

Faith-Filled HOLIDAYS

Autumn PUMPKIN PARABLE

BEST USE

As an activity tied to the Autumn season

SPIRITUAL VALUE

Uses a fun fall activity to emphasize that Jesus is the light of the world.

ADVANCE PREPARATION

Make sure you have the following on hand:

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

HOW TO

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 the Bible reading and questions in steps 2 through 6 below.
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 **Isaiah 64:6** and **Romans 3:23** and ask the children how the inside “gunk” is like our sin (yucky, smelly, etc.).
4. Once you have cleaned out the pumpkin, read **I 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 cross on the pumpkin. Then read **II Corinthians 5:17** and **Ephesians 2:10** and explain that Jesus wants to make us into a “new creation”. Read these two scriptures that emphasize the power of what Jesus did for us on the cross: **John 3:16** and **Romans 5:8**
6. Now read **Matthew 5:14–16** while lighting and inserting a candle into the pumpkin and turn down the lights to show how God’s light shines bright in a dark world.
7. Memorize **Matthew 5:16** *“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.”*

GOING FURTHER RESOURCE

Use the recommended resource to become even more intentional about Faith@Home this fall.

The Pumpkin Patch Parable

A story of how you can turn a simple pumpkin into a glorious sight. Available from HomeLife (while supplies last) or from **amazon.com**.