

A Helping Halloween

By Jolene Roehlkepartain

Costumes. Trick or Treating. Getting candy. These are what children often think about Halloween. Enlarge this holiday so that the month of October becomes more about giving.

For

Young Family

Season

Fall



Needed

Bible, A Giving October worksheet, one pen, small box or canister with a lid, lots of pennies (500 to 1000)

Prepare in Advance

- Mark your Bible to Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (or see text below)
- Print one copy of the A Giving October worksheet for your family
- Cut a hole or slot in the box or canister lid so that it's easy to slide pennies into it
- Get a bunch of pennies (500 to 1,000) from the bank

Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

God, open our eyes so that we can see how Halloween can also be a time of helping others. Amen.

2. Ask someone to read aloud Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him--a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

3. As a family, discuss these questions:
 - Why is it good to help people?
 - What kind of help do you see on Halloween?
 - How can we make Halloween a holiday about helping?
 - How does giving money to church and causes we care about help others?
4. Look at the A Giving October worksheet. Talk about how to do this worksheet. Decide whether your family will do this day-by-day through the month of October or if you will complete the worksheet in a shorter amount of time. Use a pen to check off items on the worksheet.
5. As you do the worksheet, have children place pennies (according to their answer for each day) into the small box or canister with a lid. (You can also make this a family project of decorating the small box or canister, if you wish.)
6. Keep the box or canister on your kitchen table or another prominent place in your home. See how the box gets heavier and heavier as you complete the worksheet.
7. Decide as a family where to donate the money at the end of the month. Consider giving the money to your church or another charity that your family cares about.



A Giving October

Do this counting activity each day. With the number that you count each day, place that many pennies into your box or canister. For example, if your children have celebrated five Halloweens so far (for day 1), place five pennies into the container. At the end of the month, give the money you collected to your church or another charity that your family cares about.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1. Count the number of Halloweens your children have celebrated so far.	2. Count the number of stores near you that are selling Halloween costumes or decorations.	3. Count the number of houses on your block (or apartments on your floor).	4. Count the number of colors your children can identify.	5. Count the number of pets you have (or wish you had).	6. Count the number of months in one year.
7. Count the number of TVs in your home.	8. Count the number of meals you will eat today.	9. Count the number of cars your family has.	10. Count the number of closets in your home.	11. Count the number of days until Halloween.	12. Count the number of leaves you see lying on the ground outside.	13. Count the number of stars you see outside tonight.
14. Count the number of spoons your family has.	15. Count the number of pieces of mail your family received today.	16. Count the number of times your family goes shopping in one week.	17. Count the number of dishes you wash after a meal.	18. Count the number of rooms in your home.	19. Count the number of toys lying on the floor.	20. Count the number of shoes in your closet.
21. Count the number of people in your family.	22. Count the number of days in one week.	23. Count the number of children's books in your home.	24. Count the number of characters you thought about dressing as for Halloween.	25. Count the number of crayons (or markers) your children have.	26. Count the number of days until Halloween.	27. Count the number of Halloween decorations in your home.
28. Count the number of Halloween movies or TV shows you watched this month.	29. Count the number of pumpkins your family has.	30. Count the number of dollars it cost to buy your child's Halloween costume.	31. Count the number of pieces of candy your child received for Halloween.			

