

Overview:

Technology App

Why use this App?

Communication has never been so easy! The World Wide Web in all its facets allows you to speak to those across the world in a nanosecond. This App allows you to explore and engage safely with these and other technological innovations. It also looks at how the technological advances of the 21st century can be used to help communicate the message of the Christian faith in relevant and creative ways.

How do I use it?

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

The programmes:

Top Techies	(Creative use of technology)
Chat to the World	(Social networking)
Welcome to the Web	(Internet safety)
Lights, Camera, Action	(Photography and video recording)
Testing, Testing, Testing	(Sound recording)

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

Your Challenge:	Top Techies: (Creative use of technology) Consider the numerous ways you could use technology creatively and find a way of using this creativity for the benefit of others.
Your Challenge:	Chat to the World: (Social networking) Find out the potential for good and ill of social networking and use its power to accomplish something positive.
Your Challenge:	Welcome to the Web: (Internet safety) Consider the dangers which the internet can bring and source ways in which to encourage the safe and edifying use of the world wide web.
Your Challenge:	Lights, Camera, Action: (Photography and video recording) The visual arts can be used to give pleasure, to attract attention, to inform or to provide permanent memories of significant people, places and events. Develop or hone your photographic or videoing skills and use your talent for one of these purposes.
Your Challenge:	Testing, Testing, Testing: (Sound recording) Explore how people relate to sound or use your knowledge of sound recording to produce a track that will entertain, help or inform others.

Technology App:
Your challenge:

Top Techies: (Creative use of technology)

Consider the numerous ways you could use technology creatively and find a way of using this creativity for the benefit of others.

Ideas:

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

You could:

- Get a web designer to talk to the group about their work and design and make a website or blog for your youth group or church.
- Produce an MP3 playlist based on a specific theme or style of music and share it with others using the music compiled at an event e.g. for an aerobics/dance class or as background music at a fundraiser.
- Arrange a series of evenings to teach some of the older people in your church how to use something like a laptop/MP3 player/the internet/Wii etc.
- Use the design tools on your computer to create a range of possible designs or logos for a special event, celebration or similar occasion. Select your favourite design and use it as the basis for all the publicity that is needed e.g. posters, flyers, invitations, handouts, place names and signs.
- Use your Wii, or something similar, to plan and deliver a programme that will enable participants to engage in a fun programme to develop their fitness.

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 1 Corinthians Chapter 4 and think about how every good thing you have is a gift from God - including items like your laptop/MP3/mobile. Discuss how we can be wise 'stewards' of such items.
- Think about the need to be authentic Christians in everything you do, whether that's posting comments on a website/blog or downloading music. Your church leader could give a talk on the topic of authenticity.
- Think about the ways you can use technology creatively in things like prayer and worship and use some of your skills to lead a devotional session for your group or as part of a church service.

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?

Technology App:
Your challenge:

Chat to the World: (Social networking)

Find out the potential for good and ill of social networking and use its power to accomplish something positive.

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 guidelines for the safe use of community pages and create a Facebook and/or Twitter page for your group.
- Research why social networking sites are used by so many people and find a positive and useful way to use such a site to communicate a positive message or further a specific interest.
- Teach a senior citizen how to use a social networking site, explaining the value of using these skills.
- Undertake and report on a survey among your peers exploring the sites they use, the ways access is made, the time spent on such activities, the content enjoyed and the reasons they like social networking.
- Use a social networking site to enable your church or group to maintain contact with a member who has moved away, ensuring that the information you gain is shared with those who do not have the same computer facilities.

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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- What difficulties do you think you might face?

Design:

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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 Ecclesiastes Ch.4:9-12 and John Ch.15:12-15.
- Imagine Jesus with a Blackberry, updating His status on Facebook. What do you think Jesus would think about social networking?
- Explore a story from the gospels and imagine what Jesus would say about it on His social networking site. You could post this on your site to challenge or inform 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?
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- How has this challenge given you a Christian perspective on issues that you face in everyday life?

Technology App:
Your challenge:

Welcome to the Web: (Internet safety)

Consider the dangers which the internet can bring and source ways in which to encourage the safe and edifying use of the World Wide Web.

Ideas:

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

- Prepare and make a presentation aimed at parents, highlighting the dangers of online societies and giving advice on how they could be of help to their children using the internet.
- Interview a selection of various aged people about their experiences of technology. Write a report or set up a debate about potential hazards which you have discovered. Include such things as the minimum age restrictions, restricted access, good practice, access to pornography and hidden dangers.
- Produce a fun interactive guide/game for children highlighting the dangers of the internet without scaring them and encouraging them in a positive way to continue to use the internet.
- Research the great potential of social networking sites/chat rooms as well as the dangers they can bring. Create a booklet/leaflet/series of posters aimed at young people highlighting the dangers they may meet.

Set the scene:

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

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- 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?

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Investigate the Christian perspective:

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

- As the internet was not invented in Biblical times you will not find anything specifically on this in the Bible. There are, however, lots of guides for life that you can apply to using the internet.
- Philippians Ch.4:8 says we should always have pure thoughts. Consider how this can relate to what we look at on the internet.
- Interview some Christian leaders (e.g. your pastor, your youth leader or a church elder) and ask them what advice they would give on internet safety.
- God wants you to have a relationship with Him, to talk to Him and to be involved in your lives. Discuss how you can involve God in your online life as much as in any other part of your 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 that you face in everyday life?

Technology App:
Your challenge:

Lights, Camera, Action: (Photography and video recording)

The visual arts can be used to give pleasure, to attract attention, to inform or to provide permanent memories of significant people, places and events. Develop or hone your photographic or videoing skills and use your talent for one of these purposes.

Ideas:

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

- Use your photography and video skills to create an advert to promote your group, an organisation you belong to or an event that is coming up.
- Put a collage/scrapbook of photographs together for a specific event such as a special birthday, a church/youth group anniversary, a family holiday or a sport/hobby that interests you.
- Explore the many tools and techniques that can enhance photography. Create a display that shows the range of skills that you have learnt.
- Select a theme and produce an exhibition of photographs or a video with captions and explanations reflecting your chosen theme.
- Recreate a story from the Bible and film it - create the script, cast it, schedule rehearsals, film it and show it on the big screen.

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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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?

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Investigate the Christian perspective:

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

- Look at/create/discuss a series of photographs that show the wonders of creation.
- Speak to a Christian photographer - ask them how God speaks to them through capturing photographs.
- Use a series of photos to illustrate a Psalm or to accompany a worship song. Arrange for this to be used in your church or group worship.

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?

Technology App:
Your challenge:

Testing, Testing, Testing: (Sound recording)

Explore how people relate to sound or use your knowledge of sound recording to produce a track that will entertain, help or inform others.

Ideas:

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

- Prepare an audio presentation for your church leadership explaining how sound technology can be used to enhance worship and communication in your church e.g. how such technology can enhance accessibility for the hearing impaired in your setting.
- Volunteer to assist on a regular basis with running a sound system at school, college or in church.
- Write and record a story that is told through sound alone. Use this in your group setting and see if the rest of the group can work out what the story is about.
- Create a weekly podcast for your church, group or school/college website sharing what you are doing in your group, or commenting on what is happening in current affairs.
- Explore how your favourite films have used sound to create and enhance mood. With this in mind add a soundtrack to a video of a holiday, camp or meeting night. Choose music that will emphasise the mood of what you have recorded.

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.

- Use sound to enhance the telling of Bible stories e.g. create a podcast telling a parable through sound alone or, using words and sound effects, record a Bible story for children.
- Use a concordance to explore how many times and in what circumstances the Bible refers to music and/or sound.
- Read Matthew Ch.14:15-21 and explore the story imagining what you would hear if you were there.

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?
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Technology 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

Technology 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.