

Pumpkin Carving Devotion/Lesson
(Use while carving a pumpkin)

This devotion may have to be tweaked to fit your particular situation. When I wrote it, we had just returned from a trip to a corn maze where each child selected their own pumpkin. If you have only one pumpkin then simply tweak the questions to fit your situation.

It is a good idea to have someone else carving the pumpkin while you are talking/teaching.

Give each person a piece of paper and a pencil.

Set up tables with table cloths, pans to dump the seeds and gunk into, carving tools, tools to scoop out the seeds. A tea light for each person, a lighter.

- 1. Look at your pumpkin with a critical eye. Write down all the things that make your pumpkin imperfect.**
- 2. Now look at your pumpkin the way that God would look at your pumpkin and write down things that make it beautiful (Note, when you picked out your pumpkins yesterday, what made you pick them?)**

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

God does not judge us on how we look on the outside...He judges us by what we look like on the inside...He looks at our hearts.

Cut off the top of the pumpkin

While Paul was serving as a missionary....he visited churches and taught the people how God wanted them to live...he would encouraged them, he would preach to them and he would pray over them. And then he would head off to the next church.

Paul wasn't able to visit the churches very often so many times he would write them letters...to encourage them.

Ephesians 1:18 tells us about one of these times:

Paul said this: I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand... with the confident hope he has given to all of you...His holy people who are HIS rich and glorious inheritance.

Now Paul wasn't talking to non-believers here...he was talking to believers. He prayed that God would flood their hearts....our hearts... with light...and that God would help them...help us... to understand...that they...that we... are precious to God.

And if you think about it...If God gave His one and ONLY son to die for them...to die for me....to die for you...don't you think that we are precious...beyond words...to God?

Did you know that God wants to know you...he wants to know me....He wants a friend to friend relationship with each of us.

So as we are removing the top of our little pumpkins, Let's pray: Lord, open my mind so that I can learn new things about You.

Pumpkin Guts

Look at all this gunk in the way...how are we ever going to get a light inside our pumpkin if there is so much gunk in the way?

Do you know what I think of when I see all of this gunk inside this little pumpkin?

I think about SIN!

You know before we asked Jesus into our hearts...our hearts looked just like this...all slimy and gross and filled with SIN?

And because of that SIN...we are separated from God...when we had all that SIN in our hearts...there is no room for Jesus.

Sooo...let me ask you this....if our hearts are filled with sin...how can Jesus live inside of our hearts? He can't...we have to get rid of the sin...we have to make room for Jesus.

But how do we do that?

It's really very simple...

We have to admit that we are sinners and we have to ask God to forgive us of our sins.

We have to believe that Jesus is God's one and only son and that He came to earth and died upon the cross to pay the price for our sin.

We have to ask Jesus to be our Lord and Savior and to come live inside our heart.

**And then God will remove all the sin from our hearts...all the gunk...all the
Slime...all the Goo...and guess what?
There is now room for Jesus to live inside of our heart!**

**1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to CLEANSE us from all unrighteousness.
Let's pray: God remove the things in my life that don't please you. Forgive the
wrong things I do and help me to forgive others. AMEN**

**And don't forget, if you have NEVER prayed for God's forgivenessif you have
never asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins...and to come into your heart and
be your Lord and Savior...then you need to listen for God's calling...His
prompting...His nudging...His little small voice...calling to you.
And if you hear God calling...don't put it off...pray and ask God to forgive you
and to come into your heart.**

Eyes

**Matthew 6:22 - "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your
whole body will be full of LIGHT.**

**Talk about the importance of the things we look at, the things we see....TV,
Video Games, Books, Magazines, Internet, Pictures, etc. (You may want to list a
couple of things and then ask the children for more ideas).**

**Psalm 101:3 : I will NOT set before MY EYES ANYTHING that is worthless. I hate
the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me.**

**Let's pray – Lord, Guard what my eyes see and help me to see others through
your eyes and not my own.**

Nose:

**Another one of the letters that Paul wrote to the church was this
"Do NOTHING from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let
each of you regard one another as more important than himself."**

Talk about putting others first

**God
Others
Self**

Talk about being humble, minding your own business...and not being nose

Pray – Help me Lord, to always put others ahead of myself. Help me to concentrate on my own life and to keep my NOSE out of everyone else’s affairs.

Mouth

Did you know that there are at least 81 references to the tongue in the Bible...

James 3:8 ESV - But no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

James 3:5 - So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!

Proverbs 21:23

Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.

Proverbs 15:4 - A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

Proverbs 12:18 - Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.

Talk about the tongue...Boasting, tearing others down, lies,

In Psalm 19:14 David said “Let the Words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, Oh Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.

Ear

Ear: The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the Lord has made them both.

**Talk about the things that the children listen to.
Gossip, Lies, Bad things on TV or radio, Bad music.**

Candle

Talk about accepting Jesus....sin is gone...light of Jesus shines forth for all to see and to glorify God.

John 8:12 Then spoke Jesus again to them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Matthew 5:14 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

John 1:5 And the light shines in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Lord, help me show your light to others through the things I do.

**Pumpkins are full of goop and gunk when we first open them.
In order to use a pumpkin, we have to clean them out.**

**When we accept Jesus, he cleans out the
gunk we call sin and makes us into something new!**

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

Light Candles, take fun pics and set pumpkins outdoors.