



## Missional Halloween

This year, Halloween falls on a Wednesday. Halloween is obviously not a day that we celebrate at church, but it is a day when people get out to visit with their neighbors and we believe it is a great day for the Carmel Family to make ministry connections! Rather than planning something special at the church on this night, we encourage you to use a secular holiday to accomplish a spiritual purpose. We want you to use this Halloween to build witnessing relationships with people.

Jesus said, "Let your light shine..." (Matthew 5:16). How will you let your light shine on this night? In order for your light to shine, you have to place yourself in the darkness. This means you have to go into the context of those who don't know Jesus to lead them to Jesus. Jesus ate with sinners and tax collectors (Mark 2:15-17), visited with the adulterous woman at the well (John 4:1-29), and talked to the tax collector Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10).

Living missionally means that you approach all of life as if you were a missionary (which you are). If you were a missionary in China at the time of the Chinese New Year Celebration (with all of its non-Christian roots), you would go to that celebration to socialize with neighbors and other non-believers. We simply want to be missionaries in our own backyard.

Listed below are some ideas for building relationships with your neighbors on Halloween. Your family may have other ideas. We want to hear your stories, please tell us what happened. Email your stories to: [questions@carmelbaptist.org](mailto:questions@carmelbaptist.org).

**Be Prayerful.** Ask the Spirit to open your eyes and ears to the needs around you and to help you listen for ways that you can serve your neighbors. Pray for open doors for new relationships and gospel conversations. Be sure to include your children in your prayer time so that they can participate as you carry out God's mission.

**Be Present.** Come to the door or hang out on the porch and try to get to know some people and where they live in the neighborhood.

**Be Social.** Set up a portable fire pit in your driveway and visit with neighbors as they pass by or gather around. Let your neighbors know that you will roast marshmallows, make smores, or serve warm cider and invite them to drop by.

**Build Relationships.** Get to know families and their stories. Ask people about themselves and pay attention to their needs. Look for opportunities to pray for them or to serve them at a later time.

**Connect with others.** If you decide to take your children out, join with other neighborhood families. Explain to your children that the family is on mission not to get tons of candy, but rather to meet and get to know new people so you can eventually share Jesus with them. Consider what you wear (your costume) as a way to strike up a conversation.

**Have a Party.** You may want to throw a party! Send the dads out with the kids while the moms socialize with some hot apple cider, coffee or tea. Then, reconvene with the parents and kids together to examine all of the loot (kids love to show their parents and other kids the loot).

**Attend a Party.** If others are throwing parties, you may want to join them. If so, bring snacks or whatever is needed. Then, serve by helping clean up and strike up a conversation in the process.

**Get Involved.** If your community has a special event, join them and invite some neighbors to go with you. Get to know their stories along the way.

**Do a reverse Halloween.** Instead of hanging out at your home, bake and take some cookies to your neighbors and introduce yourself.

**Serve others.** As a family, dress up as positive characters and take treats to a nearby retirement community or nursing home. You will need to plan this in advance and ask permission.