


FAMILY RESOURCE

Guide

LOVING YOUR NEIGHBORS ON OCTOBER 31



At First Baptist Church, our mission is to reach all of Jacksonville with all of Jesus for all of life. This means we're always looking for opportunities to connect with our neighbors, build relationships, and share Christ with them.

On October 31, these opportunities will literally come knock right on our doors! As our neighbors and friends are all dressed up flooding the sidewalks and streets of our neighborhoods, let's use this time to extend a warm welcome, engage in genuine conversation, and share the love of Jesus.

In Matthew 5, Jesus says, *"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven."*

So, what can YOU do on October 31 to reach Jacksonville?

If you're unsure where to start, we hope this handbook will be helpful for you and your family. Whether you're staying in or going out, we pray these ideas will encourage you to be intentional with the opportunities all around you to share the Gospel.

We love you, we're praying for you, and we can't wait to hear how you reach all of Jacksonville with all of Jesus on October 31!

IDEAS IF YOUR FAMILY IS

Going Out

REVERSE TRICK-OR-TREATING

Halloween is the one night of the year when neighbors are home and eager to answer the door. What a great chance to be generous and surprise them with a twist on traditional trick-or-treating.

Simply purchase full size candy bars, bags of candy, certificates for ice cream, coffee, donuts, or other treats, and go house to house handing them out.

What a great opportunity to introduce yourself and your family! Printable tags and invitations to church can be found online, at the Guest Services Desk, or Next Steps Table and should be included on whatever treat you choose!



Reverse trick-or-treating is a great way to remind ourselves and those in our household of Acts 20:35 – "...It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

AUTUMN BLESSINGS

Prepare a special treat bag or basket full of fall fun with an invitation to church (printable tags and invites can be found on our website!) for your neighbors.

Carefully and quietly leave it on their front porch. Have the kids ring your neighbor's doorbell and run!



This improved version of ding-dong-ditch gives our kids a chance to be generous without anyone ever knowing! It is a great way to put Matthew 6:3 into action.

IDEAS IF YOUR FAMILY IS

Staying In

This year when Jacksonville shows up for treats, let's not disappoint! One of the best ways to embrace the business of the evening is to get outside and greet your neighbors!

While it's tempting (and easy!) to turn the front porch light off, we want to encourage you to get outside. If you stay inside and only answer the door when the doorbell rings, you lose an opportunity to intentionally get to know those around you.

Here are a few ways to make your night at home fun for everyone:

BE PREPARED

Make plans to decorate and dress up.

BE ENTHUSIASTIC, ENGAGING, AND ENCOURAGING

Be welcoming

Ask about their costumes

Introduce yourself to the parents

Ask about hobbies and interests

BE GENEROUS AND GRACIOUS

Hand out the best candy.

Remember not everyone says, "Thank you!"

Sometimes neighbors are short and even rude, so remember to give extra grace tonight!



When teenagers come to your door, make them feel welcome without asking, "Aren't you too old to trick-or-treat?" Remember, there are so many other places they could be spending their night. Simply pass out candy and wish them a safe night.

IDEAS IF YOUR FAMILY IS

Staying In

BE PRAYERFUL

Begin praying now for those who will come by your house on October 31.

While not everyone is comfortable to chat with every trick-or-treater, everyone can pray. You may not want to strike up conversation with each family that stops by, but we encourage you to pray over each child. As you place candy in the treat bag, pray for protection, for salvation, blessing, and direction for that child and the family represented.

WAYS TO LOVE YOUR

Neighbors

INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS OVER FOR A PRE-TRICK-OR-TREAT PARTY

Bring your grill to the driveway and offer hot dogs, water, juice boxes, and snacks to your neighbors.

IDEAS TO TRY

Glow Sticks

Glow sticks are great party favors! Kids love them, and they are helpful for parents as families are out after dark.



Pay a visit to your closest dollar store for glow sticks. You can find as many as 10/\$1!

Neighbors

Costume Contest

Consider hosting a costume contest for your neighbors and award a small prize.

Water Bottles

If you've ever toted children around your neighborhood trick-or-treating, you know it can be a workout!

Consider passing out cold water bottles to parents. Use the printable labels found on our website or Guest Services, wrap around your favorite water bottles, and secure with tape.

Lawn Games

Set up simple lawn games or mini carnival-style games. You probably have everything you need around your house already! Some ideas are:

Bean Bag Toss - toss bean bags at a target, set up cornhole boards, or decorate 5-gallon buckets to create a DIY skiball game.

Hidden Treasure - Let your young guests search for buried treasure in a kiddie pool or sandbox filled with sand, packing peanuts, or shredded paper.

Basketball - If you have a basketball hoop already in your driveway, set up a game of horse for prizes and candy.

WAYS TO LOVE YOUR

Neighbors

Mini Trunk-of-Treats

Gather a few friends and decorate your trunks in your driveway for a mini trunk-of-treats.

Driveway Movie

If you have a projector and a white sheet, you have everything you need for a great outdoor movie night! Let your neighbors know ahead of time so they can make plans to join you.



Movie Ideas • You'll certainly want to pick something kid-friendly and parent-approved. Some of our favorite suggestions are:

It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown
Monsters, Inc.
Toy Story of Terror
Scooby Doo
Curious George- A Halloween Boofest

TIPS

- **Do** play fun music and create an inviting atmosphere.
- **Don't** be scary. Skip the sound effects, spooky lights, and decorations.

Resources

These resources and more are available on our website to print at home (fbcjax.com/reach904) or at Guest Services:

- Water bottle labels
- Autumn Blessings gift tag
- Treat bag tags
- Invitations to First Baptist Church
- Zip top bag toppers
- Blank party invitations

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

124 West Ashley Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202

Sunday School • 9:00 and 10:45 AM

Sunday Morning Worship • 9:00 and 10:45 AM

Sunday Evening Worship • 6:00 PM

Wednesday Evening Worship • 6:15 PM

904.356.6077 • WWW.FBCJAX.COM

NOCATEE CAMPUS

1770 Valley Ridge Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32256

Sunday Morning Worship • 9:00 AM

Sunday School • 10:20 AM

Wednesday Evening Worship • 6:30 PM

904.265.7362 • WWW.FBCJAX.COM/NOCATEE





FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
JACKSONVILLE