

## Overview:

### Communication App:

#### Why use this App?

There are so many issues surrounding communication as it's such an important life skill. This App is full of challenges to help you to explore some of the ways in which you can communicate effectively. This might involve producing a church newsletter, organising a book club or using drama to show how important body language can be. Of course, one of the most fabulous things to learn is that God wants to communicate with us on a daily basis.

#### How do I use it?

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

#### The programmes:

<b>Hitting the headlines</b>	(The media)
<b>Body Talk</b>	(Body language)
<b>Paperback writer</b>	(Book worms)
<b>Get the message across</b>	(Clear communication)
<b>Jaw ache</b>	(Debating)

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

Your challenge	<b>Hitting the headlines:</b> (The media) Investigate how newspapers/television/radio stations/websites operate and put what you learn into practice.
Your challenge	<b>Body Talk:</b> (Body language) Find out about how we use body language. Investigate ways of sharing this with others.
Your challenge	<b>Paperback writer:</b> (Book worms) Engage in an activity that helps you broaden your horizons in terms of the type of books you read.
Your challenge	<b>Get the message across:</b> (Clear communication) Investigate why clear communication is vital whether it's verbal or written and challenge yourself to keep things short and simple.
Your challenge	<b>Jaw ache:</b> (Debating) We live in a society where we often take freedom of speech for granted. Engage in a dialogue or debate, challenging yourself to consider both sides of the issue.

## Communication App:

### Your challenge:

#### Hitting the Headlines: (The media)

Investigate how newspapers/television/radio stations/websites operate and put what you learn into practice.

#### Ideas:

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

You could:

- Select a long running news story or a series of shorter news stories. Analyse/debate how different media cover the same story.
- Arrange a visit to a local newspaper office, television or radio station or ask a reporter to come and talk to you. Use what you have learnt to dramatise a newsroom for a current affairs programme.
- Have a go at producing your own youth club/church magazine or news bulletin.
- Write a series of press releases/reports about events at your church, choose the best and send it to your local newspaper, television or local radio station.
- Create a website or other interactive media communication network for your group. Ensure you research tips for good practice so that the site is safe and follows best practice guidelines.

#### 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?

#### 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/advise 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

#### Investigate the Christian perspective:

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

- Choose a story from a newspaper and consider where Jesus would have stood on the issue.
- Whether on the TV or in a newspaper, how do you think stories about Christians/Christianity are treated? What about other religious groups/religions?
- Do you think Jesus would approve of the way news is reported? Why?

**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?

**Communication App:**  
**Your challenge:**

**Body Talk:** (Body language)

Find out about how we use body language. Investigate ways of sharing this with others.

**Ideas:**

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

You could:

- Study people (in real life or on TV) and make a list of the body language you associate with different emotions. Present the information in a series of posters.
- Research the theory of body language - why is it important? Why and how do we naturally understand it?
- Produce some games to teach younger children about body language. Why not use them with a group of young people?
- Explore the use of body language in drama and use drama to illustrate the comic or negative effects of someone reading body language incorrectly.
- Attend a course and learn how to communicate using NZ sign language.

**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 scales you must set in order to ensure you meet your deadline?

**Investigate the Christian perspective:**

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

- Choose some famous stories in the Bible and discuss the body language you imagine certain characters used e.g. Paul on the road to Damascus in Acts Ch.9:1-18.
- Can you find any references in the Bible to body language, e.g. how someone was standing at a certain point in a story? Try to discover what meaning this body language would have conveyed to those present.
- Discuss how as Christians body language should be an important part of helping people feel they belong.

**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?

## Communication App:

### Your challenge:

#### Paperback writer: (Book worms)

Engage in an activity that helps you broaden your horizons in terms of the type of books you read.

#### Ideas:

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

You could:

- Organise a book club where everyone recommends a favourite book and then lends it to a friend. You could also meet to discuss the books.
- Arrange a tour around your local library and sign up to become a member. Keep a diary to show your ongoing use of this local amenity.
- Investigate the background of an author you don't know anything about and read one or more of their books. Then write a review.
- Keep a reading journal for a set period of time and review the books you read.
- Set up, advertise, organise and run a book swap shop at church, college or school.
- Select a popular book and make it into a play to perform to a group.

#### 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 deadline?

#### Investigate the Christian perspective

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

- Books can often influence those who read them. The Bible is the most famous and challenging book of all! Ask some Christians from your church or local community to speak to your group about how the Bible has influenced them.
- As part of your challenge you may decide to read some of the Bible every day. Why not use Bible study notes or write your own?
- Read one book of the Bible from start to finish and discuss it with your friends. What themes did it contain? What were the key messages?

**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?

**Communication App:**  
**Your challenge:**

**Get the message across!** (Clear communication)

Investigate why clear communication is vital whether it's verbal or written and challenge yourself to keep it short and simple.

**Ideas:**

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

- Find examples of reports, information or instructions where it's hard to understand what the author means and rewrite them more simply or in modern language.
- Investigate the use of jargon in different fields and think of words and/or expressions that could have been used instead.
- Produce a series of role plays highlighting the importance of clear communication in different settings.
- Examine the different ways your church communicates to its members and the people who use the building e.g. its newsletter, notice boards, welcome pack, information desk and reception area. Identify any ways of making things clearer and, where possible, do something about it.
- Take responsibility for a church or group notice board for a month. Decide how to make it attractive and eye-catching and ensure that all the notices displayed are clearly expressed and well presented.

**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 deadline?

**Investigate the Christian perspective:**

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

- Look at some of the parables and consider how Jesus got His messages across clearly by using real-life examples.
- Discuss how teaching like this can be beneficial to us today. Help out with a worship session and use a real-life example to get your message across.
- Identify jargon that Christians use. How could you express some of these Christian truths in more accessible language? Discuss the impact that the use of such language might have on a non-Christian who goes into a Church

**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?

## Communication App:

### Your challenge:

#### Jaw ache: (Debating)

We live in a society where we often take freedom of speech for granted. Engage in a dialogue or debate, challenging you to consider both sides of the issue.

#### Ideas:

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

You could:

- Pick a controversial topic out of the newspapers and produce a presentation showing all the different sides/opinions about it. Find a group with whom you can share your presentation.
- Organise a debating evening where teams have to 'argue' opposing sides to a variety of topics.
- Choose a topic you feel strongly about. Research the facts related to the issues and examine why you have the beliefs and opinions that you hold.
- Study a country where they don't have freedom of speech and investigate how the charity Amnesty International supports people who've been imprisoned for simply expressing opinions. Raise money to support Amnesty International.
- Host a debate where topics that Christians have different views on are discussed, such as sex before marriage and Halloween. Invite your pastor, minister or youth worker to take part.
- Find someone to give you some practical tips for public speaking then find a number of opportunities to practise your skills e.g. speaking to a senior citizens group.

#### 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 deadline?

#### Investigate the Christian perspective:

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

- When people know you are a Christian you can be drawn into all sorts of debates and have lots of questions thrown at you! Read Matthew Ch.10:19-20.
- Discuss the different ways you can react when people ask you about your faith.
- Choose one difficult issue and find out what the Bible says about it so you can express Biblically-based arguments for your beliefs. Spend time in prayer asking God to help prepare you for such challenges.

**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?

**Communication 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

**Communication 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.*