Halloween Neighborhood Outreach ideabook
This fall we’re changing our focus. We are asking you to stay within your own community or at least the community your LifeGroup has decided on and love them in a unique, fun way. Most of the year we seek opportunities to reach out to our neighbors, to share Christ with them, or to invite them into our home. Sometimes we’ve asked a neighbor several times to come over and they never have. This Halloween many of those same neighbors will likely walk up to your door and ring the bell. Let’s use this opportunity to extend a welcome to them and show them a Christian community.

This book is simply a starter kit for how to reach your neighbors and one of the best ways to prove you care about your neighbor is through their kids. There are tons of things you can do. Below is a list of some ideas and we’ll help you plan out some of those ideas to make an impact.

**INCLUDED IN THIS IDEABOOK ARE:**

- EVENT IDEAS .................................................................................................................. 2
- TIPS FOR DOING THINGS RIGHT.......................................................... 3
- WAYS TO PLAN FOR VARIOUS IDEAS......................................................... 5
- RESOURCES FOR YOUR EVENT................................................................. 9
**IDEAS**
- Block party
- Reverse trick or treat
- Hot chocolate stations
- Driveway movie
- Local school festival
- Hot dog handout
- Mini-carnival
- Make your own treats station
- Yard games
- Theme party
- Trick or treat circuit in yard
- Neighborhood tailgate

**DECORATING IDEAS**
- Focus on the theme of your party, the movie you’re showing or the games you’ll be playing.
- Dress up!
- Use scripture or a Christian song you want playing as a basis for your theme.
- Keep things simple.
- Make it inviting rather than spooky.
- Make sure you’re in the middle of whatever you have planned and created...be approachable rather than closed away in your house.
- Let people see the activities and opportunities where you want them to participate...maybe you move things to the front yard rather than the back or at least have a way for people to know what’s in the backyard.
**TIPS**

- **Pray!** Start now and let God lead the work and connections for your outreach. Submit to Him and how He will use you during this opportunity.

- Make this a LifeGroup event! Don’t feel like you’re on your own or don’t have the resources. **Work together.**

- Complicated or big isn’t necessarily better. Have fun and enjoy getting to know your neighbors. Many of these ideas can be combined for a bigger event or done separately for a small, fun way to visit with friends.

- Have **good stuff** trick or treat – don’t skimp! This is part of what people will use to understand who you are. As a kid, how did you remember houses...by how good the candy was or how much you got!

- Do not replace treats or gifts with tracts! You will be “that house” and can expect “tricks” to ensue since the treats weren’t produced.

- **Be generous!** In whatever you’re doing have the right mental attitude that you are there to serve those you are reaching and serving alongside. Some will seek to take advantage but they will also see a difference in who you are.

- **Get outside!** If you are planning to hand out candy or host something, be out there and be available. Sit out on your porch, wave, talk to your neighbors and share in some fun.

- **Safety!** Think about what your concerns would be if your child was at someone else’s house. Take the responsibility of others seriously and use it as part of your witness of who Christ is and how much He loves His children.
Have some alternates...some ideas may not work as you expected; weather may complicate things, or some of your helpers might get sick or have something come up. **Be prepared and flexible.** Remember, God is in control so it doesn’t have to be exactly as you envisioned.

**SPOILER ALERT:** Don’t prank your neighbor! Don’t sit in the bushes and scare them! This may be fun for you but is not a good way to **build trust and develop relationships**...sorry.

**FOLLOW UP!** You’ve made a connection. Make sure you follow up and talk to your neighbors again soon. Thinking of questions beforehand can help ease the pressure of knowing how...
PLANNING YOUR EVENT

TRICK OR TREAT OPPORTUNITIES

Join in the fun and give it your own little twist...

*Reverse trick or treat:* Take the Word and a treat to them! Maybe your neighborhood isn’t so involved in trick or treating. Take the opportunity to go to your neighbors with a treat of your own. It also gives you a chance to let them know you’re their neighbor and are available if they need anything. Maybe you’ll have the chance to strike up a conversation or share your faith right then. Let God take the lead.

*Hot Chocolate Hand Out:* Maybe it’s a little cool out. Change things up with some hot chocolate. Add an encouraging verse on the cup or simply chat with the kids and parents while they warm up!

*Trick or Treat Circuit:* Combine with your LifeGroup or some families in your neighborhood to create an all-inclusive circuit in your own yard. Have each family responsible for a station and have different candy at each station. Dress up, make it fun, play Christian music and have some decorations that give a better message. This is also a safer venue for families than unknown houses and allows you to talk to parents while kids wander from table to table within eyesight.
GET OUTSIDE!

Activities in the yard or driveway...

*Driveway movie:* Movie ideas:
  - “Veggie Tales”
  - “Monsters, Inc.”
  - “It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown”

Things to think about:
- Hang a sheet from the roof or wall and project a movie onto the sheet or roll that prized big screen out for the neighbors to enjoy
- Be ready to move into the garage if the weather looks questionable
- Let your neighbors know about it ahead of time so they can plan to be there
- Wander around and meet the parents standing on the fringes to start up conversations or meet those you don’t know
- Have a popcorn machine and pass it around to add to the effect

*Make your own treat/Decorate your own treat:*
Have a table for kids to come and decorate their own cookie. Things to think about:
- Have cookies pre-made and different icing and baking decorations ready to go
- Use Halloween colors or evangelism colors
- Bake the cookies in shapes of cross, dove, heart, praying hands or others you can use to share a message
**Hot Dog Handout:**
Set the grill out in the front yard and hand out hot dogs to passersby
Things to think about:
- Kids and parents will enjoy this one
- Let neighbors know ahead of time so they are prepared for something different or they can come by even if they don’t have kids
- Have an encouraging verse or message on a hot dog sleeve or paper plate
- Position some people at a condiment table to encourage further conversation

**Carnival Games:**
Game ideas:
- Bean bag toss – toss bean bags at a target or plywood cut out. Decorate your target to support your message!

- Bolf - have various sized objects to toss into a bucket or trash can (footballs, Frisbees, golf balls, tennis balls, random other items that any kid will be able to throw)

- Hidden Treasure – find objects in the sandbox or kiddie pool filled w/Styrofoam peanuts (candy or make them objects that you can share a story: mini-crosses, New Testaments, or other prizes that they can keep)

- Have candy prizes for all your games

- Combine this with the hot dog hand out from the section above and you’ve got a party!
PARTIES

Maybe the block party is a little more than you want to take on. There are still some options to consider...

**Theme Party:**
- The Great Tomb Raid
- Superhero
- Soldiers for Christ

*Check out our Resource section for a kit provided by the church for “The Great Tomb Raid” and a planning resource.

**Trick or Treat Circuit:** Promote in your neighborhood ahead of time and have a safe place for the block to come to a single area. Have different families with a table, booth or area in your yard. Mix it up with different candy, games or prizes at each. Give each one a different theme and message.

**Tailgate Party:** Plan this one with your LifeGroup or neighbors and block off an area so kids can move from truck to truck for fun games, candy and prizes. Safe, effective and provides an opportunity to spend time with your neighbors.
RESOURCES
The church has a few resources we think can help you get rolling with the outreach part of your event. You are welcome to find some of your own but we hope this will help cut down some costs for you or just fuel your imagination. Also, keep in mind that a big part of what you are doing is building trust and friendships. Let God worry about the timing and salvation. We want to share that He is the joy in our lives.

Contact us for:

The Great Tomb Raid – a kit with party planning, resources and guidance to teach about the miracles of Jesus and how He has risen from the dead.

Activity Ideas – We’d love to share basic ideas for different games and activities you can plan at your event with minimal materials and no experience needed.

Carnival Games – We have several fun and engaging games such as bean bag toss, football throw and a lollipop tree. Contact us to check out a game for your event.

CONTACT
We are here to equip and support. Contact us for the resources above or just to talk through ideas, concerns, or suggestions. Email us at outreach@northeastbiblechurch.com or call (210) 651.5462 x226.