



Intro

Halloween is impossible to ignore and the holiday is gaining ground. Each year neighborhoods add more homes that are “all in” with Halloween décor. It hasn’t reached Christmas proportions, but it’s gaining ground. So, let’s use the “other world” nature of Halloween as a tool to learn a truth deeply ingrained in the Christian faith: there is a spirit world that is more important than the world we see.

Materials

Each student will need a copy of the student page.

Open

After your group has gathered, open your session with a discussion on one or more of these questions:

What’s been the most creative Halloween yard you’ve seen this season?

What was your favorite Halloween costume as a kid?

What’s your personal take on Halloween? Is it good or bad?

After some opening discussion, read the following brief history of Halloween:

A Brief History of Halloween

Over the centuries Halloween has taken various forms and has been claimed by both pagans and Christians as a holiday. Yes, even Christians. A form of Halloween began hundreds of years ago when the Celts established the tradition of celebrating the end of the harvest season on October 31. But their celebration had a twist: they believed that October 31 represented a day when the boundaries of the living and the dead would overlap and that the dead would come back from their world to “haunt” the living. Centuries later churches coopted part of this tradition to honor deceased saints and martyrs. Today, nearly every tradition of Halloween—like jack-o-lanterns, costumes, trick-or-treating—can be traced to an ancient practice or tradition that has either Christian or pagan roots.

Transition into your study time by sharing the following in your own words:

Today Halloween is pretty much all about candy, costumes, and “haunted” houses. Whether you observe Halloween or not, you can’t miss seeing the season. So let’s use the “other world” nature of Halloween as a tool to learn a truth deeply ingrained in the Christian faith: there is a spirit world that is more important than the world we see.

Digging In

Have students read Ephesians 6:10-12 printed on their student pages. As they read, invite them to draw a symbol (maybe a jack-o-lantern) over references to “other world” stuff.

Ephesians 6:10-12

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.



● **Taking It Inward**

● After reading and marking the passage, discuss these questions as a group:



What does this passage teach us about the “other world”?

Does it sound like something to take seriously or can we ignore it?

What does this passage tell us to do?

● **Putting Into Practice**

● Share in your own words:



This passage reminds us of a reality that is commemorated by Halloween: a dark world exists that we must constantly battle. Thankfully, God has equipped us with “full armor” for this battle. Maybe Halloween 2015 is the year you lock into this truth. Here are some suggestions for a mash up between Ephesians 6 and the Halloween season.

Share these with your students and then ask them to choose a “mash up” or create one that’s better than these suggestions.

Phrase by phrase:

Ephesians 6:10-12 contains seven phrases. Over the next couple weeks you will be seeing Halloween everywhere: in stores, in yards, in media. Each time you see or hear a reference to Halloween, use that reference as a prompt to recite a phrase from Ephesians 6:10-12. Then, by October 31 you will have this passage memorized.

Wallpaper/screen saver:

Keep the passage handy by creating an image of the passage and use it as a wallpaper or screen saver for your computer or other e-devices. Or print/write the passage on a card you can keep nearby. Whenever you see Halloween décor, pull out the passage and read a phrase. Plus, anytime you find yourself with down time –waiting in line, sitting in a waiting room, riding on the bus—you can work at memorizing the passage.

Key ring/bag tag:

Create an Ephesians 6:10-12 key ring or bag tag. Cut up some card stock or use 3x5 cards. Write each phrase of Ephesians 6:10-12 onto a card, hole-punch the cards and string the cards onto a ring. Then hook the ring onto an item you use every day like a backpack, key ring, purse, etc. Whenever you see Halloween décor read a phrase from your ring of Scripture.

Close your time by sharing in your own words:

In Genesis 50:20 Joseph points out to his brothers, who had sold him into slavery, that God was able to use their bad intentions for good. Let this Halloween season serve a similar function. Halloween is certainly not a holiday conducive to spiritual growth, but it can serve as a reminder for you to prepare and protect your heart from the devil’s schemes, and that’s a very good thing.



● **Digging In**

● **Ephesians 6:10-12(NIV)**

● ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

● **Putting Into Practice**

● **Phrase by phrase:**

Wallpaper/screen saver:

Key ring/bag tag:

Your idea: