

## TEACHER GUIDE

### TELL Bible Pathway

#### Part 1

#### Lesson 25



The Ministry of the Keys and Confession | [tellnetwork.org](http://tellnetwork.org)

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**Lesson Goal:** The goal of this class is to answer these questions: “What are ‘the keys’?” and “What are the two parts of confession?”

**Pre-Lesson Preparation:** Read Matthew 18:15-20.

**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 Lord Jesus, we ask you to use us to bring your message of complete and free forgiveness to others. In your 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 this: What is our motivation for forgiving others? What is the purpose of sometimes excluding people from worship (excommunication)? We will try to answer these questions as we evaluate Matthew 18:15-20.

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

1. Who are the characters in the story? *Jesus and his disciples*
2. What are the objects in the story? *None*
3. Where did the story take place? *The Roman province of Judea*
4. When did the story take place? *Between the years 28 and 33 AD*

5. What is the problem? *Some people are quick to point out the sins of others for selfish reasons or to make themselves look better. This can happen when the law is used without the gospel.*
6. What happened in the story? *Jesus was speaking to his disciples about Christian love and correction. He gave directions on how to point out another person's sins in a loving way, privately at first. Jesus encourages us to go about correcting each other in love. We don't do it to hurt each other but to resolve disagreements, using the keys (the law and the gospel) accordingly.*
7. Is the problem solved? *Yes. When we point out the sins of others, we always want to do so in love, with the understanding that we are sinners too, and we need forgiveness just as much as anyone else. We are not forcing a personal opinion on someone or judging them. We are simply repeating and enforcing what God has said. The judgment is found in God's Word.*

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

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *We have the keys of heaven – the law and the gospel. It is a great privilege and responsibility to be God's mouthpieces when correcting one another in love.*
2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *This lesson teaches us to confess our sins of gossip and correction resulting from pride.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *God promises to be with us as we show someone the seriousness of a particular sin. He gives assurance that our words, if spoken in respect and love, do have a binding effect in heaven.*
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *God teaches us to correct each other in love by using the law and the gospel together. God will bless us as we encourage repentance in each other.*

**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 good to share with someone who does not understand why it is important to correct each other and allow ourselves to be corrected in love.*

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

1. According to Matthew 18, why should we forgive others? *The motivation for forgiving others is that God has forgiven us so much more. We forgive because he has forgiven us. In this way, we show his love in a way that touches people's hearts.*
2. Why is our privilege of using the law and the gospel called "the keys"? *When we apply the law to someone, we are showing the seriousness of their sin. If they continue in it, they will be locked out of heaven. The gospel shows the Savior and opens the doors of heaven to everyone who believes.*
3. Let's read James 5:16 and 2 Corinthians 2:7. According to these verses, what are the two parts of confession? *First, we admit our sins to one another. Second, we receive the announcement of the forgiveness of sins from the person we confessed to.*

### Lesson Wrap-Up

1. Ask the key question: What are the keys?

*Allow time for various answers, and make sure that everyone is very clear about what the keys are and why they are significant.*

**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

**Counting sins** – Some people think that we need to enumerate all our sins when we confess them. We will certainly want to confess those we remember and bother us, but we are too sinful to remember them all (Psalm 19:12). Naming a sin or recounting all of them is not a requirement for them to be forgiven.

**Excommunication** – Go into a little more depth regarding the act of excommunication. While it may seem a harsh action, we can see from Scripture that it is both loving and necessary in certain situations. You may want to cite Titus 3:10 and Romans 16:17, if that side of the topic comes up. But stress that excommunication is done in love to try to help a person realize their sin, repent, and return to the church.

**The People's Bible** – Consider reading the commentary on this section from *The People's Bible: Matthew* in your preparation for teaching this lesson.

