

The Wall

14. Things That Matter Most

Spatial Requirements: Regular classroom setup: little or no space required

Activity Type: Object lesson

Grades: K-12

Group Size: 2 or more

Time: 10-15 minutes

Introduction: The visuals in this activity can be compared to our ability to see over the wall and open the door to opportunity, freedom, and self-respect.

Materials:

- 2 empty bottles or quart jars (Pickles, mayonnaise, salad dressing or canning jars are acceptable.)
- 10 Ping-Pong balls
- Enough dried beans, popcorn, or rice to cover the Ping-Pong balls and fill the jar, approximately 2 cups

Activity:

To set up, place the Ping-Pong balls in one bottle and the beans in the other.

Tell the students that the beans represent the walls/challenges in their life, and the Ping-Pong balls represent those things that are important to be successful. Pour the beans over the Ping-Pong balls and ask, "How do we get the important things in life to the top?" Shake the bottle, and the Ping-Pong balls will rise to the surface.

Processing the Experience:

- What are the beans – or challenges – in your life?
- What are the Ping-Pong balls – or important things – in your life?
- How can you rise above the "beans" and make it to the top?
- What will your life be like if you stay down in the beans?
- How will you feel about yourself when you rise to the top? Why?
- What kind of opportunities are available on top of the wall?