



Fall

FAMILY EVENTS



PUMPKIN CARVING

**SUGGESTED AGE RANGE:
WHOLE FAMILY**



eastbrook
KIDS

PUMPKIN CARVING

SUGGESTED AGE RANGE: WHOLE FAMILY

Use a traditional Halloween activity as an opportunity to remember God's work in us through Jesus. This activity works for a single family or multiple families.

BIBLE THEME: *New Creations in Jesus*

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Materials:

- Pumpkin
- Bible
- Bowl to put the goop in
- Pumpkin carving tools
- Candle/light

Prep ahead of time:

This object lesson will go much more smoothly with a little prep. Cut out eyes, nose, ears and smiling mouth. Cut a hole in the top of the pumpkin and scoop out half of the goop. Put the goop and the eye, nose and mouth pieces back in. When you start your devotional, point the carved portion of the pumpkin away from your kids.

Mark these Scripture references in your Bible so that as you pass around the Bible, children will more easily locate the verses and read them aloud:

- Ephesians 2:10
- Romans 3:23
- 1 John 1:9
- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Matthew 5:14-16

Say:

| *We're going to use this pumpkin to think about a truth that God shares with us in the Bible. Just like I picked this pumpkin, God chooses us to be a part of His kingdom.*

Read aloud: Ephesians 2:10 – For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Just like me, this pumpkin looks pretty good on the outside, but there is a lot of yucky stuff to take out on the inside.

Read aloud: Romans 3:23 – for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Hold up a handful of the goop.

Say:

| *When I confess my sins to Jesus, he is faithful to forgive me and clean out that bad stuff.*

Read aloud: 1 John 1:9 – If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Scoop out the seeds and goop.

Say:

| *This is wonderful, but Jesus does more! Through the work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus makes me a new creation to love God and love others with God's perfect love.*

Read aloud: 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Remove the cut pieces and turn the pumpkin around to face the children.

Say:

| *By living in me and through me, Jesus shines His light into the dark world.*

Read aloud: Matthew 5:14-16 – You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Light a candle and place it in the pumpkin.

Discussion Questions for Children and Parents:

- What does it mean to be a new creation? How do we become new creations?
- What ways do you want to see God make you a new creation?
- What are ways that you see God's work making you a new creation? What ways do you see God's work in your family?
- If I put the cut pieces back in, I will block the light. Are there ways we can block the light of Jesus?

This object lesson has been adapted from the Everyday Graces Homeschool blog:

laramolettieri.com/the-pumpkin-gospel/

Bible Memory: 2 Corinthians 5:17 – "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

PRAYER PROMPT: Pumpkin Prayer

Point to the pumpkin from the object lesson as you pray this prayer.

Father God,

I'm so glad that you want me to be a part of your kingdom. Thank you for forgiving me from my sin and making me new.

I'm sorry for the times I've spoken unkind and untrue words. Give me a mouth that speaks with love and truth.

I'm sorry for the times I've looked out only for myself. Give me eyes to notice the needs of people around me.

I'm sorry for the times I've disobeyed you. Create in me a mind that loves Your word and Your ways.

Thank you for putting your light in me, Jesus. I pray that others would know how wonderful you are.

Amen

CRAFT: Pumpkin Carving

Supplies:

- 1 Pumpkin for each child
- Pumpkin Carving tools
- Spoons
- Newspaper
- Permanent Markers
- Scrap Paper/Pencils
- Worship music to play while sketching/carving

This year, let's carve pumpkins that remind us that we are God's new creations through Jesus. You can carve a pumpkin that represents you with the light of Christ shining in you. For instance, you could carve your first initial, or you could carve a smiling face.

Or, you can carve a pumpkin that represents where you can share the light of Christ. This could be a school bus, or a baseball or baseball field, or houses in your neighborhood.

Hand out scrap paper and pencils to sketch out their ideas. Depending on your family's experience with carving and ages, you may want to encourage simple sketches. When they are ready, give them markers to draw their sketch on the pumpkin. Young children can draw on their pumpkins and help parents scoop out seeds and carve. Use your discretion as to whether your older child is ready to carve on their own. Pumpkin carving safety tips can be found at blog.mercydesmoines.org/halloween-safety-infographics/.

After the pumpkins are carved and lit, ask each child to share with you about their pumpkin. Listen attentively as they share about their ideas.



GAME: *Glow Stick Necklace Pumpkin Ring Toss*

Materials:

- Glow stick necklaces
- Pumpkin with a tall stem

Play in a place where it will be dark to increase interest. Divide your family(ies) into teams. Place the pumpkin in the playing area and place a glow stick necklace around the stem to mark where the pumpkin is. Decide where each team member should throw the ring and mark the spots. Team members take turns throwing the glow stick ring. Rings leaning on or touching a pumpkin count as one point. A ring around the stem counts as 2 points. The first team to 21 points, wins!

Have younger children stand closer to the pumpkins.

Have older children stand farther from the pumpkins.

COOKING WITH KIDS: *Roasted Pumpkin Seeds*

Ingredients:

- Seeds from 2 large pumpkins
- ½ teaspoon Lawry's Seasoned Salt
- ½ tablespoon olive oil
- Dash of salt

1. Scrape out and remove seeds from your two pumpkins. Put the seeds on a plastic tablecloth or in bowls.
2. What kids can do: Have kids help pick the seeds out of the goop. Wash and clean your seeds from your pumpkin, making sure you remove any unwanted pumpkin rinds or deformed seeds. Wash in a colander and once again remove any unwanted items.

3. Soak the clean seeds in a bowl full of water for 1/2 hour on the kitchen counter or overnight in the refrigerator. Drain the seeds, discarding the water.
4. Fill a pot with water and a dash of salt (enough water so that it will cover the seeds). Bring the water to a boil. Place seeds into the boiling water and boil gently for about 10 minutes.
5. Turn off the heat and drain the seeds and place back into your empty bowl. Toss seeds with olive oil. Lay out seeds in a thin layer onto a cookie sheet.
6. What kids can do: Invite kids to help sprinkle with Lawry's Seasoned Salt.
7. Place in a preheated, 350-degree oven. Turn the seeds over about every 10 minutes, making sure they are not burning. Seeds are done after about 40 minutes or when they become firm. You do not want dark spots on your seeds, you want them to be a darker yellow.
8. Season with additional salt if desired. Remove from oven and allow to cool. Place into a clean mason jar or another food-safe storage container. Enjoy!

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This recipe has been adapted from the Home Cooking Memories blog:
homecookingmemories.com/perfect-pumpkin-seeds/

Find more Fall Family Resources online at eastbrook.org/kidsresources