



Let's Reclaim Pumpkins in the Name of Christ

Cut off the Top of the Pumpkin

Before you cut the top off the pumpkin, take time to pray with your kiddos!

Here are some prayer ideas:

- For God to open their minds to learn more about Him
- For safety as you cut the pumpkins together and have fun while talking about the freedom we have in Christ and how He makes us a new person.
- Acknowledge in prayer that God is the creator of pumpkins
- How thankful we are for the food he gives us to eat and how pumpkins remind of the harvest time and how God is the one who gives the increase and abundance
- Pray that your pumpkins would be a light to the neighborhood

Remind the kids about 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 {Kids love this part}

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.

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

Show the kids how difficult it is to get the stringy, clingy, guts off your hands.

Sin is just like the guts. It sticks and hangs onto us, kind of like how bad habits work or how sin can make us feel guilty! Talk about how your skin can stain orange from some pumpkin guts and how it stings on your skin after a while if you don't get it all off.

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

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.**

Isaiah 1:16-18 says,

“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.”

And in John 13:8 Jesus says, *“Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”*

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 we have had, He forgives us completely and makes 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 Corinthians 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 {cross/fish} 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 object lesson 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 God cares about our character and we should too. Because our ***play is practice for the future, it is important that we choose to stand firm and seek after righteousness in all things.*** Parents this takes time... these are those 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 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

Pray

God, thank you for loving us that much that you would send your only Son to come to earth, to be persecuted, to serve, and die for us so that we might be able to go to Heaven and be with you one day. Help us, by the power of your Holy Spirit, to be a light in this dark world. Help us to be lights that shine brightly bringing joy to others, as ambassadors for you, especially on this night.

Thank you for rising up men and women who love you Lord, today and throughout the ages. We especially thank you for the work you did in Martin Luther’s heart to lead him to write and nail the 95 Theses on the door of the Catholic Church. We celebrate the freedom we have because of your Son Jesus and the work He has done and continues to do in the church today. May we see a new revival in your church Lord. May you continue to rise up leaders to speak and teach your truth. Amen.