

Halloween @Home

PUMPKIN PARABLE

Best Use

As an activity tied to the Halloween season

Advance Preparation

Make sure you have the following on hand:

- A large pumpkin and carving utensils
- A small candle and matches
- A Bible

Family Activity

Follow these steps for a great experience:

1. Conduct a typical pumpkin carving activity, but use each step as part of the overall “pumpkin parable” by adding Bible reading and questions.
2. First, have the children help with the clean out portion of the carving—reaching their hand into the open pumpkin to pull out seeds and other “gunk” that will feel yucky to their hands.
3. Pause to read Matthew 23:25–28 and ask the children how the inside “gunk” is like our sin (yucky, smelly, etc.).

4. Once you have cleaned out the pumpkin, read 1 John 1:9 together and explain that confessing our sins enables God to take away the “yuck” of our sinful hearts.
5. Now, draw and carve a happy face (not a scary face) on the pumpkin. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 and/or Ephesians 2:10 and explain that Jesus wants to make us into a “new creation”—just as the pumpkin filled with yuck became a jack-o-lantern with a joy-filled face.
6. Now, read Matthew 5:14-16 while lighting and inserting a candle into the jack-o-lantern and turn down the lights to show how God wants to use us to shine His light, even on what can be a dark and scary night.
7. Memorize the jingle—“On a dark night, we will shine Jesus’ light!”