

What's the Point?

***Aim :** This provides a good starting point for evangelistic presentations. It is based on the fact that many people don't feel the "Jesus gap" in their lives. They are getting on quite nicely on their own thank you very much. However, when you stop and think about life, it must be inevitable to ask at times, "what's the point?" especially when we look at the cycle of study, career, retirement, as this piece does.*

Characters :

Mum

Dad

Teenage kid (either gender)

Props/Costumes:

remote control

Hat/baseball cap

Bag of popcorn/crisps

Magazine

Broadsheet newspaper

Scarf/cloth

***Notes :**The piece should be played for comic effect. The parents are obviously middle-class stereotypes (although this should not limit audience possibilities. We used this piece in a local prison and it was enjoyed) and the youngster obviously "Kevin the Teenager-esque).*

As such, the actions of the parents should also be stylized, really forming a series of tableaux to match their words, until they begin to panic and pace later in the sketch.

What's the Point?

Mum is dusting around, while kid is sitting, hat pulled down on head, magazine on lap, remote in hand, staring at a "screen" ahead of them and eating crisps. Having dusted over him, mum suddenly realises he is there.

M) Excuse me, what do you think you are doing?

K) (*Not looking up from his viewing*) (*sarcastic*) Hmm, what do I think I'm doing? That's a tough one.

Dad enters, paper under his arm, clips kid over the head. The parents stand either side of the kid.

D) Don't be so cheeky. You know exactly what your mother means. Where are the books?

M) The essays

D) All those study guides we bought you.

K) (*still staring ahead*) What's the point?

D) The point?

M) The point?

D) What's the point?

M) The point is, you've got a timetable to stick to

D) Your revision timetable

M) The point is you've got exams

D) Important exams

M) Approaching soon

D) Very soon.

K) Oh yeah – that

M) That

D) That

K) What's the point?

D) The point is you need results

M) Good results

K) And . . . ?

M) And . . . (*she indicates to dad to show him*)

D) Then you can get a job (*indicating in paper*)

M) A good job

- D)** A lovely house (*indicating around*)
 - M)** To have your family (*ruffles kid's hair*)
 - D)** Mix with the right sort (*mimes shaking hands with an imaginary person*)
 - M)** Get to know your neighbours (*peers through net curtains*)
 - D)** Join the right clubs (*swings paper as though it was a golf club, and looking into distance shouts "Four"*)
 - M)** And societies (*Mimes drinking tea from cup and saucer*)
 - D)** Get promoted (*miming clinking a champagne glass with someone else and saying "cheers"*)
 - M)** Get noticed (*she gives a little wave and calls "hello"*)
 - D)** Become the best (*mimes shaking hands as though in a business deal*)
 - M)** Become the most popular (*looks abashed as though accepting a compliment*)
 - D)** A leader in business (*tucks paper under arm*)
 - M)** A leader in style (*flicks scarf over shoulder*)
- This next section gets quicker and more urgent as both mum and dad begin to pace across the stage, crossing each other as they go)*
- D)** Of course, this takes work
 - M)** Hard work
 - D)** 8 til 6
 - M)** All day, every day
 - D)** Keeping up with the pressure
 - M)** Keeping up with those Joneses
 - D)** The paperwork
 - M)** The housework
 - D)** Meeting after meeting
 - M)** Never seeing each other
 - D)** Early mornings
 - M)** Late nights
 - D)** Deadline pressures
 - M)** Family worries
 - D)** Day after day
 - M)** Week after week
 - D)** Month in, month out

M) year in, year out

D) Never stopping to remember

M) (*slowing down as she realises what she's saying*) Why you're doing it

Both stop. Slow speech as the realisation strikes home.

D) Still, only another

M) twenty years

D) And then . . .

M) and then . .

Both look weary, slump and sit down either side of the kid. One gets the remote, the other the crisps.

All) What's the point?!