

## Halloween – Party or No Party?

As Sunday School teachers and Youth Group leaders, around this time of year we find ourselves facing the question that haunts us all... (excuse the pun)...

### Halloween - Party or No Party?

I'll cut to the chase. My advice is just... **Have the Party!**

Yep, that's about the size of it. You can read down through this article, weighing the pros and cons, but you'll find at the end that's the sum of my advice: **Have the Party!**

Not just any kind of party of course (and certainly not a stereotypical Halloween Party) but a wholesome event for younger children put on by Volunteers (like teens from your **Youth Group!**)

With some forethought, you can plan it to be an alternative event that will be a **positive outreach** to those in your church and community. Parents, looking for a fun, safe evening for their young children, will appreciate your efforts!

If you're already interested in the party idea, download this Handout for the **Perfect Kids Party for Halloween**. It gives lots of "how-to" information for planning and giving the perfect Halloween Party for children (4-8 years of age) at your church.

No matter if you decide to do a small event for just the kids at church, or a larger event for the children in the neighborhood, this helpful handout will give you some of our best ideas for making October 31st as pleasant and positive as possible.

If you'd like to plan an Alternative Halloween Event for Youth, our Youth handout will help you plan an event that will at once entertain and engage teens in positive and purposeful activities.

After all, as someone once said... **The best defense is a good offense!**

### So... Halloween... Party or No Party?

**Keep reading for Arguments FOR and AGAINST...**

## **ARGUMENTS AGAINST...**

Often the objections offered against a church sponsored Halloween Party (no matter how wholesome or well intentioned it may seem) are that it may give the appearance that the church is promoting a pagan festival or even condoning satanic or occult practices. **This is enough to give anyone pause!**

If your church elders or pastor hold these opinions, **then it is best not to have any sort of Halloween party!**

I never advise going against the counsel of your governing board of elders or your pastor. The reason is biblical. God has placed them in their positions of authority, as those who must give an account. (Hebrews 13:17) So be sure and support them in their final decision. **God will honor you for it!**

*REMEMBER... what works for one church does not always work for another. Even though we are all members of the Body of Christ, every church body is not the same. We live in different locations and in different communities around the globe.*

*So, only the persons who are in leadership positions at your church can help decide these things for your particular church!*

## **ARGUMENTS FOR...**

One of the most compelling arguments for having a church sponsored Halloween Party is that it provides an excellent **opportunity to witness to others** regarding the love of God and the forgiveness offered to each of us through Jesus Christ.

Other reasons include **offering a safe, positive event** for children to attend and setting an example of **good, wholesome fun** as an alternative to other potential activities (sometimes promoted by other parts of our culture.)

**Involving Youth Group** members with the party will encourage positive activities for them as well as **service to others**.

An **Alternative Youth Activity** (just for Teens) would provide a safe, fun atmosphere and an opportunity to share the truth of the Gospel. It would also be a good, positive activity to which the Youth could **invite their friends**.

This could result in increased number of teens at Youth Group events and more opportunities to witness to them.

## **THE BOTTOM LINE...**

Whether we like it or not, and whether we approve of it or not, Halloween is celebrated all around us in our culture... *(and sometimes in less than desirable ways!)*

Let's counter this by providing **wholesome, safe events** for the children in our church and those in our surrounding community!

## **FREE RESOURCES to Help You Plan your Party!**

Have the Perfect Kids' Party for Halloween at your church, or plan an Alternative Halloween Event for Youth! Download these helpful resources full of great ideas for these events!

- [Perfect Kids' Party for Halloween](#)
- [Alternative Halloween Event for Youth](#)

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS for October 31<sup>st</sup>!**

Halloween (October 31st) falls on a Sunday this year. The children and youth in your classrooms are going to have questions about Halloween, Satan, angels, etc.

You're going to need some reliable materials with scriptural answers! Find them here!!

Free Sunday School lessons for Halloween to use with Children: Preschool to Youth:

- [Sunday School lessons for Halloween](#)

## **MORE IDEAS for SUNDAY SCHOOL...**

Over time we will work on expanding the Ideas section of Sunday School Center. My hope is that in the future you will be able to come here and find good ideas, helpful advice and much needed encouragement in Christ!

You are the workforce that keeps Sunday School up and running! I want you to have access to lots of ideas that will be helpful to you in your ministry!

God bless you as you continue to serve God right where you are!

With love in Christ,

*Sharon*