

TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 22



What is the Significance of Baptism in Our Lives? | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to answer this question: “What is the significance of Baptism in our lives?”

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read Mark 1:4-8.

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, thank you for saving us in the waters of Baptism. Once, we were your enemies, but now we are your children. Help us every day to fight against our sinful nature, which continually tries to lead us away from you. As we begin this course, in which we will talk about the significance of Baptism in our lives, send us your Holy Spirit through your Word that we might grow in faith and in the desire to share Jesus with others. In His 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: Do you know what the “Old Man” and “New Person” are? Why is it important to be aware of them in our lives? We will try to answer these questions as we evaluate the Bible story that we read in Mark 1:4-8.

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *John the Baptist, as he was called, and the people of Jerusalem*

2. What are the objects in the story?
3. Where did the story happen? *The Jordan River, in the countryside of Judea*
4. When did the story take place? *Shortly before Jesus began his public ministry*
5. What is the problem? *People did not understand what needed to be done to be saved.*
6. What happened in the story? *John was called by God to prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah, Jesus. So he went out to the wilderness and began preaching about baptism and repentance for the forgiveness of their sins. He wore simple clothes and ate the food in the wilderness to show that his whole focus was on helping people to be baptized and forgiven. He told people about the one coming that would be so much greater than he is, because the one coming was the Son of God.*
7. Is the problem solved? *Yes. John was able to tell them about the Baptism, repentance, and forgiveness that God gives. And he was able to perform many baptisms for the people.*

Learn (identify that sin is the problem and only God has the answer)

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *Through Baptism, we are washed clean of our sins and given a knowledge of repentance and forgiveness. The Old Man is defeated, and the New Person takes its place in our hearts. We are able to be children of God and serve him.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *We should never think that we can save ourselves. We have so much sin that needs to be taken away, and we can't do that on our own, no matter how many "good" things we do. Only by believing in what Jesus has done for us on the cross and through rising to life again can we become children of God and be saved. Baptism gives us this faith.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *God sent his servant John to give the people the blessings of Baptism and forgiveness through repentance.*
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *Repent of your sins. Live every day to push the Old Man away and keep the New Person in your heart.*

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 doesn't understand that the struggle between good and evil – between doing what God wants and committing sin – is real and important, or with someone who doesn't know what Baptism can do.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. How can the water in Baptism do such great things?

The water used in Baptism is plain water. God's Word gives Baptism its power, and he commands us to use it together with the water. Baptism is one of the tools the Holy Spirit uses to create saving faith in our hearts (Titus 3:5).

2. What is the Old Man in us?

The Old Man is our sinful nature, which we inherited from our parents, Adam and Eve. Our sinful nature hates God and works against him in every possible way. Even as believers, we will fight against our Old Man until our last breath. Only in heaven, will we be completely liberated from sin and our sinful nature.

“So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Romans 7:21-25)

3. What is the New Person in us?

The New Person is the new creation that God creates inside of us when he converts us. It is the part of us that loves God and wants to do what God says. He is in constant battle with the sinful nature. We have both a sinful nature and a new person inside of us, but our true identity belongs to our new person. The sinful nature is now our enemy.

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient...For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:1, 8-10)

4. How does baptism help us in the fight against our Old Man?

“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:1-4)

In our baptism God puts to death the Old Man and his sinful desires. They are buried at the cross of Jesus and forgiven. In our baptism God creates a New Man who is righteous and without sin. We daily rise with this truth in mind so that when we are tempted to sin we remember who we are and how we will behave in every moment: not as a sinner, but as a forgiven, spiritually living, holy child of God.

5. What does John the Baptist mean when he says, “I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” (Mark 1:5)

Shortly before his ascension into heaven, Jesus explained John’s words. In Acts 1:5 Jesus said, “John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” Thus the words of John referred to the Day of Pentecost, when the church was indeed to experience the power of the Holy Spirit. In the months before, people had turned away from Jesus. On Pentecost after Peter proclaimed Jesus, we read: “Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day” (Acts 2:41).

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. What is the significance of Baptism in our lives? *Allow time for various answers, and make sure that everyone is very clear about why Baptism is significant, what the Old Man and New Person are, and that when we have faith in Jesus and repent of our sins, we have forgiveness and salvation.*

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

Repentance. Many people think that repentance is something that we have to produce in ourselves. In a sense, they are right, because repentance is something that works inside of us. However, by nature we are unable to repent. God needs to work the repentance in us. There are two parts of repentance:

The shame we feel because we have sinned and the fear of punishment and condemnation. God's law works this part of repentance. Since every person has a different makeup, we cannot demand certain levels or signs of shame. A person who sheds many tears over sin may be just as ashamed as a person who simply says, "I am sorry for my sin. I have sinned against God."

Trust in God's salvation worked through Jesus. God's gospel works this part of repentance. After a person has been crushed by the law, God works with his sweet message of the gospel, showing that Jesus has done everything for salvation and that it is a free gift.

Sometimes the Bible uses the word "repentance" in the wide sense, referring both to the shame and the trust (Luke 5:32). Other times, the word refers only to the shame (Acts 20:21). The context will indicate which one is being talked about. If the passage says something like, "repentance and faith," it is talking about repentance in the narrow sense—shame.

The People's Bible – Consider reading the commentary on this section from *The People's Bible: Mark* in your preparation for teaching this lesson.

