

Mr. Potato Head

Serving Two Masters

This lesson will teach your students that they can not have two masters. In this case we will be referring to pleasing God and pleasing friends. It takes a little preparation and some supplies. If your students are even just a little creative the outcome will be great. You may want to have a camera handy to photograph your student's "works of art".

along the bottom). Choose a name that can represent a guy or a girl. (Some examples are: Pat, Terry, Chris) On one "picture frame" write "Pat at school" on the other picture frame write "Pat at church". Put these aside and don't let your students see them. (see the diagram below)

Supplies

Two Potatoes.

Mr. Potato Head "Silly Suitcase" (Playschool/Hasbro item 2279)

Miscellaneous craft scraps such as: scraps of cloth, pipe cleaners, markers, pins and scissors.

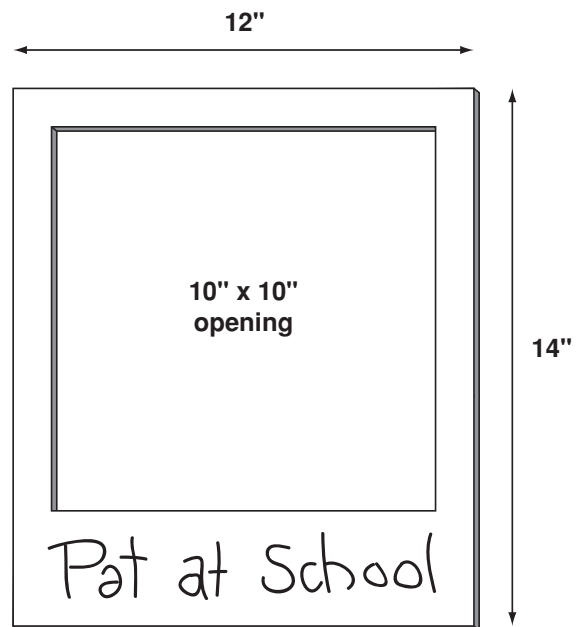
A screwdriver for poking holes in the potatoes.

A wipe-board or newsprint to make a list on.

Two pieces of foam board about 12" x 14". (or poster board will do, but it is a bit flimsy)

Preparation

1) Cut a square hole in the foam board pieces so that they look like the frame of a polaroid camera. (leave about an inch around the top, left, and right, and about 3 inches



2) Using the Mr. Potato Head parts and scrap craft items make two piles of about equal items. Add a potato to each pile. Using real potatoes give the students more of a chance to be creative. They may need to use the pins to get cloth items to stay on the potatoes. Using the plastic Mr. Potato Heads limits what a student can do with the craft items.

Opener

Make two lists on your wipe-board. One list will be of things you do around your school friends that you don't do around your church friends. The second list will be of things that you do around your church friends that you don't do around your school friends. To encourage kids to answer you may want to make the list generic (such as: what are some behaviors that people have at school that they don't have at church) and not personal (what are things YOU do at school that you don't do at church). You know your youth group best. If you are using this as a small group lesson you may be able to get personal.

Mr. or Mrs. Potato Heads

Make two teams and give each team a potato and a pile of Mr. Potato Head parts and the craft scraps. Group 1 is to make the "Mr. Joe Cool" Potato Head - the cool guy from school. Group 2 is to make the "Mr. Church" Potato Head - the kid that has all the right answers in Sunday School. Encourage your students to exaggerate any stereotypes.



Once your students have finished their potato heads let one person in each group share with everyone a little about their potato head. (what they did to it and why). Set the

potato heads on the edge of a table or on a stool, somewhere that they can be nicely seen.

The Bible

Read Matthew 6:19-26. (or have a student read it out loud) I used the NIV version of the Bible. Once you have read the scripture explain to your students that we have not created two separate potato heads but that we have actually created two "snapshots" of the same potato head.

Now, pull out your two picture frames that you have had hidden out of site and place them in front of the potatoes (like a picture frame) and show that they are the same potato head person - one picture of "Pat" at school and one picture of "Pat" at church.

Explain to your students that while in the passage you just read Jesus is specifically referring to money, in general, he is talking about putting anything before God in your life. **Reread verse 24** but this time substitute the word "money" with "friendship" or "peer pressure".

Discuss how friendship can be a master. Ask your students: What will happen if we do not fully serve God?

Read Revelation 3:15-16. It seems pretty clear that God doesn't want us to be "church people" and "school people". He would prefer that we be one or the other - but he wants us to be "church people" all the time. Sometimes we can please both God and our friends - but not always. And when we have to pick, we should be picking to please God first.

Call to Action

Ask your students: “How can we encourage each other not to “change” at school?” Make a list on the wipe-board.

Have the students form commitment partners that will agree to “check-in” with each other once a week for a month.

Close in Prayer

“Dear Lord, help us not to be potato heads...”

Credit

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