

## **THE PUMPKIN LESSON**

(This is an object lesson. You will need a pumpkin with the top, eyes, nose and mouth already cut out, as well as the inside already scraped out. Keep some of the seeds and put them back in as well as the top, eyes, noses and mouth. You will also need a cloth to “wipe” off the dirt and a candle and a lighter for later.)

**-Today we are going to look at a pumpkin to help us understand how God carves things out of our lives to make us a light to the world all around us. Just as God created this pumpkin for a purpose, He also created each one of us with one as well.**

**-First off, let’s talk about the color. What color is it? (Orange)**

**-Did you know that God created colors for us to enjoy but there is also meaning to the colors He created? Colors make us feel certain emotions when we look at them.**

**-Let’s talk about a few.**

**-When we see the color Blue, how can it make you feel? (cool or cold, etc.)**

**-How can the color Red make you feel? (warm or hot or hungry?)**

**-How can the color Yellow make you feel? (happy, etc.)**

**-As we look at the pumpkin and see the color orange that God created it to be, what do you think the color orange might mean or make you feel? (...)**

**-Orange is actually the color of fall and harvest. It is symbolic of strength and endurance.**

**-We would like to think we are naturally strong and enduring, but we all know that this does not come naturally. It is a process that is perfected throughout our lives.**

**-We are going to use this pumpkin to explain that today.**

**-First, let’s imagine this pumpkin is you. Now, if you were a baby pumpkin, where would you be growing? (A garden or pumpkin patch)**

**-Can there be lots of other pumpkins in the garden or pumpkin patch? (Yes!)**

**-Have you ever gone to a pumpkin farm or patch and walked through looking at each one, studying it’s characteristics?(...)**

**-Are they all exactly the same or do they each have their own individual look?**

**(Individual)**

**-Much like we do as well! As humans, we all look different, we have different physical features, we have different personalities and we have different characteristics. God created each of us uniquely different just as He did the pumpkins.**

**-Have you ever gone to a pumpkin farm or pumpkin patch and picked one out for yourself? Maybe to carve it, make a pumpkin pie or just sit it around your house somewhere? (...)**

**-This is similar to what God does to all of us. We all start out like a bunch of pumpkins in this pumpkin patch we will call the world. We are out in this pumpkin patch of life, sunning ourselves with the worldly pleasures of sin that just seem to burn us sometimes, much like the sun, and then God walks through that garden and calls out, asking us if we want to belong to Him and picks us up.**

**-Let's read our first verse together on our Verse Sheet that talks about this:** (II Peter 1:10 "...brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you.")

**-What do you think this verse is telling us?** (He is calling us and choosing us out of this worldly patch of life because of His great love!)

**-Let's read our second verse together from our Verse sheet:** (Galatians 1:15 "...for even before I was born God had chosen me to be His – and called me – *what kindness and grace.*")

**-What does this verse tell us about God's character?** (He is full of kindness and grace!)

**-So here we are, this dirty, sinful little pumpkin in this "sinful pumpkin patch called life" and God comes down calling us out of it. Out of His kindness and grace He sent His Son Jesus to cover all of our sin and all we have to do is turn to Him.**

**-Let's read our next set of verses to see how simple it is, #3 on our verse sheet:** (Romans 3:23, 1 John 1:9, John 3:16, Romans 10:9 "For *all* have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... If *we* confess our sins, *He is* faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness...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...If *you* declare with your mouth, '*Jesus is Lord,*' and *believe* in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.")

**-Simply put, if we truly humble ourselves from our hearts and confess our sins and believe Jesus did what He did for us and call Him "Lord", He forgives us and we are saved. It is faith and faith alone that saves.**

**-So, when we say "yes" to God's calling us out of this "worldly garden of sin" and give our lives to Him, He picks us up out of the garden and gently washes away the dirt.** (Take a cloth and wipe off the dirt on the pumpkin.)

**-Even though He cleans the outside first, as we grow as new believers, there is more to be done! You see, dirt was not the only thing we brought with us from the garden of sin. Some of what we brought back requires surgery and that can hurt.** {Take a knife and pretend to cut out the top, which should already be cut out earlier to make the lesson run smoother. Lift off the top.}

**-While we were out there in the garden of this world, things began to grow inside of us.** {Take some seeds out to show.}

**-What are these?** (Seeds)

**-We're going to let these seeds represent some bad attitudes that can grow in our heart while we were out in the world of sin and may still be in us today. Can anyone name some of those attitudes?** (Anger, Jealousy, Bitterness, Pride, Envy, etc.)

**-Sometimes others are not fair to us: Let's take out the seeds of bitterness!** {Take some seeds out!}

**-Sometimes others let us down or hurt our feelings: Let's take out the seeds of self-pity, rejection and anger.** {Take some seeds out!}

**-Sometimes we want to get even with those who hurt us or we may be angry with them and show it! Let's take out the seeds of unforgiveness and retaliation. {Take some seeds out!}**

**-Yes! All this cleaning up in our lives can hurt a bit. But if we won't let God clean it all out, our lives can get infected! Much like a pumpkin can rot from the inside out with bad seeds, so can we with seeds of bitterness, anger and unforgiveness.**

**-What can we look like to others on the outside when we let those seeds fester on the inside? (...)**

**-Have you ever seen a bitter person? They seem to look physically hard on the outside. Hard, like the outside of this pumpkin! {Tap on the pumpkin's shell.}**

**-When Christians won't let God clean out all the junk from the pumpkin patch of life, they become very miserable and spiritually dead, spreading that to others.**

**-You see, God knows He has to scoop out the painful things in our lives to help make us new on the inside, so we can shine from the inside out so others can see the love of Jesus.**

**-Let's read our next verse together, vs. #4 on our Verse Sheet: (I Cor. 5:17 "Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things are passed away, behold *new things have come.*)**

**-He takes out the old and puts in the new! What is the new that God puts in us when we become a believer? (His Holy Spirit)**

**-Let's read our next verse that shares this promise to us, #5 on our Verse Sheet: (I John 4:13 "This is how we know that we live in Him and He in us: He has given us of His [Holy] Spirit.")**

**-So He takes out the old and puts in the new, His Holy Spirit. {Put in an unlit candle.}**

**-Can anyone share with us what the Holy Spirit does for us? (...)**

**-Verse #6 on our Verse Sheet shares this with us. Let us read it together: (John 16:13a "But when He, the Spirit of Truth [the Holy Spirit] comes, He will *guide you into all truth...*)**

**-He guides us, like a light, to know the truths of God. He lights our way to understand God's ways and truths as we read His Words and study it. {light the candle inside the pumpkin}**

**-Now, when we are clean on the inside and our hearts are right with God because we are studying His Word, we begin to understand what matters to Him!**

**-As we look around in this world we live...**

**-{pull out the precut eyes}**

**-...who do you think we see everyday that matters to Him? (You, me and everyone around us!)**

**-In God's eyes, everyone is precious to Him because He made them. And as we study His Word, we begin to see that too.**

**-Now that we are full of His light and understanding, and we can see with His eyes what truly matters, what should we say to those we see every day? {remove precut mouth} (God loves you and cares about you, you are beautifully and wonderfully made by Him, etc.)**

**-Let's read our next verse to help us with this, vs. #7:** (Psalm 19:14 “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be *pleasing* in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.”)

**-So what should the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be?**  
(pleasing to God)

**-How many of you love the pleasing smell of roses, honeysuckles or jasmine over the spring and summer seasons? (...)**

**-Their smell is intoxicating and draws you to them.** {Pull out the precut nose.}

**-When our words are pleasing and encouraging to others, then we become like a pleasing aroma/smell to those around us that can draw them to us and hopefully to Jesus.**

**-You see, God has a plan for each and every one of us here today. If He didn't, we wouldn't be here on this earth.**

**-I know His plan for each of us is to let the beauty of Jesus shine through us so others may see Him. We are a light that shines in this dark world for the glory of His name.**

**-Let's read our last verse together, vs. #8:** (Matthew 5:14-16 “*You are the light* of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. *Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.* In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”)

**-What is this verse saying we are to the world?** (A light.)

**-What does that mean to you and I today, where we are at and whatever situation we are in? (...)**

**-My encouragement for us today is to let our light shine to all those we meet, so they may see our heavenly Father and be encouraged to know Him!**

## “THE PUMPKIN LESSON” VERSE SHEET

1. II Peter 1:10 “...brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you.”
2. Galatians 1:15 “...for even before I was born God had chosen me to be His – and called me – *what kindness and grace.*”
3. Romans 3:23, 1 John 1:9, John 3:16, Romans 10:9 “For *all* have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... If *we* confess our sins, *He is* faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness...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...If *you* declare with your mouth, ‘*Jesus is Lord,*’ and *believe* in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”
4. I Cor. 5:17 “Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things are passed away, behold *new things have come.*”
5. I John 4:13 “This is how we know that we live in Him and He in us: He has given us of His [Holy] Spirit.”
6. John 16:13a “But when He, the Spirit of Truth [the Holy Spirit] comes, He will *guide you into all truth...*”
7. Psalm 19:14 “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be *pleasing* in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.”
8. Matthew 5:14-16 “*You are the light* of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, *and it gives light to everyone in the house.* In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”