



Primary School Collective Worship - Education Sunday 2026

Tyndale, Paul, and Living Well Together

Last/next Sunday is called Education Sunday. This is a day when churches across England and Wales say ‘thank you’ for schools, teachers and students, and pray for them.

Today we are going to think about this question:

‘What kind of person is learning helping me to become?’

Let’s start with a quick question for you all. Put your hand up if you have learned something new this week.

Now another one, for you to have a quick think about. Did what you learned just change what you know, or did it also change what you do?

Next, we’re going to go back to 500 years ago, at a time when people in England could not read the Bible in their own language. It was written in Latin, which most people did not understand.

How do you feel when something important is explained in a way you don’t understand?

A man named William Tyndale believed that if something really matters, then everyone should be able to understand it for themselves. He believed that the Bible really mattered, and that it has the power to shape people’s lives. If ordinary people could read the Bible, he thought, they will encounter God’s wisdom directly and be transformed by it.

So he translated the Bible into English, even though the work was difficult and he faced opposition by powerful people, imprisonment and eventually death. In 1526, 500 years ago this year, he printed the New Testament in English. Later English Bibles used much of his translation, and today, many of the words we read in the Bible still come from him.

William Tyndale did not do this just to complete a piece of work or to show how clever he was. He believed that reading and understanding the Bible could change people. He thought it could help

people to grow in wisdom, make better choices and live well with others.

So for him, learning was not just about knowledge. It was about becoming a better person.

Now, let's move to a different time again.

A little under 2,000 years ago, a Christian leader called Paul wrote letters to groups of Christians in towns and cities around the Eastern Mediterranean. In his letters, he helped them think about how to live well together.

In the city of Rome, the Christians were disagreeing. They all wanted to follow Jesus, but they did not agree on what that should look like. Some people thought 'You must follow certain food rules.' Others thought "No, those rules don't matter any more.' (The rules they were disagreeing about were about what foods they should eat, and which days they should have their religious festivals on).

Paul did not tell them to prove they were right. Instead, he told them something more important. He said they should accept one another, not judge too quickly and respect each other's choices

Read either Romans 14.1–7, or verses 2–3 and 5–6 only

Romans 14.1–7 (Easy English)

14 It is difficult for some Christians to trust God completely about everything. You should accept people like that as your friends. Do not argue with them about what they think is right or wrong. 2 Some people believe that they may eat all kinds of food. But other people are not so sure, so they eat only vegetables. 3 People who eat anything must not think that they are better than people who eat only vegetables. Also, people who eat only vegetables must not judge other people who eat anything. They are not doing anything wrong, because God himself has accepted them.

4 God is the master of all believers and they are his servants. You do not have authority to judge someone else's servant. The servant's own master will decide if he has done well or he has done something wrong. And he will serve his master well, because the Lord is able to help him to do that.

5 Some people think that certain days are special and more important than other days. Other people think that all days are the same. Each person should decide what seems right to him. 6 A person who makes a certain day special does that so that he can respect the Lord. A person who eats all kinds of food does that so that he can respect the Lord. He thanks God for the food that he eats. A person who refuses to eat certain foods also does that so that he can respect the Lord. And he also thanks God.

7 None of us lives only to please ourselves. And we do not die to please ourselves.

Paul's said that how we treat people, whether we listen and whether we show kindness and respect is much more important than being right.

This still matters to us in school today. What's important to us isn't just 'What have we learned?' but also 'What kind of people are we becoming?'

What helps a school feel like a good place to be?

What is one thing you could do differently this week?

For Christians, the Bible is more than a source of information. It is intended to form character as well as minds and to help people to grow in wisdom. Paul encourages us to be more patient, less judgemental and more aware of others' value, and Tyndale's story reminds us that when people take the Bible seriously, they can change the world.

Notes for teachers

A short biography of William Tyndale can be found below, along with the Bible passage in two different translations, should you wish to use one of them instead of or as well as the Easy English translation provided above: as translated by Tyndale in 1525, and the Good News Bible translation, which might be appropriate for your older students.

William Tyndale (c. 1494–1536)

Tyndale is best known for translating much of the Bible into English. Tyndale was born in Gloucestershire and studied at Oxford. A gifted linguist, he mastered Greek, Latin, Hebrew and several European languages. Although ordained a Catholic priest, he adopted Protestant ideas.

At the time, the Bible in England was the Latin Vulgate, and the Church taught that people should receive scripture through clergy rather than personal reading. Tyndale believed everyone should be able to read the Bible, and this conviction shaped his life's work.

Unauthorised English translations were banned, so Tyndale left England for Germany in 1524. He published an English New Testament in 1526, which was smuggled into England and widely circulated despite efforts to destroy it. He later revised this work and began translating the Old Testament, producing English of notable clarity and power.

As his influence grew, so did opposition, and he was declared a heretic. He was eventually betrayed in 1535 and arrested in Antwerp. He was executed on 6 October 1536, reportedly praying, 'Lord, open the King of England's eyes.'

In 1539, Henry VIII authorised the Great Bible, which drew heavily on Tyndale's work, as did later translations. Much of the 1611 King James Version, especially in the New Testament and Pentateuch, is based directly on his translations.

Tyndale's influence continues in modern English Bibles and in the language itself, with phrases such as 'let there be light', 'the powers that be', 'fight the good fight', and 'the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak' originating from his work.

Romans 14.1–7 from Tyndale's New Testament, with spellings and punctuation changed to modern-day English

14 Him that is weak in the faith receive unto you not in disputing and troubling his conscience. 2 One believes that he may eat all things. Another which is weak eats herbs. 3 Let not him that eats despise him that eats not. And let not him which eats not judge him that eats. For God has received him. 4 What are you that judges another man's servant? Whether he stands or falls that pertains unto his master: yet he shall stand. For God is able to make him stand.

5 This man puts difference between (one) day and (another) day. Another man counts all days alike. See that no man wavers in his own meaning. 6 He that observes one day more then another does it for the Lord's pleasure. And he that observes not one day more then another does it to please the Lord also. He that eats does it to please the Lord, for he gave God thanks. 7 And he that eats not, eats not to please the Lord and gives God thanks.

Romans 14.1–7 Good News Bible

14 Welcome those who are weak in faith, but do not argue with them about their personal opinions. 2 Some people's faith allows them to eat anything, but the person who is weak in the faith eats only vegetables. 3 The person who will eat anything is not to despise the one who doesn't; while the one who eats only vegetables is not to pass judgment on the one who will eat anything; for God has accepted that person. 4 Who are you to judge the servants of someone else? It is their own Master who will decide whether they succeed or fail. And they will succeed, because the Lord is able to make them succeed.

5 Some people think that a certain day is more important than other days, while others think that all days are the same. We each should firmly make up our own minds. 6 Those who think highly of a certain day do so in honour of the Lord; those who will eat anything do so in honour of the Lord, because they give thanks to God for the food. Those who refuse to eat certain things do so in honour of the Lord, and they give thanks to God. 7 We do not live for ourselves only, and we do not die for ourselves only.

Teach about Tyndale

Your students can find out more about William Tyndale and his Bible translation using these free resources.

For primary schools, six lessons introduce Tyndale, explain why his translation mattered, and explore its lasting impact.

For Key Stage 3 RE, two lessons examine how Tyndale made the Bible accessible and why the meaning and authority of sacred texts can be contested.

For Key Stage 3 History, three lessons explore his role in the Reformation, including religious change in the 1520s and 1530s, the spread of the Bible, and why English translation was controversial and dangerous.

Find out more and download at biblesociety.org.uk/education/tyndale

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