



Date: _____
Series: Halloween/Reformation
Fall Year 3, Lesson 23

Trick or Treat

Take Home Point: *Don't listen to Satan's lies; trust Jesus. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: John 8:44-45; Ephesians 2:8. Reformation and Halloween. Satan is a liar and his greatest lie is that we can earn our way to heaven. Rather, we receive heaven through faith in Jesus alone. Martin Luther helped the church learn that truth.

Key Verses: John 8:44b, "[Satan] is a liar and the father of lies."
Ephesians 2:8, "God saved you through faith as an act of kindness."

We will help kids know:

- Satan uses what people say to tell lies and attempt to trick us.
- Martin Luther played a Halloween trick against the devil's lies by nailing a challenge to the church door.
- The biggest lie Satan tells is that we can earn our way to heaven just by being good instead of trusting in Jesus.




We will help kids feel:

- Amused at funny tricks but alarmed at serious, dangerous tricks of the enemy, Satan.
- Alert to understand Satan's lies.
- Comforted in Christ's victory for us.

We will help kids do:

- Pray to trust God's truth of Jesus alone for salvation.
- Identify other lies or darts the enemy throws at us.
- Share how they might respond to specific lies of the enemy.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Tricks can be “safe” or “harmful.” Try this safe trick with the explanation that there are harmful tricks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> raw spaghetti
Large Group 	4 8 11 14	Overview Puppet Presentation —“Gordy Goes Trick or Treating.” Dramatic Monologue –“A Visit from Martin Luther.” Puppet Conclusion —“Gordy Goes Trick or Treating.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cardboard shield #1 (page 15) balloon darts Gordy with mask or disguise candy Martin Luther costume: a black choir robe or draping robe <i>(Monk's wigs are available at hobby and craft shops or at any location carrying costumes, price range from \$15.00 to 25.00.)</i> hammer and nail scroll gift box with cross inside
Small Group Application 	4	Kids discuss some of Satan's lies as they throw a dart at a target. This symbolizes the fiery darts, Satan throws at us. Each lie, however, can be countered with a truth from God's word.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> one dart per group cardboard shield #2

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.*

You will be challenged to pull off a funny trick. Just as the class is settling in, you need to sneak three or four small pieces of raw spaghetti (approximately two inches each) into your mouth. As the warm-up time starts, you can complain about having a neck ache. Place your hands on your head and jerk your head left to right while you bite into the raw spaghetti. The spaghetti makes a crunching noise that sounds like stiff neck bones cracking. (Other variations of this trick can be even funnier. You could complain about sore ears and pull back or twist on the ear while crunching the spaghetti. You could even bend your nose while adding the sound effect.) Kids will laugh at the sound of cracking “old bones.”

Then reveal your trick and pass out small pieces of spaghetti to the kids. As they pretend to crack their bones, the group can discuss harmless tricks they have played to fool others. Do not minimize the value of the group laughing together and sharing funny stories. This time can be a great group builder.

Before the end of the session, ask a more serious question.

What kind of tricks would be lies that could hurt you? Let me give you an example. Someone offered you drugs and said, “These will make you feel good. They really won’t hurt you.” That is a lie that would really hurt you.

Let the kids share some of their ideas.

In large group today we will find out that Satan is a liar. There is one lie that he uses that may be his most dangerous and hurtful. Listen for the lie in large group and be able to share what it is when we return to our small group.

Today, we will learn **don’t listen to Satan’s lies; trust Jesus.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Carnival Game with Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Goes Trick or Treating”—Gordy thinks Halloween is a fun time to trick people. He learns that Satan likes to trick people into believing lies. He also learns about a man named Martin Luther, who challenged the church on a Halloween night long ago, not to believe Satan’s lies.

Dramatic Presentation of Bible Event: “A Visit from Martin Luther”—A dramatic monologue about Luther’s conversion event and how he came to grasp the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Goes Trick or Treating”

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation and Interpretation Questions:

Begin by saying:

Jesus talked to religious leaders called Pharisees and they did not believe he was truly from God. The Pharisees spoke lies about him. Jesus points out that Satan’s lies can be spoken through people like the Pharisees.

Have kids turn to John 8:44-45 and follow along as you read it aloud.

After reading this scripture, discuss the following:

What did Jesus call Satan or the devil in this passage? *(a murderer, a liar and the father of lies)*

What are some of the lies we hear from Satan? *(Encourage kids to recall some of the lies that Mr. King talked about as the darts were thrown in large group.)*

What was the biggest lie Satan uses? *(Everyone goes to heaven just by doing their best or if they are a good person.)*

What is the truth? *(We only receive heaven as a free gift when we accept Jesus as our Savior.)*

Briefly review Martin Luther’s story. Some of the following questions might help.

What happened that scared Martin Luther and made him think he would die? *(Lightening storm.)*

What did Luther promise to do if he survived the storm? *(Be a monk.)*

When Luther was studying to be a monk, how did he first think he would get to heaven? *(By doing good things and earning his way to heaven.)*

What did Luther think about God when he was a monk? *(Luther was afraid of God. He thought he could never please God.)*

What book did Luther read that helped him discover we are saved by God's act of kindness and not by our own works? *(The Bible.)*

Luther nailed something to the church door on Halloween that challenged the church people to discuss this important Bible truth. How many challenges were on his paper? *(Ninety-five.)*

What were these ninety-five challenges called? *(Ninety-five theses.)*

Remember that Satan often uses people to tell his lies. Sometimes those people are even in the church, like the Pharisees in Jesus' time, or the leaders in the church during Martin Luther's time. It is important that we read our Bibles to know God's truth so we can be shielded from Satan's lies.

Can anyone remember the lie that Martin Luther used his shield of faith against? *(You can get to heaven by just trying to do good things and earning your way.)*

The truth is that Jesus paid the way by dying on the cross for us. When we receive him as our Savior, we can know we are going to heaven.

Soon more people came to believe the truth of the Bible. What did the church try to do to Martin Luther? *(He became a wanted man. He could have been killed when they found him. But God took care of him and protected him. Martin Luther lived a long life and continued his teachings.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Material needed: One dart per group and the cardboard shield with bull's-eye (see appendix)


The next exercise gives children an opportunity to discuss and apply truth against Satan's lies. While discussing, kids play a game of darts.

The game and questions are tools to help kids discuss the reality of the spiritual battle that we all face. You must determine what is appropriate to discuss at your group's age level. Kids need to talk about real questions they have about spiritual matters and demonic spiritual forces that receive a lot of publicity during Halloween. Kids should be able to speak openly about this, but you must be sure to bring out the truth.

Place the shield on the floor with cardboard underneath to protect the floor. Have kids stand behind a masking tape line placed an appropriate distance from the cardboard. Say:

The dart we throw is a reminder of the fiery darts that Satan throws at us. What did you hear in large group those fiery darts are. Each of these darts or lies from Satan can be countered with a truth from God's word.


Let each child throw the dart and answer the question based on what ring he hits. Read the following question for the corresponding ring on the bull's-eye. (Encourage kids to underline the verses in their own Bibles.)

 **Ring 1: Someone says to you that you can go to heaven if you go to church a lot and do nice things for others. What do you tell that person?**

God's truth to equip students with:


"The reward for sin is death, but the gift that God freely gives is everlasting life found in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

"God saved you through faith as an act of kindness. You had nothing to do with it. Being saved is a gift from God." (Ephesians 2:8)

 **Ring 2: Someone at school says that Jesus is just like other religious teachers. Someone could follow any of the religious teachers because they are all the same—they will all get you to heaven. What do you tell this person?**

God's truth to equip students with:

"Jesus answered him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one goes to the Father except through me.'" (John 14:6)

 **Ring 3: During the Halloween season there are many scary movies about devils and demons. Your friends are talking about some of those movies. They say some of the movies with the devil are so scary because he is so powerful that no one can stand against him. What do you tell them?** *(In discussion, be sure to point out that the devil is often not accurately presented in movies. Satan and his demons are real, though. They have been defeated because Jesus gave his life for us. Anyone who calls on the name of Jesus can claim Jesus' victory over the devil and he will flee.)*

God's truth to equip students with:

"Dear children, you belong to God. So you have won the victory over these people, because the one (Jesus) who is in you is greater than the one (Satan) who is in the world." (1 John 4:4)

🎯 Ring 4: While spending the night with some friends, they ask if you want to play a game with the Ouija board or do a magic séance. They want to talk to some friendly spirits. What do you tell them? *(The Bible says this is dangerous and we should not participate in these types of activities. We should only call on Jesus' name. When we call upon magical powers, even in fun, it might be asking the devil to help us.)*

God's truth to equip students with:

"You must never...practice black magic, be a fortuneteller, witch, or sorcerer, cast spells, ask ghosts or spirits for help, or consult the dead. Whoever does these things is disgusting to the Lord." (Deuteronomy 18:10-12)

We have learned today, **don't listen to Satan's lies; trust Jesus.*

Through Jesus, the power of the devil to hold us has been broken. Jesus defeated Satan when he gave his life for us on the cross and rose again in victory. We just need to trust Jesus. He will be with us now and forever.

Closing Prayer:

It is essential that prayers at the end of this session claim the power of Jesus. Especially help any children who are not sure of their salvation to receive that assurance as they pray. An appropriate prayer follows.

Dear God, thank you for your truth about Jesus. Thank you that he is your Son and he paid the price for everything I have done wrong by dying on the cross. Thank you that Jesus gives me forgiveness and promises to live in my life. I open my heart to Jesus and ask him to live with me forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Large Group Presentation

Gordy Goes Trick or Treating Puppet Presentation

Today's carnival game is a dart-throwing contest. Use a shield cut out of cardboard for a target. Have "FAITH" written across the shield (See appendix). In the center of the shield affix a large balloon that contains a slip of paper with Ephesians 2:8 written on it: *"God saved you through faith as an act of kindness. You had nothing to do with it. Being saved is a gift from God."*

This game is used to illustrate that the Bible describes Satan as a liar and his lies are like darts that are thrown against us. We need the shield of faith to protect us. With each throwing of the dart, the presenter should mention another one of the lies that the enemy might throw at us. *(All of this happens at the conclusion of the puppet script.)*

Mr. King: **Hi, boys and girls! Welcome to Kingdom Quest Carnival. For our carnival game today I call upon my assistant, Gordy. Come on out, Gordy.**

Gordy appears with a Halloween mask or disguise on.

Mr. King: **Gordy, what's with the mask?**

Gordy: I'm not Gordy.

Mr. King: **You're not?**

Gordy: No, I'm *(whatever his disguise is)*.

Mr. King: **Why is that?**

Gordy: So I can get candy! All I have to do is wear this and say, "Trick or treat," and people give me lots of candy.

Mr. King: **Gordy, I'm going to give you some candy to take the mask off so we can see you.**

Gordy: Yes! It still works!

Mr. King: **So you like trick or treating, Gordy?**

Gordy: Of course, I do. Doesn't everyone like Halloween?

Mr. King: Sure. There are lots of fun costumes, but there are some things about Halloween that I don't like.

Gordy: Like people thinking you have a mask on when you really don't?

Mr. King: Gordy...

Gordy: Trick or treat! Gotcha!

Mr. King: Dressing up in costumes can be fun. But the devil tricks some people during Halloween.

Gordy: What?! The devil is not around. He's not even real. How can he trick anyone?

Mr. King: The Bible says the devil *is* real and he's the father of lies. He really does love to trick people and he doesn't do it just for fun. He does it to try and keep people away from God.

Gordy: How does he do that?

Mr. King: Let's find out as we play our carnival game today.

Gordy: What kind of target is that?

Mr. King: It is a shield.

Gordy: Oh, I see. What does it say?

Mr. King: It says "faith."

Gordy: Why?

Mr. King: Because the Bible says that we are in a battle against Satan and we need to use the shield of faith.

Gordy: What's faith?

Mr. King: Faith means believing what God says is true.

Gordy: If we use faith, what weapon does the devil use?

Mr. King: The Bible says that the devil will attack us with fiery darts.

Gordy: Way cool! Do we get to play with darts?

Mr. King: Yes.

Gordy: Do we get to light ‘em on fire?

Mr. King: No.

Gordy: Well... halfway cool then. What do those darts represent anyway?

Mr. King: The darts represents the lies Satan throws against us. If we trust God and have faith in Jesus, we will be able to hold up the shield of faith. The fiery darts of the devil then can't injure us. Let's get to some dart throwing.

Let's have some contestants come forward from the audience.

Select two volunteers and have them come up front.

We'll see which one of them will be able to hit the balloon on this target *(referring to the shield target).*

At this point, the conversation with Gordy is ad-libbed. Mr. King gives a dart to one of the contestants. With each dart, Mr. King gives an example of one of Satan's lies. These lies are listed below and can be read as the dart is handed to each contestant as they take turns. These questions will be discussed in greater detail in small group application. The presenter may address them but only briefly.

- **The devil says, "I really don't exist."**
- **The devil says, "I do exist and I'm so powerful that you can't stop me."**
- **"Everyone goes to heaven just by trying to do their best."**
- **"There are many ways to heaven and following Jesus is just the same as following some of the other great religious teachers."**
- **"Everything you see on television about the devil is true."**
- **"It's really okay to have pretend séances or call upon magical powers. It's all pretend and it doesn't matter anyway."**

When the balloon is hit, the presenter will ask which lie is perhaps the biggest lie Satan uses. The answer is, "Everyone goes to heaven just by trying to do their best."

Mr. King: The biggest lie Satan uses is such a dangerous lie because it keeps people from trusting in Jesus and what he has done to forgive us. Here is the Bible verse that is God's truth and gives us faith.

Read the slip of paper that fell out of the balloon.

“God saved you through faith as an act of kindness. You had nothing to do with it. Being saved is a gift from God.”
(Ephesians 2:8)

Having completed the game, Gordy is dismissed but returns after the presentation. Mr. King introduces the dramatic presentation, “A Visit from Martin Luther.”

A Visit from Martin Luther

Dramatic Characterization

Martin Luther appears onstage with a hammer, nail, and scroll illustrating the ninety-five theses that he nailed on the church door. His costume could be a simple monk-like gown (dark choir robe) or a draping cape.

Also needed on stage: a gift box with cross inside

Hello, I am Martin Luther. I have come to tell you my story. Some say that what I did on Halloween in the year 1517 was a trick that changed the church and the world. I did not mean for it to be a Halloween trick, though. I only meant to show that the devil had been playing a trick on the church that was very dangerous and kept many people away from Jesus. Here is my story and it is about this hammer, nail, and sheet of paper called the 95 Theses.

My story begins when I was at the university studying law and I left to visit my parents. As I was walking home, a great storm arose. There was fierce thunder and a bolt of lightening struck nearby. I was filled with the fear of death. As I fell down, I said, “Help me Saint Anne and I will become a monk.” (I didn’t know then that we do not have to pray to saints and that they cannot hear us anyway! I did not know that I should pray directly to God for help.)

I was afraid of God. I was afraid that he was always angry with me. I was afraid that I would die in that terrible storm, that lightening would sear through my body, and that I would be in purgatory or hell if I died. I knew that I had not done enough good things to earn my way to heaven.

I lived through that storm and kept my vow. I decided that I would study to be a very religious person—a monk. I would withdraw from the world and devote myself to learning more about God.

While I was a monk, I was troubled. It seemed that the more I tried to do the things that pleased God, the more I realized how many other things I did wrong. Certainly God was not pleased with me because I was so far from being perfect. The more I tried to be good, the more I fell behind. I would beat myself on the back trying to purge the sin out of me. I prayed louder and longer than anyone else. No matter what I did it never seemed enough. It seemed that God was always angry with me and I did not find any love in him at all.

But during this time, I began to study the Bible. I found the most wonderful gift that changed my life. It was a truth that I would share with the world. It's a truth that I share with you today. This is what it says in the Bible. *"God saved you through faith as an act of kindness. You had nothing to do with it. Being saved is a gift from God. It's not the result of anything you've done, so no one can brag about it."* It's right here in Ephesians 2:8-9.

What this means is that I cannot earn heaven. I can only receive it as a gift God gives to me. Do you earn presents from your mom and dad on your birthday? Of course not. They give them to you because they love you, and so it is with God.

Open the gift box and take out the cross.

The gift that God gives me is his Son Jesus, who died on the cross to take away the punishment of my sin. It was a horrible punishment and a terrible death, but Jesus did it for me so I would never have to. Now I know that when I die, I will go to heaven because I now have the gift of heaven God gave me.

The more I read the Bible, the more I found out how wonderful and kind God is, and the more I found that he wants all people to have this gift. But I looked around and saw the church was teaching people that they had to earn their way to heaven. As a matter of fact, the church was selling sheets of paper that said if you give enough money to the church, your sins could then be forgiven. You could even buy forgiveness for sins you hadn't even done yet.

Do you think this is right? Of course it is not. It's not in the Bible at all. It was wrong and someone had to say so. That's when I played a "trick or treat" trick. On Halloween, which means holy eve, the night before All Saints day, when many would come to church, I took a sheet of paper and I wrote down 95 church practices that needed proof from the Bible. It was a challenge to the church leaders to talk.

With a hammer, I nailed the sheet to the church door in the town of Wittenberg, Germany. It was October 31, 1517, and in the weeks that followed, there was a great commotion. Very few people ever challenged what the church taught, even if the church taught things that were not in the Bible. Soon, everyone was talking about it.

We had our debate and our discussion. I talked with the leaders of the church. I told them we must teach what the Bible teaches. I told them that other people must receive God's salvation in Jesus as a gift. Do you know what they did? They kicked me out of the church and they even made me a wanted man.

My life was in danger, but it did not matter. What was important was that other people discovered the truth of the Bible and received the gift of Jesus. They stopped trusting their own abilities to earn their way to heaven. They even made a new church. Many of these people who followed my teachings called themselves Lutherans. What a funny name for a church. It didn't matter though, what mattered was finally people were enjoying a gift that God wants to give to every person: The gift of Jesus.

Boys and girls, do you have that gift? Do you trust Jesus as your Savior? If so, you will learn to love God more every day, just as I did. If not, then you need to trust him today. Don't try to earn your own way to heaven; it can't be done. Take God's gift, instead.

Gordy Goes Trick or Treating

Puppet Conclusion

Mr. King: So, Gordy, what do you think about Martin Luther's story?

Gordy: I think I would get in trouble if I nailed anything on the church door.

Mr. King: Gordy, at that time it was okay to do that. It was their way of emailing everyone since they didn't have email. But what Dr. Luther wanted people to know is this: **Don't listen to Satan's lies, trust Jesus.*

Gordy: Yeah, I understand that. You don't earn your way to heaven by working hard or buying religious stuff.

Mr. King: Right. And Gordy, do you know the way someone gets to heaven?

Gordy: Of course, Mr. King. You trust in Jesus as your Savior. After all, Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins, so we trust him for that.

Mr. King: That's it, Gordy. And it's a gift, isn't it?

Gordy: Yep. It's a pretty big gift, too! Sometimes I am amazed how much God loves us...to give us such a big gift as his own Son.

Mr. King: That's because he wants us to be with him forever. When you trust in his love like that, you are using a shield of faith that can take care of all the fiery darts or lies from the devil. Why don't you pray for us, Gordy, that we would have that kind of faith.

Gordy: Sure. Dear God, you really are wonderful. You gave us your Son Jesus to die for us so we could be with you forever. We know the devil might try to trick us into believing stupid stuff about earning our way to heaven. Help us not to listen to Satan's lies but to trust Jesus. In his name, we pray. Amen.

