

Overview:

Love App

Why use this App?

The Bible tells us that God is love. This App examines our response to this truth. It also examines the many different kinds of love which you will meet in all kinds of places - in families, in friendship groups, in special relationships, in romance or in marriage. This App challenges you to seek the meaning of true love and to show your love in practical ways.

How do I use it?

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

The programmes:

We are family	(Family relationships)
True love	(Romantic relationships)
All you need is love	(Social action)
A gift from God	(Sex)
Love is.....	(Friendship)

Each programme presents you with a challenge. Here are the five challenges from the Love app:

Your Challenge:	We Are Family: (Family relationships) Every family is different in its formation but it is nearly always love that binds it together. Explore some of the different facets of love shown in family relationships and record them in a creative way.
Your Challenge:	True Love: (Romantic Relationships) Find a way to explore and express the elements of True Love shown in a positive romantic relationship.
Your Challenge:	All You Need Is Love: (Social action) There are many organisations that run social action projects. Your challenge is to get involved with one of these activities.
Your Challenge:	A Gift From God: (Sex) Your challenge is to consider the spiritual, moral and emotional issues connected with having sexual relationships - and determine a positive and informed response to the questions raised.
Your Challenge:	Love Is... (Friendship) Friendship is a relationship which has at its heart a special kind of love. Find a way to show the essence of this love.

Love App

Your challenge:

We are family: (Family relationships)

Every family is different in its formation but it is nearly always love that binds it together. Explore some of the different facets of love shown in family relationships and record them in a creative way.

Ideas:

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

You could:

- Talk to friends and family, or interview them on video, about some of the conflicts which affect family life e.g. sibling rivalry, parents/adolescent disagreements, financial pressures or sharing the work. Try to analyse the stories to see how a true understanding of the power of love could help overcome these issues. Discuss your findings with your peers.
- Write and illustrate a story book for children telling the story of a family's love for one another.
- Discuss the Biblical concept of God as a loving father and create a church banner/modern day parable which portrays this aspect of God.
- Make a photo gallery using pictures that show love in different aspects of family life.

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 Luke Ch.15:11-32 and discuss the story.
- Identify the nature of the different relationships in the text - father/younger son; father/older son; younger son/older son; father/servants; and younger son/friends.
- What lessons can you learn from the above?
- Dramatise the story or create a modern day version to perform in church or for your peers.

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?

Love App

Your challenge:

True Love: (Romantic relationships)

Find a way to explore and express the elements of true love shown in a positive romantic relationship.

Ideas:

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

You could:

- Review recent popular music charts and note all the songs that are about love and romance. As a soloist or as part of a group, rehearse and perform a repertoire of pieces that reflect this theme.
- Chose suitable music and choreograph, rehearse and perform a dance/drama or similar piece that tells the story of true love.
- Read a novel or watch a film with a romantic theme and produce a creative piece which reflects part of the story.
- Traditionally Valentine's Day is used to celebrate the path of true love. Organise a Valentine's Day event with appropriate music, décor and food.
- Find a couple who are celebrating a special wedding anniversary. Interview them to find out what they perceive to be the secret of their happy life together. Do something practical to help them celebrate their special event e.g. create a scrapbook of memories for them or bake and decorate a celebration cake.

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?

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Investigate the Christian perspective:

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

- Probably one of the most romantic stories found in the Bible is that of Ruth.
- Find time to read the whole of the book of Ruth.
- Track the different relationships portrayed in this story and identify the different types of love demonstrated in the narrative.

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?

Love App

Your Challenge:

All you need is love: (Social action)

There are many organisations that run social action projects. Your challenge is to get involved with one of these activities.

Ideas:

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

You could:

- Take part in a project like Slum Survivor, sleeping rough to raise funds.
- Organise, publicise and run a fundraising event for a community group that is in need. Ensure that your publicity demonstrates the needs that are being met and the work of the charity you are supporting.
- Take part in a locally-run project to make a difference in your area.
- Make contact with a local senior citizens' home and either arrange to visit and entertain the guests or invite them to a special evening with your group. Prepare the programme for the evening and organise travel and other practical details.
- Complete the service section of your Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

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?
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- 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/advise 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 Micah Ch.6:8 in a range of different versions of the Bible and choose the one which you think most succinctly explains what God requires of us.
- What specifically does this verse tell us about our responsibility as the people of God?
- For each of the three core instructions, explain how a Christian could live this out.
- Find a way of reminding others of the importance of this verse e.g. make Bible markers for all your church, help make a banner or create a social action board with this verse displayed at the top.

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?

Love App

Your challenge:

A gift from God: (Sex)

Your challenge is to consider the spiritual, moral and emotional issues connected with having sexual relationships - and determine a positive and informed response to the questions raised.

Ideas

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

You could:

- Consider in detail some of the social problems that exist as a result of young people having sex outside of marriage. Using your research hold a series of debates on the issues raised.
- Interview people who have different opinions and experiences about sexual issues; write an article about your findings or produce a DVD documentary about the spiritual, moral and emotional issues involved.
- Invite a range of speakers to share with your group about a Christian perspective of sex.
- Sex is a gift of God. Invite your pastor or youth leader to help you engage in a series of Bible studies to explore the truth of this statement and to see what God's view is about the use of this gift.

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 Ephesians Ch.5:1-20 and discuss it as a group.
- Consider what is meant by the phrase 'not even a hint of sexual immorality' (Verse 3, NIV).
- How should our response to God affect the decisions we make about our sexual practices?

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?

Love App

Your challenge:

Love is... : (Friendship)

Friendship is a relationship which has at its heart a special kind of love. Find a way to show the essence of this love.

Ideas:

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

You could:

- Compose a series of poems/create a song with words and music/produce a painting or series of sketches centred on the theme of friendship. Find a way of presenting your creative piece to others.
- Design a game which will help younger members of your group understand some of the elements of true friendship. Use this game with a group of children.
- Find a pen pal and establish regular communication with them. Keep a journal of how your friendship develops over time.
- A good friend will show their love and concern in practical ways e.g. helping them with a subject they are not good at, giving them unexpected and thoughtful gifts, visiting them when they are sick and sharing their joys and sorrows in a special way. Find a practical way to demonstrate your friendship to a good friend over a period of time.

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 1 Corinthians Ch.13:4-7.
- List the attributes of love found in this passage.
- Consider how each of the qualities listed should be demonstrated in true friendship.
- Make a wall display/banner/collage which reflects these verses.

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?

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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.

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

Love 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.