

Children's sermon: October 16, 2011  
"Out of my gourd"

So, you are wondering how Jesus chooses his disciples. Well ---- good news ... a story about Jesus choosing his followers awaits you!@!!

Today Jesus is a pumpkin. Jesus comes to us in so many ways ... right???  
Now ... the "other pumpkins" had heard ... Jesus is coming to town to choose his followers. So ----- all the pumpkins start to get themselves "all shined-up." They want to look good.  
As Jesus comes into town ... the pumpkins start lining up.  
Shiny. Smiling. So orange and smooth.  
They want to be absolutely "perfect" for Jesus!@!!

Who will Jesus pick first????  
He looks around ... he looks at all the "perfect-shiny-pumpkins."  
Then Jesus begins to sing ... didn't think Jesus could sing, right? ... just listen.  
Now this is music!@!! ... and the song? ----- "**Everyday people.**"

When he is done ... he walks way over here ... to the corner ... who is he looking at???  
He calls out a name ----- "FRED"!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
(Actually ... Fred is the Hebrew word for PETER!@!! ... did you know this???)  
Fred comes out from behind a tree.  
He's not smooth. He's not shiny. He's pretty "rough" looking.  
My gosh ----- Fred is a GOURD.

The smooth pumpkins can't believe it.  
Why is Jesus choosing a "gourd" to be one of his followers.  
Jesus smiles:  
*"My friends. Being my disciple ... being my follower ... is not about being perfect or smooth or good-looking on the outside. Fred here has some bumps. He's been through good times and tough times. He's hit a few bumps in the road.  
Fred is "everyday people." He is who he is ----- ordinary, special, a bit ragged around the edges.  
Hey, all my pumpkin friends ... I want you to reach inside.  
Come on ... reach inside that pumpkin body of yours. Let's see what you find.  
YES ----- THERE IS A GOURD INSIDE EACH OF YOU ... INSIDE ME, TOO.  
You have bumps ... you are not perfect ... you are a lot like Fred here.  
So ... all of you ----- COME AND FOLLOW ME. WE WILL SHARE THE LOVE ... AND, TOGETHER ... HELP MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER AND MORE LOVING PLACE."*

My young friends ... I have a pumpkin for each of you.  
And inside is a reminder ... we are all human ... yes ----- your very own "gourd."