

October is most noted for apples, pumpkins, and the secular 'holiday' of Halloween. Today, All Saints Day is recognized on November first. The feast of All Hallows', on its current date in the Western Church, may be traced to Pope Gregory III's [731-741] founding of an oratory in St Peter's for the relics "of the holy apostles and of all saints, martyrs and confessors". All Hallows Eve is now better known as Halloween, unfortunately focused on dark spirits and evil. But Jesus promised his disciples (and us) the one true Spirit, the Comforter, Counselor, and Advocate (John 16:7).

Getting to Know You

- What was your most favorite Halloween costume?

- Have you ever saved someone or been saved by someone else?

Into the Bible

- Read Titus 3:4 – 7. What do you think it means to be born again? [hint: the Greek for *again* also means “from above.”

What does it look like?

- What happens to a person after he has been born again? How is he the same and how is he different?

- Ezekiel 37 is subtitled “The Valley of Dry Bones,” and “One Nation Under One King,” prophesying David’s reign over a united Israel. In reading this passage, consider the similarities to America. Discuss how God re-united Israel [verse 14] and how he can re-unite America.

“The Life-Giver”

“He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,” [Titus 3:5]

- Matthew further clarifies the only unforgiveable sin in Matthew 12:32. Why do you think this is unforgiveable?

Taking It Home

- If you're comfortable, please share how you received God's gift of salvation.

- Have you had trouble telling others about your experience? Share with your group those difficulties and see if they have any suggestions.

- The Holy Spirit is the one who R_____ us.
- It means to be B_____ A_____.

The Story of Nicodemus

“In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” [John 3:3]

- We can't be S_____ without the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit.

The Summary Statement

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God- - ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. “ [John 1:12-13]

- Salvation is something G_____ A_____ can do.
- Our response is F_____.

The Picture of Salvation

“This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life...I will put my Spirit in you and you will live...” [Ezekiel 37:5, 14]

- Regeneration is God's act of B_____ E_____ L_____ in the one who believes in Jesus Christ.

The Warning from Jesus

“And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.” [Matthew 12:31]

- How are you responding to the work of the Holy Spirit in your life?