

## TEACHER GUIDE


### TELL Bible Pathway

#### Part 1

#### Lesson 4



Concept #4: The Works | [tellnetwork.org](http://tellnetwork.org)

 **Watch video 4.** *Play the fourth video. Make sure all participants can see the screen and hear the audio. If you don't have a large enough screen or have trouble displaying the video, ask students to watch the video on their own before class. The Bible story is John 8:2-11.*

**Think: A powerful introduction that gets you thinking about an interesting topic, or question**

According to what we saw in the video, in five words or less, explain why we do good deeds?

*As students answer this question, be sure to lovingly correct answers that give the idea that we do good works out of fear, obligation, or to gain something from God.*

*At the end of the discussion, you can conclude with the following answer to this question: "For Jesus died for me" or another answer that clearly shows that we do good works in gratitude for what Jesus did in saving us.*

**Evaluate: brings more meaning and context to the lesson**

1. Who are the characters in this story? *Jesus, the people gathered around him, the scribes and the Pharisees, the woman who had committed adultery*
2. What are the objects in this story? *The stones, the ground on which Jesus wrote (Note that the text does not say what or why Jesus wrote on the ground.)*
3. Where did this story happen? *Near the temple in Jerusalem*
4. When did this story happen? *According to verse two, it was dawn.*
5. What is the problem? *The woman who had been accused of committing adultery was about to be stoned. The scribes and Pharisees brought her before him as a trap. If he had said she should be executed, he would have broken Roman law that forbade them to execute people themselves. If he had said she was not to be executed, he would have*

*broken the law of the Old Testament. See also Deuteronomy 22:22-24 and Leviticus 20:10. See additional resources to learn how to handle questions about civil and moral law.*

6. What events occurred in this story? *Jesus arrived at the temple in the morning. People were coming to listen to him. The scribes and Pharisees brought before him a woman accused of committing adultery. They asked if the woman should be executed. Jesus responded in such a way that all who were about to stone the woman left, leaving only him and her. Jesus announced forgiveness to her by saying that he did not condemn her. Then he commanded her to give up her sinful life.*
7. Is the problem solved? *Yes, it is. Jesus saved the woman from being stoned and also saved her eternally by proclaiming, as the Son of God, that he did not condemn her for her sins.*

### Learn

1. What is the main theme of this lesson? *A brief review of Old Testament law and Roman law would help here. Pay special attention to the fact that Jesus encouraged the woman to leave her sinful life after forgiving her. His instruction to her to leave her sinful life behind emphasizes the point that we are not saved by our good works, but that we do good deeds because we are saved.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *Most of us can identify with both the condemned woman and those who wanted to kill her. Sometimes we are convinced that we are better than others and we belittle those who sin. At other times, perhaps we have been caught in public sins and our guilt is obvious to all. In any case, we are guilty and we have much to confess.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in this lesson? *As we saw in the previous story, it is obvious that the love Jesus showed the woman was totally undeserved. She had sinned and, in front of Jesus, could only stand there in shame. Jesus forgave her because of his great love for her.*  
*Jesus did not stop with forgiveness. He showed his love to her by helping her change her life of sin and live in thankfulness to him.*
4. What does God teach you to do in this lesson? *Just as Jesus said to the woman, "Go and sin no more," so he also commands us to leave our sinful lives. We do that with the same motivation that the woman had. Jesus did not condemn her, and he does not condemn us (Romans 5:8 and 8:1). His forgiveness motivates us to separate ourselves from sin. We*

*recognize that we are not able to change our lives perfectly and permanently, but we continue to try to do so motivated by God's grace given to us in Jesus.*

**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 an excellent story for the new Christian who is still immersed in a life of sin, for a long-time Christian who has fallen into repetitive sin, or for a person who thinks he cannot be forgiven for his obvious life of sin. This story reminds people of their motivation to leave a sinful life – the love and forgiveness of Jesus.*

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

1. What role do good works play in our salvation? *None! We are saved without the works of the law (Romans 3:28).*
2. Why do we do good deeds? *We do good deeds for the same reason that the woman in the story would leave her sinful life. We desire to do them in gratitude for our salvation and for the grace shown to us in Jesus. The love of Christ compels us. Through our works, we glorify God and serve our neighbors.*
3. How do we do good deeds? *We are able to do good works only by the power of the Holy Spirit. Notice that good works in Galatians 5:22-23 are called the "fruit of the Spirit." The Holy Spirit works in us through the means of grace.*
4. What guidance does God give us to help us learn what he considers "good"? *Returning to something we saw earlier in the course, we see clear and prescriptive passages from scripture (see Psalm 119:105, 135).*
5. What are the key points to remember from this story when you are sharing it with others? *Allow time for answers. Conclude the discussion with these two particular points: 1) the works are motivated by the gospel and 2) we begin by encouraging others to leave their sinful lives.*

**Lesson wrap-up**

1. Ask the key question: Are we required to do good deeds? *Good deeds are not required for salvation, but God does command them. In that sense, they are required. We can't help producing fruit once we become attached to the vine of Jesus.*

**Closing** End with a prayer thanking God for his promises and his faithfulness in keeping them, or with a blessing for the group.

### What is next?

*As you discuss the next step, you, as leader, will have the opportunity to encourage your students to continue their growth in God's word with the upcoming course called **Learn from Me**, also offered by TELL. Tell your students that through this course, they will learn the contents of the books of the Old and New Testaments, as well as about Jesus Christ's teachings on forgiveness, repentance, baptism, Holy Communion, the last days, and much more. Express your deep desire to continue studying with them.*

### Additional information for the teacher: Topics that may arise during class

**Textual criticism.** Students who are reading from the NIV will see a textual note about this story that says it is not included in all the ancient manuscripts. If instructors face questions about this, they are encouraged to study the topic in more depth so that they can offer students a complete and patient answer, as confidence in the reliability of the text of Scripture is extremely important. One good place to look for answers is *The People's Bible: John*, page 121.

**Civil law vs. moral law.** Note that this story is also good for teaching the difference between Old Testament civil law and moral law. An example of civil law here would be executing someone caught committing adultery. That was God's will for his people at that time. As we read the law of the Old Testament in the light of the New Testament, we see that the execution of those who were caught committing adultery no longer remains God's will for us who live after Christ. However, we also see God's moral law in this story. We see from the New Testament that it is God's will that we live pure and decent lives and flee from sexual sins such as adultery. Since we see both moral law and civil law in this story, it would be a good opportunity to teach the difference between the two if the question arises.

