



Preparation: Create a fun evening for women to relax and laugh. Decorate using fall colors to make it look like a Fall Festival. Brown and orange would make a great color scheme for the evening. Have on display a few pumpkins already cut out with a variety of faces. Add a tea light inside and have them lit for the face to glow.

Introduction: Picture a pumpkin carved with a happy face. A candle sits inside allowing the glow to light up the pumpkin. The light is a reminder of the light that God sent from heaven in Jesus.

Song: *Shine, Jesus shine*

Games:

- Draw a pumpkin in the dark
- Pumpkin Penny Toss
- Pumpkin Party Words

Drawing a Pumpkin

Pass out a sheet of orange paper or construction paper and a marker to each person. Lights must be out in the room so that it is not possible to see papers. Leader will give clear instructions one step at a time: (Show a sample)

- Draw the outside circle shape of the pumpkin.
- Draw 2 triangular shaped eyes.
- Draw the shape of a mouth with teeth included.
- Place a stem on the top of the pumpkin.
- Draw two C-shaped ears.
- Draw a square shaped nose.
- Finally, sign your work of art.



Pumpkin Penny Pitch: Object of game is to pitch a penny into a pumpkins

Method #1: Carve out a pumpkin (or two, or three) and line the inside with plastic or aluminum foil.

Make the top opening big.

Method #2: Use several small plastic pumpkins(Less messy)

Playing the Game:

- Place the pumpkins at least three feet away
- Give each player ten to fifteen pennies.
- Every time a penny goes into the pumpkin, a piece of candy is won.

Pumpkin Party Words

This is a simple paper game to see who can get the most words from the letters in "Pumpkin Party". Set a 5 minute time limit.

Devotional Thoughts

In the New Testament the word "LIGHT" is occurs 72 times, and almost half (33) of these are in the Gospel of John. As might be expected, the word is used both for natural light and spiritual light. Jesus said "I am the Light of the world." He also said "Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12.

Light a positive element, it dispels the darkness.. As we enter a room and turn on the light the darkness flees away. The light of the Gospel of Christ is that it dispels: The darkness of fear and the darkness of sin. Once we experience the light of God through Christ's death on the cross all darkness is gone. We are in the Light of God. Our response to hearing of the Light is to accept the spiritual Light available to us, then live in the Light of His sons that it shines bright for Him.

Pumpkin Prayer

{cut off top of pumpkin} Lord, open my mind so I can learn new things about you.

{remove the inside} Remove the things in my life that don't please you.

Forgive the wrong things I do and help me to forgive others. {cut opening for eyes}

Open my eyes to see the beauty you've made in the world around me.

{cut out nose} I'm sorry for the times I've turned my nose at the good food you provide.

{cut out mouth} Let everything I say please You. {light the candle}

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

Liz Curtis Higgs

Song: SASB 332 (verse 2) /TB 160

Prayer



The following can be made prior to the event and served with cornbread at the close of the evening.

Recipe: Stew in a Pumpkin

It's simple to prepare: the beef stew cooks on the stove, while the pumpkin roasts in the oven. Then the stew is placed into the pumpkin and baked for a half hour more. The roasted pumpkin imparts a uniquely delicious flavor, as do the sweet potatoes, corn, and dried apricots. Serve this stew with rice or egg noodles and corn bread.

Ingredients:

- 1 8-10 inch diameter pumpkin
- 2 tablespoons melted butter
- 1/2 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1.5 pounds stewing beef, cut into 1 inch pieces
- 1 can stewed tomatoes
- 2 cups beef broth
- 3 sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 2 white potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 large winter squash, peeled and cubed
- 7 ounces dried apricots, roughly chopped (about 1 cup)
- 1 cup frozen corn