



Carving Out Time With JESUS

October
Family Faith Kit

CARVING OUT TIME WITH JESUS

A NOTE FOR PARENTS

Carving Out Time With Jesus is designed for families to incorporate faith into their fall family fun. This resource is to be used in the month of October. This month we will be focusing on "carving out time with Jesus." We will be looking at four ways we can do that: reading the Bible, prayer, worship music, church. It includes the following:

- 4 Family Devotions (1 per week)
- 4 Games (1 per week)
- 4 Crafts (1 per week)
- 4 Snack Ideas (1 per week)

When is a good time to do these activities each week?

- Use it on Saturday or Sunday and do all activities for that week in one day.
- Spread out the activities over the whole week. For example, you could read the devotion before school one morning. Then another day do the craft, next day game, next day create the snack.
- Pick out one or two items off the Fall Family Bucket List to do each week.

Fall is a great time to start the habit of spending time together in God's Word as a family. Once you create this habit, your children will want to do it every day and will remind you if you miss a day! These habits will hopefully form in your children a love of God's Word that will stay with them throughout their lives. You are building a foundation of God and His love into your children by spending time together in His Word.

Family Devotion

WEEK 1 - READING THE BIBLE

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Are you carving out time for Jesus in your life? What I mean is...do you spend time with Jesus on a daily basis? Are you devoting part of your day to reading the Bible, talking to Him, worshiping Him, and learning more about Him?

This month, we will be looking at how to do just that. We will be diving into what it means to carve out time with Jesus. And today we will be focusing on reading the Bible.

Ok...let's be honest with each other...how often do you open your Bible and read it? Every day? Twice a week? Only on Sundays? Never?

I would love if each of you answered by saying you read the Bible every day. Maybe there are some of you who do, but I would venture to say that some of you lean more to the once a week or never side. And I understand why you don't. You're busy. You've got homework to do, tests to study for, chores to do at home, sports practices and games, friends to hang out with. Your plate is full every day and there just isn't much time left to hang out with Jesus.

But can I tell you a little secret? You do have time! If you have 5 minutes...then you've got time!

So if I've got 5 minutes in my day, why should I read the Bible?

As Christians we know and believe that the Bible is God's Word. As the verse above says, all Scripture is "God-breathed", which means God used people to write down what He said to them. There are 66 books in the Bible and all books were written by people who encountered God and followed Him. The stories that are told are not made up stories, but they are real-life stories...things that actually happened. And these stories are in the Bible because they can be used to help teach us, rebuke us (which means pointing out to us things in our life that we need to change), correct us, and train us to live right with God. They are stories that we learn so we can learn how to live for God and be true followers of Him.

Family Devotion

God has so much to teach us, but we need to carve out time in our day to spend reading His Word so we will know what He says. So how can you make time? Get up 5-10 minutes earlier so you can read your Bible (or your parents can read the Bible to you). Read the Bible in the car ride to school. Read the Bible while you eat your after-school snack. Read the Bible at dinner time as a family. Read the Bible at bedtime before you go to sleep.

Carving out time to read your Bible and spend with Jesus is an important part of growing in your faith and gaining wisdom on how to live your life as a Christ follower. Your challenge this week is find those 5-10 minutes of your day and open your Bible. I know you can do it! Then share with your parents or friends what you learned when you read the Bible!

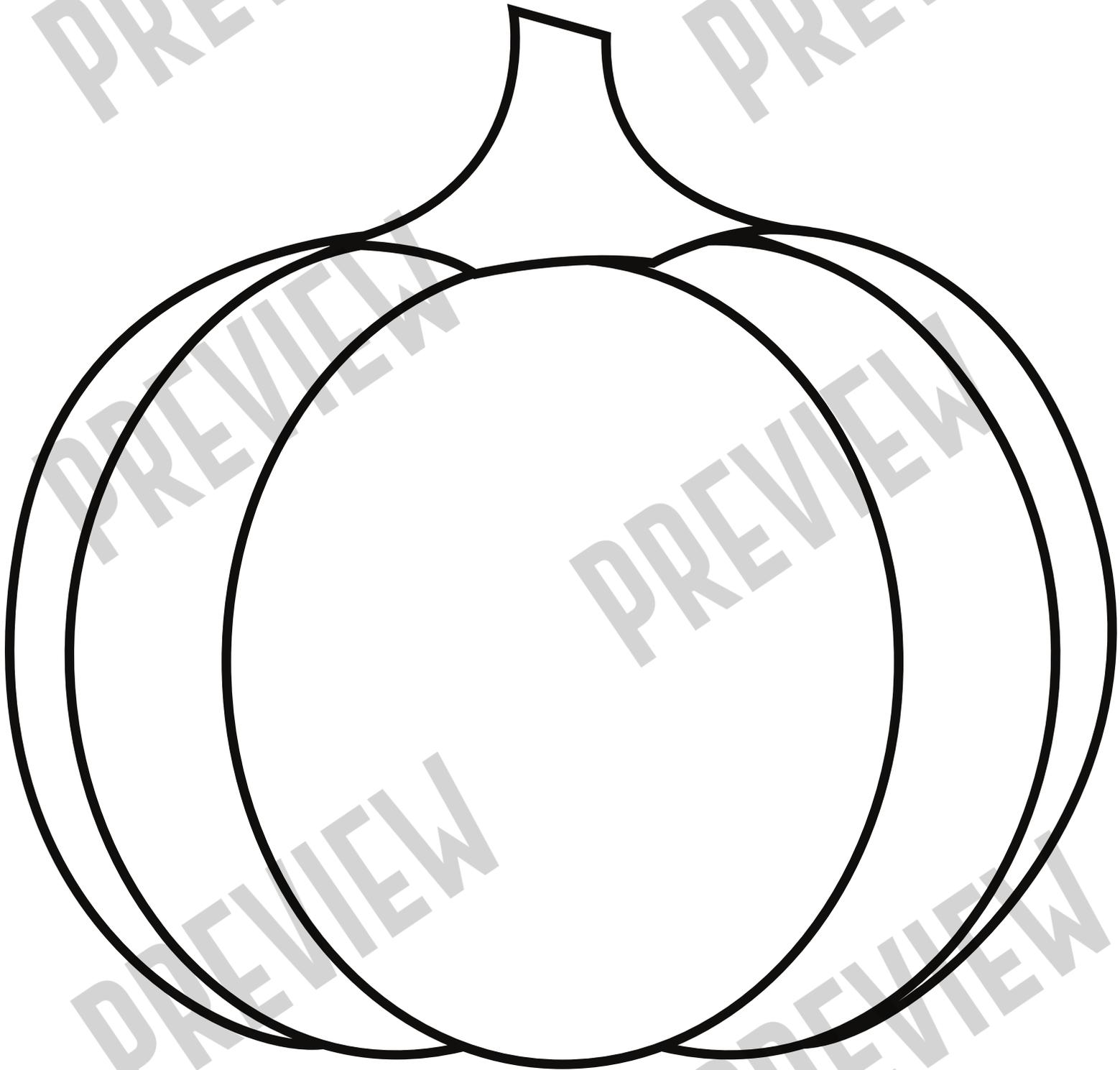
Father God, thank You for giving us the Bible so that we can learn more about You. Help me to make time every day to read Your Word and draw closer to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

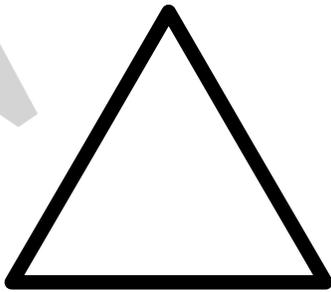
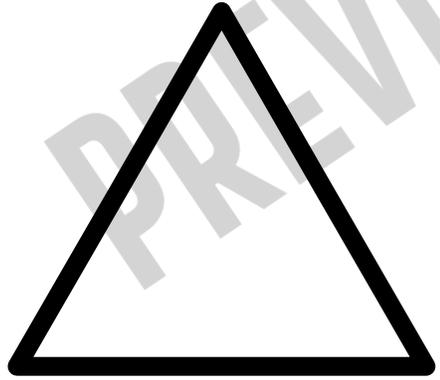
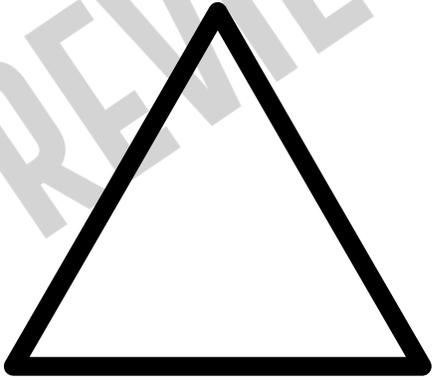
Family Devotion Activity

Every week after you read your family devotion you will be "carving" your own pumpkin! Using the pumpkin template on the following pages, you will use this as a visual reminder of the ways you can carve out time with Jesus.

First, color it orange. Then cut out the 2 eyes, nose, and mouth. For today, take one eye and write in "Read the Bible". Then color it (yellow would be a great color). Glue that eye to the pumpkin. Hang your pumpkin where you can see it every day and remember to carve out time with Jesus and read your Bible. Every week you will add a piece of the face to the pumpkin (so don't jump ahead!).

Carving Out Time With Jesus





Family Game

WEEK 1 - BIBLE BOOK MATCHING GAME

Supplies Needed: Bible book matching cards

This activity will help you learn the names of the books of the Bible! Beginning to recognize the names of all 66 books of the Bible will be so helpful to you.

Begin by cutting out the cards. Shuffle the cards and lay them face down in rows. Each player will take a turn. Turn over one card and then turn over another card to try to find the match. If no match is found, turn both cards back over. And remember where they are! If you find a match, pick them up and place next to you. The person with the most matches wins!

***If playing this game with elementary children, after you find a match, try to figure out if the book is in the Old Testament or the New Testament. If you need help, ask a parent or look it up in your Bible.*

***If playing this game with preschoolers, have them practice saying the name of the book of the Bible out loud.*

Family Craft

WEEK 1 - SCRIPTURE PUMPKINS

Supplies Needed: pumpkins, Sharpie

*** This activity will require a big pumpkin that you can write on.*

Every year your family probably carves a pumpkin and places it outside on Halloween night, but what if you wrote Scripture on one this year?

As a family, find a Bible verse (or several verses) that you would like to write on your pumpkin. Using a Sharpie (parents please help with permanent markers), write the verses you have chosen.

Place the Scripture pumpkin on your front porch. This will be a great witness to others and will help others know who Jesus is. On Halloween night, trick-or-treaters will come to your front porch and be able to read about Jesus and His love for them!

Family Snacks

WEEK 1 - CAMPFIRE CONES

Ingredients Needed: waffle cones, graham crackers, mini marshmallows, snack size Hershey bars, chocolate chips

In a waffle cone, layer the following:

- Snack size Hersey bars
- Mini marshmallows
- Graham crackers (broken up)

Repeat layers. Top with chocolate chips.

Then wrap cone in aluminum foil. Place cone on campfire, grill, or in oven for @3-5 minutes. Unwrap and enjoy!