

TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 5



The Bible and Inspiration | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this first lesson is to introduce yourself, introduce the class objective, and answer the questions “Whose word is the Bible?” and “How do we interpret Scripture?”

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read Acts 17:1-12 about some of the people to whom Paul preached the gospel.

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 the gift of your Holy Scripture so that we can learn about your great love for us and the salvation you have won completely for us. I ask that you bless this class and all of the participants in it. Send your Holy Spirit to root us deeply in your Word as we learn more and more about you. 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

How did the Bible come into being? *Over the course of 1600 years, God used dozens of men to write down his Word. These men spoke their own languages and wrote with their own educational backgrounds and styles. They were not robots in the process, but, through the Holy Spirit’s inspiration, every word of the Bible is God’s Word, exactly as he wanted to communicate it.*

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in this story? *Paul, Silas, Timothy, the Thessalonians, and the Bereans*
2. What are the objects in this story? *The Scriptures*
3. Where did this story happen? *The Jewish Synagogues in Thessalonica and Berea*
4. When did this story happen? *After the ascension of Jesus, as Paul was traveling on his second recorded missionary journey (49-52 AD)*
5. What is the problem? *The Thessalonian Jews were jealous. They did not believe Paul and Silas as they preached the Word. They even followed Paul and Silas to Berea to cause trouble there.*
6. What events occurred in this story? *Let the participants tell the story, but guide them when they deviate, get confused, or overlook an important detail.*
7. Is the problem solved? *For the Thessalonians who refused to believe that Jesus was the fulfillment of Scripture and was indeed their Savior, the problem was not solved. The Bereans believed, so Scripture was the solution to their problem of needing a Savior.*

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

1. What is the main theme of this lesson? *Despite being recorded by a number of human writers and translated from the Hebrew and Greek, the Bible is and will remain the Word of God. The law that is written in it, then, is God's law. We should not try to interpret it based on our human understanding, but we should let Scripture inform Scripture. WE should test what our teachers say against the Word we read, as the Bereans did.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess?
 - i. Jealousy – *The Thessalonian Jews were jealous because the people were listening to Paul rather than to the traditional teachers of the law. We so often want to be right and to be respected and loved by those around us. Sometimes teachers of truth get in our way.*
 - ii. Pride – *The Thessalonian Jews were certain that they would always be God's people and that they knew what was right. They refused to search the Scriptures for signs of the Savior that had been fulfilled.*
 - iii. Absence from the Word – *Staying away from hearing the Word is detrimental to our spiritual health. We need to be like the Bereans who listened and studied.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in this lesson? *God shows His great love for me by giving me His Word. As Paul wrote to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:15, "From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." He has also sent faithful preachers like Paul throughout the generations to proclaim His plan of salvation.*
4. What does God teach you to do in this lesson? *To recognize His Word as the truth and to see His law as a blessing. Jesus said in John 17:17, "Sanctify them by the truth; your (God's) word is truth."*

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? *With children, with people newly introduced to the Word, in academic or scientific environments, with someone who thinks he can only know the truth if God speaks to him directly.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. What is the main point of the Bible? *The main point of the Bible is to show us that we have a broken relationship with God and that we ourselves can do nothing to fix it. Only God could fix it, and He did. He sent his Son to be our substitute, to live and to die for us. The Son is our Savior.*
2. Why can we continue to trust in the Bible even though we only have copies? *God not only gave us his Word; He also has preserved his Word through the ages. We have God's promise of that preservation in passages like Isaiah 40:8, "The word of our God stands forever." Scripture also tells us accounts of God's preservation of his word such as in Jeremiah 36 where an evil king wanted to destroy the Word but was not able to. We can also examine all the handwritten copies of the Scriptures which still exist and see that there are no differences in the copies which change or cast doubt on doctrine.*
3. What is God's biggest desire for us? *God's biggest desire for us is our salvation. 1 Timothy 2:4 says, "God wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*
4. Is that desire completed in the Bible? *Yes. The Bible has everything that we need for salvation. 2 Timothy 3:15 says, "From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." We don't need anything else.*
5. If God were to speak again, would he contradict or change anything we already have in the Bible? *God would not change anything he has already said. Therefore, if we hear people saying, "God told me this," and they teach something that is not biblical, that means that God did not speak to them. Comparing what we hear with what the Bible says is a very good practice.*
6. Why should we have a healthy suspicion when we hear people claiming to have received messages directly from God? *2 Corinthians 11:14 says, "Satan masquerades as an angel of light." The devil is very cunning and deceptive. He often looks good and offers a seemingly godly message, but underneath the sheep's clothing he is a ferocious wolf looking to devour us."*

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. Ask the key question: Whose word is the Bible? How do we interpret Scripture? *Allow time for various answers. Be sure to emphasize that, although God allowed humans to record his Word, his Holy Spirit inspired every part of it, and He has continued to preserve it for our good. We should not look for God to talk to us directly, but we should study Scripture.*

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.

