

## Overview:

### Big Issues App

#### Why use this App?

In the world today you will occasionally be faced with issues of huge significance - matters relating to life and death, truth and justice, freedom and oppression, sin and forgiveness or trust and acceptance. Such things are almost too big for us to grasp; they cause us to think deeply and reflect carefully. They have a mammoth impact on the kind of society in which we live. This channel helps you to see these significant issues through the eyes of God.

#### How do I use it?

The App is split into five programmes. Each one should take four to six hours.

The programmes:

<b>Fool Proof</b>	(Trust and acceptance)
<b>It's not Fair</b>	(Truth and justice)
<b>Liberty</b>	(Oppression and freedom)
<b>Life to the Full</b>	(Life and death)
<b>Missing the Mark</b>	(Sin and forgiveness)

Each programme presents you with a challenge. Here are the five challenges from the Big Issues App:

Your Challenge:	<b>Fool Proof</b> (Trust and acceptance) Explore what it means to be trusted and accepted from a personal, community or world perspective.
Your Challenge:	<b>It's not Fair</b> (Truth and justice) We have a society where truth and justice are considered to be a 'right' for all but where in practice there are groups who are marginalised, ignored or even persecuted. Raise your awareness of one such group and find a way to help others know more about their plight.
Your Challenge:	<b>Liberty</b> (Oppression and freedom) Investigate examples of oppression and freedom around the world and do something practical to raise awareness of these issues.
Your Challenge:	<b>Life to the Full</b> (Life and death) Think about life and death and how they both affect everyone on the planet. Explore the different ways in which we face and deal with these issues.
Your Challenge:	<b>Missing the Mark</b> (Sin and forgiveness) Think about all the wrong that is prevalent in our world today and reflect on our attitudes and response to those who commit these wrongs.

## Big Issues App:

### Your challenge:

#### Fool Proof: (Trust and acceptance)

Explore what it means to be trusted and accepted from a personal, community or world perspective.

#### Ideas:

These ideas suggest ways in which you might accomplish the challenge, but you may do it any way you like.

#### You could:

- Research some organisations who work to build trust and acceptance between different groups, locally, nationally and internationally and facilitate some discussion sessions based around their work.
- Identify groups in your local community where there is a lack of trust and acceptance e.g. a refugee community, local travelers or the homeless. Organise a prayer breakfast where you can pray for these groups or engage with one such group in a practical way.
- Volunteer to be a peer mentor at school or college or investigate how you can start this in your school, college or youth group.
- Organise a United Nations (UN) event at your church. Make the evening interactive with role play, food and a presentation about the UN declaration of the rights of the child.
- Be involved in a range of co-operation and participation games which develop trust. Arrange to plan and lead some sessions for a group of children/young people on the theme of trust.

#### Set the scene:

Think/talk through what the challenge is about. These questions might help you:

- What do you already know about the subject and what else do you need to find out?
- Where might you find out more information?
- What useful skills/contacts do you/other members of your group possess to help with this challenge?
- What difficulties do you think you might face?

#### Design:

Study some of the information you have gathered and consider how you will complete the challenge.

**Who?** Do you need anyone to help/train/supervise/advise you?

**What?** What special equipment/space/advice do you need to complete the challenge?

**How much?** What costs might be involved and how will this funding be found?

**When?** Are there any dates or time lines you must set in order to ensure you meet your deadlines?

#### Investigate the Christian perspective:

Find out what the Bible/other Christians say about this topic.

- Read Proverbs Ch.3:5 and 2 Samuel Ch.7:28. What does this promise from God mean to us and how can we draw strength from it?
- Read John Ch.6:37 and Romans Ch.15:7. What do these passages mean in the context of your everyday life and the community in which you live? How, in a practical way, can you respond to what is being asked of you?
- Find examples in the gospels where the disciples trusted Jesus. Why do you think they trusted Him?
- Find some examples in the gospels where Jesus talks about or displays His acceptance of others.

**Respond:** Make it happen! Put your plan into action and complete the challenge.

#### Evaluate:

Think through how successful you have been with this challenge. Consider:

- What do you think you have learnt through working on this challenge?
- Which skills, talents or abilities did you use in your involvement in this project?
- Did your project have an impact on other people and did it help them?
- How has this challenge given you a Christian perspective on issues which you face in everyday life?

**Big Issues App:**  
**Your challenge:**

**It's not Fair:** (Truth and justice)

We have a society where truth and justice are considered to be a 'right' for all but where in practice there are groups who are marginalised, ignored or even persecuted. Raise your awareness of one such group and find a way to help others know more about their plight.

**Ideas:**

These ideas suggest ways in which you might accomplish the challenge, but you may do it any way you like. You could:

- Learn about some Christian organisations or local groups who campaign for truth and justice for minority groups. Engage in helping one such group practically e.g. by raising money.
- Over the years, men and women have campaigned for truth and justice over such things as women's rights, human rights and health rights. Hold a debate to discuss the arguments for/against on one or more of these subjects. Come to a conclusion as to what your group considers to be right and wrong.
- Create and produce a short drama entitled The Big Lie or It's Not Fair! Perform the play to a group of children and demonstrate the importance of telling the truth or being fair and just.
- Identify some people (current and from history) who have campaigned for truth and justice. Find out about their work, discuss their motivations and conclude whether or not you agree with their campaign.
- 'That's not fair!' is a common cry in school playgrounds, in society at large, in our families and even in our churches. Find a creative way to draw attention to some of the injustices you see in one of these settings.

**Set the scene:**

Think/talk through what the challenge is about. These questions might help you:

- What do you already know about the subject and what else do you need to find out?
- Where might you find out more information?
- What useful skills/contacts do you/members of your group possess to help with this challenge?
- What difficulties do you think you might face?

**Design:**

Study some of the information you have gathered and consider how you will complete the challenge.

**Who?** Do you need anyone to help/train/supervise/advise you?

**What?** What special equipment/space/advice do you need to complete the challenge?

**How much?** What costs might be involved and how will this funding be found?

**When?** Are there any dates or time lines you must set in order to ensure you meet your deadlines?

**Investigate the Christian perspective:**

Find out what the Bible/other Christians say about this topic.

- Look in a concordance at the number of times in John's gospel that Jesus said 'I tell you the truth.' Read some of the references and list some of the truths He proclaimed.
- Read John Ch.14:6 and see what Jesus called Himself.
- In John Ch.14:12, what did Jesus do to demonstrate His belief in truth and justice?
- Discuss how truth and justice are displayed today and consider whether these actions are Biblical.

**Respond:** Make it happen! Put your plan into action and complete the challenge

**Evaluate:**

Think through how successful you have been with this challenge. Consider:

- What do you think you have learnt through working on this challenge?
- Which skills, talents or abilities did you use in your involvement in this project?
- Did your project have an impact on other people and did it help them?
- How has this challenge given you a Christian perspective on issues that you face in everyday life?

**Big Issues App:**  
**Your challenge:**

**Liberty:** (Oppression and freedom)

Investigate examples of oppression and freedom around the world and do something practical to raise awareness of these issues.

**Ideas:**

These ideas suggest ways in which you might accomplish the challenge, but you may do it any way you like. You could:

- Find out about Christians who are persecuted for their faith around the world. Prepare and lead an act of worship or a prayer event to raise awareness of their plight.
- Find out about different groups of people that have been oppressed over the centuries, such as slaves, black people in the United States, women or other groups. Create a project (e.g. collage, PowerPoint, video or audio) to show how they were oppressed and the ways in which they overcame the oppression and gained freedom.
- Undertake a photography project that illustrates the themes of oppression and freedom and display your results in some way.
- Choose a song or piece of music that reflects the theme of freedom and through creative dance or by producing a substantial piece of art work raise awareness of this important issue.

**Set the scene:**

Think/talk through what the challenge is about. These questions might help you:

- What do you already know about the subject and what else do you need to find out?
- Where might you find out more information?
- What useful skills/contacts do you/other members of your group possess to help with this challenge?
- What difficulties do you think you might face?

**Design:**

Study some of the information you have gathered and consider how you will complete the challenge.

**Who?** Do you need anyone to help/train/supervise/advise you?

**What?** What special equipment/space/advice do you need to complete the challenge?

**How much?** What costs might be involved and how will this funding be found?

**When?** Are there any dates or time scales you must set in order to ensure you meet your deadlines?

**Investigate the Christian perspective:**

Find out what the Bible/other Christians say about this topic.

- Choose and listen to a worship song about Freedom and Oppression (eg "There's A Lot Of Pain" - Outrageous Grace). Using the song as a stimulus, create a PowerPoint presentation of images or make up a dance to use in worship.
- Investigate verses in the Bible that talk about freedom e.g. Romans Ch.6:1-14, John Ch.8: 32-36 and the story of the Exodus.
- Discuss what these verses say about freedom and how believing in Jesus can bring about freedom.
- Ask one of your church leaders about what freedom in Christ means to them.

**Respond:** Make it happen! Put your plan into action and complete the challenge

**Evaluate:**

Think through how successful you have been with this challenge. Consider:

- What do you think you have learnt through working on this challenge?
- Which skills, talents or abilities did you use in your involvement in this project?
- Did your project have an impact on other people and did it help them?
- How has this challenge given you a Christian perspective on issues that you face in everyday life?

**Big Issues App:**  
**Your challenge:**

**Life to the Full:** (Life and death)

Think about life and death and how they both affect everyone on the planet. Explore the different ways in which we face and deal with these issues.

**Ideas:**

These ideas suggest ways in which you might accomplish the challenge, but you may do it any way you like. You could:

- View a number of books designed to help young children embrace the cycle of life. Using what you have learnt create a resource (e.g. leaflet or game) aimed at supporting young people who have experienced the loss of someone close to them.
- Write a drama/play that you can perform to a group of children which incorporates teaching on the circle of life.
- Compare how different cultures embrace life and grieve after death; or invite your minister and other religious leaders to explain the significant religious ceremonies that are held to herald new life and to respect the passing of a life. Discuss what you have learnt.
- Explore and debate the different responses to some of the sensitive issues relating to the sanctity of life and society's view of death e.g. euthanasia, abortion, assisted suicide and blood transfusions.

**Set the scene:**

Think/talk through what the challenge is about. These questions might help you:

- What do you already know about the subject and what else do you need to find out?
- Where might you find out more information?
- What useful skills/contacts do you/other members of your group possess to help with this challenge?
- What difficulties do you think you might face?

**Design:**

Study some of the information you have gathered and consider how you will complete the challenge.

**Who?** Do you need anyone to help/train/supervise/advise you?

**What?** What special equipment/space/advice do you need to complete the challenge?

**How much?** What costs might be involved and how will this funding be found?

**When?** Are there any dates or time lines you must set in order to ensure you meet your deadlines?

**Investigate the Christian perspective:**

Find out what the Bible/other Christians say about this topic.

- Everyone will experience death in their lifetime (e.g. a pet, a grandparent or a significant other). Sensitively share some personal experiences with your group or ask your church leader to share their experiences. Discuss why death has become such a taboo subject in our western world.
- It is true that in human terms we will all die, but read Romans Ch.6:23, John Ch.3:16 and 1 Thessalonians Ch.5:1-11. What do these verses tell us about the Christian view of death and attitude to it?
- Explore the meaning of the phrase 'live life to the full' (John Ch.10:10) and find a creative way to portray what this means to you.

**Respond:** Make it happen! Put your plan into action and complete the challenge.

**Evaluate:**

Think through how successful you have been with this challenge. Consider:

- What do you think you have learnt through working on this challenge?
- Which skills, talents or abilities did you use in your involvement in this project?
- Did your project have an impact on other people and did it help them?
- How has this challenge given you a Christian perspective on issues that you face in everyday life?

**Big Issues App:**  
**Your challenge:**

**Missing the Mark:** (Sin and forgiveness)

Think about all the wrong that is prevalent in our world today and reflect on our attitudes and response to those who commit these wrongs.

**Ideas:**

These ideas suggest ways in which you might accomplish the challenge, but you may do it any way you like. You could:

- Make a collage from local and national newspaper cuttings, reflecting all the sin that is prevalent in the society in which you live. Ask a local crime prevention officer to talk about local crime waves/and local initiatives to help offenders. Analyse what you have found out.
- Ask one of your church leaders to lead you in a series of Bible studies exploring God's response to sin, confession, repentance, love, forgiveness and second chances.
- Find a story where someone demonstrated forgiveness in the face of great tragedy or sadness. Discuss the issues raised and use a multi-media or dramatic process to retell the story for others.
- Choose a modern worship song which reflects the gospel story of God's response to man's sin. Identify the Biblical passages it encompasses and interpret the song through the medium of creative dance.
- Create a simple board game which helps children to understand something about sin and forgiveness.

**Set the scene:**

Think/talk through what the challenge is about. These questions might help you:

- What do you already know about the activity and what else do you need to find out?
- Where might you find out more information?
- What useful skills/contacts do you/other members of your group possess to help with this challenge?
- What difficulties do you think you might face?

**Design:**

Study some of the information you have gathered and consider how you will complete the challenge.

**Who?** Do you need anyone to help/train/supervise/advise you?

**What?** What special equipment/space/advice do you need to complete the challenge?

**How much?** What costs might be involved and how will this funding be found?

**When?** Are there any dates or time lines you must set in order to ensure you meet your deadlines?

**Investigate the Christian perspective:**

Find out what the Bible/other Christians say about this topic.

- Read Luke Ch.23:32-43 and see Jesus' response to someone who had wronged Him. What does this teach us?
- Read Luke Ch.19:1-9 and see Jesus' response to a man who had sinned. What does the story say about the way we should respond to the things we have done wrong?
- Read Luke Ch.5:29-32 and see Jesus' response to the bad guys. What was Jesus trying to teach here?
- Reflect on the cross e.g. using suitable music, a picture, an artefact, a cross and chain or a candle. Find a way to symbolise your understanding of your sin in relation to God's love and forgiveness.

**Respond:** Make it happen! Put your plan into action and complete the challenge.

**Evaluate:**

Think through how successful you have been with this challenge. Consider:

- What do you think you have learnt through working on this challenge?
- Which skills, talents or abilities did you use in your involvement in this project?
- Did your project have an impact on other people and did it help them?
- How has this challenge given you a Christian perspective on issues that you face in everyday life?

## Big Issues App

**Your chosen challenge:**

**Ideas:**

Outline your idea:

**Set the scene:**

Jot down your initial thoughts/questions:

**Design:**

Consider who will be involved, when it will happen, what you will need and how much it will cost etc.

Who?

What?

How much?

When?

**Investigate the Christian perspective:**

Outline how you will find out what the Bible/other Christians say about this topic.

Will you have a specified time every week or one whole evening focused on this aspect of your challenge?

Will it be led by visitors/your leader/your chaplain/members of your group?

**Respond**

Now use the challenge plan on the next page to help you to make it happen!

Work out what will happen each week.

Identify who you will need to help you/who is inviting them/who is leading/who will be involved in each activity etc.

Ensure you will have the resources you will need.

Record the time you are involved each week to keep track of your progress.

**Evaluate**

Think through how successful you have been by considering the evaluation questions.

Record your story in my i - **chievement** journal

**Big Issues app -  
Challenge plan**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b> What will you do this week?	<b>Who</b> Who will support you to facilitate this session?	<b>What</b> What equipment is needed?
<b>Week/step 1</b> Date: Time:			
<b>Week/Step 2</b> Date: Time:			
<b>Week/step 3</b> Date: Time:			
<b>Week/step 4</b> Date: Time:			
<b>Week/step 5</b> Date: Time:			
<b>Week/step 6</b> Date: Time:			
<b>Week/step 7</b> Date: Time:			
<b>Week/step 8</b> Date: Time:			
<b>Week/step 9</b> Date: Time:			
<b>Week/step 10</b> Date: Time:			

*Copy for additional weeks as required.*