



TRUNK OR TREAT

Church Event Guide

INDEX

Introduction	5-6
Planning Suggestions	7-8
Personnel	9-10
Trunk or Treat	11-14
Costume Parade	15-17
Bible Lesson	18
Pumpkin Carving	19
Fall Food	20
Pumpkin Cutouts Making	21-25
Pumpkin Photo Booth	26
Pumpkin Bean Bag Toss	27
Pumpkin seed Packet Making	28-30

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INTRODUCTION

People begin to think about Halloween as early as September. We decorate our houses, make and buy costumes, anticipate guests and plan menus. However, most children wear costumes and actually DO something for what ends up being a very short time. This guide is a unique parish or school program that allows everyone to dress up in a Halloween costume, go trick or treating and let the fun last all afternoon or evening. The usual Halloween excitement is channeled into a positive faith-filled learning experience for everyone.

Halloween “Trunk or Treat” parties have been springing up all over. The difference between these parties and this event is that you will be providing a safe place for your children to celebrate Halloween while you bring all members of your parish or school family together to spend a fun afternoon or evening with Jesus as your guest.

This program could become an annual fall event for your parish or school, much like Vacation Bible School in the summer. Since everyone is filled with Halloween excitement anyway, why not use this energy to create happy memories that teach?

An important part of this event is a Bible lesson that gives everyone a look into the history of Halloween from a Christian perspective.

Design this afternoon or evening in October or November something for the entire parish or school with moms, dads, older adults, teenagers and children to engage in together, including the Halloween costume parade. You might even arrange for a dinner for all such as hot dogs cooked outside around a fire. You can also involve teens, older children and older adults by asking them to help with or supervise the various elements of this program. Perhaps you can ask different groups or organizations to sponsor booths at the event with games, activities or information to share.

- Stop by each “trunk” to make them feel welcome and to admire any decorations they may have. Thank car owners for participating in this event.
- Allow sufficient time for children to go from car to car to show their costumes, receive candy and look at any decorations on display in each car’s trunk, hatchback or truck bed.
- After all children are done going from car to car, announce that this part of the program is over. Move children to the next activity, and then allow cars to safely leave the parking lot with their headlights on, if it has gotten dark.

Examples of Trunk or Treat Displays



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PUMPKIN SEED PACKETS

(Needed: pumpkin seed packet patterns {included}, tape, glue, scissors, pens, pencils, crayons, colored pencils and markers)

The Volunteer for this station should have a large supply of pumpkin seeds from pumpkins they have carved at home or pumpkins that are being carved at the Pumpkin Carving and Painting Station at this event, or store-bought packages of pumpkin seeds could be used.

The Volunteer should welcome participants to the booth and explain that they will be making pumpkin seed packets for them to fill with pumpkin seeds and then share with people at school or in their neighborhoods so they can plant seeds in their yards for next year's pumpkins. Or participants can just take the seed packets home to plant the seeds in their own yards.

The Volunteer will remind people of the parable of the mustard seed:

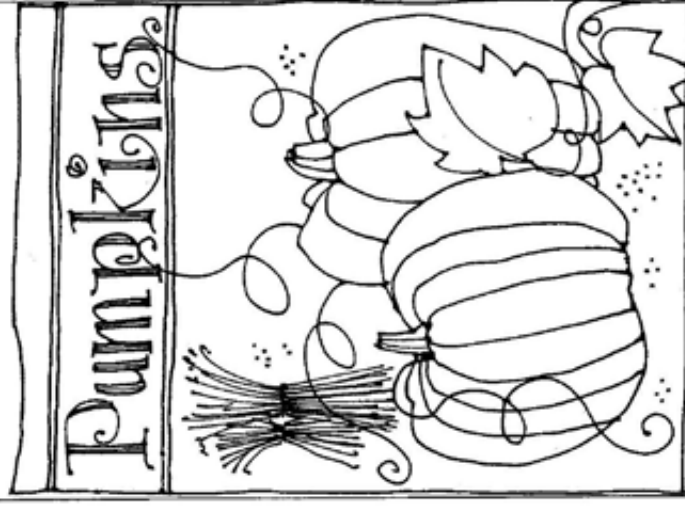
Jesus said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade" (Mark 4:30-32).

Like the tiny mustard seed, we, too, can do great things for God with God's help.

The Volunteer will then pass out the instructions and patterns for making the pumpkin seed packets (included). Participants will make the packets, color the packets, if they wish, put seeds into the packets and close the packets to take with them.

Pumpkin Seed Packets

1. Cut along all **broken lines**.
2. Color the picture.
3. Fold the sides along **solid lines**, overlapping A over B.
4. Tape or glue flaps together.
5. Fold the bottom flap (C) toward the back.
6. Tape or glue to the **BACK** of the envelope.
7. Fold top flap and seal with tape.
8. Take your seeds home and plant them!



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