

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.

