LIGHT 2026

Jesus Is the Light of the World

★ Sharing His light with our neighbours ★



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

IRISH MISSION

Seventh-day Adventist® Church®

Welcome to LIGHT 2026

Every community is different, and every church has its own opportunities to connect with children and families.

LIGHT 2026 is a simple, flexible resource designed to help our churches share the love, hope and light of Jesus with their neighbours during the Halloween period.

Rather than focusing on Halloween itself, LIGHT invites us to focus on Jesus — and on simple acts of kindness, genuine connection and meaningful relationships.

There is no single LIGHT 2026 programme. Each church is encouraged to prayerfully choose and adapt an approach that fits its community, resources and safeguarding requirements.

Whether it is a small gift shared at the doorstep, a family evening at home, or a larger Light Trail, our prayer is simple:



> "That children and families will become bearers of Christ's light wherever God has placed them."



Key Bible texts

John 8:12

Matthew 5:14-16

The Heart of the Idea

The goal is not to create one event for every church. The goal is to help children and families become intentional bearers of Christ's light in their own community.



01

PRAY

Ask God to guide us towards people and families we can bless.

02

PREPARE

Children and families create a simple gift, card or activity together.

03

SHARE

Offer it warmly and respectfully as a gift of kindness and hope.

04

CONNECT

Take time to listen, build trust and get to know people.

05

INVITE

When a genuine relationship develops, offer an invitation to a future family or community activity.

LIGHT 2026

03

Four Ways to Participate



Choose one approach, combine ideas, or create something that fits your community.

LIGHT AT YOUR DOOR

A small table, doorstep welcome or family outreach point. Offer a simple gift of kindness, a light and a short message about Jesus.

KEY IDEA:
A warm, simple point of contact with neighbours.



BREAD & LIGHT

Families prepare bread or another small gift, pray for a neighbour, and share it with a LIGHT 2026 card.

KEY IDEA:
One family - one neighbour - one blessing.



LIGHT AT HOME

A family evening with food, lanterns/lights, a Bible story, songs, prayer and a kindness activity for neighbours.

KEY IDEA:
An accessible option when a public church event is not practical.



LIGHT STATION

A larger community activity with games, crafts, food, lights station and a Bible message.

KEY IDEA:
A church-wide expression of welcome, joy and hope.



PRACTICAL IDEAS

Choose one approach, combine ideas, or create something that fits your community.

LIGHT AT YOUR DOOR

A small table, doorstep welcome or family outreach point. Offer a simple gift of kindness, a light and a short message about Jesus.



KEY IDEA:
A warm, simple point of contact with neighbours.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Prepare small gifts (e.g. sweets, bookmarks, a card or a small craft).
- Include a LIGHT 2026 card with a kind message.
- Offer it at the doorstep or a simple welcome point in the neighbourhood.
- Be ready to have a friendly conversation and pray for your neighbours if appropriate.

BREAD & LIGHT

Families prepare bread or another small gift, pray for a neighbour, and share it with a LIGHT 2026 card.



KEY IDEA:
One family – one neighbour – one blessing.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Bake bread, muffins or cookies.
- Include a LIGHT 2026 card with a kind message.
- Pray for your neighbour before sharing.
- Leave it at the doorstep or give it in person.
- Use one of the themes in the message: Why is there such a celebration? / A choice. / None of that! We will live forever.

LIGHT AT HOME

A family evening with food, lanterns/lights, a Bible story, songs, prayer and a kindness activity for neighbours.



KEY IDEA:
A simple, meaningful way to shine Jesus' light at home.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Read a short Bible story about Jesus being the light.
- Sing songs or listen to worship music.
- Do a simple kindness activity together (e.g. make cards, prepare a treat).
- Use lanterns or lights to create a special atmosphere.
- End with a short time of prayer for your community.

LIGHT STATION

A larger community activity with games, crafts, food, lights, or a short Bible message – a simple trail through several light stations.



KEY IDEA:
A church-wide expression of welcome, joy and hope.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Set up fun, family-friendly games.
- Offer simple crafts.
- Provide snacks or hot drinks.
- Share a short message using one of the themes: Why is there such a celebration? / A choice. / None of that! We will live forever.
- Organise games, activities or a simple trail through several light stations.
- Invite the whole community and make it welcoming for all ages.

Children Can Participate



LIGHT 2026 works best when children are not simply spectators, but meaningful participants in age-appropriate ways.

- [x] Make cards, bookmarks or small crafts.
- [x] Help prepare bread or another gift with their family.
- [x] Pray for neighbours by name where appropriate.
- [x] Welcome families at a church activity.
- [x] Take part in games, crafts, music or Bible storytelling.
- [x] Suggest simple acts of kindness for the community.



Bible Messages

Theme Series: HALLOWEEN

These three Bible messages can be used alongside the practical outreach ideas presented on page 4. Whether at home, at a welcome point, or during a community activity, they offer opportunities to share the hope, love and promises of Jesus with children and families.

Each theme is explored in the following pages and can be adapted to suit your chosen activity.

01 Why is there such a celebration?

02 A choice.

03 None of that! We will live forever.



All topics above were Adapted from material produced by **Associação Paulista do Vale**
Translated to English by **Ellie Fortunato**

Theme 1 - Halloween - Why is there such a celebration?

Bible Verse: Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." John 11:25 (NIV)

A pagan day festival that is very popular in some countries has come closer and closer to us: Halloween. Besides many don't know is that it is an ancient celtic celebration. According to scholars, its origin dates back to the fifth century, more than 200 years ago. It originated from a pagan festival of the Celts called Samhain, which means "end of summer". It lasted 3 days, starting from the 31st of October, and was a tribute to the "King of the Dead" (1).

A very different king from our King Jesus, the God of the living. He said, as recorded in the Bible in John 11:25 and 26: "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

To whom did Jesus say these words? To Martha, who had, along with her sister Mary, buried their brother Lazarus four days before. She believed in the promise of eternal life and the promised resurrection. But she expected this to take place some time in the future. When Jesus told them to remove the stone that was closing the tomb, she thought it was strange because her brother's body already had a bad smell.

But Jesus had prepared something special for that day. Lazarus came out alive from the tomb when Jesus called him out, without illness and smelling good. It was by the power of God that Jesus gave life back to his brother and handed him over to his sisters who were crying just a few minutes prior. Joy came back, along with his life! The dead will live again. That is the promise from Jesus and the hope we can have.

But what are they doing now? The Bible gives us the answer. Nothing. They are not doing anything. They know nothing, they cannot see or hear us, but they await the resurrection in the dust of the earth, just as Lazarus did in the tomb. We can better understand this by reading Ecclesiastes 9:3 and 6: "For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no further reward, and even their name is forgotten. Their love, their hate and their jealousy have long since vanished; never again will they have a part in anything that happens under the sun." (NIV)

These are words that bring us hope. It is something that we can celebrate right now. One day, we will meet our loved ones who have died and are now resting. We don't need to be afraid of the dead or try to talk to them. Let us await the promised resurrection celebrating the gift of life.

(1) https://www.bbc.com/portuguese/noticias/2015/10/151029_origem_halloween_rb Accessed on 10 October 2023

Let's pray?



Dear God, we thank you because Jesus is the living God, the resurrection and the life. Thank you for the promise of the resurrection of the dead. May we seek in Your Word the answers to all our doubts and guidance for our decisions. In Jesus' name.
Amen!

Activity:

Split into small groups of 3 or 4. Do you know how it works? Everyone stands next to each other and a leader will say the words: Dead or Alive, swapping them and even repeating them as many times as they want. Participants must remain standing when they hear "ALIVE", and immediately crouch when they hear the word "DEAD". Anyone who takes too long to follow orders, hesitates or gets into the wrong position is out of the game.
Whoever remains last is the new leader.
Have fun!

Theme 2 - Halloween - A choice

Bible Verse: Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them." Revelation 14:13 (NIV)

Have you ever lied or has someone ever lied to you? Lying it not good, because deception prevents us from making good decisions. And that's more or less what happened a few years ago. People received the truth directly from Jesus, but, some time later, they began to hear and accept some lies. This was done to please other people or even to get more comfortable with the tradition or the life they had before becoming Christians. And it's easy to follow what the majority does without thinking too much about our own choice. But decisions must be based on what God asks of us. It is very dangerous when people choose what pleases them. This can result in the truth becoming treated as a beautiful lie in disguise.

Because of this, life became heavy. Guilt and fear started to control their hearts, until a man who loved God and the church very much, called Martin Luther, discovered that only the Word of God, the Bible, or, as they called it at the time, the Scriptures, should teach people about salvation. And this took a great weight off his shoulders, because he discovered that salvation is free. Although it was not something that was easy for Jesus, for us, it is something that came from God without us having to do anything for it. Well, actually, we need to accept it and live with Jesus every day. It is necessary to get to know Him, because it is written "you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32 (NIV)

What Luther did was called the Protestant Reformation. He wanted people to change the way they lived, to search the Bible and to trust Jesus to forgive all their sins, as stated in the Scriptures. So, he wrote down everything he discovered and placed it on the door of a large cathedral, so that everyone who went there could read it. This happened on October 31st. That's right. The same day that later became the Halloween. That's strange, right? But not everyone understood what Luther wanted to do, and they were even angry with him.

Since then, a new way of seeing the Bible emerged. The bible should be in the hands of everyone who wants it. And that's what we need to do: always have the Bible in our hands. Study, research, read and discover all the wonderful things that God has prepared for us. Just like Martin Luther, we can't just accept what people say, because there are many different opinions. We must see for ourselves, because the Word of God is for everyone.

That was a great thing that the Protestant Reformation did for the world. It brought the Scriptures into our lives. The Bible says that Jesus is the beginning and the end. He is everything. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." Revelation 22:13 (NIV). It presents, at the beginning, Jesus creating this world in Genesis 1:1 and ends with the promise that He will come soon, and will not delay. "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus." Revelation 22:20 (NIV).

Luther sought salvation and grace in the Word of God. And he found it. What God wants from us is in the Bible. Martin Luther is no longer alive, but awaits the return of Jesus and the resurrection of the dead. And we will be able to hear this story told by him one day.

Halloween? I'm out! I want to celebrate life!

Let's pray?

Dear God, thank you because Jesus is the first and the last. Thank you because He is the truth revealed in the Bible. Help us to always learn from your Word. In Jesus' name.

Amen!

Activity:

Have you ever played the blindfold game? The leader is blindfolded and tries to catch the other participants who are in a limited space around them. Whoever is caught becomes the new leader and are blindfolded. This game will remind you of what happened when people trusted in pagan tradition and heritage and forgot the light of the Bible. But when they discovered grace and the Scriptures, their eyes were opened and they had peace and trust in God again. Have fun!



Theme 3 - Halloween - None of that! We will live forever...

Bible Verse: "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Revelation 21:4 (NIV)

Have you ever thought about living forever without pain, without suffering and without any problems? That day will come. It is promised by Someone who does not fail and does not lie: Jesus. He is the truth, remember? And it was He who said that this will happen.

The Word of God shows us what the future will be like. That's right. We can learn about the future by reading the Bible. We don't need to worry about that, because God has already taken care of everything. And Jesus promised that He would prepare a place for us and would come back to take us so we could be close to Him, wherever He is. And that will be so wonderful, and even difficult to imagine.

Have you ever felt pain? Of course. Most people suffer a lot. Even getting stepped on the foot hurts a lot. Well, Jesus went to prepare a place where there will be no pain. Have you ever been very sad, so sad that you cried? Most people have cried, still cry and will continue to cry. But Jesus went to prepare a place where there will be no more crying. There will be no tears or mourning, which is very deep sadness. And that will no longer exist.

We will no longer need to ask for help or give help, because there will be no problems or suffering. Because the first things have passed. The first things are the life we now know. Everything is going to pass away. It is written in the Bible that God will make a new heaven and a new Earth... How is this possible? Because He is the Creator, and whoever creates, can recreate. Imagine a person who built a house and saw that something needed to be fixed later. He just takes it apart and does it all over again, perfect, without the problem that was there before.

So, be excited about the promise of Jesus. "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." John 14:1-3 (NIV)

He went to prepare a place. He will come back to take us. And He will also take those who are dead awaiting His return. They will live again. What a great joy!

That day is not far away. Jesus said it won't be long. And even if someone dies while they wait, we can have hope, because we will live eternally with Jesus once He returns. Believe, live and hope! This is what we must do. Let's seek answers and promises from a reliable source, with Someone we can trust: Jesus and His Word.

Halloween? I'm out! I want to celebrate life!

Let's pray?



Dear God, thank you because Jesus will come back soon. We want to be ready and vigilant, awaiting this great day of joy. We want to see people who died and will be resurrected. We want to believe Your Word and do Your will every single day. In Jesus's name.

Amen!

Activity:

Have you ever played treasure hunt? A treasure hunt is set up by hiding clues and hiding the treasure. Each clue tells you where to find the next clue. The final clue leads to the treasure. Small gifts, treats and messages can be placed inside a box to be hidden somewhere where the game will be played. Everyone will play until they find the treasure, which is then shared by everyone. Jesus gives us the clues for salvation in His Word so we can eventually find the greatest treasure: eternal life. Let's be happy and hopeful, because Jesus will soon return and the promises in the Bible will all come true for those who wait and believe. Have fun!

Celebrate life song - Halloween? I'm Out

Original song: Halloween - Não | by **Minha Vida é uma Viagem**

Translated from Portuguese into English by Ellie Fortunato

First Verse:

There're people who are no longer afraid
Of pumpkin faces and skeletons
There're people who think it's cool
To celebrate death as if it's something good
But it is not, ok? I'll tell you why.
I'll tell you why I think like this
And why I don't enjoy halloween
The bible doesn't say the dead are still walking around here

Second Verse:

Look at this game that makes no sense
If you don't give treats you get a trick
There're people who think it's cool
To do something bad as if it's something good
But it is not, ok? I'll tell you why.
I'll tell you why I think like this
And why I don't enjoy halloween
The bible always tells me only to share love all around

Bridge:

It says that I am a child of light
So I don't want what's evil and dark
I run away from these things
I only want what comes from God

Chorus: 2x

It will choose life
It's so much nicer
God did not make a world of darkness
But rather full of colours with His love and kindness

Bridge:

It says that I am a child of light
So I don't want what's evil and dark
I run away from these things
I only ater full of colours from God

Chorus: 2x

I will choose life
It's so much nicer
God did not make a world of darkness
But rather full of colours with His love and kindness



Celebrate Song

Halloween? I'm Out!

Lyrics and Chords

Original song: Halloween - Não | by Minha Vida é uma Viagem

Translated from Portuguese into English by Ellie Fortunato

Intro: C9 Dm7 Em7 Dm7 G7

Verse 1:

C9
There're people who are no longer afraid
Dm7
Of pumpkin faces and skeletons
Em7
There're people who think it's cool
F Fm
To celebrate death as if it's something good

But it is not, ok? I'll tell you why.

C9
I'll tell you why I think like this
Dm7
And why I don't enjoy halloween
Em7 F Fm
The bible doesn't say the dead are still walking around here

Bridge:

Am7
It says that I am a child of light
Em7
So I don't want what's evil and dark
F
I run away from these things
F/G Fm/G
I only want what comes from God

Chorus: 2x

C
I will choose life
E7
It's so much nicer
Am7
God did not make a world of darkness
F Fm
But rather full of colours with His love and kindness

(C G A B) notes only

Verse 2:

C9
Look at this game that makes no sense
Dm7
If you don't give treats you get a trick
Em7
There're people who think it's cool
F Fm
To do something bad as if it's something good

But it is not, ok? I'll tell you why.

C9
I'll tell you why I think like this
Dm7
And why I don't enjoy halloween
Em7 F Fm
The bible always tells me only to share love all around

Bridge:

Am7
It says that I am a child of light
Em7
So I don't want what's evil and dark
F
I run away from these things
G Asus A
I only want what comes from God

Chorus: 2x

D
I will choose life
F#7
It's so much nicer
Bm7
God did not make a world of darkness
G Gm
But rather full of colours with His love and kindness
D F#7 Bm7 G Gm D

Ending:

Tricks or pranks? I'm out!

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

MATTHEW 5:16

PRAY • PREPARE • SHARE • CONNECT • INVITE

Wherever God has placed us, we can share the light, hope and love of Jesus.



LIGHT 2026

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES • IRISH MISSION

ROOTED • CONNECTED • SENT

Seventh-day Adventist Church

Themes 1-3 - Original version written by Margarete Rampinelli Knopp Quiroga and produced by Associação Paulista do Vale in Portuguese (Brazilian)

English version translated* by Ellie Fortunato and produced by the Irish Mission

*Details may have been added, removed or summarised as needed in translation to English to ensure contents are suitable for the Irish Mission context.