



River City
community church

Halloween Outreach



Halloween Outreach

What is the purpose?

This letter from our Pastor should explain:

I'd like you to get ready for something that we try to take advantage of each year. We really believe that October 31st gives us an unusual opportunity to reach our neighbors. Halloween brings our neighbors and their children to our doors seeking a treat. What are we going to do? What would Jesus do? Many of us in the church have chosen to turn off our lights because we fear some of the history of this day. I think this is unfortunate. Consider these thoughts:

- Halloween has both Christian and pagan roots.
- Sadly, some evil things do occur on Halloween.
- Both of the above facts are true of Christmas.
- October 31st is a day that the Lord has made, not Satan.
- Satan has always taken things that God created for Good and twisted them for evil. Why not turn the tables on him and take this day back?

Little kids in costumes looking for candy is not evil, but it is an opportunity! Here are a few suggestions to help make the most of this day:

- *Avoid the whole death and horror thing.* We are instructed to flee the appearance of evil. Dressing up as evil incarnate probably glorifies things we don't want glorified.
- *A gospel tract might be a good idea, but be sure to include a treat a kid would like.* You don't want to communicate that Jesus is the killjoy that tells his followers to give kids literature rather than a real treat! Since many of these people are my neighbors, I like to pass out a little note communicating God's love and opening a door for further relationship and discussion if they desire, along with some *good* candy (Tootsie Rolls, M&Ms, Smarties, and Sweet Tarts are some classic favorites but kids today may suggest some newer alternatives).
- *Host a block party.* Have some fun and games for kids while you take some time to meet their parents.
- *Pray for each parent and child who come to your door and treat them the way Jesus would.* What would Jesus do if a group of little kids came to His door all dressed up looking for a treat? Do that.
- *Be loving and biblical in your response to people who have different views of this holiday than you do.* Some people feel that to participate in any part of this holiday is to glorify or encourage evil. Others see it as a harmless annual tradition that is fun for kids. Follow your conscience and be gracious to those who differ in their conviction. If you feel it would be wrong to participate, pray for those who do and pray that God's kingdom would be served!

Sean Azzaro
Pastor

Halloween Outreach Ideas

Party Ideas

- Recruit a team to help
- Decide on a host home
- Determine a start and end time, a good time is from 6:00 - 8:30 pm
(Don't go too late on a school night)
- Make flyers to pass out in the neighborhood
(Sample included page 4) Flyers should be passed out the week before
- Design a small flyer to hand out with candy at the event
(Sample included page 5)
- Ask your team to bring a *good* bag of candy to pass out that night
- Have your team bring snacks for the party
- Come up with games that you can play at the party
(Ideas included page 6)
- Get party prizes for the games
- Determine a schedule for evening
(Sample include page 6)



Sample of a flyer you can
hand out in the neighborhood
before the event.

Family Halloween Party

1234 Any Street

October 31st

6:00 pm

*Face Painting
Bobbing for Apples
Costume Contest*

6:15 Group Trick or Treating

7:00 Hayride in neighborhood

7:30 Snacks & Games



*Hosted by
The Smith Family*

Sample of a flyer you can you can hand out with candy.



What are you going to be for Halloween?

That's one of the great things about Halloween. You can be what ever you want! One year I dressed up as a long-haired guitar player, hoping "a rock and roll band would need a helping hand!" It didn't quite pan out.

I guess there is something in each of us that at times would like to be someone else. We all experience times when we wish we could dress up and change everything about our life. God knows that and He also knows that dressing up and pretending is not good for much except getting candy at Halloween. God wants to give us a new life not just a new "image". The Bible says "If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come." God will give us new life if we'll let Him. Now that's a treat!

If you have any questions about how to have "new life" in Christ just let us know and we'd love to help you find the answers. Have a safe and happy Halloween!

The Smith Family
(Your address or phone # if you like, can go here as a point of future contact)

Game Ideas for the Event

Games:

Mummy Wrap:

Divide kids into 3 groups. Each group pick an adult to wrap
Who's the best mummy.
Items needed: toilet paper

Bobbing for Apples:

Try and get an apple w/ no hands
Tub, water, apples

Hayride:

Trailer
Hay...spread out

Trick or Treating:

Provide/or kids bring bags, flashlights

Costume Contest:

Come up with different type of divisions contest
Ex: funniest, most elaborate, pretties
Get prizes

Face Painting:

Paper Towels
Paints

To Do's:

Decorate
Put up outside lights
Provide lots of chairs

Buy or ask someone to bring:

3 bags of Apples
3 bags of Ice
Crepe Paper, Balloons
Toilet Paper
Plastic Tub for Game
Prizes for Costume Contest
Snacks/Drinks/Ice
Lots of Good Candy to Hand Out

Schedule:

The week before event pass out flyer to your neighborhood.

5:00 Setup

6:00 People start to arrive

6:15 Group trick or treat with *adults supervision*

7:00 Hay ride *optional*

7:30 Snacks & games

8:30 Everyone goes home

