

TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 9



The Fourth and Fifth Commandments | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to learn about the respect God wants us to show to those in authority and the love we are to show others.

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read Matthew 22: 15-22 and 34-40.

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, you have given us precious gifts which we don't deserve. Today we consider your gifts of the people you put in authority over us and the gift of life. Convict us of our sin and soothe us with the message of your Son. Guide us into a deeper appreciation for these gifts of yours and help us to navigate this sinful world so that we may honor you in the best way possible. 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

Think about those who have authority over you. Do you like them? Do you respect them? Do you see them as agents of God's will?

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in these stories? *The Pharisees, Jesus, Caesar*
2. What are the objects in these stories? *The denarius that was used to pay taxes*
3. Where did the story take place? *Jerusalem*

4. When did the story happen? *After Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered Jerusalem triumphantly. He then preached to the people and talked to the Pharisees. He would soon be arrested and crucified.*
5. What is the problem in this story?
 - a. *The Pharisees are trying to trick Jesus into saying something wrong.*
 - b. *The Pharisees are not interested in Jesus' teachings but in getting rid of Jesus.*
6. What events occurred in this story? *Focus on Jesus' authority. The Pharisees tried everything they could to prove that Jesus was acting either against the government or against God because they were jealous.*
7. Is the problem solved? *The Pharisees were not able to trip up Jesus because Jesus is true God. He answered their questions about the law and about submission to authority perfectly. They still managed to arrest and kill him, but that death on the cross solved all of our problems. It did not solve the problem for most of the Pharisees because they refused to believe.*

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

1. What is the main theme of these stories? *Jesus perfectly and succinctly sums up the Law of God for the Pharisees, focusing on loving God above all else and loving our neighbors as ourselves. He also showed them that God wants us to submit to government authorities.*
2. What sins am I taught to confess in these stories?
 - a. *Not offering my respect and courtesy to those in authority over me*
 - b. *Putting my own interest above the needs of those around me*
 - c. *Loving anything more than I love God*
3. Where do I see God's love in these stories?
 - a. *God puts people in authority over us to fulfill his will*
 - b. *We are able to love others and love God because he loved us first*
4. What does God teach you to ask and do? *God wants me to focus on putting Him and His glory first in my life in what I say and do. He wants me to love the people around me as much as I love myself and honor and respect all those in authority over me, including parents, governments, and teachers.*

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 people refuse to respect their government officials because of political disagreements and when those around us are tempted to abuse someone they do not like*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. How did Jesus summarize the whole law? *The one-word response is “love,” but there are two recipients of our love— God and our neighbors. In addition, we see a natural divide in the 10 commandments along these lines. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God, and the rest concentrate on our relationship with our neighbors.*
2. Besides our parents, who are some of the authorities included in the Fourth Commandment? *church leaders, government leaders, and supervisors and bosses at work. Others may include the police, teachers, airport control, etc.*
3. What is God protecting in the Fifth Commandment? *Our lives and physical wellbeing*
4. How do we act under evil and corrupt authorities? *We will want to act always in love and respect. We will want to refuse to act against God’s will. We will want to use the established legal means and ways of influencing our governing officials (e.g., voting, petitions, etc.).*
5. Is it wrong for governments to practice Capital Punishment?
 - a. What is Capital Punishment? *The practice of a government to put people to death for certain crimes.*
 - b. What does Scripture say about the government’s right to use capital punishment? *Romans 13:1-4, “Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.” The last verse shows specifically that God gives governments the right to execute people for crimes. It is taking a life, but it is not murder. They are acting in God’s behalf.*
 - c. Does a government have to use Capital Punishment? *No. It can choose to abstain from that God-given right.*
 - d. What are some of the benefits of Capital Punishment? *Capital punishment not only stops a criminal from continuing his destructive and evil behavior, but it also can serve as a deterrent for others who may consider severely hurting others.*
6. The Fourth Commandment adds a promise. It says, “Honor your father and your mother so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” What does the added promise tell us about the commandment? *The added promise shows God’s gracious concern for our welfare here on the earth. Generally speaking, when we listen and obey our authorities, earthly blessings follow. If I follow my parents’ wise advice in selecting a spouse, it is more likely I will have a happier relationship. If I follow my teacher’s model of studying, I will likely learn more. If I obey traffic laws, I am more likely to stay out of accidents. But these blessings are a gift from God, and we have no right to demand them.*

7. What do we learn about sin from these passages? Matthew 5:21-22, ““You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.” And Proverbs 30:17, “The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures.”
8. *God is very serious about sin.*
9. *God considers our thoughts and our words as sinful. We are completely sinful. Sin comes from the heart as Matthew 15:19-20 indicates, “For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.”*
10. *We can have hope only through Jesus. He was perfectly pure in our place. 1 Peter 2:22 proves it. “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” And he also paid the punishment of hell that we deserve because of our sins against these commandments.*

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. Are there times when we may need to rebel against authority? How can we love God and our neighbors and act in respectful submission to those in authority over us? *While there are reasons we may need to disobey authority, we are to do so with love and respect. We may need to disobey if the person in authority over us is asking us to do something against God’s will or if we are putting ourselves or our neighbors in danger. Living with an abusive parent or being asked to support abortion, which is murder, are two times when we may need to disobey. We are only able to love God and our neighbors and respect authority through the Holy Spirit and because God loved us first.*

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.

