

Overview:

Future App

Why use this App?

For you, like all young people, the time will come when you have to leave home and start living independently. This experience brings with it the need for a whole new range of skills from setting up home to managing money, from making life choices about partners and careers to setting priorities and goals for future life. This App explores many of these issues and shows how God wants to be part of your future.

How do I use it?

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

The programmes:

Home Sweet Home	(Setting up home)
What's my Line	(Careers)
Student Days	(University life)
Which Way	(Life choices)
Being Me	(Developing self)

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

Your Challenge:	Home Sweet Home: (Setting up home) Consider some of the issues and decisions that you might have to face when you start to live independently. Get involved in an activity which will help you prepare for this experience.
Your Challenge:	What's my Line: (Careers) Choosing and applying for your next step in education, or for your first job, is an important step to independence. Choose an activity which will help you to plan for this important step in your life.
Your Challenge:	Student Days: (University life) Explore life at university so that when your course starts you are ready and have the skills to be a good, successful student.
Your Challenge:	Which Way: (Life choices) As you move into adult life there will be many important life choices that will need to be made. Select one such choice and explore your personal response to it.
Your Challenge:	Being Me: (Developing self) As you step out into the world of independence you need to accept who you are and assert your right to express yourself in the way you choose. Your challenge is to take responsibility for your own future by finding a way to identify and release your hopes and dreams for your life.

Future App:
Your challenge:

Home Sweet Home: (Setting up home)

Consider some of the issues and decisions that you might have to face when you start to live independently. Get involved in an activity which will help you prepare for this experience.

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 list of the essentials you will need when moving into a university room or bedsit, set yourself a realistic budget, chose your colour schemes and style choices and plan the purchases you will make.
- Undertake some research and consider the pros and cons of sharing a flat or house with others. Create a pen picture of yourself which could be used to help you find a compatible housemate. Draw up a list of house rules to help make the experience a success.
- Prepare and cook a range of meals-for-one and plan a menu for a week which is both healthy and cost effective.
- Consider some of the new skills you will need to develop if you are a house owner. Choose one or more of these (e.g. housework, managing a household budget and laundry) and learn about them.

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 Hebrews Ch.13:1-2 and see what it says about hospitality.
- What does the phrase 'entertained angels unawares' mean?
- Look at Genesis Ch.18:1-15 and Judges Ch.6:11-23 and discover what happened when Abraham and Gideon 'met angels unawares'.
- Consider how a home can be used to the glory of God and find a practical way in which you can use your home to show Christian love to 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?

Future App:
Your challenge:

What's my Line: (Careers?)

Choosing and applying for your next step in education, or for your first job, is an important step to independence. Choose an activity which will help you to plan for this important step in your life.

Ideas:

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

- Explore a range of different styles of CVs and application letters and write your own. Use role plays and scenarios to enact preparing for and attending interviews. Feedback to one another on the techniques you have used.
- Invite a series of people with different careers to talk to you. With each visitor explore the qualifications needed, the career options available, the degree of job satisfaction the role brings and the downsides of the job.
- Choose a career that interests you. Explore all aspects of this career from job application and training to career prospects and opportunities. Produce a log book or other record of your findings.
- Explore a range of work place expectations and behaviours and produce a leaflet or PowerPoint presentation giving guidance on best practice in the work place.

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.

- Read Ephesians Ch.6:5-9 and see Paul's advice to slaves or workers.
- Explore together the meaning of this passage in the context of a work place.
- Invite a member of your church congregation to talk about the challenges of being a Christian in the work place.
- Create a poster or handout based on scripture, which gives dos and don'ts for a Christian at work.

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?

Future App:
Your challenge:

Student Days: (University life)

Explore life at university so that when your course starts you are ready and have the skills to be a good, successful student.

Ideas:

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

You could:

- Talk with a recent university student and ask about their experiences and advice on university life. Explore such things as first years week, coursework, planning studies, food and work life balance. From their advice create a leaflet/DVD containing tips for new students.
- Consider the difference between being taught and studying. Ask a lecturer or teacher about good study skills. Set up a group blog of good study skills and pool your knowledge.
- Consider ways of keeping in touch with family and friends as you move on in life. Explore each aspect of your life in turn e.g. family, youth group, school friends, church friends, neighbours and special friends. Map out the different ways you plan to maintain contact while you are at university.
- Get a street map and mark on it important places e.g. your halls of residence, university campus, supermarket, student pub, bus stops and nearest church. Visit the university and its surrounding area. Make a record of the visit by producing a movie using photos and video taken on the trip.

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.

- Read Proverbs Ch.8:10, 10:14, 14:23. What value is placed on knowledge in these verses?
- Read Proverbs Ch.6:6-11. What lesson can you learn from the ant?
- Find out what Christian writers have to say about knowledge and studying.

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?

Future App:
Your challenge:

Which Way: (Life choices)

As you move into adult life there will be many important life choices that will need to be made. Select one such choice and explore your personal response to it.

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 negative lifestyles in which people may engage (e.g. racial discrimination, alcohol/drug abuse, anti social behaviour/binge drinking). Choose one such lifestyle. Research why people get involved in it, its effect on the community/individual and identify your personal response to this issue.
- Plan and deliver a series of debates relating to the choice of a life partner e.g. what qualities would you look for in a life partner? At what age would you want to settle down? What are the pros and cons of a 'single' lifestyle? What is special about marriage?
- Research the qualities that are appreciated in friendship and design a series of articles/posters illustrating golden rules for friendship.

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.

- One of the most important life choices anyone will make is that of committing their life to Jesus. Invite some committed young people to share their testimony or faith story with your group.
- Attempt to map out your faith journey using pictures, words or diagrams.
- Look together at the ABC of Christian commitment: Accept the truth of God, Believe in Jesus, Confess your sin and Decide to respond to God's love.

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?

Future App:
Your challenge:

Being Me: (Developing self)

As you step out into the world of independence you need to accept who you are and assert your right to express yourself in the way you choose. Your challenge is to take responsibility for your own future by finding a way to identify and release your hopes and dreams for your life.

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, video, photo show or similar presentation which encapsulates your hopes and dreams for yourself/our world.
- Spend some time looking at your gifts and talents and your faults and failures. Engage in a range of activities designed to build your self-esteem and set yourself some simple life goals.
- Select one thing that you would like to change about your life e.g. your dress style, your use of leisure time, your work habits, your management of money or your contact with the church. Produce a plan to show how you might go about this and begin the process of change.
- Identify a new skill (e.g. drive a car, learn self-defence, become a first aider, develop your computer skills or research your family's history) that you would like to learn and arrange to attend a course or find a way to practice/develop the skill on a regular basis.

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.

- Find some Bible verses that assure us that God has our future in His hands e.g. Jeremiah Ch.29:11.
- Find a book that tells the story of a life that was transformed by God. Either read the book together as part of your devotions or, during the time you are working on this challenge, read the book yourself.
- If possible arrange to meet and talk to someone who can tell you how God has changed their life path, their priorities or their aspirations.

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?

Future 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

Future 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.