

## THE COLORS OF FALL

(\*This is an object lesson so try to bring leaves, whether fake, real or printed off from the computer, with the colors of red, orange, yellow, purple and brown)

-What do you like about the Fall Season? (...)

-What did you do as a child in the Fall? Rake leaves? Bonfires? Hayrides?(...)

-What are your favorite colors of Fall Leaves and why?(...)

-Many people are drawn to fall colors and that's why many go to the mountains during this time of year. Fall colors are warm, vibrant, extraordinarily rich, and energetic.

-Today, we are going to use the color of Fall leaves as a metaphor of how we can be warm, rich and energetic in sharing the love of Christ with others.

-Just as people are drawn to the mountains because of the beautiful colors of the leaves, we as believers in Christ should also give off a beautiful color of His love and kindness to draw people to Him.

-What are some ways we can draw people to Jesus? (...)

-Today I want us to talk about the colors of Fall and what they mean to us through our relationship with Christ and how that can draw people to Him.

-I brought several leaves with the colors of Fall in them to help us understand this better. (Bring out the leaves.)

-How many love the color of red leaves in the Fall? (Hold up a red leaf or a branch with red leaves on it.) (...)

-There's just something beautiful about trees that are full of red leaves glistening in the sun. It's just extraordinary. They stick out and you notice them.

-That is the kind of love we should have for the world, the kind that sticks out and is noticeable.

-Scientists have done studies on colors and have learned that colors make you feel certain feelings. When you see this color Red, what feelings can this color make a person feel? (Warmth, love, energy, hunger)

-According to the Color Chart and their meanings, Red is the color of fire and blood, so it is associated with energy, war, danger, strength, power, determination, as well as the most famous - love.

-When you think of these meanings for the color red, Who has shown us the greatest strength, power and love in all of history? (God through His Son, Jesus!)

-Let's read together what God's word says about this in verse #1 on our verse sheet: (John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.")

-So how much did God love us? (He gave us His only Son, Jesus)

-Did Jesus willingly go to the cross when God sent Him? (Yes)

-Christ's own love for us was so great, so full of strength and power, that He willingly gave His life for us when the Father asked Him.

-So, when we see Red leaves this fall, let it remind us of His great love and passion for us.

-What feelings can the color Orange make you think of? (Hold up a leaf or branch with orange in it.) (...)

- According to the Color Chart, the color Orange means thoughtfulness and sincerity.
- As Christians, we should be thoughtful and sincere to others around us. We should be that warm inviting person that cares about others.
- What are some ways we can do this? (ask how they are doing, offer to pray for them, offer to help them if they have a need, bring someone a loaf of bread or cookies and an encouraging word, etc.)
  
- What are some ways that God shows His color Orange to us, His thoughtfulness for us each day? (providing food, clothing, shelter, and His Word/the Bible for encouragement, etc.)
  
- Let's read together verse #2 to hear what God's Word says: (Psalm 68:19 "Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits, The God of our salvation! Selah.")
- So according to this verse, what does God do for us daily? (He loads us with benefits! What a way to look at our days!)
- We just named some of those benefits earlier, but the greatest one is at the end of this verse, what is it? (Salvation)
- What greater benefit is there than salvation!
  
- Now another color of Fall leaves is Yellow. (Hold up a leaf or branch with yellow in it.)
- What emotions does the color yellow make you feel? (Cheerful, happy, etc.)
- Yellow means happiness, remembering happy times. Yellow conjures up joy and cheerfulness.
  
- How can knowing Christ make you joyful or cheerful? (Just knowing He is there every moment of everyday walking with us through life can give us joy, strength, comfort and peace.)
- How can this attitude of joy in Christ amidst difficult circumstances attract others to know Him as they watch you? (When we are trusting in Him in all things in our situation, having the joy and peace in our hearts because of Who He is and Who we are to Him, others see that and usually want to know how you have that.)
  
- Let's read verse #3 together to see what it has to say about this. This verse was written by Nehemiah after the remnant of Jews were allowed to go back to Jerusalem to rebuild God's temple and their city after decades of captivity and slavery. Let's read it together: (Nehemiah 8:10 "Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'")
  
- What does that mean that "the joy of the Lord is your strength?" (There is joy in knowing God our Savior! And when we know Him, we find joy and strength to carry on in our situation. The joy of the Lord becomes your strength when you trust God that He is there and has a plan for you. No matter how bad things can get, the joy of the Lord will be forever our hope and strength.)
  
- So when you see the color yellow, thank God for the Joy of knowing Him and His Son, Jesus our Savior. Knowing Him gives us joy and strength in our journeys here on earth and let us share that with others.
  
- Now, the next color we are going to talk about is the color Purple. What do you think the color Purple might mean? Hint: think of royalty! (Power, wisdom, etc.)
- Purple is associated with royalty. It symbolizes power, nobility and wisdom. Most of the royal robes kings and queens wore were made of purple.
  
- Now that we know the color purple represents royalty and wisdom, Who do you think is the most wisest and royal of all? (God)
- Give me some examples of God's wisdom? (all creation, His Word, etc....)

**-There is a verse in Jeremiah that talks about God's wisdom. Let's look at it together and read #4 our Verse Sheet:** (Jeremiah 10:12 "But *God* made the earth by His power; *He* founded the world by His wisdom and stretched out the heavens by His understanding.")

**-According to this verse, what did He do?** (He made the earth by *His* power, He created the world with *His* wisdom and the heavens with *His* understanding.)

**-Knowing all that we know about the world, the stars, the planets, the galaxies and all that is beyond them, do you think we as humans could ever have come up with all of this? (...)**

**-What about the human form, our bodies and spirits that are so intricately designed and distinctly unique from each other, could we have come up with this? (...)**

**-Do you think we could ever have been wise enough to come up with any of this without ever seeing a pattern? (...)**

**-God is Wise! He created this beautiful world we live in and He created you and me.**

**-Our next verse shares this thought that He created you and me. It's from Psalm 139. Let's read it together, #5 on our Verse Sheet:** (Psalm 139:13 "For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb.)

**-What does it mean "He created our inmost being?"** (He created our deepest parts, what makes us who we are, our spirit. Then He wrapped it with the most intricate and delicate organs all the way out to the skin that protects us and the features that uniquely define us. Through each step, He is in control, orchestrating it all. He has been with us before we ever knew we existed and then beyond. He is so eternally connected to us that it is no wonder we long for love, affection and appreciation. But it is really His love and affection we need and we will always strive for it until we go back to the Source, which is Him. No person can see us the way our Creator sees us.)

**-Knowing He is wise, and He created you this way, what does this say about His plan for you here today?** (That in His wisdom, He has a plan and a purpose for you even now, whether you can see it or not. If He were done with you, you would be home with Him in heaven. But, obviously He isn't done with anyone of us here today because we are still here!)

**-Let's read verse #6 together to hear what the Lord has to say about this:** (Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.")

**-Isn't that so encouraging? He has plans to give us hope and a future! Hope because He is with us and able to do all things for us and a future that will always include Him! That in itself is worth praising Him for when there may be nothing else praiseworthy in our lives at the moment! Let us encourage others in this as well.**

**-Now, let's look at this leaf.** (Hold up a brown leaf or stem with brown leaves on it.)

**-To some, it may seem like a dull color. But think about this, if we didn't have all the brown in the midst of the bright fall colors, their colors may not seem so vibrant. Brown accents the rich colors of red, orange, yellow and purple.**

**-What feelings can the color brown make you feel?** (comfy, stable, etc.)

**-Brown actually represents stability and it anchors all those other beautiful colors of fall. It is the same with Christ, who is our anchor. He anchors our heart in Him so that we may live our lives in full color for the world to see how much He loves us and loves them. It all comes out in our actions and behavior towards others.**

**-Let's read our last verse together, verse #7:** (Colossians 2:6-7 "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him: *Rooted* and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, *abounding therein with thanksgiving.*")

**-Since we are rooted or "anchored" and built up by Christ, we should abound with thanksgiving for all He has done for us and is still doing.**

**-What are some examples of abounding in thanksgiving in our lives? (...)**

**-How can that "abounding in thanksgiving" be an encouragement to others? (...)**

**-How can it draw others to want to know Christ as their own anchor? (...)**

**-So when we see the color of brown, let it remind us of how Christ is the anchor of our souls and to share that with others by having an attitude of abounding thankfulness.**

**-So, when you see the colors of Fall this year, as you look at each one, try to remember all that God has done for you through His great love, thoughtfulness, joy, strength and power and the anchor of His Son for you. Even if there may not seem to be a lot to thank Him for at the present in your mind, there always is the greatest thing and that is He loved you enough to create you because He delights in knowing you.**

**-You are His masterpiece, one He tenderly created with a purpose. And the best purpose we can use for His glory is to share that same kind of love to others that we meet everyday.**

**-Let's be God's colors of Fall to the world around us today!**

## The Colors Of Fall Verses

- 1. John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
- 2. Psalm 68:19** Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits, The God of our salvation! Selah
- 3. Nehemiah 8:10** Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, *for the joy of the LORD is your strength.*"
- 4. Jeremiah 10:12** "But God made the earth by *His power*; He founded the world by *His wisdom* and stretched out the heavens by *His understanding.*"
- 5. Psalm 139:13** "For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 6. Jeremiah 29:11** For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
- 7. Colossians 2:6-7** As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him: *Rooted* and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, *abounding therein with thanksgiving.*