



KEEPING IT LEGAL

It would be nice to think that buying or hiring a DVD or BluRay Disc automatically gives you the freedom to set up cinema in any location and publicise it how you want to whoever might be interested. Nice but wrong!

The reality is that film copyright is complicated. It always would be with films that take millions of dollars and all kinds of financial deals to make and, hopefully, show a profit.

So to show a film legally in a public place –whether a clip or a full film – you need permission or some form of licence from the film distributor.

Happily, this has become a lot easier in recent years, but there can still be a cost involved...

SMALL GROUPS

The simplest option is to keep your group (or groups!) small and meet to watch the film or clips in someone's home (high street DVDs are licensed for home viewing).

LARGER GROUPS

If you want to be able to show the film to a larger group, the alternatives are:

1) Register with Christian Video Licensing Europe Ltd (CVLE), part of Christian Copyright Licensing International. For a relatively inexpensive annual fee related to average aggregate attendance at your church's main service, churches can buy a video licence to show films from an extensive range of mainstream film producers. More details from www.ccli.co.uk or tel. 01323 417711.

2) Hire from Filmbank, an industry-owned company which currently distributes films from 15 major studios for non-theatrical (non-cinema) settings. This involves:

- Opening an account by sending a form and paying a deposit.
- Hiring the film (paying a higher rate for the first day and lower one for subsequent days. This entitles you to show the film to audiences up to 250 in number. Rates and terms from Filmbank

Visit www.filmbank.co.uk or tel. 0207 984 5958/57 for details.

With either of these suppliers, you could spread the cost beyond the group by seeing if your church will open the account. They could see it as an opportunity to build bridges by providing a service to your community and for your fellowship to become better known.

You could, of course, use a *Clip* discussion for the audience to engage with the film for a short while after the showing. Or arrange a separate *Epic* discussion for people who want to follow it up later in the week.

DOES THE CVLE LICENCE COVER THIS FILM?

Please note that not all *Reel Issues* films are covered for large group (ie public) display under the CVLE licence scheme, and not all will be available from Filmbank. With Filmbank they will only supply films that are covered for public screening by their licences.

To see if a film is covered by the CVLE licence, check the producer information on the *Reel Issues* outline and/or on the DVD pack or at the start of the film. Then see if the CVLE website lists any of these studios (there may be more than one involved). If any of these are covered under their licence, CVLE's advice is that you are covered.