

TEACHER GUIDE


TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 18



Sanctified by the Holy Spirit | tellnetwork.org

 **Watch video 18.** 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 Titus 3:1-7.

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?

