

'The Essential Christian Teacher': Course Outline

The Northern course will be facilitated by a team lead by Phill Moon. Phill is the founder, was the Head teacher at Bradford Christian School and has 18 years' experience of teacher training for the CST. He has led teacher training in Holland, Poland and Nepal as well as in the UK.

We are proposing to start an adapted version of the course online. The ECT course will be trimmed down and designed to work online and will run on five Fridays between January 2021 and the end of the school year. This is a brilliant course, rich in quality material for those who want to grow in their practice as Christians in education.

The five sessions will cover the first year of the course and will include material on the Purpose of Education, The teacher, The Child, The Classroom and the Importance of Worldview.

The adaptation of the course will include shorter presentations of between 15 and 20 minutes, opportunities for personal & private reflection, consideration and online discussions. I am excited to see how God will use the online version in the lives of the teachers who join. It has certainly been a very significant time for most of the teachers who have been through the course in the past; not only in equipping them in their thinking and practice, but also in the work of affirmation and building up of identity that God has brought about in people's lives whilst they have studied with us.

The materials will be presented online and will include the tasks teachers will be led through as well as further thoughts, research or reading that they can follow up if they so desire. The fees will be the same, namely £350 for the five sessions. Each session will be 6 hours in length and will run from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Headteachers will need to release teachers for a day at home or somewhere comfortable where they can be online but also when not online, to relax, think, pray and learn.

The Essential Christian Teacher

We understand that this will not be your first encounter with teacher training. Indeed, many of the teachers on our course hold teaching degrees or even master's degrees in education. By the same token, some teachers who study with us have not had formal educational training but find themselves converting valuable experience from other areas of life into their classroom practice. This course is for those teachers who are committed to transforming their classroom practice to serve the purposes of God in their student's lives. It is particularly useful for young teachers or those new to teaching in Christian schools.

Course content: Year 1

1. The Purpose of Education

We track your personal journey through education and help you to explore the significance of your calling as a teacher. We help you consider God's investment in your life thus far. We help you identify the factors that were present in your own formal education. We then explore the purposes of education from a biblical perspective. Theoretical frameworks are grounded into practical aims that will work in your classroom.

2. The Child and the Family

God has plans and purposes for each child in your class, so how do you cooperate with the Holy Spirit to help establish those plans and purposes? We explore a biblical understanding on the significance of the child. We explore the metaphor of Psalm 127 v 3-5 as a basis for a nurturing relationship between you and your students. We will teach you a prayer strategy for use on behalf of your students. Students from our school will share with you what they appreciate in the people who work with them. We explore the way the brain functions in the teenager as a means of helping us better understand our students and their development.

3. Why Worldview is Crucial

We explore the concept of a worldview and why understanding worldview is vital to you as a teacher. You will be able to help your students see why understanding their own worldview is vital in their development as Christian thinkers. We also explore some of the prevalent worldviews you and your students will encounter and are being shaped by. We also give you a framework for filtering cultural lies through biblical truths.

4. The Teacher

We explore the character and calling of the teacher. We also look at the climate in which we teach in UK schools and the DfE's Teachers' Standards. We start to make available the opportunity for classroom observations from this point on in the course. All good teachers have to overcome at least one major flaw in their character beyond the acquiring of classroom competencies; we explore what this might be for you. We also explore what we might learn from the pedagogical exchanges set by Jesus in His relationship with His 'students.'

5. The Classroom

We will look at the classroom as a space for teaching and learning and how learning can also be facilitated effectively outside this space. We look at classroom management both as organising a learning environment and in terms of managing behaviour. We will help you to manage differentiation as a key to facilitating learning for all your students.

Course Content: Year 2

The second year builds on the foundations laid in the first year.

6. Biblical Foundations for Curriculum Design

We will look at a number of models and approaches to curriculum design. We will consider the implications of the Creation Mandate and the Great Commission. We will give you the opportunity to plan faith integrated learning for your own classroom.

7. The Child in a Christian Learning Community

In this session we will consider learning in a faith community. We will look at child development and how each child is uniquely gifted with God-given abilities. We will explore Multiple Intelligences and other theories on how children learn. We will consider how you can encourage growth in character in your students as well as cater for their unique intelligences.

8. The Teacher's Personal Development

This session is designed to help you establish a healthy work/life balance and help you to consider your spiritual health as the basis of your success as a Christian teacher. We will also help you to explore your current levels of classroom competencies. We will introduce you to the concept of the Strength Finder programme, so you might understand your own unique gifting and calling as a teacher.

9. Contributing to a Team: Serving a Vision

This session builds on the idea of your contribution to a Christian Learning Community. We will look at ways that you can work collegiately in your school and the importance of serving your school leadership and vision. We will build on the Strength Finder programme introduced in session eight and some of the ways spiritual gifts can operate through your teaching.

10. Aspiring to Leadership

We review how you have developed over the previous two years of the course. We will return to the ideas introduced in session one and consider God's investment in your life as part of His wider calling on your life. We will look at your growth in responding to delegated responsibility and the development of your leadership capabilities.