

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God is greater than any treasure - or candy.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that once we realize how great God is, we will value Him more than anything else in the world.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 13:44-46, The Stories of the Pearl and the Treasure

MEMORY VERSE:

"Lord, show me your ways. Teach me how to follow you." Psalm 25:4 (NirV)

SUMMARY:

Pumpkins grow in a big field usually referred to as a pumpkin patch. Jesus told a story about a man who found a great treasure hidden in a field and he sold everything he had to get it.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

We praise you because we know you are the greatest treasure we could ever find.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

"Lord, show me your ways. Teach me how to follow you." Psalm 25:4 (NirV)

"Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths." Psalm 25:4 (NIV)

"Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow." Psalm 25:4 (NLT)

"Show me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths." Psalm 25:4 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Divide the room into girls and boys. Have the boys read the verse aloud, and then have the girls read it aloud. Who can read the loudest?

SMALL GROUP:

Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today's lesson.

SKIT

THE NOT SO CREEPY TALE OF THE PUMPKIN PATCH

ITEMS NEEDED:

A cape and old fashioned suit for the Count
A lab coat for Maureen
A storybook

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

1M, 1F

CHARACTERS:

Count Pumpkin - A not at all spooky storyteller
Maureen Igor - The Count's sarcastic sidekick

The Count and Maureen enter.

COUNT: Hello children. Welcome to Creepy Tales with Count Pumpkin. I am Count Pumpkin. And this is my assistant, Igor!

MAUREEN: Uh, actually, Igor is my last name. My first name is Maureen, but... whatever. He doesn't really care.

COUNT: Every week, I will be telling you a chilling, terrifying tale guaranteed to give you—

MAUREEN: To give you a new understanding of how to follow God.

COUNT: I was going to say spooky dreams.

MAUREEN: You can't say spooky dreams, Count Pumpkin.

COUNT: Sure I can. Spooky dreams! Spooky dreams! Spooky dreams!

MAUREEN: But these tales aren't that spooky.

COUNT: We will let the children decide! Hand me the book.

SKIT

MAUREEN: Whatever you say, Pumpkin.

COUNT: That's Count Pumpkin. Now, prepare for the chilling tale of... the Pumpkin Patch!

MAUREEN: Oh boy. Let me just go grab my teddy bear.

COUNT: Once, a man found a Pumpkin Patch, and in it, he found the biggest, roundest, orangest pumpkin he ever saw! Creepy, right?

MAUREEN: Is orangest even a word?

COUNT: The man said to himself, "I have to have that pumpkin! I want that pumpkin more than anything!"

MAUREEN: Must have been some pumpkin.

COUNT: He sold everything he had so he could buy the pumpkin patch and possess the big, round, orange pumpkin. Muah ha ha ha!

MAUREEN: Wait, is that it? That's the whole story?

COUNT: Creepy, isn't it? The man was so consumed by the pumpkin, he gave up everything to have it!

MAUREEN: I don't know if that's creepy. I mean, that's how God wants us to love Him. He wants us to love Him more than anything else in the world - just like the man loved that pumpkin.

COUNT: Well, I suppose that's one way to look at the story. Fine. So you are not scared. Next week I will be back with an even creepier tale on... Creepy Tales with Count Pumpkin.

Count Pumpkin exits.

MAUREEN: Don't listen to him, kids. I happen to know he still sleeps with a night light!

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A big, round pumpkin

What do you look for when you choose a pumpkin? Do you like tall ones or fat ones? Big ones or small? Do you look for the pumpkin who will make the happiest face, the funniest face, or the scariest?

We all have different things we treasure in a pumpkin, but no matter what your taste in pumpkins may be, there is one thing we should all treasure equally – and that's our relationship with God. Jesus used the parable of the treasure hidden in a field to show us how precious a relationship with God is. We should love Him so much, we would give up everything if it meant being with the Lord.

Our faith in God is the greatest treasure we have. It is more precious than the perfect pumpkin or a chest of jewels. Let's celebrate the treasure we've found in Jesus and tell Him how much we love Him!

LARGE GROUP GAME

CANDY CORN ERUPTION

ITEMS NEEDED:

Two trick-or-treat pumpkins
A big bag of candy corn

INSTRUCTIONS:

Fill the two pumpkins with the candy corn, half in each. Choose one player for a 60 second challenge. The player must hold both buckets out to their sides and shake them up and down to shake out all of the candy corn. If they can empty their buckets before time runs out, they win a prize.

VARIATION:

You can choose two players and give one bucket to each to make it a race.

You can also put the players in the middle of the crowd so the kids can grab some candy corn - if they actually like that gross stuff.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

We should be willing to give up everything so that we can have Jesus!

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God is greater than any treasure - or candy.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that once we realize how great God is, we will value Him more than anything else in the world.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 13:44-46, The Stories of the Pearl and the Treasure

INTRO:

There's a beautiful story we all love to hear at this time of year. It's a tale about a powerful, supernatural being who brings untold joy and blessings. It's the story of a young man who possesses a child-like faith in this strange creature, a child who will do anything to be there when this special, mystical being rises up so he can see him with his own eyes.

I am talking, of course, about the Great Pumpkin.

Every year we watch as Linus prepares for what he hopes will be an encounter with the Great Pumpkin. We listen as he tells his friends the legend of the Great Pumpkin. We feel his pain as everyone, from his sister to his neighbor's condescending beagle, laughs at him. Even though no one else believes like he does, Linus will not be deterred. He is willing to give up not only wearing a costume and gathering treats, but social acceptance in general. Everyone thinks Linus is crazy, but once Linus finds the perfect pumpkin patch, with nothing but sincerity as far as the eyes can see, there is no price he won't pay to fulfill his dream!

Many of Jesus' most famous teachings were stories, called parables. These stories were about ordinary people and things, like Linus and the pumpkin patch, but they have a far deeper meaning. One of these parables is a story very much like that of the Great Pumpkin. It's the story of a field that contained a hidden treasure and a man who would sacrifice everything so he could possess the land and its treasure.

READ MATTHEW 13:44-46

MAIN POINT:

LARGE GROUP LESSON

This story is more than the story of a man looking for treasure. It's a story of us, discovering the treasure that is Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God who came to save us from sins and give us the gift of eternal life. Jesus is a greater treasure than any jewels, any amount of money, and worldly possessions we might find. That is why the man in this story sells everything so he can possess the field and in doing so, possess that treasure.

There is no greater joy than knowing Jesus. There is nothing more valuable in this world than a relationship with God. Jesus loved us so much, He gave His life for us. If we truly understand all Jesus has done for us, we will treasure Him above anything else in the world.

DRIVE IT HOME:

If you haven't already watched the Great Pumpkin this year, I want you to look at it with new eyes. Linus is the man from the parable who is seeking treasure. The pumpkin patch, filled with sincerity, is the field. And the Great Pumpkin is the treasure that Linus seeks. Just as the man in the parable gave up everything to possess the treasure, Linus gives up everything he has. He passes on wearing a costume. He gives up a chance to go trick or treating. He gives up an invitation to the Halloween party. He endures scorn and mocking from his friends and his sister because of his unending faith.

There is, of course, one difference between the two stories. Where Linus ends up disappointed, finding nothing more than Snoopy dressed up like a World War I flying ace, Jesus can be found by all of us. The same Jesus who told this parable, who was born in a stable, who performed miracles, who rose from the grave, wants us to meet Him personally! The Bible tells us that when we pray, Jesus hears us. We can call on His name any time and He will answer. We don't have to find a field. We don't have to find the most sincere pumpkin patch. Jesus is by our side at home, at school, on the playground, and yes, right here at church.

Linus may never find the Great Pumpkin. I think we can almost guarantee that. But if we seek Jesus, we will find Him. He promised us as much in the Bible, and all of us here, who share the good news of Jesus each week, will tell you He keeps His promises. Jesus held nothing back to make a way for us to have a relationship with Him, and the parable of the hidden treasure tells us there is nothing more valuable than knowing Him.

Jesus is a treasure greater than all the money in the world. Once you get to know Jesus, you will see there is nothing more valuable than knowing Jesus.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear Jesus,

We praise you because we know you are the greatest treasure we could ever find.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What costume are you going to wear this year?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Psalm 25:4

Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today's lesson.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Pass around a bag of candy corn. Let the kids take as many or as few as they want, but do not eat them. Then go around the circle, and for every piece of candy, the kids have to tell something about themselves.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 13:44-46

What do the stories of the pearl and the treasure have in common?

What does Jesus say is like the pearl and the treasure?

Why is it hard sometimes to give things up for Jesus?

Is there anything more valuable than knowing Jesus?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to put you first in everything we do!

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

What costume are you going to wear this year?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Psalm 25:4

Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today's lesson.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 13:44-46

Why did Jesus tell these two stories together?

What do these stories tell us about Jesus?

What makes Jesus such a priceless treasure?

Why is it hard sometimes to give things up for Jesus?

What can we do to surrender more of ourselves to Jesus?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to put you first in everything we do!

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

FILL IN THE BLANK

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a _____.
FIELD

In his excitement, he hid it again and sold _____ he owned to get enough money to buy the field.
EVERYTHING

The Kingdom of _____ is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls.
HEAVEN

When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold _____ he owned and bought it!
EVERYTHING

_____ is the greatest treasure we could ever possess!
JESUS



MAKE IT STICK

4 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Pumpkin Parables Lesson 1

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: PUMPKIN PATCH



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Pumpkins grow in a big field usually referred to as a pumpkin patch. Jesus told a story about a man who found a great treasure hidden in a field and he sold everything he had to get it. Once we realize how great God is, we will value it more than anything else in the world. Matthew 13:44-46, The Stories of the Pearl and the Treasure



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

If you haven't already picked out a pumpkin, make a trip to do so this week. Ask your kids about this week's parables. How is searching for the perfect pumpkin like the stories Jesus told? And what is the meaning behind those stories?



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why did the men in the parables sell everything for pearls and treasure?
- What treasure was Jesus talking about in those stories?
- What are some things that keep us from putting Jesus first, ahead of everything else?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

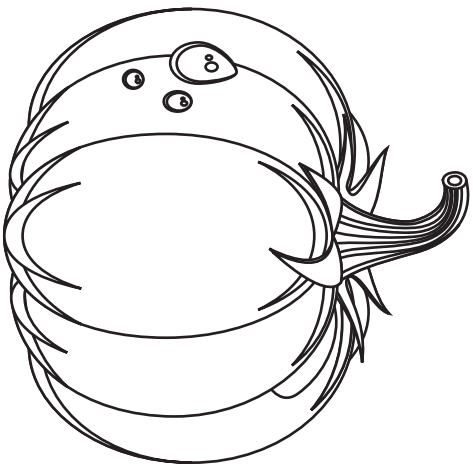
"Lord, show me your ways. Teach me how to follow you." Psalm 25:4 (NirV)



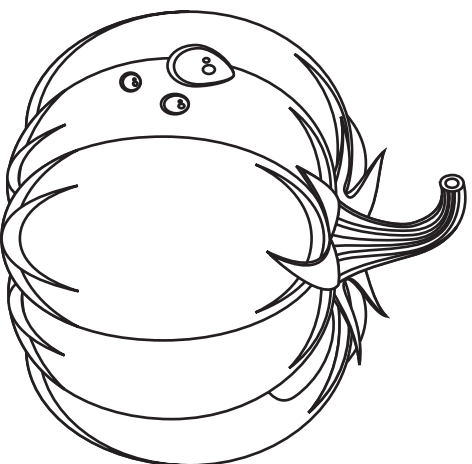
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

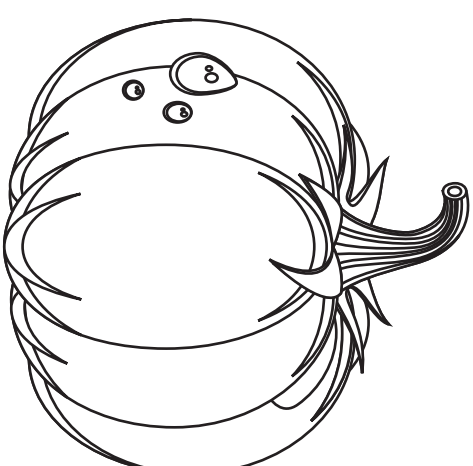
God wants to be first in our lives. He bought our salvation with the blood of His Son Jesus, and He wants us to love Him in return. What is keeping you from putting Jesus first?



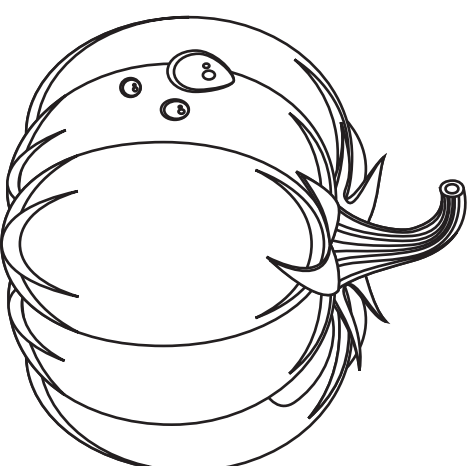
"Lord, show me your ways.
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-Psalm 25:4 (NIV)



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"Lord, show me your ways.
Teach me how to follow you."
-Psalm 25:4 (NIV)

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Give each kid a piece of green construction paper and orange construction paper. Have them cut out pumpkins and glue them to the green paper to make their pumpkin patch. In the center, write “Jesus is our greatest treasure” on one of the pumpkins.