TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway
Part 1
Lesson 26

The Role of Spiritual Leaders | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to answer these questions: "What are spiritual leaders?" and "What are some biblical requirements for spiritual leaders?"

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read 1 Timothy 3.

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, we thank you for all the spiritual leaders you have given us. They are blessings from your hand. Keep them strong in your word at all times. Give them wisdom and patience in all their work. 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 this: What do you think are qualities of good leaders? What does the Bible say about good leaders? We will try to answer these questions as we evaluate 1 Timothy 3.

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)
    1. Who are the characters in the story? *Paul and his protégé Timothy*

    2. What are the objects in the story? *Money, wine*

    3. Where did the story take place? *Timothy was in Ephesus at the time where there are many false doctrines being taught.*

    4. When did the story take place? *After Paul's visit to Macedonia*

5. What is the problem? *The problem might be that some of the church leaders at the time were not conducting their own households with propriety or they were mismanaging their own lives outside of the church.*

6. What happened in the story? *Paul was speaking to Timothy about the characteristics of a leader in the church. He described in detail the way people ought to conduct themselves in God's house and in their own households.*

7. Was the problem solved? *Yes. Paul specifically used traits to describe how a church leader maintains a worthy reputation. These traits include being temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, and so on.*

Learn (identify that sin is the problem and only God has the answer)
1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *God places people in positions of leadership throughout the church. Because of the public nature of this ministry, the leaders should demonstrate upright character.*

2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *This lesson teaches us to confess when our lives are not representative of our Christian faith or position of leadership in our congregation.*

3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *Jesus wants his flock cared for while on this earth, so he provides leaders as a gift of love for us.*

4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *God teaches us to live lives that reflect his love for us, especially when we are in a leadership position in the church.*

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 a good lesson to share with someone who has gifts that might be suited for public ministry or someone who wants to know how they can use their gifts in the church.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)
1. Who gives the gifts of leaders in the church? *God does. Read Ephesians 4:11-13.*

2. What are some biblical requirements of a leader? *The list of requirements Paul uses in Titus 1:6, 7 is similar to that in 1 Timothy 3:1-10. Some requirements are to be blameless, self-controlled, upright, holy, disciplined, and faithful to his wife, raising children to be respectful Christians.*

Lesson Wrap-Up
1. Ask the key question: What are spiritual leaders? What are some biblical requirements for spiritual leaders? *Allow time for various answers, and make sure that everyone is very clear about what the roles of leaders in the church are and how Christ should be reflected in their daily lives.*

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

Peter as the first pope: The Roman Catholic Church claims that the Apostle Peter was the first pope of the church and that he received his authority from Christ when he said this in Matthew 16:18: "I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." An interpretation of this passage that establishes Peter as pope, and the subsequent line of popes in the papacy, goes beyond what both the immediate context and the entire Bible reveal. A far better interpretation is that Jesus is establishing the church on the confession (verse 16) that Peter had just made. Peter himself calls Jesus the rock in 1 Peter 2:4-8.

Leadership positions – Whether teachers, visitors, preachers, pastors, evangelists, or any position the church may need – spiritual leaders are part of the public ministry. They are called public not because the positions occur in a public space but because they are done on behalf of the church group and in its name. Another name for public ministry would be representative ministry. In their work, the leader represents the group that called them. In other words, when these leaders are doing the work of the group that called them, they are serving in the place and by the call of that group.

The People's Bible – Consider reading the commentary on this section from *The People's Bible: 1 Timothy* in your preparation for teaching this lesson.