



**REVERSE
TRICK OR
TREAT!!!**

Dear neighbors,

We thank you for your candy and we want to give you a treat too! So please accept our “reverse trick or treat.”

Next to Christmas and birthdays, is there any other day kids look forward to more than Halloween? Candy, dress-up, it's a lot of fun! But it also can be a day that teaches that it is better to receive than to give, so we've decided to *give* on Halloween this year.

But Halloween isn't just about dressing up as Princesses or Spiderman. Have you noticed how much blood and gore there is too? It's not uncommon to see lawns decorated with tombstones and corpses hanging from nooses. There is sadly a lot of “death” associated with what should be a wholesome kids' holiday.

So as long as Halloween is about death, let's consider that.

The reality is that 10 out of 10 people die. No one can escape death. What do you think happens to us after we die?

Most people believe in some sort of an afterlife, and it is common for people to say that we go to “a better place.” If there is a better place, do you deserve to go there?

The Bible says that “it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). Please ask yourself, how will you do on the Day of Judgment?

The way to tell is to test yourself against God's Law—the Ten Commandments. The 9th says "You shall not lie." How many lies have you told in your life? If you're like the rest of us, you've told countless lies. What do you call someone who tells "countless lies?" You call that person a liar.

The 8th Commandment says "You shall not steal." Have you ever taken anything that didn't belong to you, regardless of the value? Downloaded or copied a song you didn't pay for? Stole time from your boss by taking a longer break than you are supposed to? We all have, and that makes us a thief.

Ever taken God's name in vain? That's breaking the 3rd Commandment, and that is called blasphemy. God takes that very seriously. He said he "will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain" (Exodus 20:7).

Ever commit adultery? Thankfully most people haven't. But Jesus said if you even look with lust, that is the same as committing adultery in the heart (See Matthew 5:27-28). God will judge even our hearts!

If we are honest, we must admit that all of us are lying, thieving, blasphemous, adulterers at heart, and we've only looked at four Commandments. There are six more!

We are not as good as we think we are. We are lawbreakers in God's sight, and we deserve something far scarier than anything we'll see on Halloween. In order for God to be just, he must sentence us to Hell on the Day of Judgment.

But there's great news.

God came to earth as a man to pay the penalty for the Law we broke! Jesus Christ is God in human form, and he never sinned once. Yet he died like a sinner to pay the penalty for our sins in our place. That's why Jesus died like a thief even though He was not a thief. That's why Jesus died like a murderer even though He was not a murderer. He died to pay the fine we couldn't pay. And then he did what nobody ever has—he raised himself from the dead (see John 2:13-22).

What must we do? Jesus himself told us when he said “Repent, and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15). This is a command from our maker. To repent means to turn from our sins and forsake them, and turn to Christ, trusting in his goodness and not our own. We can never be forgiven by our own efforts. Jesus said, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

You're our neighbor and we don't want you to perish. Please repent and believe the good news that Jesus died and rose from the dead to pay for sins. If you have a Bible, please read it. A great place to start is the book of John, as John was an eye witness. And please feel free to contact us anytime!

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