

TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 15



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Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to review how humans cannot save themselves. Instead, they must be redeemed, or bought back, by the perfect life and innocent death of Christ.

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read the story in John 18:28-37.

Review Matthew 5:48; Romans 3:12; Isaiah 64:6; and Romans 3:22-23 to review how we humans cannot save ourselves.

Read 1 Peter 1:18-19 and focus on what the word redeem means.

What did Jesus accomplish for our salvation in his life?

What did Jesus accomplish for our salvation in his death?

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:

Lord and Savior Jesus, we come before you as beggars, and you are the only place we can find spiritual food to satisfy our eternal desires. We cannot help ourselves, but you have saved us by your grace. In your name we pray. Amen.

Introduce The Course

- Explain the purpose of the course.
- Ask all to show respect for the teacher and other students by writing appropriate questions and comments on the Facebook Live chat.
- 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 your favorite superheroes. Who are they? Why are they your favorite?

Now think about them all sitting around Jesus, listening to him tell a story. And Jesus, finishing his story, says, "And that's how I saved the world."

It's a pretty interesting comparison, isn't it? Our society is enamored of superheroes who save the world from destruction. Let's use that as a bridge to talk about Jesus and his work as our hero. Today we jump into the topic of how Jesus saved the world and, since we are part of the world, how Jesus saved us. We start with an important question: How can we have peace with God?

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *The Jewish leaders, Jesus, Pilate (the Roman governor)*
2. What are the objects in the story? *Pontius Pilate's palace*
3. Where did the story take place? *In Jerusalem, at Pilate's palace*
4. When did the story take place? *After Jesus had been arrested, on the day he was crucified*
5. What is the problem? *The Jewish leaders thought that Jesus wanted to be an earthly king*
6. What events happened in the story? *The Jewish leaders, wanting to have Jesus killed, had him arrested and took him to Pilate to be tried. When Pilate was questioning Jesus, he asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "My kingdom is not of this world."*
7. Is the problem solved? *Although Jesus rules and controls the world, his true kingdom is not of this world. He has prepared an eternal kingdom where we will enjoy living with him forever. He himself has fought to bring us to be with him in heaven by dying on the cross as our substitute.*

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

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *The Jewish people didn't understand that Jesus' true kingdom is not of this world. His true kingdom is his heavenly kingdom, where he has prepared a place for all believers to live with him eternally.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *Thinking that through our own efforts, we can somehow earn our way to heaven. But we have not lived up to God's perfection. We are utterly incapable of establishing a healthy, peaceful relationship with God. God's perfect justice would reject us if we tried to enter heaven with what we have to offer.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *By his grace, God has a solution to our imperfection. It is found in the work of Jesus. We are freely saved by God's grace (his undeserved love) through Jesus as he buys us back to be his own.*
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *God teaches me to confess that I can do nothing on my own to have peace with him. Only Jesus, who is perfect, could take the punishment we deserved to earn heaven 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? *We can share this message with someone if they feel that they can do something to earn God's favor or their way into heaven. Only Jesus, by his perfect life and innocent death as our substitute, could accomplish that for us.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. Read Matthew 5:48; Romans 3:12; Isaiah 64:6; and Romans 3:22-23. How do these passages show that humans cannot save ourselves? *Matthew 5:48 shows God's standards. Romans 3:12 shows that no one is perfect or even good. Isaiah 64:6 shows that even our good works are contaminated by sin. Romans 3:22-23 shows that we cannot even compare ourselves with supposedly worse sinners.*
2. What does the word redeem mean? *1 Peter 1:18-19 beautifully describes Jesus' work of salvation: "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect." There are many ways with which the Bible describes and communicates Jesus' rescue mission of us. In this verse from Peter, we see the word "redeem." Redeem means to buy back. It's not that God had to pay the devil an amount, but he did pay a price. God gave up his only Son to redeem us.*
3. What did Jesus accomplish for our salvation in his life? *God's standards not only demand that we be without sin, but they also say that we need to have a perfect record of obedience. Jesus, acting as our substitute, obeyed God's law perfectly and attributed to us the obedience that we needed. God now sees us as sinless and completely obedient because Jesus has given us his perfection.*
4. What did Jesus accomplish for our salvation in his death? *In Jesus' death, he suffered the eternal punishment of all sin of all time of all people. He was our substitute. We were the ones who were supposed to be on the cross suffering God's eternal condemnation, but he, in his mercy, took our place.*
5. How do the following verses describe Jesus' roles in our salvation? (Deuteronomy 18:15; Hebrews 7:26-27; Hebrews 2:14)

Let the students discuss the verses. As needed, add the following thoughts:

Jesus had many roles that describe his work of salvation. We sometimes divide them into three main roles, or offices: Jesus was our Prophet, our Priest, and our King.

Deuteronomy 18:15: Moses speaks about the coming Jesus as a prophet like he is. A prophet speaks God's Word and communicates what God has to say. Jesus was a perfect prophet who was God's communication of his love to the world.

Hebrews 7:26-27: Jesus was the perfect priest because he was sinless and was able to sacrifice himself for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 2:14: Jesus is our victorious king who destroyed the work of the devil.

6. Let's examine a piece of anti-Christian Roman graffiti. What kind of encouragement would you give Alexamenos if you had the opportunity to speak with him?

The following picture is graffiti found in Rome that dates between the 1st and 3rd centuries: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexamenos_graffito#/media/File:AlexGraffito.svg.

It is an obviously anti-Christian attack because it depicts Jesus with a donkey's head and says, "Alexamenos worships his God."

Let the students discuss. As needed, add the following thoughts.

What sort of Bible verse or truth would you share? Answers will vary, but some good ones to share include 1 Corinthians 1:18; Revelation 2:10; and Matthew 10:25.

What kind of prayer would you pray for and with Alexamenos? Answers will vary, but will very likely follow the lines of thought found in the shared verses.

What makes you ready to face persecution for your faith? This question is aimed more at the students to cause them to consider their convictions. A verse you may want to share with them is Hebrews 12:2.

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. Why can humans not save themselves? *Allow time for answers and various wordings, but reinforce the fact that Scripture is very clear that sinful human beings cannot save themselves.*
2. How did Jesus save us by his life and death? *Only Christ can redeem us, or buy us back, with his perfect life and innocent death in our place. In his life, he obeyed God's law perfectly and attributed to us the obedience we needed. In his death, he suffered the eternal punishment of all sin of all time of all people as our substitute.*

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

Age of accountability. Most people will admit that all people are sinners. However, especially when studying future topics of baptism, they deny that children are sinful or that they are held accountable for their sins because they are not conscious of them yet and supposedly do not have full control of their actions until they reach a certain age (usually somewhere between 6 and 12).

Although passages like Romans 3:23 should be sufficient to prove the sinfulness of children, you may want to include Romans 5:18 along with your explanation, which clearly shows that by Adam's sin all are condemned: "Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people."

Possible extra question: Are babies and infants held accountable for their sins?

Good works. Some students may become confused when they hear and understand the law/gospel presentation for the first time. They can be shocked that they are not obligated to keep any of God's laws. Much in the strain of Romans 6:1, they may think that we are saying that sinning is good and that no one should put any effort into following God's commands. Believers are not obligated to do anything because we are no longer under the demands of the law. We have a different motivation and a different source of energy to do good works. As Hebrews 12:28 says, we seek to do good works out of gratitude and thanksgiving for what God has done for us. We work from a source of peace we already have instead of striving to gain a peace through our works.

Possible extra question: What is the difference between saying "I am obligated to do good works" and "I want to do good works"?

