

Kids Page

FALL LEAVES

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Time for a change

Have you noticed anything different outside lately? Depending on where you live, the leaves may be making some changes. In the fall, many trees turn from green to bright shades of red, orange or yellow before finally losing their leaves.

The reason is photosynthesis. That's a big word that describes how plants make food. Plants absorb water from the ground. They get a gas called carbon dioxide from the air. They combine these ingredients with energy from the sun to make a kind of sugar called glucose. To make photosynthesis work, God gives plants something called chlorophyll. This chemical gives trees their green color.

As winter approaches and the days get shorter and cooler, trees have to change in order to survive. Soon there will not be enough sunlight or water for photosynthesis. Trees will live on food they stored in the summer. The leaves are cut off from the tree's food supply because they are not needed during winter. After a while, they will fall to the ground.

As the leaves lose their chlorophyll, the green color starts to disappear. Some of the colors we see in fall, like yellow or orange, were in the leaves all along. Others, like brown and red, come from food or waste that gets trapped in the leaves.



God doesn't just change trees. He also changes people. The Bible tells a story about a man in a tree who experienced a big change. No, he didn't turn orange. He was changed on the inside.

Zacchaeus the tax collector climbed up in a tree because he wanted to see Jesus. As Jesus passed by, He looked up and spotted Zacchaeus. Jesus told Zacchaeus to come down because He wanted to visit his home. People were surprised. Zacchaeus had done some bad things, like collecting money he shouldn't have taken. People wondered why Jesus would want to talk to someone like that.

But Zacchaeus soon changed. That very day, he accepted Jesus into his heart. He promised to give back any money he had taken through cheating. He also said he would give some of his own money to the poor.

If you haven't accepted Jesus as your Savior, you can be like Zacchaeus. Ask Jesus to come into your heart and take away your sins. "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10, NIV).

JUST FOR laughs

What did the beaver say to the tree?
"I'd like to get to gnaw you."

What do trees wear in summer?
Swimming trunks.



Try this!

Collect several leaves of different shapes. Place a sheet of paper over each leaf and make a crayon rubbing by going over it with the side of a crayon. (You'll need to peel the paper off the crayon first.) Try using some fall colors for your rubbings.

Did you know?

The pigments that make some trees look orange or yellow in the fall are also found in egg yolks, carrots and bananas.

The eastern United States is one of the best places in the world to find bright fall colors.

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