Teen Bible study journal
as follow up of the
#imagine experience

#on the journey

#imagine
experience

credo

We are the Imagine Generation
We believe in tomorrow, because Jesus renews
We dream of peace, because God is love
We commit to change, because the Spirit moves
We are the church of today, the leaders of tomorrow
WE ARE THE IMAGINE GENERATION.

Ons is die Imagine Generasie
Ons glo in môre, want Jesus maak nuut
Ons droom van vrede, want God is liefde
Ons bring verandering, want die Gees beweeg
Ons is die kerk van vandag, die leiers van môre
ONS IS DIE IMAGINE GENERASIE.

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1

What is #imagine?

#Imagine is a nationwide movement where young people come together to dream, believe and do. Every year there are three festivals (at three different venues) on the same weekend where we learn more about Jesus, praise his name and get to know other young people from different communities all around South Africa.

The #imagine movement challenges teenagers with a massive vision: Every problem in our country is a unique opportunity for someone who can dream about change, believe in God's vision and is prepared to do what is needed. Real change will require hard work and passion, and you have the capacity, energy and zeal to make it happen. You can choose to live a life of significance!

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Aan Hom wat deur sy krag wat in ons werk, magtig is om oneindig meer te doen as wat ons bid of dink, aan Hom kom die eer toe, in die kerk, deur ons verbondenheid met Christus Jesus, deur al die geslagte heen tot in alle ewigheid. Amen.

Efesiërs 3:20-21

Kepha yena onamandla okwenza okukhulu kakhulu kunakho konke esikucelayo nesikuqondayo ngokwamandla asebenza kithi.

Kwabase-Efesu 3:20

Unkulunkulu angenza noma yini oyaziyongaphezulu kakhulu kunakho konke ukucabanga kwakho, nokudlinza kwakho kanye nokucela kwakho ngisho ekucabangeni kwakho konke.

Kwabase-Efesu 3:20

2

On the journey with Paul

The following Bible studies, prayer ideas and challenges are reminders of the #imagine 2017 experience. It can be done on your own or with a group of #imaginers. You can also share the experience and message with others that were not able to attend. The story of Paul's conversion in Acts 9 is the Scripture that enables you to go on a journey to ...

- meet Jesus at the crossroad
- discover your gifts
- make a difference
- brainstorm action ideas and
- grow into mentorship.

Together we can dream, believe and do!

3

On the journey with Paul: At the crossroad

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.

Acts 9:1-6

Saul's conversion

Believe

- Saul and Paul is the same person. Saul is his Jewish name and Paul his Greek name. After his conversion, Saul is mostly called Paul. What strikes you in the story?
- On what road are you? Where are you heading? What motivates you?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus meets you where you are at?

Dream

- Reflect on the meaning of the following characteristics of Jesus: Savior King, Deliverer, Healer, Friend, Teacher, Helper, Peace-maker and Passion-giver.
- Circle the characteristics which mean the most to you at this moment on your journey.

Do

Write your own crossroad story about your journey with Christ.

4

On the journey with Paul: Discovering gifts

"This man is my chosen instrument."

Acts 9:7-19

Saul's conversion

Believe

- Why was Ananias surprised that Jesus was sending him to Saul/Paul?
- If you were Ananias, would you go? Explain.
- If you were Paul, what would God's words through Ananias mean to you (verses 15, 17).
- God loves you, forgives you and calls you. Which one of these three facts is the easiest and most difficult to believe?

Dream

- Like Paul, you are Jesus's chosen instrument. What does this mean?
- Reflect on the following gifts and circle the ways you think the Spirit uses you: to share, set free, heal, be-friend, teach, serve, make peace and activate.

Do

Ask someone you know to identify the ways they think you can make a difference.

5

On the journey with Paul: Making a difference

"Speaking boldly in the name of the Lord ..."

Acts 9:19-31

Saul in Damascus and Jerusalem

Believe

- What does part of the Paul story tell you about God's dream for the world?
- What is God already doing in your context?

Dream

Which one of the following dreams captures your imagination?

1. **LOVED** – I see a world everyone experiences Jesus' love.
2. **FREE** – I see world where people are free from addiction and slavery.
3. **WHOLE** – I see a world where everyone has access to health care, clean water and sanitation.
4. **UNIFIED** – I see a world where people from different races, cultures and ages get along.
5. **EDUCATED** – I dream of a world where everyone has opportunity to receive good education.
6. **CONTENT** – I see a world without poverty, injustice and unemployment.
7. **AT PEACE** – I believe in a world free of hatred, violence and crime.
8. **PASSIONATE** – I see a world where young people take initiative to solve problems.

Do

Choose one of the dreams and answer these 10 questions in a group. Think of practical examples and solutions. How can we make a bigger impact by doing it together?

1. What facts do you know of about these challenges? What do you want to find out more about?
2. What are the challenges in your own community regarding this topic?
3. What are the things (name about 3) that are key to creating change?
4. What is God's heart and kingdom dream?
5. How can you as an individual make a practical (small) difference?
6. How can you make a difference as a group (Sunday school group, youth group, group of friends)?
7. How can you make a difference as a congregation?
8. How can you make a difference as a school?
9. How can you start a movement?
10. How can you use social media?

6

#imagine action ideas

With your chosen topic in mind, brainstorm ways to bring ideas into action.

Social media

Launch an awareness campaign using twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp, etcetera.

Make an Instagram post.

Make a Facebook post with info on the topic.

Post solutions or a challenge on Facebook.

Art

Paint a banner.

Make art on the topic using trash.

Design a logo.

Music

Write a song.

Write words to known lyric.

Use known song and add visuals.

Create slam poetry.

Prayer

Design a prayer station.

Write prayer requests for the topic and share.

Kids ministry

Design a Bible lesson or craft and share on Pinterest.

Write a Bible lesson of family activity for your church.

Write and perform puppet show or drama at children's church or a school.

Bible study

What does the Bible say about this topic?

Do a Bible study with a group on the topic.

Write a journal or blog on the theme.

Journalism

Write an article for the school paper or local newspaper.

Write a letter to local government or leadership.

Write a fiction story creating awareness.

Drama

Make a video of testimonies.

Create and perform play for school or church.

Serve

Become involved in a local project.

Serve at a community centre.

Give your time and skills.

Donate.

Talk

Talk to your family.

Phone a community leader.

Invite a church leader for coffee.

Sport

Share the #imagine dream with your sports team.

Organise a fun run.

Reach out to another school or community sports team.

Activate

Start a Bible study group.

Do a prayer march.

Organise a youth week at school or church.

Host a re-imagine event.

Start a fundraising drive for a specific cause.

7

On the journey with Paul: Grow into mentorship

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Proverbs 27:17

Mentorship plays a key role in the Bible. We see mentors in all forms and shapes from Moses and Naomi to Elizabeth, Paul, Barnabas and Jesus our biggest mentor. Some of the key aspects which distinguish mentoring from other relationships such as friendship, coaching or being a teacher are: influence, commitment, being an example, and caring for others.

Influence

Read about people who influenced Paul's life in Acts 9:23-27 and 11:19-30.

- Draw a timeline of your life's phases, such as pre-primary, primary and high school. Fill in where people have in influenced your life spiritually by writing their name in that phase. While you write their name, think about how they specifically influenced you.

Commitment

Read about Paul's commitment through Christ in 2 Corinthians 11:28-29; 12:5 and 2 Timothy 2:10.

Mentorship is about commitment. This means not only to be committed to a mentee, but also to be committed to grow in your own relationship with God.

- Go outside and look at a branch of a tree or a plant. For every leave on that branch, try to name a way in which you can grow in your relationship with God.

Being an example

Read about how Paul learned how to be an example in 1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17 and 4:9.

A mentor is someone others look up to. Not because they are perfect, but because they follow Jesus. As a mentor, you have to walk the walk and talk the talk by being an example in: faith (what I believe and serve God), life (how I live according to God's will, habits, and behaviour) and love (how I care and love).

- Think about who sets a good example for you then write the different characteristics of a good mentor on small cards. Stick them on your mirror as a reminder to walk the walk and talk the talk.

Caring for others

Being a mentor means that you have to care about others and built a real, meaningful relationship with them. It is about walking together and doing life together.

Read about how Paul taught others to care in 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12.

- Draw circles of the different areas of your life, such as school, work, friends, family, church, sports, interests and daily routines. Write in every circle the people who crosses your path in that area (people whom you have or can spend time with). Is there anyone in particular you feel called to mentor?

8

On the journey … discover more about Jesus and your calling

The following Bible studies, prayer ideas and challenges will help you continue to grow in your faith after the #imagine experience. It can be done on your own or with a group.

Discover more about who Jesus is on your journey:

Discover more about your calling:

Saviour-King

"This very day in David's town your Saviour was born – Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:8-20

The shepherds and the angels

Believe

- Read the story and imagine you were one of the shepherds. What do you see? Feel? Think? Do?
- How did the shepherds' lives change after this encounter with God?
- In verse 11 the angel calls Jesus the Savior and Christ the Lord. What do these two titles mean?

Dream

- Is God your Savior? Is he your Lord (King)?
- Circle all the words that describe emotions in verses 8-14. Which of these emotions do you experience at the moment?
- How does Jesus impact your emotions and life story?

Do

- Go outside at night and look at the stars. Praise Jesus for being your Saviour and King.
- Listen to your favourite Christian music. Make a list of the titles and words used to describe Jesus.

Let's share

"All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them."

Luke 2:8-20

The shepherds and the angels

Believe

- Read the story again. What strikes you in the story?
- Circle all the verbs (actions) in verses 15-20.
- What clue do these words give you about the ways which you can share your God-story?

Dream

- The shepherds were poor and uneducated. They were busy looking after their sheep, but this did not stop them from sharing. What excuses do you hide behind for not sharing the good news of Jesus?
- Be inspired by other's testimonies. Visit "yesHeis", "Iamsecond" or "imaginemovement" on YouTube.

Do: I see a world everyone experiences Jesus' love

- Choose words or short sentences which mean something to you. Combine with a photo or background and share on Instagram or Facebook. Be creative.
- What do you know about other religions? Imagine sitting in a bus next to someone of a different faith. How would you start a conversation with him/her?
- Pray for someone by name for a whole week that needs to get to know Jesus, the Saviour-King.

Jesus our Deliverer

"To set the oppressed free ..."

Luke 4:18-20

Jesus the anointed one

Believe

- List the 5 things in this text that Jesus does when describing his mission.
- What does each one mean (literally and figuratively)?

Dream

- Where do you need good news or help in your life?
- Do you have anything in your live that keeps you imprisoned?
- Can you think of a situation where you feel "blind" and need wisdom?
- What makes you feel powerless?
- Where do you need to experience God's favour or presence?

Do

- Think of Jesus-stories from the Bible where we can see Jesus doing these things. They can be literally or figuratively.

Let's set free

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me."

Luke 4:18-20

Jesus the anointed one

Believe

- This text could be called Jesus' mission statement. Is it your mission too?
- Write your mission statement in your own words.

Dream

- Who around you is a prisoner? How can you declare freedom to them with sensitivity?
- How should you heal the broken hearted in your world?
- Who are the oppressed in your particular community? How can you assist them and help them find justice?

Do: I see a world where people are free from addiction and slavery

- What are all the forms of addiction and slavery which you can think of?
- Challenge yourself to get educated about human trafficking. You can, for example, like the A21 South Africa Facebook page.
- Challenge yourself to know more about drugs and addiction. Visit www.sancanational.info.

Jesus our Healer

"Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

Luke 17:11-19

Jesus heals ten men with leprosy

Believe

- What do you know about leprosy?
- What do you think the lepers expected when they called out to Jesus for mercy?
- We easily ignore people we walk by on the streets, why did Jesus stop and interact with these lepers despite the fact that the law labelled them as unclean?

Dream

- Healing is not only about the physically, sometimes we need emotional healing as well. Where or when have you seen Jesus healing people, giving them hope, bringing them joy, changing their attitude or giving them a new sense of purpose?
- Name the areas in your life where you need Jesus healing?
- Pray about this with someone you trust.

Do

- Jesus was able to make a difference in the lepers' lives, so he stopped and did so. When or where do you need to stop and make the time to make a difference?

Let's heal

"When he saw he was healed, he came back, praising God in a loud voice."

Luke 17:11-19

Jesus heals the man with leprosy

Believe

- What do you think is our modern-day leprosy?
- In your community, name the group(s) of people that may not easily be received by the rest of the society. (The people you often ignore.)
- Why do we choose to ignore people instead of interacting with them?

Dream

- What is the different kind of needs people have in your community that influence their health?
- Is there anybody in your community who might need help with emotional healing?

Do: I see a world where everyone has access to health care, clean water and sanitation

- Launch a "WaterWise" awareness month on your social networks. Update your Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or Snapchat each day with tips, facts, and photos about how to save water.
- Organise a beach, river or park clean-up with your friends, school or church.
- Collect toiletries to donate to people in need, like a shelter, children's home or soup kitchen. Ask a nurse or doctor in your local church or community to give a basic hygiene talk about doing a lot with a little before you hand out the toiletries.

Jesus our Friend

"I have called you friends."

John 15:9-17

Love one another

Believe

- How does Jesus describe the love he has for us as his disciples?
- In verse 15 Jesus says that he no longer calls us servants. What is true about a friendship that is not about a master-servant relationship?
- How is the Father's love connected to Jesus' love?
- What is this mirror image of love supposed to tell us about Jesus' love for his people, and the love we should remain in?

Dream

- What does it mean to you that Jesus is your friend?
- Jesus chose us to bear fruit that will last. How can you live in this community of love?
- What can you do with friends that influence you badly?

Do

- Think about a time when you were reluctant to befriend someone who didn't fit in your mould of friend. Why was it difficult to befriend them?
- Pray for your friends. Pray also for new friendships.

Let's befriend

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

John 15:9-17

Love one another

Believe

- Read the text again. Do you notice something new in the text?
- This passage challenges us to not only love and befriend people we like or those you would like to be friends with, but to love and befriend everybody. What implications does this have?

Dream

- Our choices of friends say a lot about who we are. Are you making an effort to make friends with different types of people?
- How you treat your friends (and they you) is important. How can you develop healthy friendships?

Do: I see a world where people from different races, cultures and ages get along

- Is there an old age home in your community? Challenge your friends to "adopt a grandma or grandpa" or two. Visit them regularly and spend time with them like you would with other friends.
- During break time at school, take turns to sit with different groups.
- Make a deliberate decision to befriend someone from a different culture in your class. Go and visit them at their home and invite them to yours.

Teacher

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations."

Matthew 28:16-20

The great commission

Believe

- Describe the way that Jesus made disciples or modelled disciple-making for his followers.
- How did He share, show, and teach the Word while serving the world?

Dream

- What is Jesus teaching you at the moment?
- What is He using to teach you (a mentor, a group, the Bible, music, circumstances, experiences)?
- Jesus ends the passages with the words, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." What difference does Jesus' promise in his final sentence make in your life?

Do

- What is something new you learned from this passage? Think of one person you can share it with today.

Let's teach

"And teaching them to obey everything ..."

Matthew 28:16-20

The great commission

Believe

- Read the verses again imagining how the disciples first heard the words.
- How overwhelming do you think it was for the disciples to be one of the eleven persons instructed to "make disciples of all nations"?
- How challenging does it sound to you today?

Dream

- For you to live out the "great commission" (the instruction) every day and everywhere you go, what changes or commitments do you need to make?

Do: I dream of a world where everyone has opportunity to receive good education

- Make a list of all the teachers at your school. Take a few names each day and pray for them by name.
- Offer to help with homework at a children's home.
- Ask your friends, family, school or church to donate old stationary and basic school clothes and take it to a small rural school or other charities
- Join a holiday school outreach where extra classes are offered for rural communities.

Jesus our Helper

"He had compassion on them."

Matthew 14:13-21

Jesus feeds the 5 000

Believe

- Jesus intended to be alone (verse 13) on his boat, but the crowd followed him on foot. What does Jesus' reaction towards them reveal about him?
- Why did Jesus choose not to send the people home, but to give them something to eat instead?

Dream

- What does it mean to you to know that Jesus sees your needs and that he has compassion for you?
- In John 6:9 we read that the fish and bread was given by a boy who chose to give his little to feed a lot. What does this version of the story tell you about the way in which Jesus helps people?

Do

- Make a list of things that you need help with.
- Pray about it and speak to a leader about where you can find support.

Let's serve

"You give them something to eat."

Matthew 14:13-21

Jesus feeds the 5 000

Believe

- Jesus told his disciples that they should give the crowd something to eat. Why do you think Jesus challenged them to do so?
- How is their response (verse 17) similar to our response when we get challenged with something big?
- How does their response reveal where their focus is?

Dream

- How is giving and providing for others something we ought to be doing in our lives as one of Jesus' disciples?
- What is some of the needs you get challenged with in your community?

Do: I see a world without poverty, injustice and unemployment

- Go through your closet or room. Is there anything that you have two or more of, or things that you do not use anymore? Collect all the items and donate it to organisation (shelters, children's homes, local churches) that can use it.
- Take an extra sandwich to school and during break time, go sit with the buddy or group that is half on their own and share your snacks with them.
- Is there a homeless shelter in your community? Find out what their needs are and how you can help them.

Jesus our Peace-maker

"Turn to them the other cheek also."

Matthew 5:38-48

An eye for an eye

Believe

- Why is Jesus called our "peace" in Ephesians 2:14?
- Why does Jesus say we are to treat our enemies with love? Why is this extraordinary?
- Can you think of other stories in the Bible where Jesus put himself second?

Dream

- Read Philippians 4:4-9
- Are you at peace with God? Why, or why not?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus is peace and gives you peace?

Do

- Think of your relationships with family and friends. With whom do you have a troubled or unstable relationship? With whom do you have superficial relationship?
- Think of someone you can call or visit today to make peace.
- Pray about your relationships.

Let's make peace

"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Matthew 5:38-48

An eye for an eye

Believe

- Look closely at verses 38-42. How is our natural response in contradiction with the response that Jesus advocates?
- Verse 48 says to be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect. This strikes us as one of the most difficult verses in all of this sermon and maybe all the Bible. Why do you think Jesus ends this section this way?

Dream

- What is accomplished by turning the other cheek, going the extra mile, or giving your "cloak"?
- Can you think of a time when you went the second mile for someone or something? Or when you were called to go the second mile and failed to do so?

Do: I believe in a world free of hatred, violence and crime

- Bake cupcakes and take it to the local police station.
- Verbal, emotional and physical bulling is very common in most communities. Learn more about bulling and join an anti-bully campaign. Visit www.jagfoundation.org.za or google #cool2Bkind.
- Find out if there is any shelter for abused women in your community. How can you support them?
- Join a "big sister" or "big brother" program and mentor an "act risk" youth.

Passion-giver

"At once they left their nets and followed him."

Mark 1:16-20

Four fishermen follow Jesus

Believe

- Jesus did not go to the synagogues and call the devoted Jewish leaders of that time to follow Him. He called men with no special training but who were willing. What does this say about Jesus' requirements to be His follower?
- The disciples had to make a decision between their jobs and family or following Jesus. Why do you think they did it?

Dream

- What does it mean to "follow" Jesus? What is He saying? What is He doing? Where is He going?
- Think about a time when you had to make a tough choice to step out in faith and follow Jesus.

Do

- What are some obstacles people face today when deciding to passionately follow Jesus?
- Where in your life do you lack passion for Jesus? Share this with Jesus and ask Him to ignite your passion.

Let's activate

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

Mark 1:16-20

Four fishermen follow Jesus

Believe

- Read the text again. Do you notice something new in the story?
- What does Jesus mean by the words "fish for people"? How can you do this practically?

Dream

- In what ways do you "follow" Jesus every day in your normal routine?
- Name ways in which you can activate others to make a difference.

Do: I see a world where young people take initiative to solve problems

- Only through action do words take meaning. Think about all the things in our community you and your friend complain about. Make a list.
- Choose one issue on your list. How can you take action?
- Find a mentor who is also passionate about the same problems you want to address.
- Prepare a plan to address this issue and ask your mentor to help you to take action.

9

#imagine challenge: Pray

Pray for each of the following God-inspired dreams for South Africa and the world. Use them to also pray for your own needs, family and friends as well as people, projects and issues in your own community. Pray that God will use you to make a difference.

LOVED: I see a world everyone experiences Jesus's love.

FREE: I see world where people are free from addiction and slavery.

WHOLE: I see a world where everyone has access to health care, clean water and sanitation.

UNIFIED: I see a world where people from different races, cultures and ages get along.

EDUCATED: I dream of a world where everyone has opportunity to receive good education.

CONTENT: I see a world without poverty, injustice and unemployment.

AT PEACE: I believe in a world free of hatred, violence and crime.

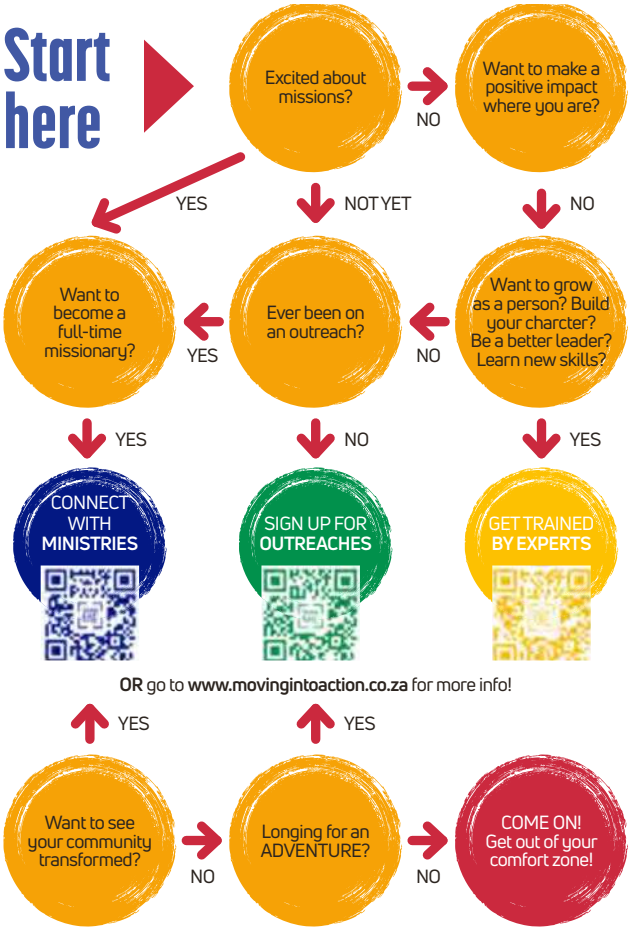
PASSIONATE: I see a world where young people take initiative to solve problems

Give Jesus praise, thank Him and make time to reflect and listen to his voice.

10

#imagine challenge: Reach out

Imaginers #DO want to make a difference! Challenge your church group to join one of the #imagine Mission Exposure Trips during the June/July school break. Give a week of your life to help make a difference in someone else's life.



11

#imagine challenge: Serve at #imagine kidz

What is it?

#Imagine kidz is a nationwide movement, bringing children between the ages of 10-12 years together from all backgrounds. This experience is built around a 3 day event, similar to that of a traditional holiday club. During this experience, each host will focus on Praise & Worship, relevant activities, arts and crafts and teachings to empower children to transform their homes and schools with the love of Jesus.

When is it?

Any 3 days during the September/October school holidays. (Although there can be arranged to host the experience on any other date)

Where is it?

All over South Africa! Any congregation can register to be a host of this experience. Don't let your community miss out!

For who is it?

For the whole congregation! Children between the ages of 10-12 years attend the event, while teenagers (and adults) host the event and assist as group leaders.

How do I get involved?

- Host an experience. Get a few friends together and talk to your youth leader/ minister and become a host yourself.
- Become a group leader to assist your host during an experience.
- Join a host in your community. If your congregation can not host an experience, find out if there is another host in your area.
- To register as a host or a group leader, e-mail us at: info@imaginekidz.com.

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#imagine contact details

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