

## TEACHER GUIDE

### TELL Bible Pathway

#### Part 1

#### Lesson 6



God's Law | [tellnetwork.org](http://tellnetwork.org)

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**Lesson Goal:** To discover the different types of laws established by God and the main purpose for the law.

**Pre-Lesson Preparation:** Read Matthew 9:9-13, the calling of Matthew as a disciple.

**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:

*Gracious Father, you have given us your law and your gospel for our salvation. Teach us to use these two teachings correctly and apply them to our lives and the lives around us so that you have all the glory. Teach us to see our sins so that we can see Jesus more clearly. Show us our sin and show us our Savior. In Jesus' 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 are the three types of law? What are the three purposes of the law?

#### Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *Jesus, Matthew, "tax collectors and sinners", the Pharisees*
2. What are the objects in this story? *The tax collector's booth, food*
3. Where did the story happen? *Near The Sea of Galilee*

4. When did the story happen? *During Jesus' earthly ministry*
5. What is the problem? *The Pharisees did not like Jesus spending time with "tax collectors and sinners" and even calling one of those tax collectors to be a disciple.*
6. What events occurred in this story? *Have the participants relate the story details, but guide them when they deviate, get confused or overlook an important detail*
7. Was there a solution to the problem? If so, what was it? *The problems of the sinners were being solved. Jesus explained that he had come to make them spiritually well. It is doubtful that any of the Pharisees took Jesus' words to heart.*

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

1. What is the main theme of this lesson? Jesus came to fulfill the law in the place of those sinners who would trust Him. The Pharisees, who were trying to earn their way to heaven through adherence to the law did not recognize God's grace to them.
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess?
  - A. Looking down on people I consider bad and thinking them less worthy of God's love
  - B. A tendency to depend on my church affiliation or my family's traditions or any laws of God for my salvation
  - C. Lack of recognition of myself as a sinner in need of Jesus
3. Where do you see the love of God in this lesson?
  - A. Jesus loved people who were not respected by society – the tax collectors and sinners – and He came to tell them that His sacrifice would pay the price for their sins.
  - B. Jesus called Matthew, not only to faith, but also to be a disciple and to help preach the true Word of God.
  - C. Jesus lovingly tried to show the Pharisees their errors.
4. What does God teach you to do in this lesson?
  - A. To see myself as equal to all other sinners, as we all fall short of God's perfection and need of a Savior
  - B. To rely only on Jesus for salvation and not depend on my family or my church or any laws to earn my way
  - C. To show people around me that they are sinful and then to proclaim the gospel to them

**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?
  - A. With people around us who think they are too sinful to be forgiven
  - B. With people who think that their adherence to rules will earn them a place in heaven

**Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)**

1. What are the two main teachings of the Bible?

*The two main teachings of the Bible are the law and the gospel. The law shows us our sin, and the gospel shows us our Savior. The word "gospel" means good news." The message of Jesus is*

*certainly good news because it tells us we don't have to do anything to be saved because Jesus did it all.*

2. Where are the law and the gospel found?

*The law and the gospel are both found in the Old Testament and the New Testament. For example, we find the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20, but we also find the first promise of a Savior in Genesis 3:15. In the New Testament we find the law, such as in Matthew 5 and 6 in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. We also see the gospel in Jesus' sacrifice. The law and the gospel go together. We need them both*

3. What are the three types of law?

- A. The three types of law which we find in the Bible are the civil law, the ceremonial law, and the moral law. The civil law was for the Israelites in the Old Testament and told them how to run their government. An example would be the laws for the king in Deuteronomy 17:14-20.
- B. The ceremonial law regulated the worship life of the Old Testament people and pointed to Christ. An example would be the celebration of the Day of Atonement in Leviticus 16.
- C. The moral law is what God wants from all people of all time. An example of this would be the prohibition of stealing in Exodus 20:15.

4. What are the three purposes of the law?

*The three purposes of God's law are to act as a mirror to show us our sins, to curb our sinful nature with threats of punishment so that we think twice before acting upon our darkest impulses, and to serve as a guide for believers who are looking for ways to thank God for his forgiveness and love for them.*

5. According to Romans 3:20, what is the main purpose of the law?

*The main purpose of the law is to show us our sins, to act as a mirror so that we see our hopeless state, all in preparation for telling us the news of Jesus who has done all for us.*

6. Why do we want to apply the law first before the gospel?

*By nature, we think that we can do something to merit some of God's favor and forgiveness. We are proud of being better than someone else, doing a good work, or progressing in our behavior. However, God's standards are perfection. He has to knock us down, destroy us, and devastate us so that we find no hope in ourselves. Then, he lifts us up again with the message of his Son who lived a perfect life for us and died a horrible death to pay for our sins. Nothing depends on us. We need the law message first so we appreciate and listen to the message that says, "Everything depends on Jesus."*

7. Does obedience bring blessing?

- A. When we outwardly follow God's commandments, we may generally have fewer problems. For example, if we are not sleeping with other people, we have a better opportunity for a good relationship with our spouses. However, we also want to keep in mind passages like 2 Timothy 3:12, "Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." Following God's commands also brings us troubles. Jesus promises his followers a cross (Luke 9).
- B. Our obedience does not bring the greatest blessing, a relationship with God. God demands perfection (Matthew 5:48). We are not perfect because even one sin damns us (James 2:10).

If we try to achieve a good relationship with God by our own obedience, we will be lost. Galatians 3:10 says, “All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.’”

- C. All the promises and curses in sections of the Old Testament, such as Deuteronomy 28, can be difficult to understand. The ancient Israelites had a two-way covenant with God. If they fulfilled their end of the pact, God would fulfill his end. It was law-based. The main purpose of the law is to show us our sins. The two-way covenant did just that. It showed how Israel failed. They could never do everything perfectly. They needed a savior. Jesus is the embodiment of the New Covenant, a one-way covenant.

8. What is Jesus’ relationship with the law?

- A. Jesus had to obey God’s law. Galatians 4:4 says, “When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.” Jesus became our substitute by living a perfect life in our place.
- B. Jesus obeyed God’s law perfectly. Hebrews 4:15 says, “We do not have a high priest (Jesus) who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.”
- C. Jesus’ perfect obedience is attributed to us as our own. Romans 5:19 says, “Just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.” We now have Jesus’ perfect record as our perfect record.

9. Are we able to fulfill the law?

*Some people may be convinced that we have the power to fulfill the law. “If God commands it, we must be able to do it,” they claim. This is not true. By nature, we are dead in our sins (Ephesians 2:1) and are enemies of God (Romans 8:7). We had no desire or ability to fulfill what God demands. Even as believers, we constantly struggle with our sinful nature (Romans 7). The purpose of the law is to show us our sins (Romans 3:20). The law cannot save us or show us how to save ourselves. It gives us the standard but does not help us reach that goal.*

### Lesson Wrap-Up

1. What is the proper understanding of the law of God?

*God gave us his law to show us what perfect obedience looked like and to show that we are not capable of reaching this standard. When we are saddened by this fact, the gospel shows us that Jesus obeyed for us and paid the penalty for our disobedience. Jesus showed this proper understanding of the law when he told the Pharisees in our story, “I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”*

**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.

