



PUMPKIN PALOOZA is a 4-lesson children's ministry curriculum that celebrates God's creation and His abundant blessings during the fall season. Through engaging activities, pumpkin-themed games, and diverse learning experiences, children aged 6-12 will explore key Bible stories about creation, growth, gratitude, and God's plan for redemption.

Main Idea: The pumpkin's journey from seed to harvest mirrors God's plan for creation, growth, and redemption in our lives, celebrating our unique gifts and God's unconditional love.

Gospel Connection: Just as a pumpkin grows from a tiny seed into a bountiful harvest, God's love, demonstrated through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, transforms us from sinners into members of His eternal family. By believing in Jesus, we experience growth in faith, learn to be thankful in all circumstances, and join in God's plan to share His love with others, regardless of our backgrounds or challenges.



You are viewing the week #1 lesson as a free sample - use this link or QR code to purchase the complete 4-Week Pumpkin Palooza Curriculum.

<https://sundayschool.store/products/pumpkin-palooza-curriculum>

4-Week Pumpkin Palooza Curriculum Overview

Week 1 - Seeds of Creation

- Bible Story: Creation and Abel's Offerings (Genesis 1:11-12, 26-31; Genesis 4:1-10)
- Lesson Main Idea: God created a beautiful world and values each person's unique gifts, but human sin brought suffering.
- Gospel Connection: Just as God created a perfect world, Jesus offers us a way back through His love and sacrifice. Though sin entered the world, God's plan for redemption was set in motion, showing His unconditional love for us.

Week 2 - Growing in God's Garden

- Bible Story: The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43)
- Lesson Main Idea: God helps us grow in faith, even when challenges like bullying or family changes arise.
- Gospel Connection: Because our salvation is certain through faith in Jesus, we are like seeds planted in good soil. We can be rooted and built up in Christ, producing a bountiful harvest of good works, no matter our circumstances.

Week 3 - Harvest of Gratitude

- Bible Story: Jesus Feeds the 5000 (Matthew 14:13-21)
- Lesson Main Idea: We can be thankful for God's blessings, both big and small, even when life feels challenging.
- Gospel Connection: Because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, God's love provides for all our needs. We can experience God's peace and be grateful for His goodness in all circumstances.

Week 4 - Ripe for the Picking

- Bible Story: The Harvest is Plentiful (Luke 10:2)
- Lesson Main Idea: God wants everyone to know His love and be part of His family, and we can share this love in our own unique ways.
- Gospel Connection: Jesus invites us to help share His love with others, offering eternal life to all who believe in Him. As we participate in God's plan, we look forward to the ultimate harvest - a great multitude from every nation, background, and ability gathered before God's throne.



Week 1 – Seeds of Creation

Bible Story: Creation, Abel's Offerings (Genesis 1:11-12, 26-31; Genesis 4:1-10)

Supporting Scriptures: Romans 5:12

Main Idea: God created a beautiful world and values each person's unique gifts, but human sin brought suffering.

Gospel Connection: Just as God created a perfect world, Jesus offers us a way back to perfection through His love and sacrifice. Though sin entered the world, God's plan for redemption was set in motion, showing His unconditional love for us.

Video Bible Stories: Use this link to access recommended Bible story videos, worship music, and bonus ideas for this curriculum series. https://linktr.ee/pumpkin_palooza.lesson



Professor Pumpkin's Pop Quiz



Introduction Game – Professor Pumpkin’s Pop Quiz

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- A large pumpkin with a painted face, hidden at first under a sheet or box. Alternatively, you can use our Pumpkin Pumpkin image above as a printed visual.
- List of trivia question cards (below)
- A way to tally which student gets the most correct answers.
- Optional: A miniature pumpkin (or several) as a prize for the most correct answers on the pumpkin pop quiz.



TEACHER: I’m so excited to see everyone here today. Raise your hand if you have a favorite teacher. When I can count to three, let’s all say their name out loud at the same time—ready -1-2-3

[Children respond all at once.]

Wow, those are some great teachers. But you know what? One of my favorite teachers has a big round orange face, doesn't give homework, and grew up in a garden. Any guesses? That's right – it's a pumpkin! Can you believe it?

[Reveal the hidden pumpkin with the painted face.]

You might be thinking, "A pumpkin can't teach! It doesn't even talk!" But God made everything in nature to teach us about His power and love if we pay attention. And

let me tell you, this pumpkin teacher has some amazing lessons hidden in its... um... vine!

Today, we're starting a lesson series called PUMPKIN PALOOZA! You already see it's going to have some fun pumpkin games, crafts, and maybe some yummy snacks. The word PALOOZA means a big fun party. So now you know why you won't want to miss it. Together, we'll learn how God created an incredible world for us. We'll learn to grow strong in our faith, just like a pumpkin grows from a tiny seed to a bountiful harvest. We'll find out how to be thankful for all the good things (yes, even vegetables!) and explore how we can share God's love with others.

Get ready for some mind-blowing lessons that will make you see pumpkins—and God's love—in a whole new way! No matter if you're dealing with difficult friendships, family worries, or just feeling unsure, Pumpkin Palooza has something special just for you.

Are you all ready to start? Professor Pumpkin has brought a quiz to see how much you already know about pumpkins. You won't receive a grade, and we'll take the quiz as a group, so there's no pressure.

How to Play: I'll ask the quiz questions about pumpkins. If you think the answer is true, raise your hand. If you think it's false, keep your hand down. We'll keep a simple tally of who gets the most correct answers and name them the official title "Professor Pumpkins Protege."

Pumpkin Quiz Trivia Questions (19 possible for no ties)

1. Pumpkins are a fruit, not a vegetable. True or False?

True - Because they contain seeds, pumpkins are classified as fruit.

2. There are over 200 Bible passages that reference pumpkins. True or False?
False - While pumpkins themselves are not mentioned, related plants like gourds and squashes are referenced in the Bible.
3. The largest pumpkin ever recorded weighed over 2,500 pounds. True or False?
True - Giant pumpkins can reach some impressive weights!
4. Pumpkins are only orange. True or False?
False - They can be in various colors, including white, blue, and green.
5. All parts of a pumpkin are edible, including the skin and stem. True or False?
True - Every part of the pumpkin can be used in cooking or as animal feed.
6. Pumpkins were once recommended for removing freckles. True or False?
True - Historical remedies included using pumpkin to improve skin health.
7. Pumpkins are native to North America. True or False?
True - They are native to the continent and were a food source long before European settlers arrived.
8. A pumpkin's journey from seed to harvest can teach us about God's plan for growth and redemption in our lives. True or False?
True - At PUMPKIN PALOOZA, you'll learn how the pumpkin's growth process can remind us of God's plan for creation, growth, and redemption.
9. A pumpkin is 90% water. True or False?
True - This makes them a low-calorie food choice until you make it a pie.
10. Pumpkin flowers are inedible. True or False?
False - The flowers are edible and can be cooked or eaten raw.
11. Our pastor (insert your minister's name) can eat a whole pumpkin pie all at once. True or False?
Maybe? This depends on your own pastor.

12. Pumpkins are a cousin to pickles. True or False?

True - They are part of the Cucurbitaceae family, which also includes cucumbers, but they are more specifically related to squashes.

13. Illinois grows more pumpkins than any other U.S. state. True or False?

True - Illinois is one of the largest producers of pumpkins in the United States.

14. Pumpkin pie at Thanksgiving started with the pilgrims. True or False?

False - It started later, with recipes appearing in cookbooks by the 19th century.

15. Pumpkins need a lot of sunlight to grow. True or False?

True - Pumpkins require a lot of sunlight to grow large and healthy.

16. Every continent except Antarctica grows pumpkins. True or False?

True - Pumpkins are cultivated on every continent except Antarctica.

17. Pumpkins can be used as containers for soup. True or False?

True - Hallowed-out pumpkins can be used as bowls to serve pumpkin soup and other dishes.

18. A group of pumpkins is called a patch. True or False?

True - A group of growing pumpkins is often referred to as a pumpkin patch.

19. The original Cinderella's carriage was inspired by a pumpkin. True or False?

True - In the fairy tale, a pumpkin is magically transformed into a carriage.

TEACHER: Great job, everyone! I hope you all enjoyed learning those fun facts about pumpkins. I know Professor Pumpkin was very impressed. It's amazing how much there is to know about the things God creates. Remember, just like each pumpkin is unique, each of you is special to God. He has a plan for all of us to grow and be part of His wonderful creation.

Object Lesson – Sin and Restoration

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- A small pumpkin
- A knife (for teacher use only)
- A bowl
- Red food coloring
- Water
- A sponge
- A Bible

PREPARATION: Practice the pumpkin carving beforehand to ensure it goes smoothly during the lesson. Emphasize safety when the children are present.

TEACHER: Now that we've had some fun with our Pumpkin Pop Quiz, it's time to dig a little deeper into our lesson for today. We will let Professor Pumpkin look away from this activity because we don't want to upset his feelings. He is a little sensitive to pumpkin carving activities.

Re-hide the painted pumpkin face if used in the introduction.

Now, we will use a pumpkin to help us understand a very important concept: how sin affects creation and how Jesus restores us.

First, let's talk about creation. Remember, God created a beautiful and perfect world. Just like this pumpkin, everything was whole and good. But then, something happened – sin entered the world. Sin is when we do things that go against what

God wants for us. It's like when we make bad choices or hurt others. Sin makes the world less perfect, and it affects us too.

Let's use this pumpkin to see what happens.

The teacher cuts the top off the pumpkin and scoops out the seeds and pulp into the bowl.

When we sin, it's like taking out all the good things God put inside us. Sin can make us feel empty or messy inside, just like this pumpkin now looks kind of messy without its insides.

The teacher pours some water into the pumpkin.

Now, I will add something to this water to show how sin can change us.

The teacher adds red food coloring to the water inside the pumpkin.

See how the water turned red? Sin changes us from the inside out. It changes what we want and what we do. But here's the good news. God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to help us. Jesus can clean up the mess that sin makes inside us.

The teacher uses the sponge to soak up the colored water from the pumpkin, leaving it clean again.

Just like this sponge is cleaning up the mess, Jesus' love and forgiveness can clean up the mess that sin makes in our lives. He restores us and makes us new again.

Remember, just as God created a perfect world, Jesus offers us a way back to perfection through His love and sacrifice. Though sin entered the world, God's plan for redemption was set in motion, showing His unconditional love for us.

Bible Story - Seeds of Creation

Objective: After this lesson, students will be able to:

- Summarize the main events in the story of Creation and Cain and Abel's offerings.
- Identify the central message that God created a beautiful world and values each person's unique gifts.
- Describe how characters in the story respond to major events and challenges.
- Make connections between the story and their own experiences.

Main Idea: God created a beautiful world and values each person's unique gifts, but human sin brought suffering.

TEACHER: Today, we will explore the exciting story of how God created our amazing world and the first people. We'll also learn about two brothers who made very different choices. As we read, think about how God's love shines through even when things don't go as planned.

Imagine you're planting a garden. You carefully choose the seeds, dig small holes in the soil, and gently place each seed. Every day, you water the garden and watch for sprouts. Finally, tiny green leaves poke through the dirt. It's so exciting! That's a bit like how God felt when He created our world. He had a perfect plan and watched it come to life with joy and excitement. But just like a garden sometimes has weeds, our world isn't always perfect.

Our story comes from the very first book of the Bible - Genesis. The word "Genesis" means "beginnings," and that's exactly what this book is about. It tells us how God created everything and how He started His relationship with humans. The author wants us to understand that God is the source of all life and that He has a special plan for people.

We know from the very part of Genesis that God made everything - light and dark - land and sky - people and animals - plants and pumpkins too. Let's jump to that part of the Bible story.

READ: Genesis 1:11-13

God covered the land with plants. He made all kinds of trees, flowers, and grass. Each plant was designed to produce seeds so it could make more plants just like itself. Imagine the colorful flowers and tall trees springing up from the ground. God's creation was beginning to look beautiful - especially the pumpkins!

Now, let's read about when God made people and the job he gave us.

READ: Genesis 1:26-31

God created humans in His own image. That means we can think, create, and love like God does. He blessed the first people and gave them the job of taking care of His creation. God looked at everything He had made, including people, and saw that it was very good. You are part of God's masterpiece! He made you special and loves you deeply.

READ: Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17

God planted a beautiful garden called Eden and put the first people there to care for it. He told them they could eat from any tree except one - the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This was a test of their trust and obedience.

This bad choice wasn't just a mistake; it was humans telling God we didn't want Him to be in charge. Even after the perfect life he planned for them, choosing to disobey was like shaking a fist at our Maker and saying, "You're not the boss of me!"

As you might expect, things got bad. God let the people have their own way. This meant they had to leave His perfect garden and try to figure out life on their own. They refused God's love and protection, so things went very wrong very fast. He still loved them but let the consequences of their rebellion happen. It's like when your teachers at school talk about "natural consequences." One of the worst parts comes a few chapters later, let's read that next.

READ: Genesis 4:1-7

Time passed, and the first people had two sons - Cain and Abel. Cain became a farmer, while Abel became a shepherd. They both had unique gifts and talents that came from God. Both brothers brought offerings to God. Abel brought the best of his flock, showing he valued his relationship with God. Cain brought some of his crops, but his heart wasn't fully in it. God was pleased with Abel's offering but not with Cain's. So Cain became very angry and probably jealous of his brother. God spoke to Cain, encouraging him to do what was right. God gives us chances to make good choices, too, even when we're upset.

READ: Genesis 4:8-10

Sadly, Cain let his anger control him. He attacked his brother Abel and killed him. When God asked Cain where Abel was, Cain lied. This shows how one bad choice can lead to another. But remember, even when we make mistakes, God still loves us and wants to help us make things right.

This is a very sad story and shows right away that disobeying God can lead to bigger problems than we imagine. But God's love is much bigger than our bad choices, and He made a plan to fix everything that sin was breaking.

READ: Romans 5:12

This verse explains that sin entered the world through one person, and death came because of sin. This connects to our story about Adam and Eve's disobedience and Cain's actions. But the good news is that God already had a plan to fix this problem through Jesus!

Lesson Summary: We've learned that God created a beautiful, perfect world. He made people in His image and gave them the job of caring for creation. But people made choices that brought sin into the world. Even so, God continued to love them and speak to them. He values each person's unique gifts, just like He appreciated Abel's heartfelt offering. Remember:

- God created you special, just like He carefully made everything in the world.
- Your choices matter to God. He wants you to trust and obey Him.
- Even when you make mistakes, God still loves you and wants to help you do what's right.

Gospel Connection: Just as God created a perfect world in the beginning, He had a perfect plan to restore it when sin entered. This plan centers on Jesus, God's Son.

Jesus came to earth as both God and man to show us God's love in person. When we disobey God or make mistakes, it's like adding 'weeds' to God's beautiful garden. But Jesus' life, death on the cross, and resurrection provide the ultimate solution. By believing in Jesus and following Him, we can be forgiven and made new. It's like Jesus is the master gardener who can remove the weeds of sin and help us grow into the beautiful creation God intended us to be. Through Jesus, we can have a restored relationship with God and play a part in restoring His creation. This is the amazing gift of God's love and grace!

Discussion Questions & Prayer

TEACHER: Great job, everyone! You've all been wonderful listeners today. Let's remember our main idea: God created a beautiful world and values each person's unique gifts, but human sin brought imperfection. Now, let's talk about what we've learned.

Discussion Questions:

- What's your favorite part of God's creation? Why do you think God made that?
- God gave Adam and Eve a special job in the garden. What are some ways you can help take care of God's creation?
- Cain became angry when God liked Abel's offering better. What can we do when we feel jealous or angry?

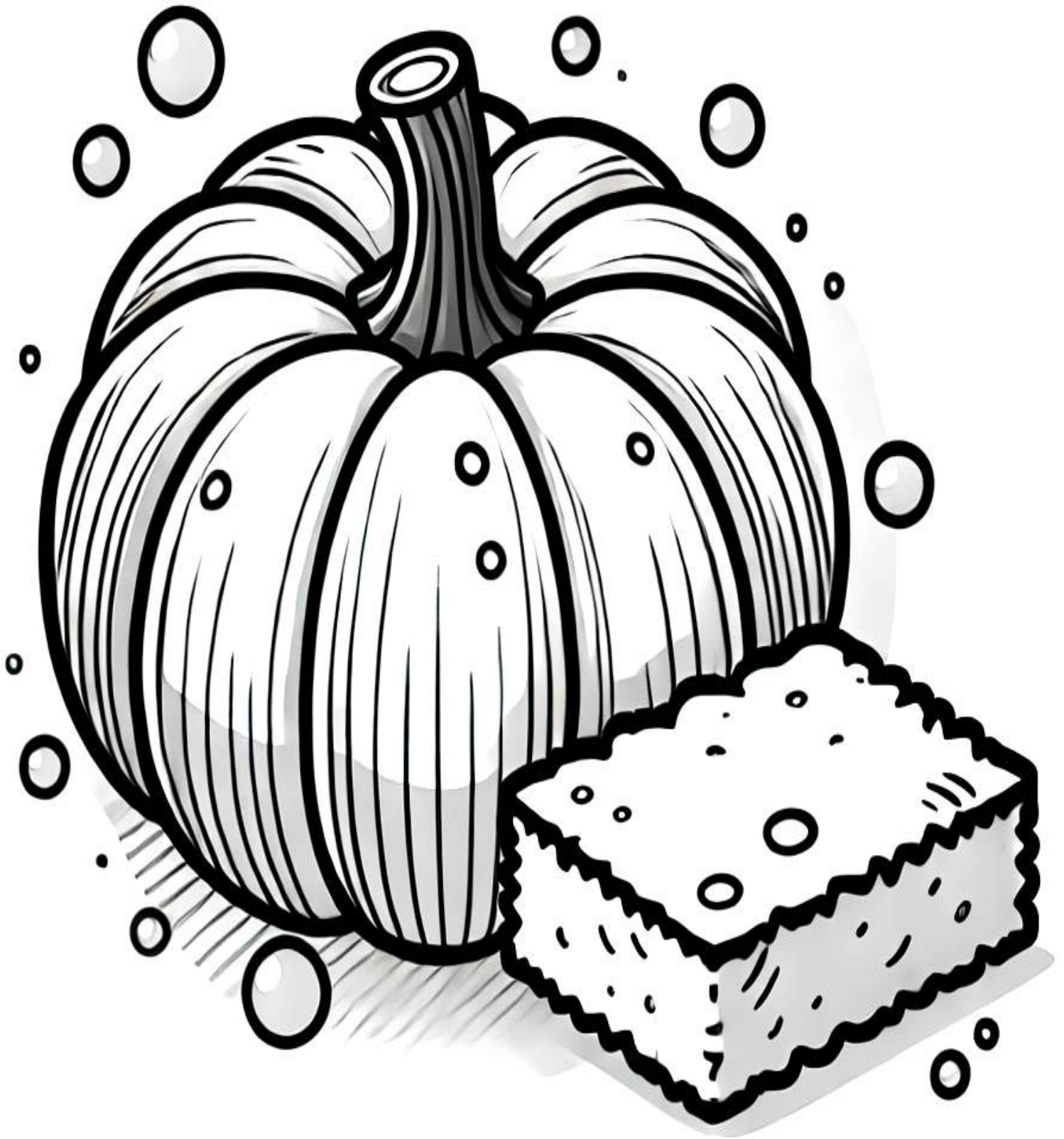
Those are great thoughts! Now, let's share some prayer requests. Does anyone have something they'd like us to pray about? [Allow time for children to share prayer requests] Thank you for sharing. Let's pray together.

Dear God,

Thank you for creating our amazing world and for making each of us special. Help us to remember that you love us and have given us unique gifts. When we feel angry or jealous, remind us to talk to you about our feelings. Please be with [mention prayer requests]. Thank you for always listening to us and loving us.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Coloring Page - Sin and Restoration



Word Search Puzzle

BIBLE - CLEAN - CREATE - FAITH - FORGIVE - GOD

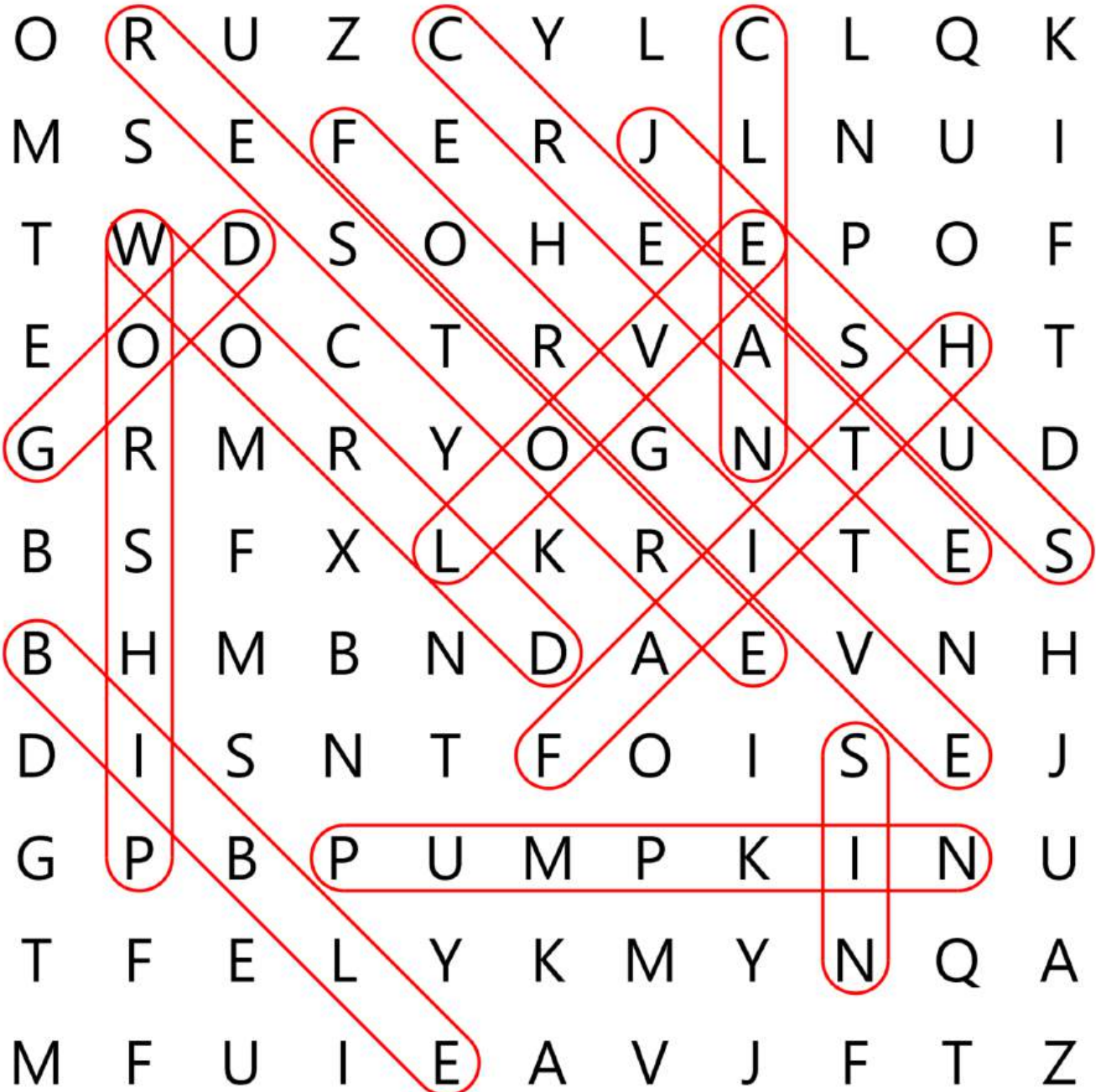
JESUS - LOVE - PUMPKIN - RESTORE - SIN - WORLD - WORSHIP

O	R	U	Z	C	Y	L	C	L	Q	K
M	S	E	F	E	R	J	L	N	U	I
T	W	D	S	O	H	E	E	P	O	F
E	O	O	C	T	R	V	A	S	H	T
G	R	M	R	Y	O	G	N	T	U	D
B	S	F	X	L	K	R	I	T	E	S
B	H	M	B	N	D	A	E	V	N	H
D	I	S	N	T	F	O	I	S	E	J
G	P	B	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	U
T	F	E	L	Y	K	M	Y	N	Q	A
M	F	U	I	E	A	V	J	F	T	Z

Word Search Answers

BIBLE - CLEAN - CREATE - FAITH - FORGIVE - GOD

JESUS - LOVE - PUMPKIN - RESTORE - SIN - WORLD - WORSHIP



Snack Activity – No-Bake Pumpkin Pie Cups

Be aware of possible food allergies in your class when planning snack activities.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Canned pumpkin
- Graham crackers
- Whipped cream
- Cinnamon
- Plastic spoons
- Small cups
- Napkins



Instructions:

1. Crush graham crackers and place a layer at the bottom of each small cup.
2. Spoon canned pumpkin on top of the graham cracker layer.
3. Add a dollop of whipped cream on top of the pumpkin.
4. Sprinkle a pinch of cinnamon over the whipped cream.
5. Serve with a plastic spoon.

TEACHER: Now it's time for a special treat! Today, we're going to make No-Bake Pumpkin Pie Cups. Just like our lesson on creation, we're going to take simple ingredients and create something delicious.

First, we're going to crush some graham crackers and put them at the bottom of our cups. This will be our tasty base. Next, we'll add a spoonful of yummy pumpkin

on top. Then, we'll finish it off with a dollop of whipped cream and a sprinkle of cinnamon.

As we make these snacks, think about how God takes simple things and makes something wonderful. Just like He created the world from nothing, we're creating these treats from a few simple ingredients. And just as God restores us, we're bringing all these pieces together to make something new.

Craft Activity - Pumpkin Painting

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Small pumpkins
- Non-toxic paint (various colors)
- Paintbrushes
- Paper plates (for paint palettes)
- Cups of water (for rinsing brushes)
- Paper towels (for cleaning up)



TEACHER: Now that we've had our snack, it's time for a fun craft activity! Today, we're going to paint our own pumpkins. This craft is a great way to remember that just like each pumpkin is unique, each of us is special to God. He created us with different gifts and talents, and He has a special plan for each of us.

Let's start by getting our supplies ready. Everyone should have a small pumpkin, some paint, and a paintbrush. We're going to use the paper plates as our paint palettes and the cups of water to rinse our brushes between colors.

First, think about how you want to decorate your pumpkin. You can use different colors to make your pumpkin look really unique. Remember, there's no right or wrong way to do this – just have fun and be creative!

As you paint, think about our lesson today. God created a beautiful world and values each of us. Even when we make mistakes, God's love can clean us up and make us new again, just like we cleaned out the pumpkin earlier. This week, I want

you to remember that you are special to God and think about ways you can show God's love to others.

Once you're done painting, we'll set our pumpkins aside to dry. Don't forget to clean your brushes in the cups of water and wipe them on the paper towels.



Week 1 - Note for Parents

This week in Pumpkin Palooza, your child learned about God creating the world. We talked about how God made everything, including us, with love. Our main idea was: "God created a beautiful world and values each person's unique gifts, but human sin brought imperfection."

We're starting a fun journey learning how we grow in God's love, just like a pumpkin grows from a seed. We'll explore Bible stories that show God's care for us.

Your child may want to share what they learned about creation or talk about their favorite part of God's world. It's wonderful that you're helping your child learn about God's love. Thank you for being part of their growth in faith. We're excited for more fun lessons ahead!