

Sunday 1st August 2021

Who knows what this is?



It's a potato! I love potatoes! Potatoes taste good. They're full of vitamins and minerals that help us stay healthy, and there are many different ways we can cook potatoes.

One of my favourite ways to eat a potato is to bake it. I love baked potatoes. I bake it, split it open, and top it with *baked beans*. *What are your favourite toppings for baked potatoes?*

Who knows what this is?



It's another potato! I love potatoes! Potatoes taste good. They're full of vitamins and minerals that help us stay healthy, and there are many different ways we can cook potatoes.

One of my other favourite ways to eat a potato is to mash it. I peel the potato, boil it in water for twenty minutes, drain off the water, add a little milk and a little butter, and then mash the potatoes. Sometimes I eat mashed potatoes

with gravy and sometimes I eat them plain. How do you like to eat mashed potatoes?

Who knows what this is?



It's another potato! I love potatoes! Potatoes taste good. They're full of vitamins and minerals that help us stay healthy, and there are many different ways we can cook potatoes.

Another way that I like to eat potatoes is to make chips. Now, chips aren't quite as good for me as baked potatoes and mashed potatoes. Hash browns have to be fried in grease or vegetable oil, which adds a little fat to them. But I still like to eat them. Do you like chips?

Do you know what the amount of food you eat at one time is called? It's called a "serving." Probably that name came from the fact that when someone gives you some food, they serve you, but there's another way we could think of it.

Remember the vitamins and minerals that I said are in the potato? We could think of the potato as *serv*ing whoever eats it. It serves you or me by giving us the nutrition that we need. The potato is serving me when I eat it for supper.

How are people like potatoes?

Remember the potato? It serves me by giving me nutrition, but it can do that in many different ways. I could bake it, mash it, fry it, and I can cook the potato in other ways, too. There are many different ways the potato can serve me.

Potatoes serve people, and people serve God. But guess what? There are many different ways that we can serve God. Can you think of any ways that you could serve God? Those ways are all different, but they're all important, and they all ultimately serve God.

Paul, who wrote much of the New Testament, gives us some ideas, too. In today's reading, Ephesians 4:11, he wrote, "*The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers.*" These are just some of the ways that Paul says we can serve God. They're all different and they all ultimately serve God.

Now, how are people **different** than potatoes? There are LOTS of ways we are different than potatoes, but there is another very important way.

Remember the potato? It can only serve **one** person, **one** way, and only **one** time. After I eat a potato, it'll be gone. I can never eat it again. But people aren't like that. Each one of us can serve God many times and in many different ways. In fact, God will probably ask you to serve him different ways at different times in your life. The important things to remember are that:

1. Everyone is able to serve God -- so never think that you can't.
2. God is never "done" with you. God is always able to use you, even when you think you don't have any abilities, even if someday you think you're too old, or too tired. Even if you think you've sinned so badly that God won't ever want to hear from you ever again, he still loves you and will still use you if you let him.

So always be alert for ways that you can serve God and always be listening for God's directions, and then you can serve God - like a potato!

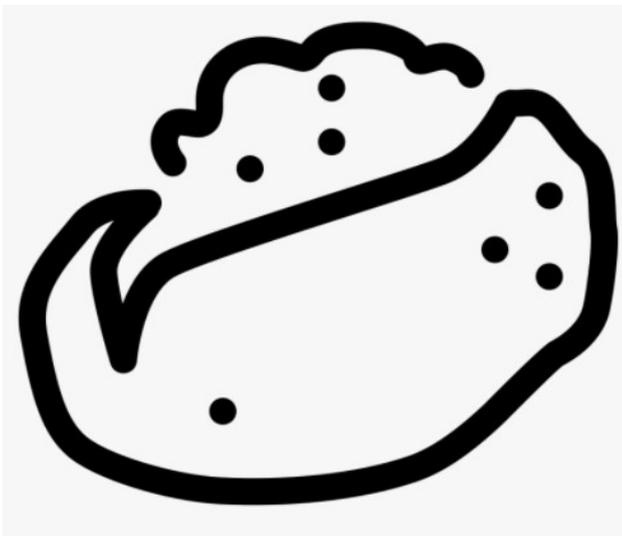
Prayer

Dear Lord,

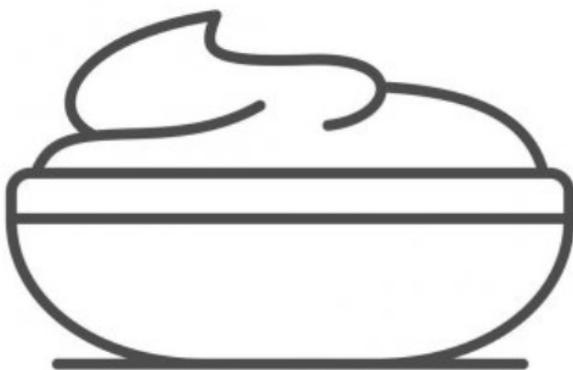
Thank you for this beautiful day, and thank you for making potatoes that give us some of the nutrition we need. Please help us to remember that we can serve you in many different ways and help us to see how you want each of us, as individuals, to serve. Thank you for guiding us.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Here are some pictures of different kinds of potatoes – why not colour them in and label them with different things you can do to serve God?



Baked potato – I can serve God by



Mashed potato - I can serve God by



Chips - I can serve God by

Draw your favourite kind of potatoes here – if you like baked potatoes, you could draw them with all your favourite toppings!