Halloween Bible Study Guide

based on the article: Using Halloween to Teach Genesis.

Preparation

As the Bible Study parent/leader, you should be familiar with the article linked above. If not, read it carefully prior to proceeding.

Goals

To instill the following truths into your kids:

- 1) The original creation was "very good."
- 2) Death, suffering and evil entered the world though the sin of Adam.
- 3) Satan was defeated at the Cross.
- 4) The world we live in today is still fallen and dangerous.
- 5) Death, suffering and evil will be destroyed at the end of the age.

As you may have noticed, the above 5 points are the Gospel—the full gospel from beginning to end. The gospel today is often simplified and watered down, but you can use the imagery of Halloween as the perfect springboard to explain the whole story—from the Creation to Corruption to the Cross.

Suggested Guidelines

The Bible study below should take place late Halloween night after you and your kids have collected as much candy as possible (or desired). Afterward, sit back and enjoy the fruits of your labor, as you discuss God's word.

Below are some icebreaker questions to get the conversion going, but I highly recommend keeping things as informal as possible. Allow your kids to drive the discussion. In most cases, you'll find them naturally interested in this subject-matter. Encourage them to interact with you and others. This is their time to soak up the knowledge they've been curious about. Kids will take conversations in fascinating directions if you let them, so if it's not too far off subject, go with the flow.

And there's no reason to stick to the questions on this guide rigidly. The only real goal is to instill into them the 5 points listed above. If possible, memorize the basic 5 points and don't keep any notes with you. Keep things as natural and relaxed as possible. If you need notes, you can print out the last page of the guide.

Study Questions with Notes

Use the sample questions **in blue** below to guide the conversation. Read through it and become familiar with it before starting. If you need the questions by themselves, they are listed alone on the last page.

The Imagery of Halloween

Ask: Walking around tonight collecting candy, what kinds of things did you see? Let them chat for a bit about the various images they saw. They'll have a lot to say as the imagery will be fresh in their minds.

Ask: What would you say is the main theme of Halloween?

Explain what you mean by "theme" if necessary. The eventual answer you're looking for is 'death'.

Ask: What are some things you saw tonight that reminded you of death? You should hear answers like tombstones, skeletons, corpses, etc.

Ask: What are some other themes of Halloween?

Look for answers like fear, evil, the paranormal realm.

Ask: What are some things you saw tonight that made you think of those?

You may hear answers like jack-o'-lanterns, demons, scary creatures, severed limbs. After some further dialog, bring them back to the book of Genesis.

God's Original Very Good Creation

Ask: So, did God create all these things?

Use this opportunity to proclaim how God's creation was "very good" (Gen. 1:31). Talk briefly about the creation week, and original world God made. The obvious answer is "no" God did not create death evil and suffering. It had to get here some other way.

The Fall of Adam

Ask: Then where did it come from? How did these bad things get here?

Use this opportunity to explain what happened in the Garden of Eden. You may, at this point, want to read the account of the Fall from <u>Gen. 2:5-3:24</u>. You may want to talk about Adam's freedom and his pure unblemished nature.

Explain to them that the suffering we see today and in the past was not part of God's original plan. This may lead to questions about dinosaurs and the idea they lived millions of years before Adam. Explain biblically why this can't be, and how they and all other land animals were made on day 6 along with Adam (<u>Gen. 1:24-28</u>). Explain that

our original diet (both us and all animals) was to be vegetarian (<u>Gen. 1:29-30</u>). You may at this point want to jump to the restoration period and explain how animals will once again live together in harmony, and eat plant-based diets (<u>Is. 11:6-9, 65:25</u>).

Satan Defeated at The Cross

After discussing the bad news, move to good news—the gospel.

Ask: Did you know the Bible talks about another Adam? —the last Adam? Explain to them how Christ is the last Adam per <u>1Cor. 15:43-47</u>. Also draw from <u>Ro-</u> <u>mans 5:12-17</u>. Explain how Paul often linked Christ to Adam and how the 2 stories are inseparable.

Explain the good news that Christ has defeated Satan as promised and that salvation is given freely to all who trust in Him.

Our Fallen World

Ask: What are some real life things we see today that reminds us the world is fallen and cursed?

Help your kids understand to the best of their ability which side of the fall we live in. Life is dangerous and precaution in everything is necessary.

Also, talk to them about Satan's fall from grace and the realm of the occult.

Ask: What about the devil? How did he become bad?

Explain to your kids who the devil is and what happened to him. Explain that he was created good, but rebelled against God. Explain that he was cursed in the Garden along with Adam (<u>Gen. 3:14-15</u>). You may also want to read <u>Ezekiel 28:11-19</u>, which is an account of the fall of the King of Tyre. But, as you read, you soon realize God is speaking of the cherub (angel) who incited the King—Satan. God is actually speaking of the fall of Satan, which happened in the Garden of Eden.

You were in Eden, the garden of God;.... I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. (Ezek. 28:13, 15)

Make sure your kids understand Satan and the spiritual realm are real. Explain to them the difference between the real occult and the fantasy versions we see in movies. If your kids are old enough, talk to them about dangerous occult games and tools like ouija boards and tarot cards.

Explain to them also the grace of God which is always with us, even in the midst of the worst suffering. Halloween candy may serve as a perfect symbol of this grace. In the midst of the worst depictions of evil on Halloween night, candy is available in abundance.

Ask: How might the candy we collected tonight remind us about the grace of God?

Remind them that blessings are all around them if they take the time to look.

The Coming Restoration

Finally share with your kids that God will eliminated all death and suffering at the end of the age.

Ask: Did you know God is going to start over one day?

Explain that the millennial kingdom will be a period of a thousand years of peace when Christ will rule the world (<u>Rev. 20:2-6</u>). In that time, all warring will cease, even among the animals.

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea. (Is. 11:6-9)

(also see <u>ls. 65:25</u>).

Explain to them how death itself will be defeated once and for all. It is called the "last enemy" of God and it will be destroyed (<u>1Cor. 15:26</u>). Christ holds the keys to death (<u>Rev. 1:18</u>), and it will be cast into the lake of fire at the end of the age (<u>Rev. 20:13-14</u>).

And finally tell them about the new heavens and earth which will be made after the destruction of death.

Rev. 20:14 Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 If anyone was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire.

Rev. 21:1 I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth have passed away, and the sea is no more. 2 I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready like a bride adorned for her husband. 3 I heard a loud voice out of heaven saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with people, and he will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

Conclusion

After all points are covered you may want to close in prayer, or just continue the conversation into the night. As Moses exhorted,

"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deut. 6:6-9)

Study Questions Alone

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Ask: What about the devil? How did he become bad?

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