



# The PUMPKIN Story

We're all a bit like a pumpkin.  
No, really! Here's why...

We're not **orange**.

We're not **round**.

And we definitely don't have a **green stalk** sticking out the top of our heads!

But the Bible says that we have all been grown and cared for by the best gardener that you can imagine: our Father in heaven. Like a gardener, God has given us everything we need: water, food, sunlight, protection from pests and... **huuuge** amounts of love.

And look how we've turned out—shiny on the outside, looking absolutely beautiful.

But what do you find on the inside of a pumpkin?



**YUCK!** It's a bit smelly and slimy in here.

This is the way we sometimes think and feel. Some of our thoughts and words are a bit smelly and slimy.

Sometimes we're not the people we'd like to be, and sometimes we're not the people God would like us to be.

We don't want everyone else to see all of this inside us, so we do our best to keep it hidden in the dark.

We can't get rid of the mess inside. But there is someone who can...



About 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ lived the perfect life, with none of the mess inside. His life was beautifully, wonderfully good—inside and out.

But Jesus chose to get messy for us, by dying on the cross. Jesus gave his perfect life for us. On the cross, Jesus took our mess on himself and took it away, so that we could be clean.

Once our mess is gone, we don't need to keep hiding in the dark. Instead, Jesus fills us with his light. Jesus said:

***“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”***

John chapter 8 verse 12



You see, Christians don't look any different to other people on the outside. They're certainly not better than other people. They still get things wrong sometimes. The difference is on the inside. Trusting Jesus as their King means that he is the light inside them, by his Spirit. He shows them the way to go.

Trusting Jesus means knowing that he made us, that he loves us and that we have the light of life. That is enough to put a smile on any face!

So next time you see a Jack-o'-lantern, why don't you try to remember Jesus' words:

***"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."***



You can find out lots more about Jesus. Ask the person who gave you this leaflet, or see if you can join a group where they teach the Bible at a church near you. You can also speak to God wherever you are by praying.

Dear Father,

Thank you that you are better than the best gardener.

You have loved us, grown us and cared for us.

Thank you that you have made each one of us different, special and wonderful.

Thank you that Jesus came to earth, lived the perfect life and died for our mess.

Thank you that he is the light of the world.

Please help me to get to know him better.

Amen



**Go here to find out more about Jesus!**



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