

“Metaphysics of Halloween”

Unmasking the Christ

Pre-session Activity

Halloween Celebration

Materials: Various Halloween activity sheets to work on.

It's just a celebration of Halloween.

Also have prayer request slips available for those who want to fill out a prayer request.

Gathering Circle

- ♥ Welcome
- ♥ Share the Daily Word
- ♥ Announcements
- ♥ Collect the Love Offering

Prayer Focus

Bible Quote:

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Introduce the prayer box and the prayer request slips and encourage the children to write or draw out their prayer requests and place them in the prayer box. Each class will be taking turns each week to say prayers for the requests in the box.

LESSON INTENTION

Halloween represents our ability to remove our "masks" and to reveal our true Christ nature. It shows us the power in looking beyond appearances.

Issue: What is the deeper meaning of Halloween?

Unity Principle: #2 - "I am naturally good because God's divinity is in me and in everyone."

Affirmation: I am more than I appear to be. I Am the Christ.

12 Powers: ZEAL: Is my ability to channel my energy into productive channels.

Lesson - All Elementary:

"Unmasking My Christ Self"

What do I need to do in order to reveal my true self?

Story/Quote...

John 12:46

I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness.

Discussion Questions...

- ♦ What does the light represent?
- ♦ What does the darkness represent?
- ♦ What is our Christ self?
- ♦ What are some reasons we might keep it hidden?
- ♦ What does it mean to bring it into the light?
- ♦ How are our costumes like masks hiding our true self?
- ♦ What happens when we take our costumes off?
- ♦ How do we let our Christ light shine?

Creative Expression...

My Mask

Materials: Blank full face or 1/2 face masks; glitter glue, feathers; stickers; foam shapes; glue; etc...

Invite the children to choose an aspect of themselves that they are comfortable letting others know about themselves and create a mask that expresses this aspect.

Celebration...

There will be a variety of activities and snacks for the children to enjoy.

Uniteen Lesson:

"Unmasking My Christ Self"

What do I need to do in order to reveal my true self?

Story/Quote...

Luke 8:17

For nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not come known and come to light.

Discussion Questions...

- ◆ What are some things that you may have hidden?
- ◆ What happens when it comes to the light?
- ◆ What are the "masks" we wear?
- ◆ What do they hide?
- ◆ How can we reveal ourselves?
- ◆ What is our Christ nature?
- ◆ Why is it important to let our Christ light shine?

Creative Expression...

My Mask

Materials: Blank full face or 1/2 face masks; glitter glue, feathers; stickers; foam shapes; glue; etc...

Invite the children to choose an aspect of themselves that they are comfortable letting others know about themselves and create a mask that expresses this aspect.

Halloween Presentation:

Materials: Jack-o-lantern carved with heart shaped top, simple eyes, nose, mouth and ears, the script, copy of the song – "Open My Eyes That I May See," candle and matches.

BEFORE CLASS BEGINS: Custom carve a pumpkin with a heart shaped top, eyes, nose, mouth and ears. Save the cut out pieces and place them in their respective holes so that the only opening in the Jack-o-lantern is the nose, small jack-o-lantern candle holders with a candle lit inside (# can be adjusted depending on how many children want to participate).

1. Rope off rows in the sanctuary for the teens. Place a table on the platform so that all will have a view of the jack-o-lantern.
2. Seat the all children who are not in the program on the floor or in chairs at the front of the sanctuary. **DIM THE LIGHTS.**
3. The following cast members enter in the following order:
 - ◆ Adult Narrator
 - ◆ Great Spirit
 - ◆ Candle Bearers

The adult narrator and Great Spirit go to the platform. The candle bearers line up on the steps in front of the platform and remain there through the program.

Script:

ADULT NARRATOR:

READ THE DEFINITION OF HALLOWEEN ON ATTACHED PAGE.

GREAT SPIRIT:

READ THE PROGRAM INTRODUCTION.

4. The rest of the cast enters, places the pumpkin bearer places the pumpkin on the table and moves to the side. The attendants divide and stand on each side of the pumpkin.
 - ◆ Pumpkin Bearer
 - ◆ Pumpkin Attendants: 2 Ears, 1 Mouth, 2 Eyes, 1 Top

Script:

GREAT SPIRIT:

READ THE REST OF THE SPEECH

CONGREGATIONAL SONG BEGINS.

5. **AS THE SONG SAYS "OPEN MY EYES THAT I MAY SEE"** - The 2 Eye attendants remove the pumpkins eyes.
6. **AS THE SONG SAYS "OPEN MY EYES THAT I MAY HEAR"** - The 2 ear attendants removes the pumpkin's mouth.
7. **AS THE SONG SAYS " OPEN MY MOUTH THAT I MAY SPEAK"** - The mouth attendant removes the pumpkin's mouth.
8. **AS THE LAST VERSE IS COMPLETED** - the top attendant removes the heart top.

ADULT NARRATOR...

Taken from a paper by Reverend Ruth Harders and the book, "A Festival of Lost Meanings" by Alvin B. Kuhn.

At one time Halloween was as important as Christmas and Easter. Now we celebrate Christmas as Jesus birthday and Easter as the day He rose from the dead. But, all of these holidays are symbolic celebrations of something that happens to the soul. The Bible itself is a symbolic journey of the soul. It began as a thought in Gods mind, came into embodiment, had its fall, awakened to its Divine Nature and to its resurrection and ascension – completing the cycle.

The ancient religions celebrated these four stages of the unfoldment of the soul and linked them to the four seasons of the year.

- ♥ Summer – June 21 – The longest day of the year, a time when more light pours forth helping nature move into rebirth. This was celebrated as the time that the Perfect Idea was conceived in the mind of God.
- ♥ Fall – September 21 – The day of the awakening of the soul to full reality. It is its Earth conception. This relates to the Garden story and the opening of the consciousness to Divine potential. All instruction is provided for us. We move out from the Garden to discover Infinite possibilities.
- ♥ Winter – December 21 – A resting period, a time to reflect and to experience Gods fullness. The Spirit of Light is born in the person of Jesus, who manifests the Christ. THE CHRISTMAS OF THE SOUL. Once more the days increase in length and the sun returns as the soul realizes perfect oneness with God and all creation.
- ♥ Spring – March 21 – The soul is quickened with the realization of New Life as the cycle of life gives birth to newness. The GOOD OF GOD is conceived in the soul to birth the wonder and miracle of Spring.

Halloween comes in after the fall in the Garden of Eden. Forty is the number that means a period of time needed to bring something about. So if our Earth conception was September 21, forty days gestation brings us to October 31. The symbolic birth of the soul into its physical experience. It is not yet aware of its divinity. It is ignorant of its true nature.

Ignorance is represented by darkness or black. The soul is only aware of its five senses and it is animal like. During this period the souls Divine Nature is masked. All temptations the soul ever meets come from its enlightened nature.

So Halloween celebrates our animal-nature which come before the birth of Christ awareness. The Festival of Halloween was celebrated by wearing masks of animals which symbolized that there was a potentially Divine Being behind the mask. The color orange represents courage, the opposite of darkness. So black and orange represent both sides of our nature. So, when we see the weird faces of Halloween they are reminders to look beyond the outer to the Divinity within.

GREAT SPIRIT...

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION:

We are very happy to be with you today as we celebrate Halloween. We have a program to share with you today that shows us what happens when we unmask our Christ self. Halloween is a time when we can restore ourselves to wholeness and chase away the "witches, goblins and ghosts" that clutter our minds and hide our true self.

Join me as we welcome the John, The Jack-O-Lantern of love...

The rest of the cast enters, places the pumpkin bearer places the pumpkin on the table and moves to the side. The attendants divide and stand on each side of the pumpkin.

AFTER THE PUMPKIN IS IN PLACE:

Jack is short for John, the Disciple that means LOVE. The Jack-o-lantern is lit from within by a candle. The light of the Jack-o-lantern represents the light of God's loving presence shining out through us making masks unnecessary. As we know the light of love from within will always dispel all darkness.

So, may the brightness of orange dispel all the blackness (negative thoughts and emotions), and may you commune with the "saintly" (pure) parts of your nature, the Christ within, on All Saints Day!

CONGREGATIONAL SONG BEGINS.