

Serving Two Masters

Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

James 1:5-8 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

Romans 8:5-15 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”

What are the two masters Jesus mentions in Matthew 6:24?

How does a person “serve” money? _____

What are some other “masters” the world offers? _____

When we become Christians a struggle begins in our minds between what our sinful nature wants to do and what God wants us to do. How does Matthew 6:24 describe this struggle?

How does your struggle manifest itself? _____

James 1:5-8 refers to a person who is not fully devoted (or convinced) to God as a

_____ These people are: _____

In Romans 8:5-15, Paul explains further, the struggle within a Christian dealing with the _____ and the _____.

Paul says that those of us who call Jesus “LORD” have an _____ to _____

What does it mean to “put to death the misdeeds of the body”?

What are some of the benefits of “sonship”?

What does “Abba” mean?

How can you tell that God’s Spirit lives in you?



Lesson Plan: Serving Two Masters

The Goal:

The goal of this lesson is to help the kids understand their feelings when they want to do what is right but frequently choose to do what is wrong. They must understand the battle within themselves and be encouraged to surrender more and more to the Holy Spirit.

Pre-Lesson Activity:

The pre-lesson activity acts as a memory aid to reinforce the lesson. For this lesson I stuffed two kids into the largest “sleep-shirt” I could buy. They were introduced to the others kids as a genetic experiment gone bad. The class was told that they were to be reporters from news agencies sent to interview the two headed monster. The two headed monster must answer the questions by alternating the words between the two heads. Make up some questions ahead of time, written on index cards to pass out to the kids to get things rolling.

Fun sample questions: “When you barf, which mouth does it come out of?” “Can you dance? Demonstrate.”
 “Who decides what you’re going to wear?” “Who controls which arm?”
 “Does two heads give you special job skills?” “What kind of job would you be good at?”

Leading the lesson:

Spend some time in prayer the day before, going over the verses and questions in your mind. Write possible answers on your copy of the worksheet along with additional notes of things you’d like to bring up.

If your group is younger junior-high age encourage them to fill in the blanks with the correct answers and hand in their papers at the end of class. For older kids, especially high-school age, just use the questions as discussion starters.

Have a kid read the first set of verses and then go thru the questions of the matching color. Give them time to answer. Listen to what they say and lead the discussion with additional questions of your own to lead them to the correct answers.

Note: When reading, kids will frequently stumble on words they do not know. Explain the meaning of the words so they can fully grasp the concept of the Bible verse. Sometimes you must restate the passage in your own words for them to get it.

Discuss at length what it means to “put to death the mis-deeds of the body.” This concept can be confusing. How do you *kill* a deed? Here’s a suggestion: “Putting to death the dis-deeds of the body” means to admit that an action or thought is wrong, a sin. Under Biblical law a sin is punishable by death. So, calling a sin a sin *puts it to death* figuratively speaking. Point out that because of grace sin is freely forgiven. When we try to justify a bad decision or action as “not really a sin” we figuratively pull it out from under grace. An example of this could be drinking. It’s not illegal. The Bible even says an occasional fermented drink while on vacation is OK (Duet. 14:26), but getting drunk is not OK.

Summary:

Review the questions and answers quickly. Always ask the kids for prayer request for the next week.