

# HALLOWEEN KIDS SLOT



## You will need...

**To prepare:** Use a good sized pumpkin. For each of the following cut-outs do them carefully, so that you can place the pieces back into the hole afterwards, so the pumpkin will look untouched when you're finished. To do this, it helps if the shape is cut out larger on the outside surface than on the inside of the pumpkin; then you can pop out the shape easily from the inside.

- Cut out the circular lid.
- Scrape the seeds out from the inside, but keep this seedy mess and put it back inside when you've finished your cutting.
- Two triangular eyes.
- A triangular nose.
- A big broad smile; toothy or not!
- On the back, on the opposite side to the face, carve out a large cross.



You will need a candle. Practise lighting the candle and placing it inside the pumpkin. It is hard to do without burning your hand! Be careful. You could place the candle into the pumpkin, then light it; but that is still tricky. Make sure you don't do this for the first time in front of the children.

**WARNING:** This talk uses a lit candle, and needs to be handled only by the adult and even then, needs to be done carefully. When your talk is finished, blow out the candle. Never leave it unattended around children.

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## The story

This week is Hallowe'en. And so you'll be seeing lots of pumpkins. When you get a pumpkin and carve a face in it, it's called a Jack-o'-lantern.

*Hold up your prepared pumpkin, which looks like a regular pumpkin.*

Have you ever thought that we're all a bit like a jack 'o' lantern? But none of us are orange! And we're not round like a pumpkin.

Perhaps you've got a knobby bit on top of your head?

No, that's not it. You see we've all been grown and cared for by the best gardener that you can imagine - Our Father in Heaven. He has given us everything we need- the water, the food, the sunlight, the protection from pests and ... huuuuuge amounts of love. He has done everything we have needed and a lot more besides.

And look how we've turned out - shiny on the outside, looking absolutely beautiful. That's what everyone else sees, and we feel pretty pleased that we look so great.

Let's give the pumpkin a face, to show it's just like us. Here are the eyes and here is the nose. *Take off the lid and pop out the eyes and nose.*

Now let's have a look at the inside. *Put your hand into the messy inside.*

What do we find?

*Take out a handful of the seedy mess and show it to the children.*

Oh, this isn't lovely. This is like the way we sometimes think and feel - we wouldn't want people to see some of this. It's a bit smelly and slimy. It's ugly. Some of our thoughts and words are ugly, aren't they? Sometimes, we're not the people we'd like to be, and we're certainly not the people God would like us to be.

It's hard to get rid of the mess inside us. We can't do it ourselves. Only Jesus can really change what's on the inside.

*Holding the messy seeds in one hand, point into the Jack-o'-lantern.*

Jesus Christ lived the perfect life that we can't live. His life was beautifully, wonderfully good.

*Put the messy seeds down. Pop and out the cross, hold it in your hand and show your still messy, slimy hand.*

Jesus chose to get messy for us, by dying on the cross, so that we might become clean. A swap took place.

Jesus took our mess on himself, so that we could be clean.

*Put down the cross shape and seedy mess.*

*Take up your candle, place it in the pumpkin and light it.*

Jesus gave us his perfect life.

*Light a candle and place inside.*

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

You see, Christians don't look any different to other people on the outside. They're certainly not better than other people. The difference is they have Jesus as their King.

Having Jesus in charge of our lives means that we never need to be afraid of anything: darkness, evil, the Devil, dark forces, ghosts. Jesus showed on earth that he is stronger than anyone, anything, and everything.

Throughout Jesus' life evil forces were frightened of him. And the devil tried to fight Jesus, and lost, completely.

On the cross, Jesus broke the devil's power. And today Jesus drives out evil from our lives and sends in his Holy Spirit. If you're trusting Jesus Christ as your Lord, you are safe!

*Pop out the big, broad smile.*

So next time you see a Jack-o'-lantern, why don't you try to remember Jesus' words, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." We never need to be scared of spirits, ghosts or the devil. Jesus has beaten them all. He is the hero of Hallowe'en.

I am going to say a prayer. Let's pray together.

**Dear Father,**

Thank you that you are better than the best gardener. You have loved us, grown us and cared for us.

Thank you that you have made each one of us different, special and wonderful.

Thank you that Jesus came to earth, lived the perfect life and died for our mess.

Thank you that he is the light of the world.

Please help us to know that we don't ever need to be scared of the dark, because he is the light of life.

Amen

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## Top Tips

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