

Pumpkin Heroes Kids Session

Using mostly World Vision material as a Virtual Online Event additional notes by Becky Lawrence St Marks MK (running time 45-60 mins)

WELCOME & INTRO (5-10MINS)

As the children arrive online - Have the song https://assets.worldvision.org.uk/files/3115/3234/3680/Shine_Real_Bright.mp3 playing and perhaps create and add a fun background to your screen.

When everyone has arrived ask the children to show and share any Patch Activity sheets, Buddy Bracelets and Patch the Pumpkin masks they've completed. You'll need to give the children and families info about these ahead of your event.

We're gonna have some fun together today. For most people halloween is about scaring people, darkness, ghosts and ghouls and trick or treats - but for us as Christians we want to focus on something very different - the light that God shines through us and how we can believe in others & encourage them rather than scare them.

BOUNCE LIKE PATCH GAME (5MINS)

Have the children bounce around the room/in front of the camera while the music is playing. Children can bounce and dance until the music stops.

Once the music stops children are to freeze where they are and not move.

The child who moves first is out of the game and has to sit down.

If all of the children are doing an excellent job of being frozen, the music can start again.

Keep going until you will get a winner or until the song finishes!

SHOW AND TELL 'SPECIAL' ITEM GAME (10-15MINS)

This is a scavenger hunt style of game. When you have told the children what you want them to do, tell them it's about being quick! (If you don't think they can safely do this fast without damages - you can also do this normal paced!)

Ask the children to find and bring back 2 things if they can that are pumpkin orange in colour and 1 item that is special to them (this one doesn't have to be orange!).

Ready, Steady GO!

When the children have returned, ask each child in turn, starting with the child who returned quickest to tell everyone about their two orange items and then to explain why their special thing is special to them. Finish the game by saying that Just like all of you have special items all of you are really special to God.

FILM TIME (9.08MINS)

Watch the video (ensure everyone is muted before using screen share to show the video):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2tE99XT-_s&feature=youtu.be

For this year's story, Patch the Pumpkin and his friends learn about the importance of believing in others - just as God has chosen and believes in all of us. I wonder how we could encourage those around us?

PATCH THE PUMPKIN'S LIGHT (5mins)

(Before your event carve a pumpkin with Patch the Pumpkin's heart and draw or stick his face on the pumpkin.)

In front of the children hold the pumpkin turned around so that the kids see only a plain pumpkin. You could ask them questions along the way about what they see to keep them engaged. Do any of you know how or where pumpkins grow or what the inside of a pumpkin looks like?

Inside a pumpkin is loads of yucky mushy stuff. Leave a handful of pumpkin seeds and fleshy goop inside either for volunteer children or yourself to scoop out and make clean. We don't have pumpkin goo inside us but we do

all make mistakes, hurt others sometimes and make bad choices. God cleans up the “yuck” inside us and can help make us into the best version of ourselves.

Pop a lit LED tea light into the pumpkin. God replaces the “yuck” with His light.

Then turn around the pumpkin for the children to see the light shining out of Patch. This is like how God’s light shines out of each of us when we know Jesus. Just like in the video we watched we can shine that light on others by showing kindness and sharing goodness with those we come into contact with.

DANCE/SING ALONG TO THE “SHINE REAL BRIGHT” SONG (5MINS)

CHORUS 1:

Share God’s love

Shine God’s light

We’re Pumpkin Heroes

And we’ll shine real bright *(repeat)*

CHORUS 2:

We’re gonna shine

We’re gonna shine

Shine real bright *(repeat)*

Every sad and lonely child

Needs God’s love,

Let us shine!

VERSE 2:

Everybody who’s afraid

Needs God’s light, God’s light

Every dark and scary place

Needs God’s light

Let us shine!

VERSE 1:

Everybody in the world

Needs God’s love, God’s love

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FINALLY FINISH WITH A PRAYER (2MINS)

Let’s pray, you might want to close your eyes so that you can concentrate and if you agree you can join me with saying amen at the end.

God, thank You for the time we’ve been able to spend together today.

Thank You for our family and friends, our teachers and classes, our neighbours, and everyone at our church, please help us to look out for chances to encourage others and show kindness to people we come into contact with.

Thank You for choosing each of us and making every person special and different. Help us to show others that they are special too.

Thank You for Jesus, who cleaned up the yuck in us and helps us be the best version of ourselves.

What an amazing God You are!

In Jesus’ Name.....Amen.