

Overview:

Current Affairs App

Why use this App?

Today there are more places than ever to find out about current affairs - in magazines, newspapers, TV or on the net. This App challenges you to take a closer look at the constantly changing world, whether it is close to your home town or on the other side of the world. It helps you to explore these issues from a Christian perspective and to consider if you can make a difference.

How do I use it?

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

The programmes:

Paparazzi	(People in the news)
Eco Warriors	(Environmental issues)
Down your street	(Local news)
Read all about it	(Behind the headlines)
The whole world in His hands	(World church)

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

Your Challenge:	Paparazzi: (People in the news) Lots of people influence our world. Your challenge is to select a key figure (leader or activist) in the news and explore their sphere of influence.
Your Challenge:	Eco Warriors: (Environmental issues) Challenge yourself to lead a more eco-friendly lifestyle to look after your environment and encourage others to do the same.
Your Challenge:	Down your Street: (Local news) Find out what is happening in your local area and try to increase awareness of important issues.
Your Challenge:	Read all about it: (Behind the headlines) Find out about national issues currently in the news and choose one to learn more about.
Your Challenge:	The whole world in His hands: (World church) Around the world the church is growing. Your challenge is to find out more about the church worldwide, especially in those areas where it is expanding, and share this with others.

Current Affairs App

Your challenge:

Paparazzi: (People in the news)

Lots of people influence our world. Your challenge is to select a key figure (leader or activist) in the news and explore their sphere of influence.

Ideas:

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

You could:

- Identify some of the key figures currently in the news and create a collage reflecting these people and the issues in which they are involved.
- Create a DVD about the life of an important person in the news.
- Research an important person in the news. Consider their role, their influence and how people view them. Prepare a presentation about this person and present it to others.
- Identify an individual or a group of people, in the news and create or collect a series of paintings, cartoons, illustrations or photographs which demonstrate their impact on the world today.

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:

When? 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?

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 some of the following passages about good role models from the Bible - Ruth (Ruth Chapters 2 and 3), Deborah (Judges Chapter 4), Timothy and Lydia (Acts Chapter 16).
- Explore how finding a good role model can help you develop a positive attitude in your own lives.
- Consider how you may be role models for others e.g. younger members of your group/church and think of ways to do this.
- Consider who has been a Christian role model for you. Talk to them and find out how their faith helps guide their choices in life.

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?

Current Affairs App

Your challenge:

Eco Warriors: (Environmental issues)

Challenge yourself to lead a more eco-friendly lifestyle to look after your environment and encourage others to do the same.

Ideas:

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

You could:

- Investigate why it is important to look after the environment and create posters/flyers on the subject challenging others to respond.
- Explore ways of reducing your personal carbon footprint or becoming more eco-friendly e.g. recycling, buying locally grown food, avoiding air travel and walking instead of travelling by car.
- Keep a personal diary, recording your efforts to respond, over a period of six weeks.
- Help to organise an eco-friendly event. Emphasise the environmental nature of the event to people through the advertising you design.
- Help produce a drama/presentation/song/poem etc and present it to others to illustrate the importance of looking after the environment.
- Hold an information evening/produce an information resource for teenagers to tell them about helping the environment.

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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/advice do you need to complete the challenge?

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Investigate the Christian perspective:

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

- Read *Genesis Chapter 1*, which tells of God's creation of a good world.
- Consider *Genesis Ch. 1:26-29*, where God put humans in charge of looking after the animals.
- Consider how this relates to today and our responsibility to protect the environment.
- Read some of the Psalms celebrating God's creation e.g. *Psalm 19:65*.
- Create a poster or banner celebrating God's creation.

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?

Current Affairs App

Your challenge:

Down your Street: (Local news)

Find out what is happening in your local area and try to increase awareness of important issues.

Ideas:

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

You could:

- Use local newspapers collected over a month to identify one or more important local issues - and produce a collage/timeline tracing the development of these key local stories.
- Invite a local journalist to talk to you about their work and discover what makes a story news worthy.
- Make a collection of articles written by your visiting journalist and identify his/her style. Discuss the articles with your group.
- Identify an important local issue e.g. a proposed new development, a drug issue at a local school, a local hero or a crime wave. Research people's response to the issue and produce your own news report or write an article for your church magazine about young people's views on the issue.
- Talk to people involved in a local issue you think is important and help to raise awareness of it.

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Investigate the Christian perspective:

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

- Find out what life was like in Galilee when Jesus grew up and preached there - consider religious, cultural and economic factors.
- Read Luke Ch.4:14-30 and discuss what this shows about people's reactions to Jesus in His hometown.
- How did Jesus react to this? What does this show about Jesus?

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?
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- 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?

Current Affairs App

Your challenge:

Read all about it: (Behind the headlines)

Find out about national issues currently in the news and choose one to learn more about.

Ideas:

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

- Use national newspapers collected over a month to identify important current issues which have hit the national press. Discuss these and produce a collage/timeline to show the development of a major story.
- Help prepare and take part in a news quiz activity, organised for your group or for others in the church.
- Identify a range of key issues from the national news, and use this as a basis for a debate evening. Determine the format for the evening. Advertise it, produce audio visual prompts, identify key issues for debate, choose a chairperson, questioners and debaters and invite an audience.
- Produce and present a drama about an important news story.

Set the scene:

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

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Investigate the Christian perspective:

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

- Consider how Jesus was involved with and reacted to the national news of His day.
- How did Jesus respond to the Sadducees and Pharisees who opposed Him and feared what would happen if the population believed Him. (eg John Ch.11:45-54, Mark Ch.3:6, Matthew Ch.9:9-13, Luke Ch.14:1-3 and Matthew Ch.15:1.)
- Consider Pilate's actions and how he dealt with Jesus (Matthew Chapter 27).
- The deep divisions which existed between Jews and Samaritans would clearly have "hit the press" in Jesus' day. What attitude did Jesus display which some, including His disciples, found hard to accept (John Chapter 4, Luke Ch.10:33, Luke Ch.17:16?)

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

Current Affairs App

Your challenge:

The whole world in His hands: (World church)

Around the world the church is growing. Your challenge is to find out more about the church worldwide, especially in those areas where it is expanding, and share 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:

- Choose a country where the church is growing. Research what is happening in that area of the world and find a way of passing that information to others e.g. create a presentation to show your church.
- Listen to a missionary, or someone who supports a charity working with the church overseas, and find out how you could help the work of the church off shore. Organise a fundraising event.
- Find a way to encourage others to pray knowledgeably and regularly for the church in other parts of the world e.g. create a prayer newsletter, design and display information on a world church notice board or create a weekly Power Point to show in the church service.
- Talk to your minister/pastor or other church leaders: discuss a practical way to reach out to your community and so help your church to grow.

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?
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Investigate the Christian perspective:

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

- Read Acts Ch.2:1-13 and identify the number of countries where early Christians were found.
- Research the countries involved in the early church and see how Christianity spread.
- Read Acts Ch.10:35 and reflect on the importance of unity and sharing our faith.
- Consider a modern day example of how God can unite people from different countries and cultures.

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:

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- Which skills, talents or abilities did you use in your involvement in this project?
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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.

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

**Current Affairs 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.