

Overview:

Community App

Why use this App?

Jesus lived in a close community with His disciples. This App is packed with challenges about what it means to live in a community. Whether it's about looking at your local area or further afield, you will find lots of ideas to help you think through the issues and get involved. You might find yourself helping an individual or a group, finding out about and promoting your local area or examining how your choices impact on people around the world.

How do I use it?

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

The programmes:

On your doorstep	(Your environment)
It's your right	(Citizenship)
It's a small world	(Global community)
A helping hand	(Caring for others)
Any volunteers?	(Community service)

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

Your challenge:	On your doorstep (Your environment) How much do you know about where you live? Your challenge is to find out about the people who are part of your local community and to find some way to promote or help your local area.
Your challenge:	It's your right (Citizenship) Over many centuries, the rights of citizens have been fought for. Your challenge is to find out what it means to be a citizen today and get involved.
Your challenge:	It's a small world (Global community) Find out about how the choices we make impact on people around the world. Challenge yourself to get involved in doing your bit to change the world!
Your challenge:	A helping hand (Caring for others) This challenge is all about helping others. Take a look around your community and it won't be long before you find an individual or a group in need of care. Think about the gifts and talents you have and help use these for others.
Your challenge:	Any volunteers? (Community service) The media is always full of bad news stories about young people and yet there are so many ways in which young people are helping their community week in and week out. Your challenge is to find a volunteering opportunity that interests you and complete a period of community service.

Community App

Your challenge:

On your doorstep: (Your environment)

How much do you know about where you live? Your challenge is to find out about the people who are part of your local community and to find some way to promote or help your local area.

Ideas:

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

- Produce a DVD/PowerPoint on the history and current life of your community/town/city.
- Organise a tour of your community/town/city for a group of children/young people/senior citizens/families.
- Find out about a project in your locality that aims to strengthen the community. Invite a speaker to tell you about the project and see what you can do to get involved.
- Organise a group of young people to undertake a project to help your local community e.g. litter clearing, graffiti cleaning and bulb planting.
- Find out about the range of groups/organisations that meet in your area to support the local community. Find a way of sharing what you have discovered with others.

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 Philippians Ch.2:1-11:
- What does the passage say about community?
- What makes a good community?
- Discuss how we can follow Jesus' example of humility in our communities.
- Find other examples of communities in the early church and identify the characteristics of a Christian community e.g. see Acts Ch.2:42-47.

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?

Community App
Your challenge:

It's your right: (Citizenship)

Over many centuries, the rights of citizens have been fought for. Your challenge is to find out what it means to be a citizen today and get involved.

Ideas:

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

- Invite your local MP/councillor to give a talk on the rights and responsibilities of citizens and investigate what rights and responsibilities young people have at which age. Find a way of sharing this information.
- Investigate how young people can get involved in the decision making processes of your school/college/town/city/community/church/youth group. Join a youth council or forum and make a positive contribution to the group.
- Produce a leaflet/video information film or similar highlighting the responsibilities of good citizenship and encouraging people to register to vote/vote when they reach 18.
- Compile a questionnaire to highlight the issues that young people in your locality have. Collate the findings and present them to a local elected representative.
- Good citizens adhere to the rules of the group. Talk to others in your group, both leaders and younger and older members and create a code of conduct/set of rules for your group. Find a way to present your code to the 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 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 Matthew Ch.22:15-22:
- How did Jesus distinguish between the responsibility of the believer to God and to the country?
- Discuss whether it can ever be right for a Christian to break the law.
- Find out about politicians who are Christians. How does their Christian faith impact on their work and beliefs?

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?

Community App
Your challenge:

It's a small world: (Global community)

Find out about how the choices we make impact on people around the world. Challenge yourself to get involved in doing your bit to change the world!

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 the work of a local or international organisation and see if you can assist in any way.
- Highlight one of the current global issues e.g. trafficking, slave labour, famine or natural disaster. Be creative in finding a way to raise awareness of the issue and in so doing raise funds or prayer support to help those working to reduce the trauma caused by such things.
- Use the material produced by organisations to inform yourself and others about the issue of climate change and do one thing to make a practical response.
- Organise a worship and/or prayer event to concentrate on the Christian response to the issues of climate change.

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.

- Arrange to watch the film *Amazing Grace* and discuss how William Wilberforce's faith influenced his fight to end the slave trade.
- Read Micah Ch.6:6-8 and Amos Ch.5:21-24:
- Find out about the lives of these prophets and why they were inspired to give this message to the people of the Old Testament.
- Discuss whether you feel these themes are relevant today and, if so, in what ways.

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?

Community App
Your challenge:

A helping hand: (Caring for others)

This challenge is all about helping others. Take a look around your community and it won't be long before you find an individual or a group in need of care. Think about the gifts and talents you have and use these to help care for others.

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 the needs of another group within your church/local community and undertake a project that directly helps this group.
- Organise a tea party for a group of older people in your community or arrange a group visit to an old people's home to sing carols or to entertain them.
- Look after a younger family member, or visit a senior citizen, on a regular basis.
- Complete a babysitting course and babysit for a child over a period of time.
- Complete the service section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award scheme.

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.

- Look up Bible passages that talk about the gifts of the Spirit (Romans Ch.12:1-8, 1 Corinthians Ch.12:1-31, Ephesians Ch.4:11-13):
- Make a list of the gifts.
- What do you think Paul meant about the body of Christ, particularly in regards to gifts.
- Share with your group the talents and abilities that you all have and think about the practical ways in which you can use these in caring for others and other forms of service.
- Talk to your church leaders about the gifts, talents and abilities the group has and discuss how you can use these in the church and local community.

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?

Community App

Your challenge:

Any volunteers? (Community service)

The media is always full of bad news stories about young people and yet there are so many ways in which young people are helping their community week in and week out. Your challenge is to find a volunteering opportunity that interests you and complete a period of community service.

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 volunteering opportunities in your local community and undertake a period of service with an organisation.
- Find out about some of the national volunteering programmes and work towards one of their accreditations or complete a period of volunteer service for your Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award.
- Arrange to take on a specific role or responsibility within your church or in one of its organisations for an agreed period of time.
- Arrange for a series of volunteers, who work for different organisations, to talk to your group about their work. Find out what motivates them and what they gain from giving their services in this way. Consider how this information might challenge you in the future.
- Research and produce a leaflet/website outlining all the ways your church serves the local community.

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 Matthew Ch.25:31-46:
- Why is helping others important to Christians?
- Why do you think that Jesus taught that how we help others is an important part of the Christian faith (ref. James Ch.2:14-26).
- Find out about Christian charities that offer opportunities to serve others. Contact one of them and find out why they do the work they do.

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?

Community 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

**Community App -
Challenge plan**

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

Copy for additional weeks as required.