

TEACHER GUIDE


TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

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.

