Jesus were not fully human, he could not have been our substitute. He could not live and die in our place if he were not our brother. But Jesus

also had to be fully God. A mere human could not pay for the sins of the world and substitute his perfection for our imperfection. Only God could do that.

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.



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 15



The Office and Work of Christ | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to review how humans cannot save themselves. Instead, they must be redeemed, or bought back, by the perfect life and innocent death of Christ.

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read the story in John 18:28-37.

Review Matthew 5:48; Romans 3:12; Isaiah 64:6; and Romans 3:22-23 to review how we humans cannot save ourselves.

Read 1 Peter 1:18-19 and focus on what the word redeem means.

What did Jesus accomplish for our salvation in his life?

What did Jesus accomplish for our salvation in his death?

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:

Lord and Savior Jesus, we come before you as beggars, and you are the only place we can find spiritual food to satisfy our eternal desires. We cannot help ourselves, but you have saved us by your grace. In your name we pray. Amen.

Introduce The Course

- Explain the purpose of the course.
- Ask all to show respect for the teacher and other students by writing appropriate questions and comments on the Facebook Live chat.
- 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
Think about your favorite superheroes. Who are they? Why are they your favorite?

Now think about them all sitting around Jesus, listening to him tell a story. And Jesus, finishing his story, says, "And that's how I saved the world."

It's a pretty interesting comparison, isn't it? Our society is enamored of superheroes who save the world from destruction. Let's use that as a bridge to talk about Jesus and his work as our hero. Today we jump into the topic of how Jesus saved the world and, since we are part of the world, how Jesus saved us. We start with an important question: How can we have peace with God?

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *The Jewish leaders, Jesus, Pilate (the Roman governor)*
2. What are the objects in the story? *Pontius Pilate's palace*
3. Where did the story take place? *In Jerusalem, at Pilate's palace*
4. When did the story take place? *After Jesus had been arrested, on the day he was crucified*
5. What is the problem? *The Jewish leaders thought that Jesus wanted to be an earthly king*
6. What events happened in the story? *The Jewish leaders, wanting to have Jesus killed, had him arrested and took him to Pilate to be tried. When Pilate was questioning Jesus, he asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "My kingdom is not of this world."*
7. Is the problem solved? *Although Jesus rules and controls the world, his true kingdom is not of this world. He has prepared an eternal kingdom where we will enjoy living with him forever. He himself has fought to bring us to be with him in heaven by dying on the cross as our substitute.*

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

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *The Jewish people didn't understand that Jesus' true kingdom is not of this world. His true kingdom is his heavenly kingdom, where he has prepared a place for all believers to live with him eternally.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *Thinking that through our own efforts, we can somehow earn our way to heaven. But we have not lived up to God's perfection. We are utterly incapable of establishing a healthy, peaceful relationship with God. God's perfect justice would reject us if we tried to enter heaven with what we have to offer.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *By his grace, God has a solution to our imperfection. It is found in the work of Jesus. We are freely saved by God's grace (his undeserved love) through Jesus as he buys us back to be his own.*
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *God teaches me to confess that I can do nothing on my own to have peace with him. Only Jesus, who is perfect, could take the punishment we deserved to earn heaven for us.*

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? *We can share this message with someone if they feel that they can do something to earn God's favor or their way into heaven. Only Jesus, by his perfect life and innocent death as our substitute, could accomplish that for us.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. Read Matthew 5:48; Romans 3:12; Isaiah 64:6; and Romans 3:22-23. How do these passages show that humans cannot save ourselves? *Matthew 5:48 shows God's standards. Romans 3:12 shows that no one is perfect or even good. Isaiah 64:6 shows that even our good works are contaminated by sin. Romans 3:22-23 shows that we cannot even compare ourselves with supposedly worse sinners.*
2. What does the word redeem mean? *1 Peter 1:18-19 beautifully describes Jesus' work of salvation: "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect." There are many ways with which the Bible describes and communicates Jesus' rescue mission of us. In this verse from Peter, we see the word "redeem." Redeem means to buy back. It's not that God had to pay the devil an amount, but he did pay a price. God gave up his only Son to redeem us.*
3. What did Jesus accomplish for our salvation in his life? *God's standards not only demand that we be without sin, but they also say that we need to have a perfect record of obedience. Jesus, acting as our substitute, obeyed God's law perfectly and attributed to us the obedience that we needed. God now sees us as sinless and completely obedient because Jesus has given us his perfection.*
4. What did Jesus accomplish for our salvation in his death? *In Jesus' death, he suffered the eternal punishment of all sin of all time of all people. He was our substitute. We were the ones who were supposed to be on the cross suffering God's eternal condemnation, but he, in his mercy, took our place.*
5. How do the following verses describe Jesus' roles in our salvation? (Deuteronomy 18:15; Hebrews 7:26-27; Hebrews 2:14)

Let the students discuss the verses. As needed, add the following thoughts:

Jesus had many roles that describe his work of salvation. We sometimes divide them into three main roles, or offices: Jesus was our Prophet, our Priest, and our King.

Deuteronomy 18:15: Moses speaks about the coming Jesus as a prophet like he is. A prophet speaks God's Word and communicates what God has to say. Jesus was a perfect prophet who was God's communication of his love to the world.

Hebrews 7:26-27: Jesus was the perfect priest because he was sinless and was able to sacrifice himself for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 2:14: Jesus is our victorious king who destroyed the work of the devil.

6. Let's examine a piece of anti-Christian Roman graffiti. What kind of encouragement would you give Alexamenos if you had the opportunity to speak with him?

The following picture is graffiti found in Rome that dates between the 1st and 3rd centuries: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexamenos_graffito#/media/File:AlexGraffito.svg.

It is an obviously anti-Christian attack because it depicts Jesus with a donkey's head and says, "Alexamenos worships his God."

Let the students discuss. As needed, add the following thoughts.

What sort of Bible verse or truth would you share? Answers will vary, but some good ones to share include 1 Corinthians 1:18; Revelation 2:10; and Matthew 10:25.

What kind of prayer would you pray for and with Alexamenos? Answers will vary, but will very likely follow the lines of thought found in the shared verses.

What makes you ready to face persecution for your faith? This question is aimed more at the students to cause them to consider their convictions. A verse you may want to share with them is Hebrews 12:2.

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. Why can humans not save themselves? *Allow time for answers and various wordings, but reinforce the fact that Scripture is very clear that sinful human beings cannot save themselves.*
2. How did Jesus save us by his life and death? *Only Christ can redeem us, or buy us back, with his perfect life and innocent death in our place. In his life, he obeyed God's law perfectly and attributed to us the obedience we needed. In his death, he suffered the eternal punishment of all sin of all time of all people as our substitute.*

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.

Extra Information for the Teacher: Topics that May Come Up During the Class

Age of accountability. Most people will admit that all people are sinners. However, especially when studying future topics of baptism, they deny that children are sinful or that they are held accountable for their sins because they are not conscious of them yet and supposedly do not have full control of their actions until they reach a certain age (usually somewhere between 6 and 12).

Although passages like Romans 3:23 should be sufficient to prove the sinfulness of children, you may want to include Romans 5:18 along with your explanation, which clearly shows that by Adam's sin all are condemned: "Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people."

Possible extra question: Are babies and infants held accountable for their sins?

Good works. Some students may become confused when they hear and understand the law/gospel presentation for the first time. They can be shocked that they are not obligated to keep any of God's laws. Much in the strain of Romans 6:1, they may think that we are saying that sinning is good and that no one should put any effort into following God's commands. Believers are not obligated to do anything because we are no longer under the demands of the law. We have a different motivation and a different source of energy to do good works. As Hebrews 12:28 says, we seek to do good works out of gratitude and thanksgiving for what God has done for us. We work from a source of peace we already have instead of striving to gain a peace through our works.

Possible extra question: What is the difference between saying "I am obligated to do good works" and "I want to do good works"?



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 16



The Humiliation and Exaltation of Jesus | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to learn about the two states of Jesus: his humiliation and his exaltation.

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read the story in Matthew 27:32-54.

How do we see Jesus' humiliation in this section of Scripture?

Read Matthew 28:1-10.

How do we see Jesus' exaltation in this section of Scripture?

What are some of the stages of Jesus' humiliation?

What are some of the stages of Jesus' exaltation?

Read 1 Peter 3:18-19 and Colossians 2:15.

What was Jesus doing when he descended into hell?

Did this show his humiliation or his exaltation?

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 Jesus, we thank you that you were willing to suffer much more than we would dare suffer. We thank you that you did that for us. You achieved complete victory and now reign over all things. Guide us in your Word as we continue to study what you have done for us. In your name we pray. Amen.

Introduce The Course

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

What kinds of things do you try to avoid in your life? Pain? Sickness? Poverty? Suffering? Embarrassment? Situations where your life would be in danger? Circumstances that you know would involve sacrificing something important to you?

Our strong desire to avoid anything unpleasant makes Jesus' work even more remarkable. During his life on earth, Jesus Christ, true God and true man, chose to endure the kinds of things we go to great lengths to avoid. He did this in order to accomplish our salvation. But from the moment Jesus became alive in the tomb, everything changed. Victory had been won. His time of sacrifice and hardship was done. Now it was time for him to demonstrate his victory for our benefit and comfort. We call these two states, or periods, the humiliation and the exaltation of Christ.

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *Jesus; Simon of Cyrene; the soldiers; the two rebels who were crucified with Jesus; the chief priests, teachers of the law, and elders; the centurion*
2. What are the objects in the story? *Cross, wine with gall, Jesus clothes, lots, sign above cross, sponge, wine vinegar, curtain of the Temple, rocks, tombs*
3. Where did the story take place? *Outside of Jerusalem, in a place called Golgotha*
4. When did the story take place? *Good Friday—the day Jesus was crucified*
5. What is the problem? *Jesus was tortured, mocked, and crucified*
6. What events happened in the story? *Jesus was taken to Golgotha and hung on a cross to be crucified. While on the cross, he was mocked by the two rebels who were crucified on either side of him, by the soldiers, by the passersby, and by the Jewish leaders. At three in the afternoon, Jesus gave up his spirit and died. As soon as he did, miraculous things occurred, leading the centurion who was guarding him to exclaim, "Surely he was the Son of God!"*
7. Is the problem solved? *As part of his humiliation, Jesus allowed himself to be crucified. This was necessary for him to become the perfect, sinless substitute to pay for the sins of all people of all time.*

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

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *Jesus, as true man, needed to put aside his divine power as true God to suffer death on the cross to pay for our sins.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *All of our sins that we commit as sinful human beings. Our sins are the reason that Jesus needed to die as our substitute.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *During Jesus' time on earth, he lived in a lowly state. Jesus, helpless at birth, unable to even feed himself. Jesus, a homeless man. Jesus, a starving man in the desert. Jesus, a crucified man. Jesus, a man who died. He lived in a state of humiliation because of his deep and abiding love for us, even though we don't deserve that love.*
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *God teaches me to live in thankful awe of his incomprehensible love for us—love that led him to send his only Son to earth to die as our*

substitute so we can live forever with him in heaven. We are perfect in God's eyes because of Jesus!

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? *We can share this message with someone if they feel that their life has no meaning or they are unloved or unforgiveable. We can remind them that God loves them so much that he sent his Son to be their substitute. And we can remind them that Jesus lived in a state of humiliation and even died an excruciating death so he could pay the price for their sins. But because Jesus is also true God, he conquered death and the devil when he rose from the dead. He is victorious!*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. Reflect on the story in Matthew 27:32-54. How do we see Jesus' humiliation in this section of Scripture?

Matthew 27:32-54 is the account of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. Jesus allowed himself to be punished and put to death in one of the most humiliating and public ways - crucifixion on a Roman cross. This form of execution was reserved for the worst criminals. Although Jesus did nothing wrong, he took the punishment we deserved by suffering hell on the cross in our place. God turned his face on Jesus our substitute. As Isaiah prophesied, "He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces." (Isaiah 53:3)

Why did Jesus allow himself to be humbled like this? "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

2. Read Matthew 28:1-10. How do we see Jesus' exaltation in this section of Scripture?

Matthew 28:1-10 is the account of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. When Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to Jesus' tomb at dawn on Easter morning, they were shocked to see Jesus' empty tomb and the angel, who told them that Jesus had risen. The exalted and victorious Jesus then met them as they ran to tell the disciples and they worshiped him—their risen Savior. What joy!

3. What are some of the stages of Jesus' humiliation?

Answers will vary, but can include his humble birth, his poor wanderings, his suffering—both in life and under Pontius Pilate, and his death on a cross. Remind the students that when we talk about humiliation, we aren't talking about humiliation in the typical sense—of someone doing something shameful or wrong. Jesus showed his humiliation in that he chose not to make full use of his divine power while on earth.

4. What are some of the stages of Jesus' exaltation?

Answers will vary, but can include Jesus' resurrection, his descent into hell, his rule at the right hand of God the Father, and his coming to judge the living and the dead.

5. Read 1 Peter 3:18-19 and Colossians 2:15. What was Jesus doing when he descended into hell? Did this show his humiliation or his exaltation?

Although we don't have too much information about this event, it seems that Jesus was proclaiming victory on the devil's own territory. It may have been a type of victory march. From these verses and others concerning our salvation, it is clear Jesus didn't go to hell to suffer. That ended on the cross when Jesus said, "It is finished"—mission accomplished. Rather, he descended into hell to proclaim his victory over the devil. "I won!" was his message, delivered to the devil in the devil's very headquarters. And always remember: Jesus' win is our win.

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. How did the Scriptures that we read show Jesus' humiliation? How did they show his exaltation?
2. Why did Jesus need to demonstrate both his humiliation and his exaltation? What was Jesus doing when he descended into hell?

Allow time for answers and various wordings, but talk about examples of Jesus' humiliation (his lowly birth, his poor wanderings, his suffering, his death) and his exaltation (his resurrection, his descent into hell, his rule at the right hand of God the Father, his coming to judge the living and the dead). Jesus needed to demonstrate his humiliation in order to voluntarily submit himself to a humble and lowly life that ended with his death on a cross, and he needed to demonstrate his exaltation to show his power over death and the devil. When Jesus descended into hell, he showed his exaltation by proclaiming his victory on the devil's own territory.

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.

Extra Information for the Teacher: Topics that May Come Up During the Class

Prosperity gospel. Some people use 2 Corinthians 8:9, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich," as proof that true Christianity provides a gospel of prosperity here on earth. These people are forgetting that Jesus was mainly interested in providing spiritual blessings. He rather promises that the world will become worse and worse in the future (Matthew 24), that believers would have many troubles in this world (John 15:18-21), and that believers should expect a cross (Mark 8:34).

Possible extra question: What about Jesus' life and teachings indicates that we should not expect prosperity here on earth because of our faith?

The Antichrist. Now that we've spent a lot of time studying who Christ is and his work of salvation, we want to examine the topic of who is opposed to Jesus and his work—the Antichrist. The prefix "anti" can mean "against" or "in place of." The Antichrist is someone who is against Christ by trying to take his place—a type of substitute Jesus. Read 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, which is one of the main passages about the Antichrist. The apostle Paul warned his readers in 1 John chapter 2 to be careful of the many antichrists that had already come, who in fact, had come out of the group of true believers—the church itself. Every false teacher is an antichrist in this sense.

Possible extra question: Why do we study the teaching of the Antichrist? For three reasons: 1.) We want to see our own tendencies to act in the spirit of the Antichrist. 2.) We want to be able to warn

others about antichrists and the Antichrist. 3.) We want to realize that the best way to combat the Antichrist is, first, to preach the true gospel, second, to preach the true gospel, and, third, to preach the true gospel.



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 17



The Holy Spirit | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to study and understand the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read the story in Acts 2:1-13.

How did Jesus send his Holy Spirit to the disciples on Pentecost?

Read John 14:26-27.

What name did Jesus call the Holy Spirit when he promised to send him to his disciples after he left?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:16; Psalm 139:7-8; and Genesis 1:1-2.

What is the biblical evidence that the Holy Spirit is God?

Read Acts 5:1-11.

How did Ananias and Sapphira sin against the Holy Spirit?

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 Lord Jesus, we thank you that you have not left us without our Advocate, the Holy Spirit.

We thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to us after your ascension into heaven. Teach us more about him today in our lesson. In your 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

Do you like farewells? Why is saying good-bye so hard sometimes?

They can be tough. I don't enjoy saying goodbye to my family and friends knowing I won't see them for a while. People often make promises when they leave each other, like "I'll call you!" or "I'll never forget you." Jesus, prior to his ascension, made many promises to his disciples. One of them is in John 14:16-18: "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth...I will not leave you as orphans." This Advocate was not a second-best option—he is God the Holy Spirit. The disciples did not have to wait long for Jesus to fulfill his promise. Ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, the day of Pentecost arrived. We read about it in Acts chapter 2.

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *The disciples, God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven*
2. What are the objects in the story? *Tongues of fire*
3. Where did the story take place? *In Jerusalem*
4. When did the story take place? *On Pentecost—10 days after Jesus ascended into heaven. On Pentecost—10 days after Jesus ascended into heaven. Pentecost was Jewish religious festival that happened on the 50th day after the Sabbath of Passover week (Leviticus 23:16-17). So this was the first day of the week (Sunday). Pentecost is also called the Feast of Weeks (Deuteronomy 16:10), the Feast of Harvest (Exodus 23:16) and the day of the first fruits (Numbers 28:26).*
5. What is the problem? *Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem, where they would be baptized by the Holy Spirit. They were waiting to receive the power of the Holy Spirit.*
6. What happened in the story? *When the disciples were together in one place, they heard the sound like a violent wind blowing, and saw what looked like tongues of fire resting on each one of them. The Holy Spirit filled them, and they were able to speak in other languages. There were other God-fearing Jews staying in Jerusalem from other parts of the world, and they were amazed when they heard the disciples speaking about God in their own language. Some were amazed, but others thought the disciples were drunk.*
7. Is the problem solved? *Before Jesus ascended, he promised his disciples that they would be "baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:5) and they would receive the "power" they needed to be witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (v. 8). When the Holy Spirit enabled the disciples to speak in other languages on Pentecost, they were able to share the gospel with people from all parts of the known world. Those people were then able to take the Good News back to their home countries.*

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

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *Jesus, before he ascended into heaven, promised that he would send his Holy Spirit to his disciples. This was fulfilled on Pentecost.*

2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *Our sin of sometimes not revering the Holy Spirit as part of the Triune God and asking him to sanctify us and give us the power to witness our faith.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *Jesus left his disciples and went back to heaven, but he didn't leave his disciples (or us) powerless here on earth. He sent his Holy Spirit to renew us and give us faith and the power to spread the gospel.*
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *God teaches me to revere the Holy Spirit as part of the Triune God and his role in creating and strengthening faith in believers.*

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? *We can share this message with someone if they feel powerless to share the gospel with others. Just as the Holy Spirit came to the disciples at Pentecost, so he also comes to us to strengthen our faith and give us the power to witness to others who need to hear the Good News of the gospel.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. Read John 14:26-27. What name did Jesus call the Holy Spirit when he promised to send him to his disciples after he left?

Jesus called the Holy Spirit our Advocate. An advocate is someone who speaks up for and supports and defends someone publicly. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit "will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." He further promises to give believers "peace" and urges us to "not be afraid."

2. Read 1 Corinthians 3:16; Psalm 139:7-8; and Genesis 1:1-2. What is the biblical evidence that the Holy Spirit is God?

There is much scriptural support for saying that the Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is called God in 1 Corinthians 3:16. He is omnipresent (he is everywhere) as Psalm 139:7-8 says. And Genesis 1:1-2 confirms that the Holy Spirit participated in the work of creation.

3. Read Acts 5:1-11. How did Ananias and Sapphira sin against the Holy Spirit?

Some people think that the Holy Spirit is simply an inanimate representation of the Father or is simply a poetic way of describing the action of God in the world. However, the Bible shows that the Holy Spirit is completely God and a distinct person of the Trinity. In the early church, many of the believers gave money and possessions to support other believers, like Ananias and Sapphira did. They sold some of their property and gave the money to the church. However, instead of saying, "We are giving the church part of the money we received" (which would have been just as God-pleasing), they lied and said, "This is all that we received." Perhaps they wanted people to look up to them and admire them. Peter, by a gift of God, knew they had lied. He accused Ananias of lying against the Holy Spirit, and Ananias died as punishment. Later, when Sapphira, Ananias' wife, came, Peter accused her of lying against God, and she died as well. Peter, with both of his conversations, equated the Holy Spirit with God. As Bible-believing Christians, we do the same.

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?
2. What is the Holy Spirit's role in the life of a believer?

Allow time for answers and various wordings, but talk about the fact that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity—true God—present at creation and still with believers today. Jesus baptized his disciples on Pentecost with the power of the Holy Spirit so they could become witnesses to him. Ananias and Sapphira lied about the gift they gave to the church, which Peter said was a lie to the Holy Spirit.

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.

Extra Information for the Teacher: Topics that May Come Up During the Class

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31 and 1 Corinthians 14:1-20, 26-33a. What are some of the questions you would ask your friend if she says she just visited a church where they speak in tongues and asks your opinion on it? Let the students discuss. As needed, add the following thoughts. This can be a difficult question. It may be necessary to prompt the questions with the hints of the verse references.

Do they overemphasize speaking in tongues? (12:4, 29-31, 14:5) Speaking in tongues was certainly a gift of the Holy Spirit, particularly seen in the first century. However, to demand that all people speak in tongues or to give the impression that you are a lower Christian because you don't is unscriptural and false doctrine. The Holy Spirit gives many different gifts, and speaking in tongues was actually one of the least important (14:19).

Are they using it as proof that the person has truly received the Holy Spirit? (12:30) This question is very similar to the previous one. The Holy Spirit does not promise to give this gift to every believer. If someone insists that if a person does not speak in tongues they have not received the Holy Spirit, they are going against what the Bible says.

What do they use the speaking of tongues for? (14:12) The gifts of the Holy Spirit are never to be used to build oneself up. Instead, God wants all his gifts to build up the church. We want to use the gifts in love for others.

Is everyone able to understand the message of the ones speaking in tongues? (14:27-28) This question connects to the previous. God wants his church to be edified through his gifts. So, if the speaker is unable to interpret for himself and no one else can, he should remain silent. If he claims that he is unable to remain silent, he is not speaking with a gift from God. According to these passages, a true gift of speaking in tongues could be controlled.

What do I do if I can't speak in tongues? A student may ask this question. Many churches, especially the churches with Pentecostal roots, teach incorrectly about speaking in tongues (see Question 1 above). Therefore, many people feel guilty that they are not able to speak in tongues or that they have to fake their supposed gift. They are made to feel like second-class Christians because they don't have the gift of speaking in tongues. Their previous/current churches have led them astray from God's Word. They need to realize that those gifts of speaking in tongues are not the most important gifts, and the Holy Spirit gives different gifts to different people.

Above all, the greatest gift the Holy Spirit gives is faith that offers life and salvation in Jesus. He gives that greatest gift equally and graciously.

Possible extra question: How can you still have confidence in God when you do not speak in tongues?

Why isn't the Holy Spirit mentioned in the greetings of many of the Epistles? Some people may be concerned that the Holy Spirit is not a person of the Trinity because he doesn't appear in many of the greetings of the Epistles (e.g., Philippians 1:2). This illustration may help: When a family goes on vacation, many times one person is missing from many of the photos—the photographer. He's always behind the camera (unless they are selfies, of course). The Holy Spirit acts in a similar way. He wants Jesus and the Father to shine, and he works behind the scenes to do so. He is the one telling the story. He is the one taking the pictures.

Possible extra question: Where is the Holy Spirit in verses like Philippians 1:2?



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 18



Sanctified by the Holy Spirit | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to further study the work of the Holy Spirit in regard to his conversion and sanctification of all believers.

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read the story in Titus 3:1-7.

What were we like before God converted us?

How did God intervene on our behalf?

What is the Holy Spirit's role in our salvation?

Read 1 Timothy 2:4.

What is God's will for all human beings?

What does sanctification mean?

Read Romans 8:7; Ephesians 2:1; and 2 Corinthians 4:4.

Why can't we convert ourselves?

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 Holy Spirit, we thank you that you have called us out of darkness into your wonderful light of the gospel. Continue to make us strong in our faith through your Word and sacraments. 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

Do you know any publicists? What is their job?

A publicist is the person promoting a person or company. If a candidate for president wants to be well known and participate in well-promoted events, that person will hire a publicist. Usually, we don't see the publicist because they work in the background. They want all the attention to go to their candidate. The Holy Spirit is somewhat like a publicist. He both promotes and works God's will. What is God's greatest desire? First Timothy 2:4 says, "[God] wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." And where is that salvation found? Acts 4:12 says, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." That name, of course, is Jesus Christ our Savior. Today we will learn about the Holy Spirit's work—sanctification.

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *Paul (the author of the letter), Titus (the recipient of the letter and one of Paul's converts and fellow worker)*
2. What are the objects in the story? *None*
3. Where did the story take place? *On Crete*
4. When did the story take place? *This letter was written after Paul and Titus came to Crete to preach the Word to the people there. Paul left Titus on Crete to stay and minister to the people who were converted.*
5. What is the problem? *The people of Crete struggled with the basics of Christian living and with false teachers*
6. What events happened in the story? *Paul is writing to Titus to encourage him and give him advice and reminders for the Christians of Crete on how to live a godly life*
7. Is the problem solved? *Paul told Titus to instruct the Christians on Crete how to live a godly life (obey the authorities, be ready to do good, be peaceful, be gentle, etc.). Paul also wanted Titus to remind the Christians of Crete about the contrast of how they had lived before the Holy Spirit sanctified them (foolish, disobedient, with hatred, etc.) with how they now live after being renewed by the Holy Spirit.*

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

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *Before we were renewed and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, we were dead in our sins. We can do nothing that is good. God demands perfection in our thoughts, words, and actions. No matter how "good" we think we are, before our conversion, God viewed us as sinners who were his hated enemies. But after the Holy Spirit creates faith in us, we are justified by God's grace and become heirs of eternal life.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *Our sin of thinking that we can do anything to earn God's favor or that we can earn our salvation through our actions. We are saved only through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and the faith that the Holy Spirit has created in us.*

3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *God loved us so much that he gives us the gift of salvation. Out of love he gave us his Son, our Savior, who redeemed us not because of anything that we have done, but because of his great mercy.*
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *God teaches me to thank him for the gift of his Holy Spirit, who creates faith in me and strengthens me to live a sanctified life.*

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? *We can share this message with someone if they think they need to do anything to secure their salvation. We can remind them that our salvation has already been won by Jesus and that the Holy Spirit uses the gospel to create and strengthen faith in us. He will give us the power to live a sanctified life!*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. Reflect on the story in Titus 3:1-7. What were we like before God converted us? How did God intervene on our behalf? What is the Holy Spirit's role in our salvation?

According to Titus 3, we were "foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another." But then God intervened on our behalf by sending his Son, our Savior. God also sent the Holy Spirit, whom "he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."

2. Read 1 Timothy 2:4. What is God's will for all human beings? *God wants all people to be saved.*
3. What does sanctification mean?

Sanctification means to "set apart." The Holy Spirit does this "setting apart" in two ways. The first separation is when he converts us to belief, or faith, in Jesus as our only Savior. We are then set apart from the unbelieving world. The second separation happens throughout our lives as believers. The Holy Spirit works in us the desire, ability, and action to work at separating ourselves from our previous life of sin out of gratitude for the salvation God has provided for us. He continues to work at setting us apart from our sin and the world throughout our lives. In heaven we will not have to battle evil or sin in ourselves or around us.

4. Read Romans 8:7; Ephesians 2:1; and 2 Corinthians 4:4. Why can't we convert ourselves?

By nature, we are enemies of God (Romans 8:7), dead in our sins (Ephesians 2:1), and spiritually blind (2 Corinthians 4:4). We had no desire to be with God. There was no spark of goodness in us that could be fanned into faith. We were condemned to hell.

Lesson Wrap-Up

Ask the key questions:

1. What is the Holy Spirit's role in our salvation? How does he sanctify us?
2. Why can't we convert ourselves or make a decision to follow Christ?

Allow time for answers and various wordings, but discuss how before our conversion, we were dead in our sins—enemies of God. The Holy Spirit created faith in our hearts, and he continues to

sanctify believers to live a life set apart from the unbelieving world. Through that saving faith, we are heirs of eternal life. As sinful humans, we don't have the power to save ourselves. Our conversion is completely the work of the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God!

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.

Extra Information for the Teacher: Topics that May Come Up During the Class

Many people believe that if you have a strong enough faith you can demand anything from God and it will be done (e.g., healing of cancer). If it doesn't happen, it is completely your fault because you doubted and did not have enough faith. How do Matthew 26:39-42 and 2 Timothy 4:20 combat that way of thinking? Read the passages and let the students offer thoughts.

Matthew 26:39-42: Jesus, who always prayed perfectly, asked God to take away the cup of suffering he was about to drink. God answered the prayer with the answer "no." It is wise to ask everything according to God's will. Including the phrases "your will be done" and "if it is your will" when we are asking for something that God has not promised is a good practice for us to follow in our own prayer life. They are a demonstration of the faith that says, "I am asking for this and that, but God knows best." However, you can remind the students that we don't need to add the phrases "your will be done" or "if it is your will" when we ask God to forgive us our sins. God has promised us the forgiveness of sins!

2 Timothy 4:20: The great apostle Paul, who even did multiple miracles and healings, left his friend and colleague, Trophimus, sick in the city of Miletus. There is no evidence that this was a lack of faith in Trophimus or Paul. God simply allows people to get sick sometimes, or even causes them to get sick when, from his perspective, it serves a good purpose. He certainly wants us to pray for them in those instances, but always let God decide what is best for a person. We can't see God's will in these types of situations, so we ask that his will be done even if it is against our hopes and wishes.

For what reasons can it be confusing to say "I accepted Jesus into my heart" or "I made my decision to follow Christ"? Let the students discuss. As needed, add the following thoughts.

What is our natural state before we are converted? As mentioned in the lesson, by nature, all humans are dead in sin and cannot convert themselves. Read through Romans 3:10-20.

Who should get the glory when we are converted? God should get the glory. However, if we insist that we ourselves need to choose or accept, we are taking some of God's glory for ourselves. When we do this, we are saying that we have a small part in our conversion and we endanger our confidence in the salvation won by Christ. We can only be 100% confident of our place in heaven and our relationship with God if nothing depends on us.

Repentance and faith. Isn't repentance something we have to do? Yes and no. Repentance (in this case, the contrition we feel over sin) is certainly something that takes place inside us and comes from us. However, it is God who works repentance in us. The contrition over sin and the faith in God's forgiveness is exclusively the result of God's work of his law and his gospel in our hearts. God's law condemns us and produces the contrition. God's sweet gospel then produces the faith that clings to his promised forgiveness.

Possible extra question: How is repentance something that God produces in us?

Faith and works. Doesn't James 2:24 say that we are justified by our works? James 2:24 says, "You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone." James certainly is not promoting salvation by works. His own teaching of salvation is grace-based as seen in James 1:17-18, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created." Perhaps James' description of salvation is not as extensive as Paul's descriptions in books like Romans, but he still confirms that grace and salvation are completely from God and that God chooses us as his own. When James talks about faith and works, he is combating the strange (but sadly common and human) idea that faith is an empty container, something that is only knowledge of certain ideas and facts. Faith, instead, is simple confidence in God's promises. Faith alone saves, but faith is never alone. Faith is an active thing, eager to thank God with good works. To find faith without works would be as strange as finding fire without heat.

Possible extra question: What is the proper relationship between faith and works?



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 19



The Holy Christian Church/The Visible and Invisible Church | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to learn about the holy Christian Church—or the invisible church— and where it had its origin.

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read the story in Revelation 7:9-14.

Who were the people in white robes?

Where did they come from?

Who are “the holy Christian Church” and “the communion of saints”? Why are they sometimes called the “invisible church”?

Read Ephesians 1:3-8.

Where did the holy Christian Church have its origin?

Read Galatians 5:9. Why is it important to remember this passage when looking for a congregation to join?

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 Holy Spirit, we thank you for gathering all believers together into the body of Christ, and we thank you for leaders, congregations, and denominations that teach your Word in its truth and purity. 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

I'm sure you've seen pictures of different types of churches—from grass huts to little white country churches to grand cathedrals—from places all over the world like Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. These churches are called visible churches—and are certainly not invisible. You've probably heard about many different denominations and branches of Christianity. What do we make of them, and how do they connect to the invisible church we are going to learn about today?

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *John (Jesus' beloved disciple), a great multitude of believers in heaven, Jesus (the Lamb), angels, the elders, the four living creatures*
2. What are the objects in this story? *White robes, palm branches, throne, four creatures*
3. Where does this story happen? *John was given the vision by Jesus, likely while John was in exile on the Island of Patmos. The vision shows images of heaven.*
4. When does this story happen? *John recorded his vision, or "revelation," around the mid-90s A.D. He addressed his book of Revelation to the seven churches in Asia.*
5. What is the problem? *The Revelation of John describes the spiritual battle that believers are embroiled in while on earth—the battle between the holiness of God and the evil of the devil*
6. What events happened in this story? *John, son of Zebedee and Jesus' beloved disciple, was given a revelation by Jesus about coming events. In this story, John sees a great multitude of believers from every nation in the world. They were in heaven in front of God's throne, praising him and praising the Lamb, Jesus. One of the elders asked John who the people were, and where they came from. The elder then said that the people were those who had come out of "the great tribulation," whose robes were made white and washed clean by the blood of the Lamb (Jesus).*
7. Is the problem solved? *While believers will be in a spiritual battle against the devil and their sinful flesh until the day they die and enter heaven, they can be assured that Jesus has already won the battle. He is more powerful than the devil and all of his evil forces. Our salvation is secure. The book of Revelation is an encouragement to endure suffering, knowing that eternal triumph is to come.*

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

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *In his vision, John saw believers from all nations and tribes and people and languages gathered around God's throne, worshiping him. All of these believers are our spiritual family. They are referred to as "the holy Christian Church" and the "communion of saints." They are also known as "the invisible church" because only God can see the heart and the faith of the people who are in it. At the end of the world, like in John's vision, all believers from all time and from all places will gather around the throne of God and worship him.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *Our sin of thinking that only people who look like me and talk like me and have the same skin color as me can be saved. It's not our job to read hearts. We trust God to know his people, and he will make it public knowledge on the last day. This group of believers is holy and are called saints because of the redemptive work of Christ—his death paid for their sins, and his perfect life counts as their perfect life.*

3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *God loved us so much that he sacrificed his Son to redeem all believers of all time—from every nation under the sun.*
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *God teaches me to be thankful for his gift of salvation and to realize that only he can judge the hearts of people. He also teaches me to share the gospel with all of those I meet who need to hear the Good News, and he reminds me to be thankful for all the believers who have come before me who shared the gospel faithfully.*

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? *We can share this message with someone to encourage them in their faith. While we are in a spiritual battle on this earth against sin and the devil, Jesus has already won the battle and secured our salvation for us. He is triumphant.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. Who are “the holy Christian Church” and “the communion of saints”? Why are they sometimes called the “invisible church”?

They are all the believers in Jesus of all time—the whole church of God, Christ’s body.

They are sometimes called the invisible church because we cannot read hearts to see who has faith and who does not have faith. Only God knows those who are his. Like we talked about in the “Think” section, there are many visible churches in this world. Unfortunately, not every person who associates with a visible church is a believer, nor do all visible churches teach all of God’s truth faithfully.

2. Read Ephesians 1:3-8. Where did the holy Christian Church—the invisible body of Christ—have its origin? Let the students discuss. As needed, add the following thoughts.

Who chose us? The answer may be simple, but the implications are so important that we need to ask the question. God is the actor in our salvation. We are not the deciders.

When did God choose us? God chose us before the creation of the world. This fact affirms and highlights the doctrine of salvation by grace alone since we didn’t even exist when God chose us. Our salvation had to be by grace alone. It could not have depended on us.

What was God’s motivation for predestinating us? Ephesians 1:4 says that God chose us in love. God’s undeserved love is the motivating force.

Does this section tell us that God chose some people to go to hell? No, it does not. The reason people go to heaven is because God chose them. Why do people go to hell? They go to hell because of their own sins and their own rejection of Christ. In Matthew 23:37 Jesus says, “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.”

3. Read Galatians 5:9. Why is it important to remember this passage when looking for a congregation to join?

False doctrine is always dangerous no matter how small of an issue it may seem. False doctrine spreads and affects other doctrines and eventually attacks our confidence in our salvation by our Lord and Savior. It is like poison.

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. Who are the “holy Christian Church” and the “Communion of Saints”?
2. Why are they sometimes called the “invisible church”?
3. Where did the “holy Christian Church” have its origin?

Allow time for answers and various wordings, but discuss how the “holy Christian Church” and the “invisible” church refer to the same group—all believers of all time. This group is called the invisible church because only God can see the heart and the faith of the people who are in it. No, not all visible churches—or churches that you can see—teach God’s truth. It is important for us to test their beliefs to see if they align with what the Bible teaches.

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.

Extra Information for the Teacher: Topics that May Come Up During the Class

We live in a world surrounded by many different Christian organizations, denominations, and groups. How does God want us to react to them? Let the students discuss. As needed, add the following thoughts.

How does 1 John 4:1 help us start the conversation? 1 John 4:1 says, “Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” Not all the religious groups, messages, videos, and churches around us are from God. Many false prophets are spreading dangerous teachings that affect our eternity. God wants us to test them.

How does Acts 17:11-12 help us with all the messages around us? The Bereans tested even Paul’s words to see if they aligned with Scripture. We, too, want to compare everything we hear with what God says in the Bible.

What should we do when we find people who teach the Bible faithfully? God wants us to enjoy the fellowship of brothers and sisters who are united in the faith. This was Jesus’ prayer in John 17:20-21 and also the stated desire in 1 John 1:3. We can praise God and work together in love for our Savior.

What does God want us to do when we find people who teach differently than what the Bible says? God wants us to act in love as we first show the people their error (Matthew 18; 2 Timothy 3:16). If they continue to reject instruction, we will want to separate from them to show them the seriousness of their sin and to protect ourselves from false doctrine (Romans 16:17; Titus 3:10).

Confessions. Some people claim that doctrinal confessions kill a congregation or a denomination. However, confessions and being a confessional church are very important.

Confessions (such as the small catechism and other doctrinal statements of the church) are helpful because they proclaim the truth so that people who are looking for sound teaching know what they are receiving from a particular church. They also serve as teaching tools and outlines for reviewing doctrine. In addition, they help us compare the teachings of other churches so that we can more easily work on fellowship issues.

Possible extra question: What is the benefit of having written documents stating what you believe collectively?

Understanding the doctrine of election. Students may struggle with the doctrine of predestination/election because it is not logical. “If God chooses some to be saved, doesn’t that automatically mean he has chosen some to be condemned?” they may ask. You will want to remind them that the base of our beliefs does not include our reasoning. Everything needs to be based on the Bible. Another helpful approach to the question is pointing out that the question is really two questions: Why are some saved? and Why are some condemned? You can then direct students to the specific passages for those answers as was mentioned in the main part of the lesson. The doctrine of election is actually a very clear biblical teaching. It’s just difficult for us humans to understand.

Possible extra question: Is the doctrine of election law or gospel? Explain.



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 20



The Forgiveness of Sins and Eternal Life | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to review the basic concepts of the forgiveness of sins through Jesus and God's blessing of eternal life.

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read the story in Luke 23:32-43.

Compare and contrast the words and actions of the two criminals.

Why does the story of the believing criminal give us such hope and comfort?

What is our natural state without God?

How was Jesus' life of obedience a substitution?

For whom did Jesus die?

What did God declare in Christ's death?

What connects us to Jesus' blessing of salvation?

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 heavenly Father, we thank you for your deep love for us. Even though we are sinners, you sent your only Son to die in our place. Thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to work faith in us. How we long for the day we will join you in heaven for eternity! 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

What do you say at the bedside of someone who is dying? Those final moments are so important for the spiritual welfare of that person. What are they going to hear from you? What will you respond to those moments when they are haunted by their past sins and they center on the law passages of the Bible instead of gospel ones? They may say to themselves, “God says that whoever loves me will keep my commandments. I haven’t done that. I am lost.” What will you say? Today we will talk about the account of the criminal on the cross in Luke 23. It gives us so much hope.

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *Jesus, the two criminals on Jesus’ right and left, the Jewish rulers, the soldiers*
2. What are the objects in this story? *Clothes, lots, wine vinegar, notice sign*
3. Where does this story take place? *Outside of Jerusalem, in a place called Golgotha*
4. When did this story happen? *Good Friday—the day Jesus was crucified*
5. What is the problem? *Jesus—the sinless Son of God—was being crucified even though he did nothing wrong. He was being unfairly mocked by not only the Jewish rulers but by one of the criminals who was being crucified alongside him.*
6. What events happened in the story? *As Jesus was being crucified, two criminals were also being crucified beside him. The people and the Jewish leaders who were watching the crucifixion mocked Jesus, as did one of the criminals. He taunted Jesus, saying, “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other criminal defended Jesus. He knew that he and his fellow criminal deserved to be punished for the crimes they had committed, but he knew that Jesus had done nothing wrong and didn’t deserve to die. He asked Jesus to remember him when Jesus came into his kingdom. Jesus assured the criminal, “Today you will be with me in paradise.”*
7. Is the problem solved? *Sometime during the hours of the crucifixion, the Holy Spirit created faith in the heart of the other criminal next to Jesus, who then so beautifully professed his faith by asking, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Because the criminal had faith, Jesus assured him that he would go to heaven upon his death.*

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

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *Can you even imagine how relieved the criminal was? He had only been a follower of Jesus for a few minutes. He didn’t deserve Jesus’ response. But therein lies the good news that we also cling to. No matter how long we look, we will never find anything inside ourselves that is worthy of receiving forgiveness from God. Nothing. Jesus was the only answer for this criminal dying on the cross, and Jesus is the only answer for us as well. Even this hardened criminal, who had surely done terrible things in life, inherited eternal life due to his saving faith.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *Our sin of thinking that we can do a single thing to earn salvation. No matter how “good” we think we are, or the good things that we do on this earth, we cannot earn our salvation. We are still sinners in God’s eyes. Only Jesus’ perfect life and innocent death purchased our salvation. We also need to confess our sins of pride and*

arrogance when we are tempted to compare ourselves to others and think that they are “more sinful” than we are. There are no degrees of sin. All people were equally sinful in God’s eyes before Jesus’ act of redemption. If any sinner has saving faith—no matter what sins they have committed on earth—they will spend eternity enjoying the glories of heaven.

3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *Jesus loved the criminal on the cross and saved him, despite the horrible things that criminal had done in his life. We might not be a criminal who outwardly breaks the law, but we are sinful all the same. When God the Father looks at us, he sees us as washed clean and righteous due to Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross.*
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *God teaches me to be thankful that Jesus loved us so much that he suffered torture and death to be our substitute. He also teaches me to be thankful that my salvation doesn’t depend on anything that I have done—or haven’t done. It all depends on Jesus’ work on my behalf.*

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? *We can share this message with someone to tell them that as long as they draw breath, it’s never too late to believe. This would be a perfect message to share with someone who is facing death. We can assure them that no matter what they did in their life—no matter what their past sins are—if they believe in Jesus as their Savior, they will have eternal life. It doesn’t matter if they have believed for 100 years or just a few minutes.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. What is our natural state without God? *We are dead in our trespasses and sins and are unable to save ourselves.*
2. How was Jesus’ life of obedience a substitution? *Jesus lived the perfect life that we could not live, and he gave us all his perfection and good works so that we have a perfect record before our Father in heaven.*
3. For whom did Jesus die? *Jesus died for all the sins of all the people of all time.*
4. What did God declare in Christ’s death? *In Christ’s death (and confirmed by Jesus’ resurrection), God declared all people not guilty before him and perfect in his sight.*
5. What connects us to Jesus’ blessing of salvation? *The gift of faith, our simple confidence in God’s promises, connects us to the salvation God won for us.*

What will heaven be like? Name the things we know for certain about heaven. *There are many things we do not know about heaven. God doesn’t give us all the details. However, the Bible does speak about the incredible joys we will have in heaven. Revelation 7:9-17 is a good section to lead people to. Since heaven is beyond our imagination and experience, God often describes heaven in terms of what it is not like. For example, there are no tears of sadness in heaven. We know what tears feel like here on earth, so knowing that heaven has no cause for sadness gives us certain clues about heaven.*

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. What are the basic concepts of the forgiveness of sins through Jesus and God's blessing of eternal life?

Allow time for answers and various wordings, but discuss how without God, we are dead in our sins. There is nothing we can do to save ourselves. Thankfully, Jesus lived a perfect life for us because we couldn't. His perfect record is now ours. Jesus died for all sins of all people of all time, and we are declared not guilty in God's sight. We are connected to salvation through the gift of our faith.

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.

Extra Information for the Teacher: Topics that May Come Up During the Class

Many Christians believe in the teaching of the rapture where, before the Last Day, good believers will disappear suddenly and be taken away to heaven. They base this teaching on an incorrect reading of 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, which talks about a type of "rapture" but is nothing like the rapture that millennialists teach. (At this time it would be good for the teacher to lead a careful reading through of the Thessalonians passage.)

Besides not being a biblical teaching, the teaching of the rapture also goes against the pillar doctrine of salvation by grace alone. One website, promoting the doctrine of the rapture, says the following about preparation for the rapture:

"Of course, love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself is just the starting point. Knowing how to do this in practice takes further information. Thankfully, Jesus spent much of his time fleshing exactly this out. You can find most of the specifics of what to do listed in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5-7). Other parts of the Gospels repeat and flesh out areas of change further. Jesus describes them as "good fruit" you should have and bad fruit you shouldn't have....But if actions don't follow your belief, then your belief or faith is not focused on the right thing. You think Jesus is only savior without being Lord who requires obedience to be your Savior. This puts you on 'shaky ground'" (<https://escapeallthesethings.com/rapture-requirements>).

Unfortunately, this website follows what most say about the rapture. How does that teaching go against salvation in Christ alone by faith alone? Let the students discuss. As needed, add the following thoughts.

On whom should we place our confidence for eternal life? On Jesus. John 10:25-30 would be a good verse to use to explain further the Good News we have in him.

How does this quote use the law incorrectly? This quote seeks to use the law as a means of preparing ourselves for Christ's coming by our own actions and improvement. The main purpose of the law, however, is to show us our sins and prepare us for the message of Jesus' free and full salvation (Romans 3:20).

How does this quote make Christians insecure in their salvation? This quote, and the teaching of the rapture, causes Christians to look inward at themselves for their confidence instead of at Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

Millennialism. Millennialism is the belief that the world will experience 1,000 years of nearly indescribable prosperity and peace either under the reign of the Christian Church or Jesus himself (there are many varieties of millennialism). Millennialists misinterpret Revelation 20 and also forget Jesus' own Word when he says that his kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36). The false teaching of millennialism is complicated, and the teacher is encouraged to read the section on millennialism found in Lyle Lange's doctrine book *For God So Loved the World*.

Possible extra question: How does the teaching of millennialism shift our focus from Jesus and the home he is preparing for us in heaven?



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 21



Why is Baptism Important? | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to introduce yourself, introduce the class, and answer this question: “Why is Baptism important?”

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read Acts 16:16-40.

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 Father in heaven, my sins make it impossible for me to enter your kingdom on my own. But in your great mercy, you sent your Son Jesus to make my salvation possible. By his perfect life, innocent death, and victorious resurrection, you have taken away my sin and opened the kingdom of heaven to me and all believers. As we begin this course, in which we will talk about the gift of Baptism, send us your Holy Spirit through your Word that we might grow in faith and in the desire to share Jesus with others. In His name we pray. Amen.

Introduce The Course

- Explain the purpose of the course.
- Ask all to show respect for the teacher and other students by writing appropriate questions and comments on the Facebook Live chat.
- 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

Think about this: What do you know about baptism? Have you been baptized?
Let’s discover more about Jesus’ teaching of baptism in Acts 16:16-40.

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

- Who are the characters in the story? *Paul, Silas, and a jailer and his family*

2. What are the objects in the story? *Prison, stocks, prison doors, sword, lights, house, meal*
3. Where did the story happen? *The city of Philippi*
4. When did the story happen? *Shortly after Jesus' crucifixion, when the early Christian Church was beginning to expand*
5. What is the problem? *The jailer didn't know what to do to be saved.*
6. What happened in the story? *Paul and Silas drove a demon out of a young female slave. Because the demon helped the woman's owners earn money telling fortunes, the owners had Paul and Silas thrown into prison. That night, an earthquake shook the prison, opening all of the cells. The jailer responsible was about to kill himself when Paul shouted that all of the prisoners were still in their cells. The jailer was so grateful that he fell at their feet, asking how to be saved. Paul told him about Jesus, and the jailer invited them into his home to wash their wounds and to have himself and his family washed in a different way – through Baptism.*
7. Is the problem solved? *Yes. Paul and Silas were able to tell the jailer about the love of Jesus and the salvation He accomplished for us.*

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

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *With the Holy Spirit's help, through God's Word and through Baptism, those who do not understand the gospel can be brought to faith in their Savior Jesus. All are able to be baptized through water and the Word.*
2. What sin does this lesson lead you to confess? *Never give up hope, even when it seems everything is going wrong. When we focus on Christ and what He has done for us, we can make it through any bad situations with His help.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *God sent his servants Paul and Silas to help the jailer understand and believe in Jesus. He also gave him and his family the blessing of Baptism.*
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *Believe in the good news of the Bible, tell others about the Savior, and follow the command to baptize all nations.*

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? *This is good to share with someone who doesn't understand the gift of salvation spoken of in the Bible, or with someone who doesn't know what Baptism can do.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. By singing in their cell, what do you think Paul and Silas were trying to accomplish? What are some subtle ways you can use to invite people into a conversation about Jesus?

These apostles knew they could be happy and at peace in any situation. By singing, they were praising God in their circumstances and also showing others that they love God and trust Him no matter what happens. When we show our faith, the Holy Spirit can work through it to bring others to faith.

We can also invite people into conversations about Jesus in various ways: Are they going through a difficult situation? How can I pray for you? What physical needs do they have? How can I help? How can I demonstrate love that builds trust and perhaps create an opening to the eternal hope in Jesus I can share with them? Answers may vary.

2. What is a sacrament? *“Sacrament” is a word that means “sacred act”. It describes a command given by Jesus that includes an earthly element (i.e. bread, wine, water) and has an eternal promise (i.e. “for the forgiveness of sins”). The power and authority of the Sacraments that Jesus commands his church to use (Baptism and the Lord’s Supper) is not found in the earthly elements or even the person who administers the Sacrament. Rather the power of such sacred acts is based in God’s promise in his word the Bible.*
3. What is the work of the Holy Spirit? (Ephesians 2:1-10) *Ephesians 2:1-10 teaches that the Holy Spirit brings us from spiritual death to spiritual life by forgiving sins and creating faith. This is a work of God. As we will see in the following passages, the New Testament connects forgiveness of sins, faith and God’s saving activity in our lives (“salvation”) with the water of Baptism.*
4. Where in the Bible does Jesus command baptism? *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)*
5. Where in the Bible does it say that in baptism God saves sinners?
“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. (1 Peter 3:18-22)

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:16)

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38-39)

6. Why is it biblical to baptize infants?

*Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. (Psalm 51:5)
Children are sinful from conception (original sin).*

The one who sins is the one who will die. The child will not share the guilt of the parent, nor will the parent share the guilt of the child. The righteousness of the righteous will be credited to them, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against them. (Ezekiel 18:20) Children are accountable for their sinfulness.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19) Jesus does not limit Baptism to a particular age group.

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:37-39) At the command of Jesus the Apostle Peter preached repentance and baptism to a crowd of men, women and children, offering the gift of forgiveness and the Holy Spirit to all.

At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. (Acts 16:33) At the command of Jesus the Apostle Paul preached the gospel and applied the water of baptism to entire households. Households in ancient times included men, women, slaves and children. See also the baptism of Lydia's household (Acts 16:15)

People were also bringing babies (βρέφη) to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. (Luke 18:15-17) Greek word (βρέφη v.15) is only used of unborn and infants. Children are capable of believing and receiving the kingdom of God. In fact, they are examples! Therefore we do not deny God's gift of baptism and repentance to babies and infants.

Did the early church baptize infants?

- *The church father, Origen, (b. 185 AD), tells us the practice of baptizing children was handed down to them from the apostles.*
- *Irenaeus (202 AD), who was a disciple of Polycarp, who was a disciple of the Apostle John wrote: "Christ came to save all men by himself; all, I say, who*

through him are reborn into God: infants, little children, boys, young men and old men.”

- *The great Augustine (b. 353 AD) said he never heard of anyone who accepted the Bible as God’s Word and also rejected infant baptism.*
- *Numerous inscriptions on the graves in the catacombs, dating back to the very first centuries of Christianity, testify to the fact that the early Christians baptized their children. Here is one: “Aristus lived eight months. He was recently baptized.” (James Quaw, Bible Baptism: Or, The Immerser Instructed, from Various Sources, p.332)*

Why do some churches not baptize infants? They view baptism as a work of the individual. They call it “an outward sign of an inward change.” Since to them it is a work of the individual, only those who know about it and can ask for it will be baptized. This is taught nowhere in Scripture and came into practice during the 1600’s through the Anabaptists.

In summary: the Bible connects Baptism to the work of Jesus promising those who are baptized forgiveness of sins, a life of repentance, faith in Jesus and eternal life. Because all are sinful from birth and need God’s salvation in their life to be saved, Jesus commanded baptism and teaching of his word to all nations. Therefore the gift of baptism is for all. It is certainly possible to be saved without being baptized (see Luke 23:39-43 and Romans 10:17). However the New Testament examples of people hearing the gospel are accompanied by baptism. New Christians who learn about Jesus and the gift of baptism will also naturally desire it as another assurance of forgiveness and new life - a gift of God for them personally!

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. Why is Baptism important? Allow time for various answers, and make sure that everyone is very clear about what Baptism is, why it’s important, and that we are all saved when we have faith in Jesus.

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.

Extra information for the teacher: Topics that may come up during the class

Ways to baptize – If the class asks about the different ways to baptize, extrapolate on the elements needed – water and the Word – and the various ways baptism can happen. While Jesus and the Ethiopian eunuch were baptized in rivers, the household in Acts 16 probably just used water available in the home. During the days of the early Christian Church, the word “baptizo,” which was the word used for Baptism, could mean anything from immersion to washing or pouring. There is no Biblical command saying that a person needs to be fully under water in order for a baptism to work.

Who can baptize – If the class asks about who can perform a baptism, explain that the power of baptism rests in Jesus’ promise, not in the person doing the baptizing. Laypeople can perform baptisms if the situation calls for it.

The role of baptism in my life today – You might wonder, “Baptism is a onetime event. I was baptized years ago. What does it mean for me in my daily life now?” Baptism is very important, even for those of us who were baptized decades ago. We are new creations in Christ. We are believers. We are followers of Jesus. That is our true identity. However, while we are on this earth, our sinful nature remains in us, tempting us every second of every day. A key part of our fight against our sinful nature is daily repentance. God’s law crushes us. God’s gospel revives us and assures us of our forgiveness. That’s why we will want to think of our baptism every day. We see that God has made us his own children, putting Christ’s perfect robe on us, and giving us eternal life.

The People’s Bible – Consider reading the commentary on this section from *The People’s Bible: Acts* in your preparation for teaching this lesson.



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 22



What is the Significance of Baptism in Our Lives? | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to answer this question: “What is the significance of Baptism in our lives?”

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read Mark 1:4-8.

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 Heavenly Father, thank you for saving us in the waters of Baptism. Once, we were your enemies, but now we are your children. Help us every day to fight against our sinful nature, which continually tries to lead us away from you. As we begin this course, in which we will talk about the significance of Baptism in our lives, send us your Holy Spirit through your Word that we might grow in faith and in the desire to share Jesus with others. In His 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

Think about this: Do you know what the “Old Man” and “New Person” are? Why is it important to be aware of them in our lives? We will try to answer these questions as we evaluate the Bible story that we read in Mark 1:4-8.

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *John the Baptist, as he was called, and the people of Jerusalem*

2. What are the objects in the story?
3. Where did the story happen? *The Jordan River, in the countryside of Judea*
4. When did the story take place? *Shortly before Jesus began his public ministry*
5. What is the problem? *People did not understand what needed to be done to be saved.*
6. What happened in the story? *John was called by God to prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah, Jesus. So he went out to the wilderness and began preaching about baptism and repentance for the forgiveness of their sins. He wore simple clothes and ate the food in the wilderness to show that his whole focus was on helping people to be baptized and forgiven. He told people about the one coming that would be so much greater than he is, because the one coming was the Son of God.*
7. Is the problem solved? *Yes. John was able to tell them about the Baptism, repentance, and forgiveness that God gives. And he was able to perform many baptisms for the people.*

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

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *Through Baptism, we are washed clean of our sins and given a knowledge of repentance and forgiveness. The Old Man is defeated, and the New Person takes its place in our hearts. We are able to be children of God and serve him.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *We should never think that we can save ourselves. We have so much sin that needs to be taken away, and we can't do that on our own, no matter how many "good" things we do. Only by believing in what Jesus has done for us on the cross and through rising to life again can we become children of God and be saved. Baptism gives us this faith.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *God sent his servant John to give the people the blessings of Baptism and forgiveness through repentance.*
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *Repent of your sins. Live every day to push the Old Man away and keep the New Person in your heart.*

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? *This is good to share with someone who doesn't understand that the struggle between good and evil – between doing what God wants and committing sin – is real and important, or with someone who doesn't know what Baptism can do.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. How can the water in Baptism do such great things?

The water used in Baptism is plain water. God's Word gives Baptism its power, and he commands us to use it together with the water. Baptism is one of the tools the Holy Spirit uses to create saving faith in our hearts (Titus 3:5).

2. What is the Old Man in us?

The Old Man is our sinful nature, which we inherited from our parents, Adam and Eve. Our sinful nature hates God and works against him in every possible way. Even as believers, we will fight against our Old Man until our last breath. Only in heaven, will we be completely liberated from sin and our sinful nature.

“So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Romans 7:21-25)

3. What is the New Person in us?

The New Person is the new creation that God creates inside of us when he converts us. It is the part of us that loves God and wants to do what God says. He is in constant battle with the sinful nature. We have both a sinful nature and a new person inside of us, but our true identity belongs to our new person. The sinful nature is now our enemy.

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient...For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:1, 8-10)

4. How does baptism help us in the fight against our Old Man?

“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:1-4)

In our baptism God puts to death the Old Man and his sinful desires. They are buried at the cross of Jesus and forgiven. In our baptism God creates a New Man who is righteous and without sin. We daily rise with this truth in mind so that when we are tempted to sin we remember who we are and how we will behave in every moment: not as a sinner, but as a forgiven, spiritually living, holy child of God.

5. What does John the Baptist mean when he says, “I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” (Mark 1:5)

Shortly before his ascension into heaven, Jesus explained John’s words. In Acts 1:5 Jesus said, “John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” Thus the words of John referred to the Day of Pentecost, when the church was indeed to experience the power of the Holy Spirit. In the months before, people had turned away from Jesus. On Pentecost after Peter proclaimed Jesus, we read: “Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day” (Acts 2:41).

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. What is the significance of Baptism in our lives? *Allow time for various answers, and make sure that everyone is very clear about why Baptism is significant, what the Old Man and New Person are, and that when we have faith in Jesus and repent of our sins, we have forgiveness and salvation.*

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.

Extra information for the teacher: Topics that may come up during the class

Repentance. Many people think that repentance is something that we have to produce in ourselves. In a sense, they are right, because repentance is something that works inside of us. However, by nature we are unable to repent. God needs to work the repentance in us. There are two parts of repentance:

The shame we feel because we have sinned and the fear of punishment and condemnation. God's law works this part of repentance. Since every person has a different makeup, we cannot demand certain levels or signs of shame. A person who sheds many tears over sin may be just as ashamed as a person who simply says, "I am sorry for my sin. I have sinned against God."

Trust in God's salvation worked through Jesus. God's gospel works this part of repentance. After a person has been crushed by the law, God works with his sweet message of the gospel, showing that Jesus has done everything for salvation and that it is a free gift.

Sometimes the Bible uses the word "repentance" in the wide sense, referring both to the shame and the trust (Luke 5:32). Other times, the word refers only to the shame (Acts 20:21). The context will indicate which one is being talked about. If the passage says something like, "repentance and faith," it is talking about repentance in the narrow sense—shame.

The People's Bible – Consider reading the commentary on this section from *The People's Bible: Mark* in your preparation for teaching this lesson.



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 23



What is Holy Communion? | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to answer this question: “What is Holy Communion?”

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read Matthew 26:17-30.

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 Heavenly Father, we thank you for your great mercy on us. You constantly give us the forgiveness of sins. We thank you for the gift of Holy Communion, a special demonstration that the forgiveness of sins is a personal gift. 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

Think about this: What is the significance of the timing of the institution of Holy Communion? What makes Holy Communion a sacrament? We will try to answer these questions as we evaluate the Bible story that we read in Mark 26:17-30.

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *Jesus and his disciples*
2. What are the objects in the story? Table, bowl, bread, cup, fruit of the vine (wine)

3. Where did the story take place? *In Jerusalem in what is traditionally known as “The Upper Room”*
4. When did this story happen? *The night before Jesus was to be crucified, the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, also known as Passover*
5. What is the problem? *The disciples had overwhelming uncertainty of the future, especially with the realization of Judas’ betrayal.*
6. What happened in the story? *Jesus and his disciples gathered together to celebrate the Passover. He told them that one of them would betray him, and Judas was identified as the betrayer. He then instituted Holy Communion by blessing the bread and wine at the table and giving it to them.*
7. Is the problem solved? *Yes. Even though the disciples were beginning to understand the reality of his impending death, Jesus in his wisdom was able to comfort them with the reminder of God’s forgiveness through sacrificial blood. He uses this reminder to comfort us as well.*

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

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *Holy Communion is a special gift from God. In it he offers the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *The devil constantly tries to fill us with uncertainty. This lesson teaches us to confess our sins of doubt and worry.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *God’s love is shown in the words of institution when Jesus specifically states that his body and blood are given for the forgiveness of all sins.*
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *Celebrate Holy Communion regularly. God uses this sacrament as a means of grace and as a reminder of God’s promises.*

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? *This is good to share with someone who does not know what Holy Communion is or does not know the significance in regularly partaking in it.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. What gift do we receive through Holy Communion? *The forgiveness of sins*
2. What four elements do we receive in Holy Communion? *Bread, wine, Jesus’ blood, and Jesus’ body*
3. How often does God want us to celebrate Holy Communion? *The phrase, “Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me,” indicates that Jesus’ institution of Holy*

Communion was not a onetime occurrence, but something that he wanted his followers to celebrate regularly.

4. What does the term “Real Presence” refer to?

The body and blood of Christ are truly present in, with, and under the earthly elements of bread and wine (this is traditionally a Lutheran belief).

5. What do other churches teach in regard to the Lord’s Supper?

Roman Catholic Church

- *“Unbloody” sacrifice*
- *Priest changes elements*
- *Masses on behalf of others*
- *Forgiveness imparted to unbelievers (“ex opera operata”)*

Most Protestant churches

- *“This is my body...this is my blood” = “This represents my body...this represents my blood”*
- *Memorial meal*
- *No forgiveness is imparted*

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. Ask the key question: What is Holy Communion? *Allow time for various answers, and make sure that everyone is very clear about why Holy Communion is significant, the comfort and grace that is administered to us through it, and why it is important to do it regularly.*

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.

Extra information for the teacher: Topics that may come up during the class

Grape Juice – Some people insist that Jesus used grape juice during the first Holy Communion. This assumption is not based on facts. Jesus instituted Holy Communion during Passover, which normally fell in the month of March or April. The first grapes ripened a number of months later (the first ones during July or August). Unfermented grape juice would not have lasted from the previous harvest; it needed to be processed into wine. Jesus undeniably used wine for Holy Communion. He used the phrase, “the fruit of the vine,” which likely paralleled an ancient Jewish wine blessing.¹ Some consider the phrase “the fruit of the vine” to be inclusive enough to allow for the use of grape juice in contemporary celebration. The text strongly suggests that wine should be used, and we want to follow Jesus’ instructions closely to maintain the integrity of the sacrament. Nevertheless, under extreme circumstances (for example, the sensitivity of some people recovering from alcoholism), grape juice may be used.² The important question to ask is this: “Why do they not want to use alcoholic wine?” If the answer is

that they think drinking *any* amount of alcohol is a sin, then the teacher will want to address that.

The Roman Catholic Church – “The Catholic church believes that only priests ordained by bishops in communion with the Pope or in the apostolic succession have the power to consecrate the bread and wine so that they become body and blood of Christ and that nothing of the substance of the bread and wine remains, only body and blood. They also believe that the elements remain Christ’s body and blood even after the mass is over. The elements can be reserved in a special place. The elements can be bowed to and prayed to. They believe the mass is a sacrifice. They also curse everyone who does not accept this view (Council of Trent, Sixth Session, Canon 12). We believe that, together with the bread and wine, Christ’s body and blood are truly present, however, this does not depend on papal ordination but on Christ’s institution. We do not accept the adoration (worship) of the host, nor do we believe that a sacrifice takes place. We stick just to what the Words of Institution say.”³

A Figure of Speech – “During his ministry Jesus certainly used figures of speech such as similes (Luke 17:24), metaphors (Luke 13:32) and parables (Luke 13:18-21). When it comes to Jesus’ words of institution, understanding the context will determine how to interpret the meaning of his words. There is nothing in the *immediate context* that tells us to understand his words in a figurative way. He is speaking words meant to be taken literally.

The *wider context* of the Bible confirms this. In 1 Corinthians 10:16 the apostle Paul, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, asks: ‘Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?’ His questions anticipate and expect the answer “yes.” So, yes, there is a participation, a communion, between the cup of thanksgiving—the wine—and the blood of Christ, and there is a participation between the bread and the body of Christ. Jesus’ body and blood are present when we receive the bread and wine in the sacrament. In the next chapter of that same letter, the apostle speaks of the real presence of Jesus’ body and blood in the sacrament when he writes: ‘So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord’ (1 Corinthians 11:27). That verse highlights very clearly the four items present in the sacrament: the bread and wine, and Jesus’ body and blood.”⁴

The People’s Bible – Consider reading the commentary on this section from *The People’s Bible: Matthew* in your preparation for teaching this lesson.

1., 2. Fredrich, “The Lord Jesus Institutes Holy Communion,”

3. Taken from <https://wels.net/faq/transubstantiation> WELS Q + A section.

4. <https://wels.net/faq/figures-of-speech-and-the-lords-supper>.



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 24



The Power and Receiving of Holy Communion | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to answer these questions: “How is the sacrament of Holy Communion powerful?” and “How can we prepare ourselves to receive Holy Communion?”

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read 1 Corinthians 10:14-22 and 11:17-33.

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 Lord Jesus, we thank you for the opportunity to study your Word, especially as it pertains to Holy Communion. Help us appreciate and understand the unity it gives us as it connects us to you and to those of us who celebrate it together. In your 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

Think about this: Why is Holy Communion powerful beyond simply doing something to remember Jesus? Can taking Holy Communion ever be harmful? We will try to answer these questions as we evaluate this section of Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians.

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *Paul and the church members in Corinth*
2. What are the objects in the story?

3. Where did the story take place? *Paul's letter refers to his impression from when he was in Corinth (Read Acts 18:1-17).*
4. When did the story take place? *Paul was in Corinth around 50 AD. He wrote the first letter to the Corinthians around 53-54 AD.*
5. What is the problem? *Some were partaking in Holy Communion and defiling it by using it as an act to show they had God's approval, resulting in divisions among them and a lack of unity as believers. They were not recognizing its full power.*
6. What happened in the story? *Paul is telling the Corinthians that their practicing of Holy Communion is becoming abused due to idolatry and divisions among them. He encourages the believers to partake of the supper together and asked that they not pass judgment on one another as if to seek God's approval.*
7. Is the problem solved? *Yes. Paul explains that everyone should examine themselves before taking Holy Communion and be discerning of the body and blood of Christ and the implications of God's grace and forgiveness through it.*

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

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *Holy Communion strengthens and shows our connection with God and with the body of believers, who share a doctrinal unity and oneness in faith.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *This lesson teaches us to confess our sins of pride, selfishness, and passing judgment on others.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *God uses Paul to discipline the Corinthians and remind them lovingly of the grace and forgiveness that come with the sacrament.*
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *God teaches us to gather together in unity of faith and doctrine when receiving Holy Communion. He also teaches us to examine ourselves and remember what the Lord's Supper is and what it does in our lives before we receive it.*

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? *This is good to share with someone who does not understand the importance of being unified in faith with those taking Holy Communion with them.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. Why is Holy Communion powerful? *Holy Communion is powerful because of God's Word and the promises attached to it.*
2. How can taking Holy Communion be harmful? *Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11 that if we take Holy Communion in an unworthy way, we are sinning against the body and blood of Christ.*
3. Holy Communion strengthens and shows our connection with God. What other connection is made during it? *We are connected and unified with the body of believers, who believe the same thing and partake in the same sacrament. We show that there is a doctrinal unity among those who commune together.*

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. Ask the key question: How is the sacrament of Holy Communion powerful? How can we prepare ourselves to receive Holy Communion?

Allow time for various answers, and make sure that everyone is very clear about why Holy Communion is powerful and how we can be sure we are prepared to receive it.

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.

Extra information for the teacher: Topics that may come up during the class

How to prepare well for receiving Holy Communion – Tell the class about *Personal Preparation for Holy Communion*, as found in *Christian Worship* on page 156. These questions and answers help to give our hearts a well-rounded examination.

But I am a sinner – Some people, especially those with sensitive consciences, may think they need to rid themselves of sin before taking Holy Communion. However, Holy Communion is specifically designed to be given to sinners, because it offers the forgiveness of sins – exactly what sinners need the most. Being a sinner does not make a person take Holy Communion in an unworthy manner. Unrepentant sin, on the other hand, would be a reason to stop someone from taking it, because they are not recognizing their need for it and are rejecting its purpose. Some may wonder how Holy Communion can offer us forgiveness when all our sins have already been forgiven. When we partake of it and receive his true body and blood, we don't receive "new" forgiveness for sins that haven't been forgiven. Rather, we receive again the very things (his body and blood) with which our forgiveness was won once and for all. When we take Holy Communion, we don't receive new forgiveness, but we receive forgiveness anew.

The People's Bible – Consider reading the commentary on this section from *The People's Bible: 1 Corinthians* in your preparation for teaching this lesson.



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 25



The Ministry of the Keys and Confession | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to answer these questions: “What are ‘the keys’?” and “What are the two parts of confession?”

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read Matthew 18:15-20.

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 Lord Jesus, we ask you to use us to bring your message of complete and free forgiveness to others. In your 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

Think about this: What is our motivation for forgiving others? What is the purpose of sometimes excluding people from worship (excommunication)? We will try to answer these questions as we evaluate Matthew 18:15-20.

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *Jesus and his disciples*
2. What are the objects in the story? *None*
3. Where did the story take place? *The Roman province of Judea*
4. When did the story take place? *Between the years 28 and 33 AD*

5. What is the problem? *Some people are quick to point out the sins of others for selfish reasons or to make themselves look better. This can happen when the law is used without the gospel.*
6. What happened in the story? *Jesus was speaking to his disciples about Christian love and correction. He gave directions on how to point out another person's sins in a loving way, privately at first. Jesus encourages us to go about correcting each other in love. We don't do it to hurt each other but to resolve disagreements, using the keys (the law and the gospel) accordingly.*
7. Is the problem solved? *Yes. When we point out the sins of others, we always want to do so in love, with the understanding that we are sinners too, and we need forgiveness just as much as anyone else. We are not forcing a personal opinion on someone or judging them. We are simply repeating and enforcing what God has said. The judgment is found in God's Word.*

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

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *We have the keys of heaven – the law and the gospel. It is a great privilege and responsibility to be God's mouthpieces when correcting one another in love.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *This lesson teaches us to confess our sins of gossip and correction resulting from pride.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *God promises to be with us as we show someone the seriousness of a particular sin. He gives assurance that our words, if spoken in respect and love, do have a binding effect in heaven.*
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *God teaches us to correct each other in love by using the law and the gospel together. God will bless us as we encourage repentance in each other.*

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? *This is good to share with someone who does not understand why it is important to correct each other and allow ourselves to be corrected in love.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. According to Matthew 18, why should we forgive others? *The motivation for forgiving others is that God has forgiven us so much more. We forgive because he has forgiven us. In this way, we show his love in a way that touches people's hearts.*
2. Why is our privilege of using the law and the gospel called "the keys"? *When we apply the law to someone, we are showing the seriousness of their sin. If they continue in it, they will be locked out of heaven. The gospel shows the Savior and opens the doors of heaven to everyone who believes.*
3. Let's read James 5:16 and 2 Corinthians 2:7. According to these verses, what are the two parts of confession? *First, we admit our sins to one another. Second, we receive the announcement of the forgiveness of sins from the person we confessed to.*

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. Ask the key question: What are the keys?

Allow time for various answers, and make sure that everyone is very clear about what the keys are and why they are significant.

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.

Extra information for the teacher: Topics that may come up during the class

Counting sins – Some people think that we need to enumerate all our sins when we confess them. We will certainly want to confess those we remember and bother us, but we are too sinful to remember them all (Psalm 19:12). Naming a sin or recounting all of them is not a requirement for them to be forgiven.

Excommunication – Go into a little more depth regarding the act of excommunication. While it may seem a harsh action, we can see from Scripture that it is both loving and necessary in certain situations. You may want to cite Titus 3:10 and Romans 16:17, if that side of the topic comes up. But stress that excommunication is done in love to try to help a person realize their sin, repent, and return to the church.

The People's Bible – Consider reading the commentary on this section from *The People's Bible: Matthew* in your preparation for teaching this lesson.



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 26



The Role of Spiritual Leaders | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to answer these questions: “What are spiritual leaders?” and “What are some biblical requirements for spiritual leaders?”

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read 1 Timothy 3.

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 Heavenly Father, we thank you for all the spiritual leaders you have given us. They are blessings from your hand. Keep them strong in your word at all times. Give them wisdom and patience in all their work. 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

Think about this: What do you think are qualities of good leaders? What does the Bible say about good leaders? We will try to answer these questions as we evaluate 1 Timothy 3.

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *Paul and his protégé Timothy*
2. What are the objects in the story? *Money, wine*
3. Where did the story take place? *Timothy was in Ephesus at the time where there are many false doctrines being taught.*
4. When did the story take place? *After Paul’s visit to Macedonia*

5. What is the problem? *The problem might be that some of the church leaders at the time were not conducting their own households with propriety or they were mismanaging their own lives outside of the church.*
6. What happened in the story? *Paul was speaking to Timothy about the characteristics of a leader in the church. He described in detail the way people ought to conduct themselves in God's house and in their own households.*
7. Was the problem solved? *Yes. Paul specifically used traits to describe how a church leader maintains a worthy reputation. These traits include being temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, and so on.*

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

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *God places people in positions of leadership throughout the church. Because of the public nature of this ministry, the leaders should demonstrate upright character.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *This lesson teaches us to confess when our lives are not representative of our Christian faith or position of leadership in our congregation.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *Jesus wants his flock cared for while on this earth, so he provides leaders as a gift of love for us.*
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *God teaches us to live lives that reflect his love for us, especially when we are in a leadership position in the church.*

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? *This is a good lesson to share with someone who has gifts that might be suited for public ministry or someone who wants to know how they can use their gifts in the church.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. Who gives the gifts of leaders in the church? *God does. Read Ephesians 4:11-13.*
2. What are some biblical requirements of a leader? *The list of requirements Paul uses in Titus 1:6, 7 is similar to that in 1 Timothy 3:1-10. Some requirements are to be blameless, self-controlled, upright, holy, disciplined, and faithful to his wife, raising children to be respectful Christians.*

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. Ask the key question: What are spiritual leaders? What are some biblical requirements for spiritual leaders? *Allow time for various answers, and make sure that everyone is very clear about what the roles of leaders in the church are and how Christ should be reflected in their daily lives.*

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.

Extra information for the teacher: Topics that may come up during the class

Peter as the first pope: The Roman Catholic Church claims that the Apostle Peter was the first pope of the church and that he received his authority from Christ when he said this in Matthew 16:18: “I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” An interpretation of this passage that establishes Peter as pope, and the subsequent line of popes in the papacy, goes beyond what both the immediate context and the entire Bible reveal. A far better interpretation is that Jesus is establishing the church on the confession (verse 16) that Peter had just made. Peter himself calls Jesus the rock in 1 Peter 2:4-8.

Leadership positions – Whether teachers, visitors, preachers, pastors, evangelists, or any position the church may need – spiritual leaders are part of the public ministry. They are called public not because the positions occur in a public space but because they are done on behalf of the church group and in its name. Another name for public ministry would be representative ministry. In their work, the leader represents the group that called them. In other words, when these leaders are doing the work of the group that called them, they are serving in the place and by the call of that group.

The People’s Bible – Consider reading the commentary on this section from *The People’s Bible: 1 Timothy* in your preparation for teaching this lesson.



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 27

Prayer | telnetwork.org



Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to answer this question: “What is prayer?”

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read Luke 11:1-13.

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 Heavenly Father, we thank you that through your Son we have complete access to you in prayer. Forgive all the times when we have not appreciated that gift as we should. Remind us daily of our privilege in prayer. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Introduce The Course

- Explain the purpose of the course.
- Ask all to show respect for the teacher and other students by writing appropriate questions and comments on the Facebook Live chat.
- 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

Think about this: How often do you pray? Do you know what God promises through prayer? We will try to answer these questions as we evaluate Luke 11:1-13.

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

- Who are the characters in the story? *Jesus and his disciples*
- What are the objects in the story?
- Where did the story take place? *Luke 11:1 says it was “a certain place.”*
- When did the story take place? *Right after Jesus had finished praying*

5. What is the problem? *The problem is that sometimes we do not take advantage of this great gift of prayer, or we may not believe in or understand its power.*
6. What happened in the story? *Jesus' disciples saw him praying, and one of them asked him to teach them how to pray. Jesus taught them what we know as the Lord's Prayer. He encouraged them to go to God in prayer and ask, seek, and knock.*
7. Was the problem solved? *Yes. Jesus says that God promises to answer those who seek him in prayer. It may not always be the answer we're hoping for, but we can be confident it's the answer that will be the best for us.*

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

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *Prayer is our communication with God. He allows us to go to him freely and without fear.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *One sin might be doubting God and not trusting his ultimate wisdom.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *God shows us that we are his children when we are taught to refer to him as our father. He promises to send his Holy Spirit when we go to him in prayer.*
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *God teaches us to pray fervently and trust his will in every situation.*

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? *This would be good to share with someone who may not understand that God hears our prayers and promises to answer them.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. Why do we have complete access to God in prayer? *We are children of God through the merits of Jesus Christ.*
2. Why is it important to pray "your will be done"? *God alone knows what is best. In his ultimate wisdom, he has a plan for our lives.*
3. Why is it dangerous and wrong to think we can convince God to answer our prayers through our actions, such as fasting and vigils? *When we think we need to add something to our prayers so that they will be heard favorably by God, we might be tempted to think, "Because I did this, God answered my prayer the way I wanted him to answer it." That's a false belief.*

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. Ask the key question: What is prayer? *Allow time for various answers, and make sure that everyone is very clear about what prayer is and what promises God gives us through it.*

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.

Extra information for the teacher: Topics that may come up during the class

To whom do we pray – Prayer is an act of worship, and God is the only one who should receive that kind of worship (see Isaiah 42:8). Because of the work of Jesus, there is no reason or need to go to God indirectly through other mediators (see 1 Timothy 2:5, 6). Practices such as praying to Mary and the saints are against God’s will and accomplish nothing.

Randomly opening the Bible for insight – Oftentimes, people don’t know where to go in the Bible to get the wisdom or direction they need. So they say, “Lord, show me where you want me to read,” and they randomly open their Bible and start reading wherever the Bible happens to open. This has long been known as the “lucky dip” method. The Lord may give blessings in this way, but we have no promise (or Biblical example) that he will. In general, it is not the best way to read his Word.

People’s Bible – Consider reading the commentary on this section from *The People’s Bible: Luke* in your preparation for teaching this lesson.



TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 28



The Lord's Prayer | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to answer this question: “What is the Lord’s Prayer?”

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read Matthew 6:5-15.

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:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. 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

Think about this: What parts of the Lord’s Prayer refer to the spread of the gospel? What parts of the prayer refer to the protection of people proclaiming the gospel? We will try to answer these questions as we evaluate Matthew 6:5-15.

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *Jesus, his disciples, hypocrites*
2. What are the objects in the story? *Synagogue, door, room, bread*
3. Where did the story take place? *Likely a hill (“mount”) in northern Israel*

4. When did the story take place? *Likely early in Jesus' ministry*
5. What is the problem? *Some people were abusing prayer by being hypocritical or praying in public to make themselves look righteous.*
6. What happened in the story? *Jesus warned against self-righteous and hypocritical prayer. He then gave the example of the Lord's Prayer as a guideline for how to pray.*
7. Was the problem solved? *Yes. Jesus teaches a prayer that is God-pleasing and appropriate.*

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

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *The Lord's Prayer is a comforting prayer given to us through Jesus. We can continue learning from it all our lives.*
 - a. *"Our Father who art in heaven" = We have a personal relationship with God like a child and father. He is father over the whole earth but keeps our personal requests and welfare in mind.*
 - b. *"Hallowed be thy name" = Help us keep your name holy throughout our life, just as it should be.*
 - c. *"Thy kingdom come" = Make the spread of the Gospel happen through me. Keep my soul secure in your care. Let me be a light in this world. Be with all who do so many more enter the kingdom of heaven.*
 - d. *"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" = Let me accept your answer to prayer as the best for me and your kingdom. Break and defeat every evil effort of the Devil in my life and this world.*
 - e. *"Give us this day our daily bread" = Give me everything I need for bodily health and protection.*
 - f. *"Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us" = Thank you for your full and free forgiveness. Now continue to work in me to do the same for others.*
 - g. *"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." = You alone keep me spiritually safe. Continue to protect and feed my soul as you do my body. Protect me and all believers from Satan's attacks.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *This lesson teaches us to confess the sin of hypocritical, pious, or babbling prayer.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *God wants us to call him "Father." God shows us that we are a part of his family and he loves us like a father loves his children.*
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *God teaches us to use the Lord's Prayer as a guideline when we pray and also as a guide for our lives.*

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? *This would be good to share with someone who may be having troubles finding the right words to pray when they need to seek God's help.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. What parts of the prayer refer to the spread of the gospel? *“Hallowed be your name.” God’s name is kept holy when his Word is taught in its truth and purity. “Your kingdom come.” We are asking God to rein in our hearts through his Word. “Your will be done.” God’s highest will is that all people be saved.*
2. What parts of the prayer refer to maintaining the unity of believers? *We start the prayer with “Our Father.” Just as we all need daily forgiveness from God, we also want to learn to forgive others.*
3. What parts of the prayer refer to the protection of people proclaiming the gospel? *We ask God to maintain our spiritual welfare by keeping us strong in the face of temptation and by protecting us from evil. We ask God to protect our physical health as well when we say, “Give us today our daily bread.”*

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. Ask the key question: What is the Lord’s Prayer? *Allow time for various answers, and make sure that everyone is very clear about what the Lord’s Prayer is and how it applies to our lives as believers.*

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.

Extra information for the teacher: Topics that may come up during the class

Repetitious praying – Some people will have an aversion to the Lord’s Prayer because it may sound “too catholic” or because they don’t like mindless repetition. Certainly, the Lord’s Prayer has been abused by many people, including ourselves, and for these sins we ask the Lord’s forgiveness. However, as one writer said, “While mindless and unthinking repetition presents a problem, repeating the same prayer throughout one’s life does not.”¹

The Doxology – Some churches pray the last part of the Lord’s Prayer – “for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever” – and other churches do not have that custom. The last part, also called the Doxology, was probably not part of the original prayer, since it is not found in the earliest manuscripts. But it is not wrong to pray it. In fact, it is a nice declaration of faith and confidence in our God.

1. Editorial remarks in *Luther’s Large Catechism with Study Questions* by Concordia Publishing House, page 97.

