

Pumpkin Gospel - Engage Week

Preparations:

You will need a medium sized, prepared pumpkin. To prepare the pumpkin:

- cut out a hole in the top and clean out the majority of the goo, but save it.
- Next, cut out a face with eyes, nose and a smiling mouth, but save the pieces you remove.
- Then, put the removed pieces back into place so that the pumpkin looks uncut.
- Then, put the rest of the gooey seeds and pulp back in the middle of the pumpkin and replace the top.



The idea is to have the majority of the work done ahead of time so that you don't have long pauses in your story. You will also need a cookie sheet or tablecloth to contain the pumpkin mess during your story, and a battery operated candle for the light.

Pumpkin Gospel Story:

There was a Gardener who planted seeds in His garden (show pumpkin seeds). Each day the Gardener cared for the seeds. He watered them, pulled weeds from around them, and sheltered them from the heat of the sun. The seeds grew into seedlings, which developed into plants, until one day, they produced fruit – pumpkins! The pleased Gardener looked out at His garden and said, “It is good!”

- We are like pumpkins and God is the Gardener. God creates us and cares for us. He “chooses” us from all of the other pumpkins, but inside we all have the yucky goo – sin.

Open the pumpkin and grab a handful of the gooey seeds.

(Read Rom. 3:23 “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” and Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”)

- Just like a Gardener cleaned out his pumpkin's goo, God wants to clean out all our sin, too. So, He sent his Son Jesus to die for our sins, to take the punishment we deserved.

Clean out the gooey seeds.

(Read Rom. 5:8 “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”, John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”, and 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”)

- Just like a Gardener gives the pumpkin a new face, God makes us a new creation!

Take out the eyes, nose and mouth that you cut out ahead of time.

(Read 2 Cor. 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”)

- Just like a Gardener put his light into the pumpkin to make it shine, so God gives us His light to shine through us!

Turn on the battery operated candle and place it inside.

(Read 2 Cor. 4:6 “For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,”^[a] made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.” and Mt. 5:16 “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”)

So, when we let God clean out our sin, by believing that Jesus died to pay the punishment that we deserve, He turns us into new creations that can shine for Him! And when others see our light, then they might want to learn how to have a light of their own, too!

