



Let's Reclaim Pumpkins in the Name of Christ & Share the Gospel while we are at it!

Cut off the Top of the Pumpkin

This is an optional opportunity to pray for God to open our minds to learn more about Him and have fun while we are talking about the freedom we have in Christ and how He makes us a new person.

Remind the kids about the conversation in the car and how hard the pumpkin is to cut. How it seems all pretty on the outside, but once you cut into it and look inside the yucky guts are revealed.

Talk about GUTS

The guts symbolize the sin in our lives. It doesn't matter how pretty you are on the outside, everybody has sin. Ask the kids to reach in and scoop out the pumpkin guts. As they do, and they are saying, ew.. yuck! Tell them that is exactly how God views our sin. Some kids actually think the guys are cool... and they want more seeds, right? You can turn that into a talk about how God created the pumpkin to have seeds to make more pumpkins, etc... and how that is cool. But for now let's try to stick to the sin analogy! ok.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" Romans 3:23

Show the kids how difficult it is to get the stringy, clingy, guts off your hands. Sin is just like these guys. It sticks, and hangs onto us, making us feel guilty, like bad habits, and if you don't get it all off, it will start to sting your hands after a while.

"For the wages of sin is death" Romans 6:23

Talk to the kids about how you have to use water to wash it off your hands. Jesus is like that water that cleanses us from our sins. He washes us and purifies us.

"Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow. "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:16-18

Jesus says, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." John 13:8

Making the Pumpkin Clean Inside

Just as we scrape the yucky goo out of the pumpkin to make it clean inside, in the same way, as we tell God we are sorry about lying, unkind words we said or thoughts, and He forgives us for the wrong things we have done. He can make us clean inside. But we have to be careful, not to allow our sin to entangle us, like this stringy pumpkin guts. We need the Body of Christ to help us sometimes. As we confess our sins to one another, our brothers and sisters in Christ, we can help to hold one another accountable and heal... much like how we are helping to clean out the pumpkin. We are the body of Christ... here. {1 Cor. 12:12-26, Eph. 2:19-22}

How can God make us clean?

God sent His only Son, Jesus to die on the cross for our sins, so that the wages of sin, that is death, have already been paid on our behalf.

Romans 6:23 says, *"For the wages of sin is death, BUT the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Carving the Pumpkin

As you are carving the pumpkin, tell the story of Jesus crucifixion. We use different children's bibles that have pictures to help make it more visual for the kids, while another adult is helping doing the carving.

We encourage our children to choose to have either a Christian symbol or a happy smiling face carved into the pumpkins-- shining Jesus light to the world as a sign of being a new creation with joy in the hearts. This always provides an opportunity for one on one teaching with at least one child who, like our culture, is attracted to darkness. We all have that temptation within us and what a better time to talk it out with your child. Teach them about the darkness and sin nature in our hearts and that we should want to play joy filled, because our play is practice for the future. Parents this takes time, these are opportunities for deep good discussions and discipling. Engage these talks!

Candle Lighting

After you are done carving the pumpkins, get the candles inside the pumpkins and get your lighters or matches ready! Shut off all the lights and teach the kids that just before Jesus died on the cross there was darkness everywhere. Linger in silence for a minute. Then light the candles.

"And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour." Mark 15:33

You are the Light

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16, ESV

"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39, ESV