

Descriptions of the DVD clips

The *Transforming Lives* DVD has three main clips that you can use in different ways during services, study groups, information evenings or youth and student groups. There is also a 10 minute clip of the three shorter clips combined. They can be played on either a computer or a DVD player. You will need a computer or DVD player, a data projector, a PA system or some means of amplifying the sound and a screen.

Christian Teachers Transform Lives (4:34)

This clip explores the impact that a Christian teacher can have on the lives of pupils. It includes the views of Christian head teachers and talks about vocation and the challenges that teachers face. It concludes with Joel Edwards talking about teachers as frontline ministers and encouraging churches to offer them support. You could interview a teacher after this clip to ask them if they agree with what Joel has said, which may be easier than them asking for support from the church more directly.

Christian Teachers Transform Teaching (2:56)

Being a Christian teacher is not just about being a nice person and doing assemblies! In this clip, Christian teachers reflect on how their faith affects the way they teach, how they relate to pupils and staff and their aspirations for their pupils. If you don't have teachers in your congregation who can express these views themselves, this clip is a great way to bring them into the service. You could also use this clip to inspire people about the potential that all Christians have to transform their workplace and the way they work, using the world of education as an example.

Christian Teachers Transform Learning (4:14)

In our multicultural society, Christian teachers work with pupils of all faiths and none. Rather than being defensive or secretive about their faith, this gives them opportunities to be clear about their beliefs, to find out what others believe and to encourage people to ask questions in the way that Jesus did. Daniel is seen as a role model of how to remain faithful in a plural society. Some Christians feel threatened by multiculturalism. Use this clip to show the opportunities that it brings, to encourage teachers to make the most of them and to highlight the positive benefits of working with people of other faiths.

ADDITIONAL CLIPS

The *Transforming Lives* DVD also has short, supplementary clips where those interviewed have the chance to develop a theme in a little more detail. The clips are:

Secondary pupils – a good teacher is . . .

Pupils from Babington Community Technology College in Leicester give their opinions about what makes a good teacher. Show this clip and ask the congregation to discuss in groups what they think makes a good teacher.

Primary pupils – a teacher is . . .

Pupils from St Matthews Bloxam School, Rugby recite kennings that they have made up about teachers. A kenning is an Anglo-Saxon form of poetry that describes something without using its name, usually with two descriptive words. So a teacher is a confidence-creator and an advice-bearer. Invite your congregation to make up kennings of their own that express their opinion of teachers, or simply use this as a discussion starter for small groups to talk about what makes a good teacher.

Joel Edwards – why teachers matter

Joel Edwards, a well-known church leader, affirms the role of teachers and encourages them to be agents of change in their schools. Use this clip to affirm teachers and



challenge them with their potential to influence and transform their schools.

Rt Revd James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool

The Bishop talks about how teachers can open doors in children's lives to let the future in. He talks about a lady in one of his former congregations who teamed up with a teacher and prayed for her and the children she taught every day. You could use this clip to launch a similar idea in your own church.

Why I became a teacher

Ben Slater talks about what inspired him to become a teacher. This is a good clip to show on the theme of discovering your vocation. Ben talks about the advice he was given by people at church. Oliver Smith also reflects on what drew him to teaching in Further Education.

Daniel – role model for Christian teachers

Dave Bennett reflects on the inspiration he has found for his teaching from the story of Daniel. Like Daniel, teachers usually have to work in a culture that is not Christian, and have to decide what to affirm and what to challenge in their context.

What Christian headteachers say

Christian headteachers reflect on the opportunities and challenges that they and other teachers face. Their conviction that Christian teachers can make a real difference to schools and pupils shines through.

Ann Holt – teaching as a Christian

Ann reflects that there is more to being a Christian teacher than being 'sweet-tongued and punctual and not stealing the paperclips.' Christians are called to integrate their faith with their teaching, to allow their thinking to be transformed as much as their behaviour.

Teaching differently in English

Anthea Tulloch Bisgrove talks about how a Christian teacher might teach English differently using the book *Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry* as an example. Themes of redemption, forgiveness and working together reveal the worldview of the novel and give opportunities to reflect on Christian values.

Why RE matters

Dave Bennett reflects on the crucial role of RE to enable pupils to explore key issues in life as well as helping them to listen to and understand each other better.

Christian teachers make a difference (1)

Angharad Vickery talks about the ways in which she is able to model Christian values to the children that she teaches. Her role gives her lots of opportunities to help pupils relate to each other better.

Christian teachers make a difference (2)

Dave Bennett reflects on the feedback he receives from pupils who appreciate the ways that he supports and encourages them.

Prayer

Working in a Church of England School gives Angharad Vickery an opportunity to bring prayer into the classroom.

The Christian teacher in a secular context

Oliver Smith lectures in sociology in a Further Education college. His subject gives him opportunities to explore secularisation with his students and to talk about his Christian beliefs.

