

TEACHER GUIDE


TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 16



The Humiliation and Exaltation of Jesus | tellnetwork.org

 **Watch video 16.** *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 Matthew 27:32-54.*

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

- 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 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 unforgivable. 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.

