

## TEACHER GUIDE

### TELL Bible Pathway

#### Part 1

#### Lesson 10



The Sixth Commandment | [tellnetwork.org](http://tellnetwork.org)

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**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.

