



Ideas to Reach Out from Your Place

October 31 Ideas

October 31st is the one night a year where the people in our neighborhoods come to our houses. Some of us may not live in heavily trafficked areas for Trick-or-Treating, but others of us have a golden opportunity to meet neighbors we don't know, make a meaningful connection, and share the hope of Jesus.

So What Could I Do? Here are some ideas for how you can possibly make meaningful connections with neighbors and others who come by:

- 👉 **Stay home, turn your porch light on, and actually give out candy.** For many, this is a step they may not always take. For some, October 31st is a night to leave home, or turn the lights off and huddle in the basement. Hint: if you want good connections, give good candy!
 - 👉 **Label your Candy with Hope** – Our Preschool Director, Angie Broaddus, has put together some great labels that you can pick up at the Preschool desk if you'd like to be able to label your candy with the hope of Jesus.
- 👉 **Get outside in your yard for passing traffic.** Sometimes parents don't come to the door with their kids. If you want to meet adults too, here are some possible ideas:
 - 👉 **Be a Hot Drink Station** – set up a table and pass out disposable cups of hot chocolate, coffee, cider, etc. to help warm passing trick-or-treaters and their families.
 - 👉 **Have a campfire** – If you have a portable fire ring, or just want to set up a small fire in your yard for letting folks grill marshmallows as they go by, this is a great way to have folks come by, feel relaxed, and spend a couple minutes talking. If you set a portable fire ring up on bricks or block, it won't even hurt the grass!
 - 👉 **Have a themed activity/décor outside to draw people to stop for a moment** – Stay out of the spooky realm and figure out something light-hearted and fun for children to do as they come by. It could be a simple carnival type game, or perhaps a unique decoration. Be sure to keep the area well-lit for safety.
 - 👉 **Reverse Trick-or-Treat.** Instead of just waiting on your neighbors to come by, prepare some small gift bags, etc. and go door to door with something to give to your neighbors, and get a chance to meet and bless them in person.

See the next page for more!

- **Share the message of Jesus.** Our 2 recommendations this year are a tract called the Man on the Middle Cross and a children’s tract called The Perfect Pumpkin. Each of these tracts are available after services in the worship center lobby.
 - The Man on the Middle Cross – tells the story of the most unlikely convert: the thief who trusted Jesus while on the cross beside Him. You’ll be blessed not only by this tract (English on the front, Spanish on the back) but also by the video that is available with a QR code on each tract for folks to scan and watch (7 minutes). The label also shares our church website address as well. This tract comes in packs of 20, each pack is \$5.
 - The Perfect Pumpkin – a great tract for small kids on the fact that none of us are perfect, but that God has made a way through Jesus despite our imperfection and need of rescue. These are easy to give to any child who trick or treats. These tracts come in packs of 25, and are \$2.50 per pack.

May God bless any efforts you make to get to know your neighbors, offer a smile and hospitality, and may He use us so that others may know the hope of Jesus!

