

## *Being a Christian is a bit like being a pumpkin!*

**Just as a farmer chooses a pumpkin from the patch, God chooses YOU; He lifts you up from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off you. (In 1 Peter 2:9, the Bible says we are 'a chosen people.' And in 1 John 1:7 we see that 'if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, the blood of Jesus, God's Son, purifies us from every sin.')**

**Then, just as the farmer cuts the top off the pumpkin and scoops out all the yucky stuff, God reaches deep inside and scoops out what is "yucky" in us; He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. God is the only one who can change our heart, but we need to be open to Him. Once we're emptied, we need to be filled... with joy!**

**Then the farmer carves a face into the pumpkin, and God gives US a new face, too, a new smiling face. No one smiles all the time, but when you belong to Jesus, you have joy from Him! ("We, who...all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever increasing glory." 2 Corinthians 3:18) When we spend time with Jesus, it shows!**

**Then God puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see. Jesus tells His followers, "You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:13). So we "shine like stars" to point others to Him.**

