
BECAUSE I BELONG TO
JESUS
Why Our Family Doesn't Celebrate Halloween
TRUTH
TRICK
HOLY BIBLE
We choose light.
We choose truth.
We choose Jesus.
By Alex Pappas

Because I Belong to Jesus

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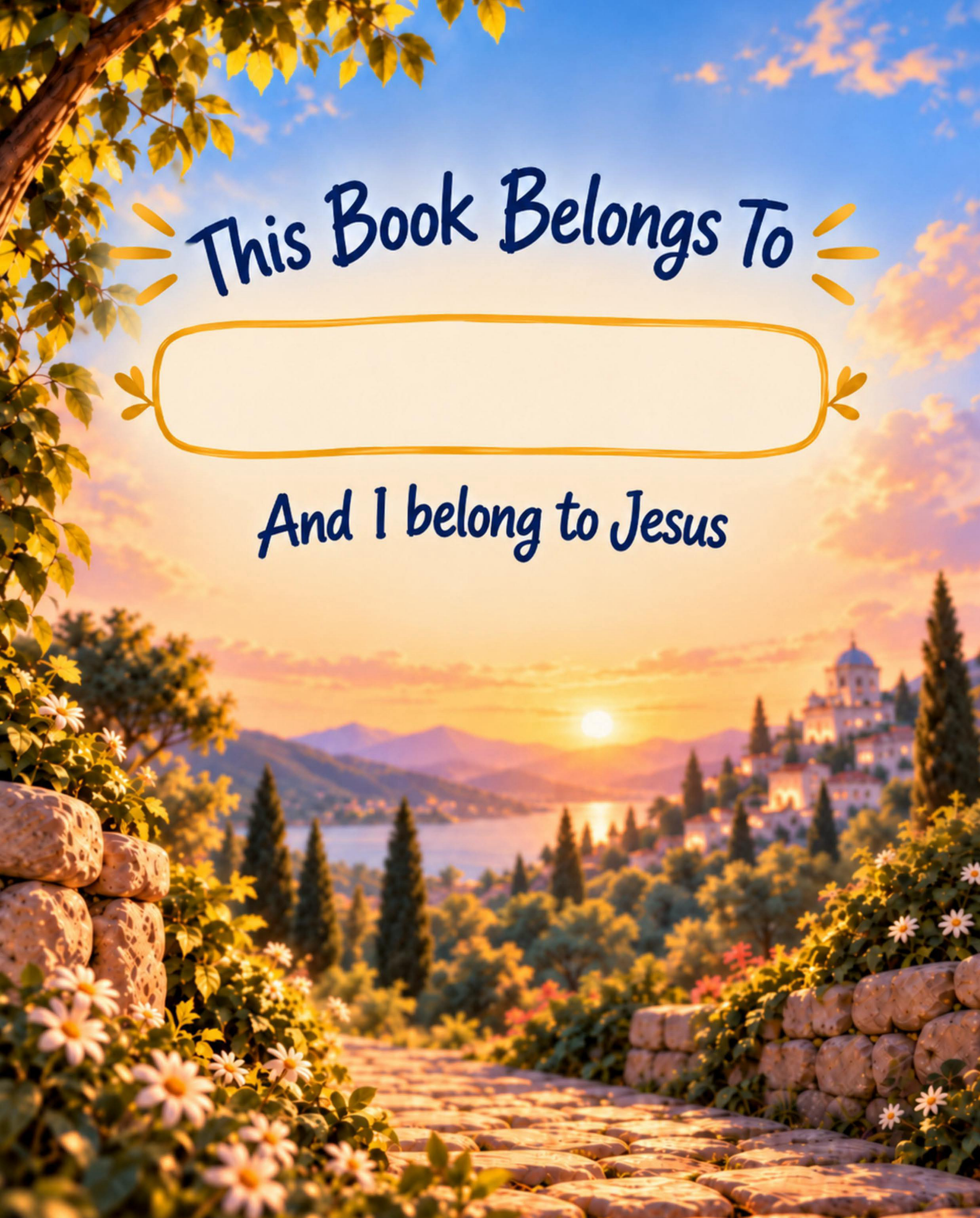
Written by Alex Pappas

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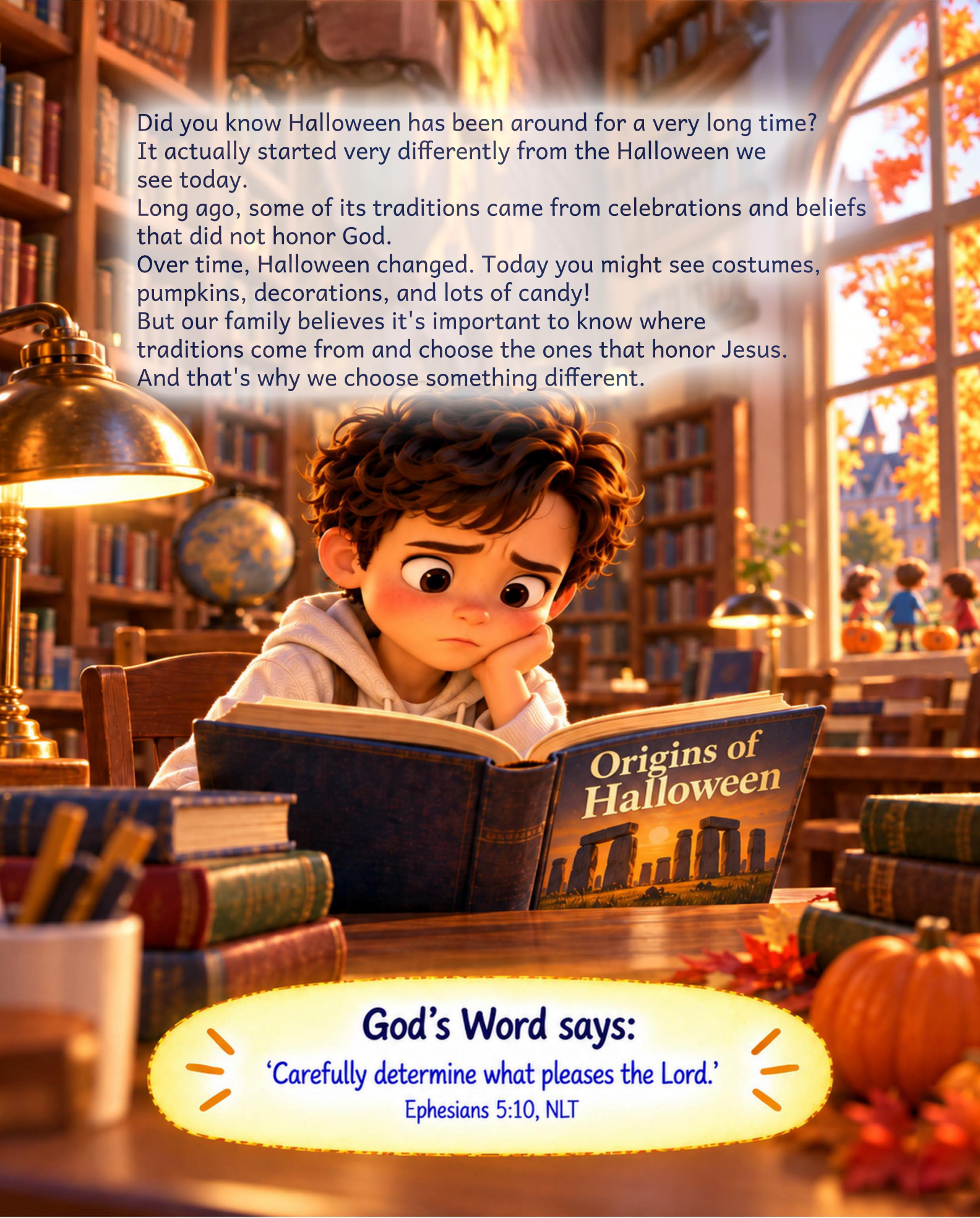

This Book Belongs To
And I belong to Jesus


Did you know that you belong to Jesus?
That means you get to walk in His **light**!
And because Jesus loves you, He gives you His Word to help you know what is true, what is good, and what pleases Him. Sometimes lots and lots of people can be doing the same thing... but that doesn't always mean it is the right thing for us. So when we aren't sure, do you know what we can ask? ***"What does God say?"***
HOLY BIBLE
God's Word says:
"Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth."
John 17:17, NLT


Do you like to **celebrate**?
I do too!
There are so many wonderful things to celebrate. Birthdays. Christmas morning. Family days. Answered prayers. A really great day with people you love.
God made joy, laughter, friendship, and fun.
But did you know that not every celebration has the same story behind it?
Some things are worth learning a little more about.
God's Word says:
"This is the day the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it."
Psalm 118:24, NLT


Have you ever wondered why our family doesn't celebrate Halloween?
Maybe you have seen other kids wearing costumes.
Maybe you have seen buckets full of candy.
Maybe you have even thought, "That looks fun! Why don't we do that?"
That is a really good question.
And the answer is not because we think we are better than anyone else.
It is because we want to know the ***truth***.
And once we know the truth, ***we want to make choices that honor Jesus.***
God's Word says:
"Carefully determine what pleases the Lord."
Ephesians 5:10, NLT


Now here is something interesting.
Did you know that the Bible never actually says the word Halloween?
So how do we know what God thinks about it?
We look at what the Bible does tell us.
God's Word teaches us to stay away from things that have to do with magic or spiritual practices that don't come from God.
But that doesn't mean spiritual things are bad. God is supernatural!
He made the spiritual world, and we get to experience Him through prayer, worship, His Word, His presence, His love, and His power.
We don't need to look anywhere else for spiritual things. We look to God. And do you know what God calls us?
Children of light.
We are called to keep the fire of God burning in our hearts so we can teach and demonstrate His love and power
God's Word says:
"For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light!"
Ephesians 5:8, NLT



Did you know Halloween has been around for a very long time? It actually started very differently from the Halloween we see today.

Long ago, some of its traditions came from celebrations and beliefs that did not honor God.

Over time, Halloween changed. Today you might see costumes, pumpkins, decorations, and lots of candy!

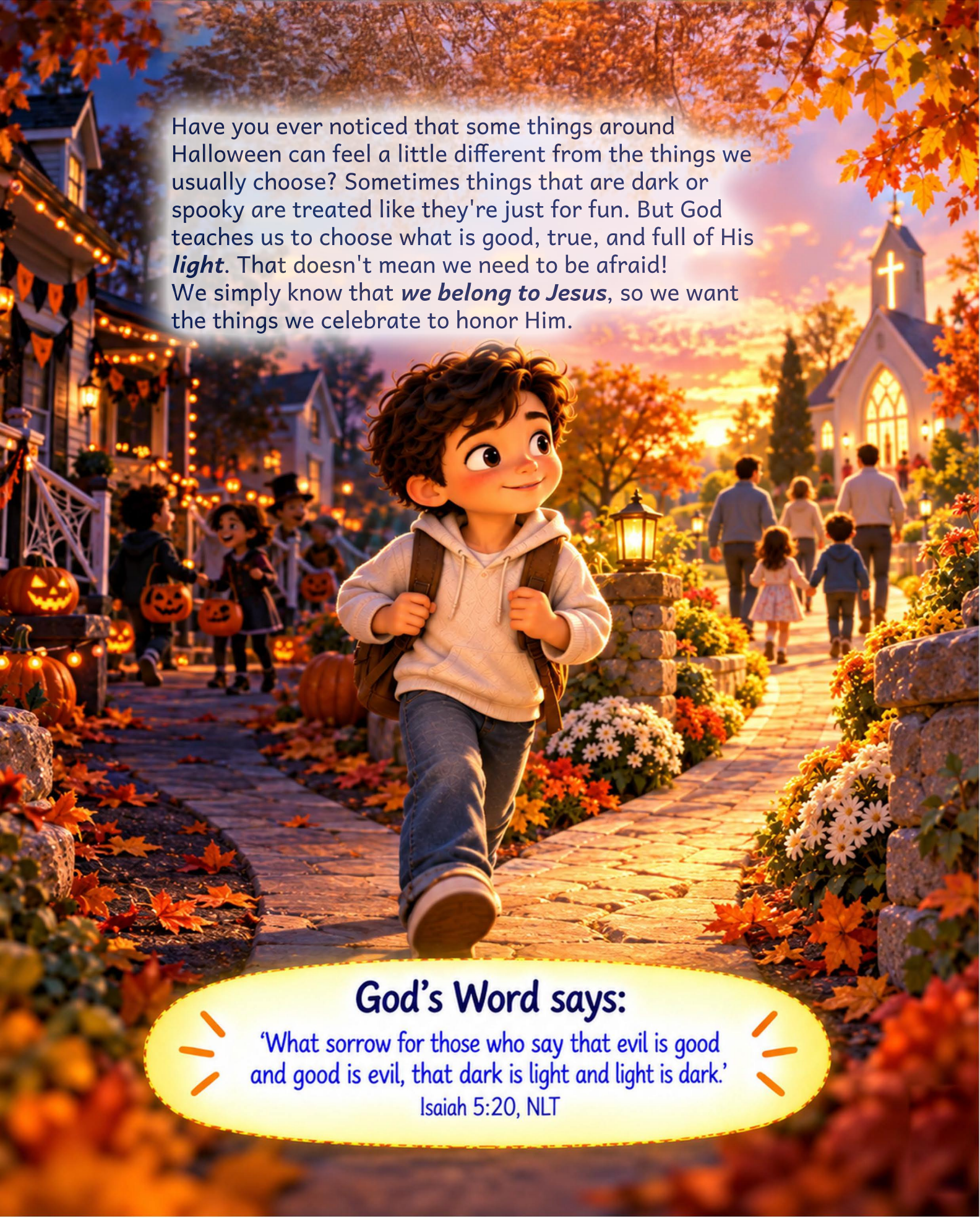
But our family believes it's important to know where traditions come from and choose the ones that honor Jesus. And that's why we choose something different.

God's Word says:

'Carefully determine what pleases the Lord.'

Ephesians 5:10, NLT


So here is a question our family likes to ask.
And it is a really important one.
Ready?
"Does this honor Jesus?"
Not just...
"Is everyone else doing it?"
Or...
"Does it look harmless?"
But...
"Would Jesus be pleased with this?"
That is a good question to ask about Halloween.
And actually, it is a good question to ask about everything!
God's Word says:
"So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."
1 Corinthians 10:31, NLT



Have you ever noticed that some things around Halloween can feel a little different from the things we usually choose? Sometimes things that are dark or spooky are treated like they're just for fun. But God teaches us to choose what is good, true, and full of His ***light***. That doesn't mean we need to be afraid! We simply know that ***we belong to Jesus***, so we want the things we celebrate to honor Him.

God's Word says:

'What sorrow for those who say that evil is good and good is evil, that dark is light and light is dark.'

Isaiah 5:20, NLT

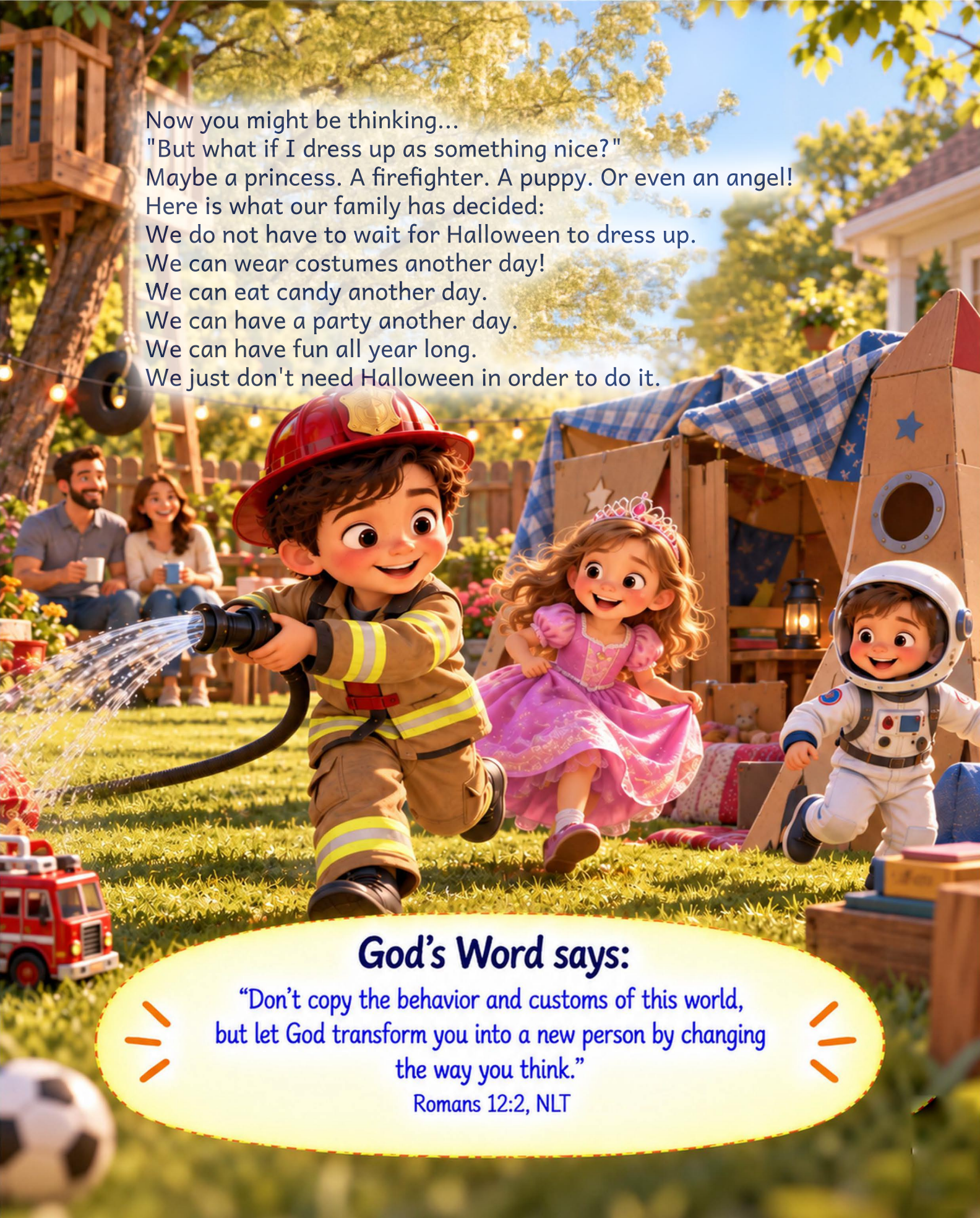


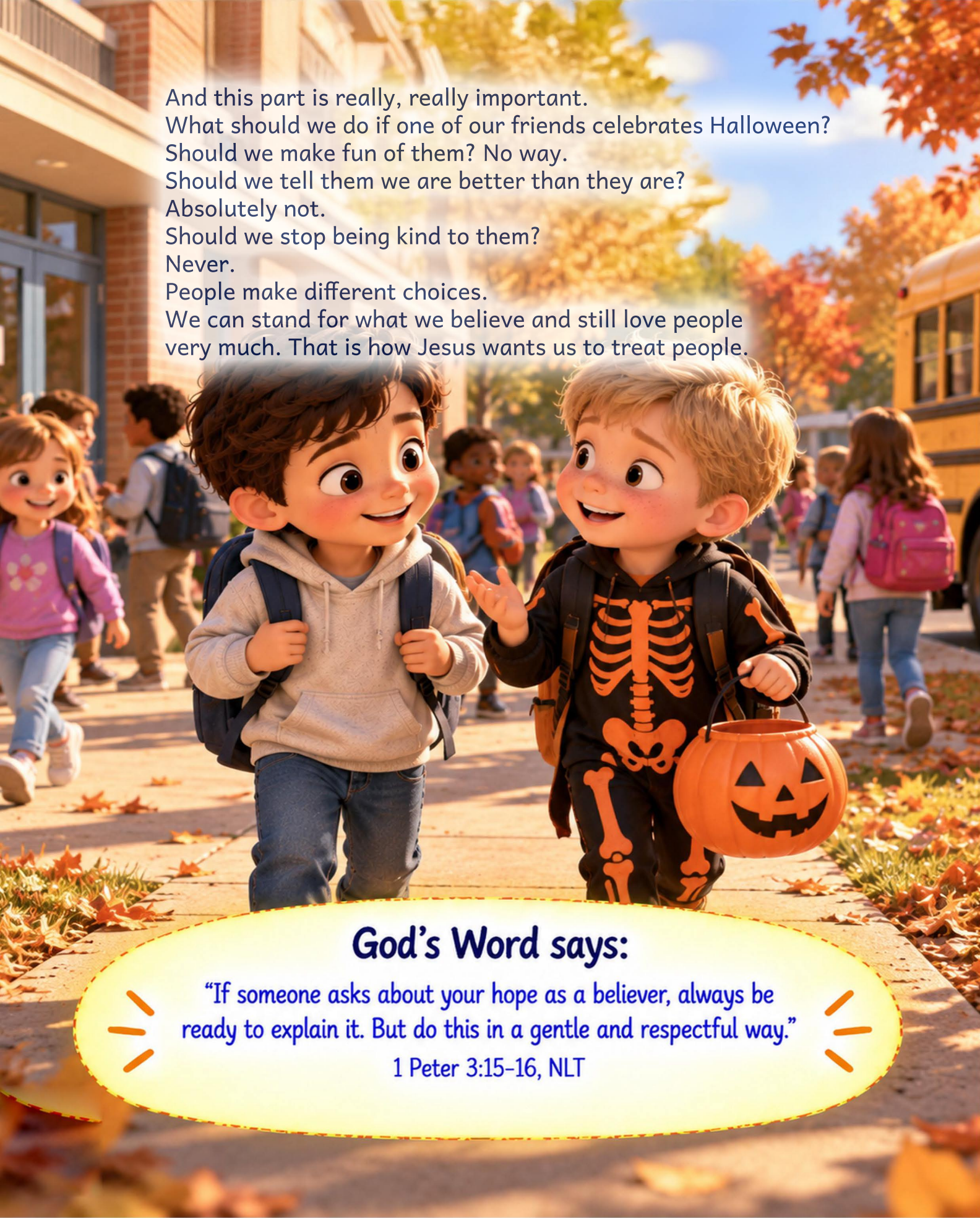
Do you know what the Bible says about you?
It says that now you have light from the Lord, so you can live as a ***person of light.***
How amazing is that?
You are not supposed to look like darkness. You are supposed to ***shine***! And the light God puts in us produces what is good, right, and true. That means we can choose things that look like Jesus.

God's Word says:

"For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true."

Ephesians 5:8–9, NLT


Now you might be thinking...
"But what if I dress up as something nice?"
Maybe a princess. A firefighter. A puppy. Or even an angel!
Here is what our family has decided:
We do not have to wait for Halloween to dress up.
We can wear costumes another day!
We can eat candy another day.
We can have a party another day.
We can have fun all year long.
We just don't need Halloween in order to do it.
God's Word says:
"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world,
but let God transform you into a new person by changing
the way you think."
Romans 12:2, NLT

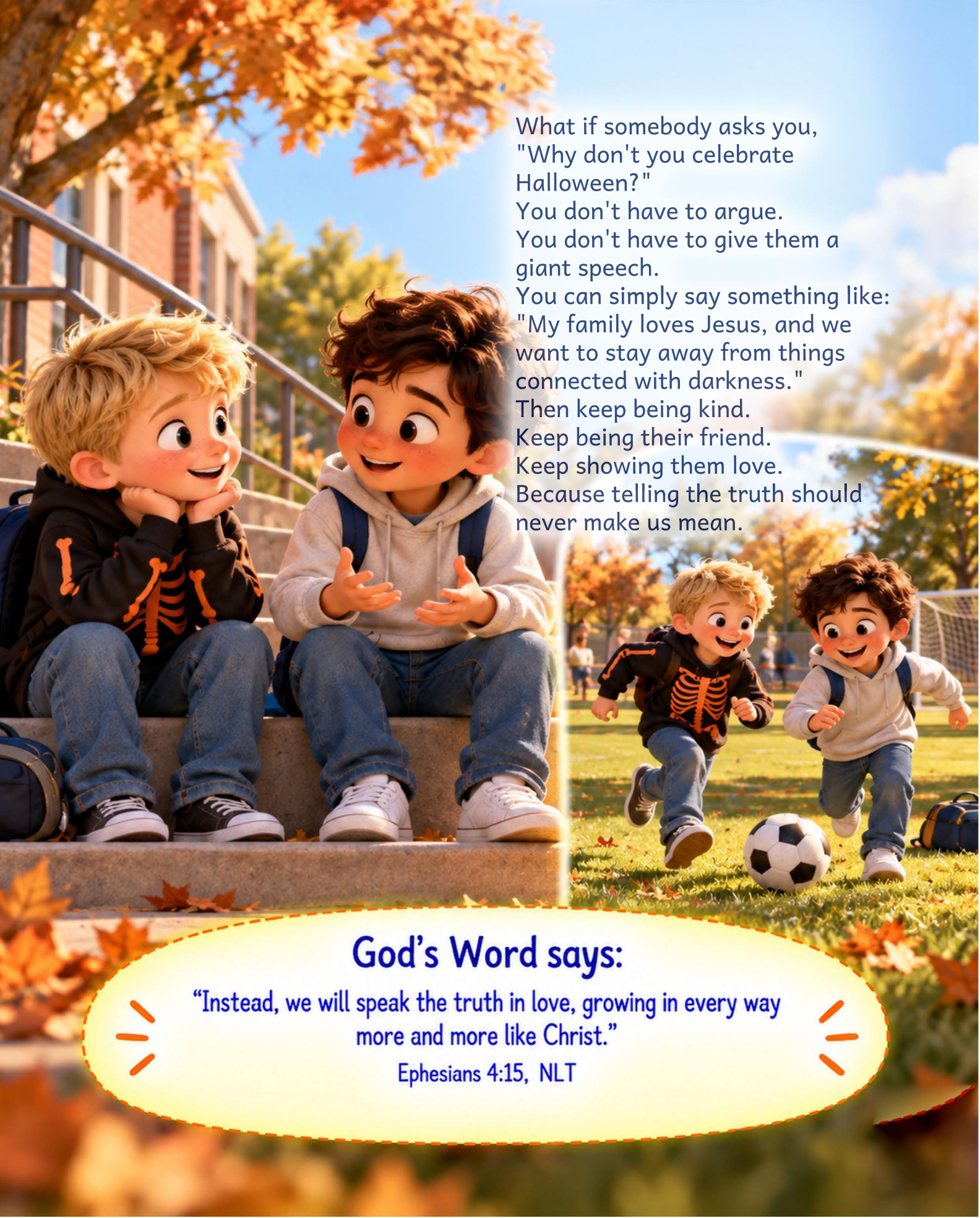


And this part is really, really important.
What should we do if one of our friends celebrates Halloween?
Should we make fun of them? No way.
Should we tell them we are better than they are?
Absolutely not.
Should we stop being kind to them?
Never.
People make different choices.
We can stand for what we believe and still love people very much. That is how Jesus wants us to treat people.

God's Word says:

"If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way."

1 Peter 3:15-16, NLT



What if somebody asks you,
"Why don't you celebrate Halloween?"
You don't have to argue.
You don't have to give them a giant speech.
You can simply say something like:
"My family loves Jesus, and we want to stay away from things connected with darkness."
Then keep being kind.
Keep being their friend.
Keep showing them love.
Because telling the truth should never make us mean.

God's Word says:

"Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ."

Ephesians 4:15, NLT



And guess what?
Following Jesus is not boring! Not even close.
We can have movie nights. Bake cookies. Dress up. Make forts. Go on adventures. Paint pictures. Play games. Invite friends over.
We can eat way too much popcorn and laugh until our stomachs hurt!
There are so many ways to have fun without Halloween.
In fact, ***every good gift comes from God.***

God's Word says:

"Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father."

James 1:17, NLT



Did you know God made you curious? He made you want to learn. He made you wonder about things you cannot see. And there really is a spiritual world. But we don't need scary things to learn about it. We get to know the real, supernatural God! We can pray. We can worship. We can read His Word. We can experience His presence, His love, and His power. And we can watch Him change people's lives. God's supernatural power is good, and there is nothing greater than Him!

God's Word says:

"For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity – the man Christ Jesus."
1 Timothy 2:5, NLT



So what do we want to fill our home with?
Things that honor God!
Prayer. Worship. The Bible. Thankfulness.
Kindness. Helping others. Laughter.
Peace. Love.
We want our home to be a place where Jesus is welcome.

God's Word says:

"Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise."

Philippians 4:8, NLT

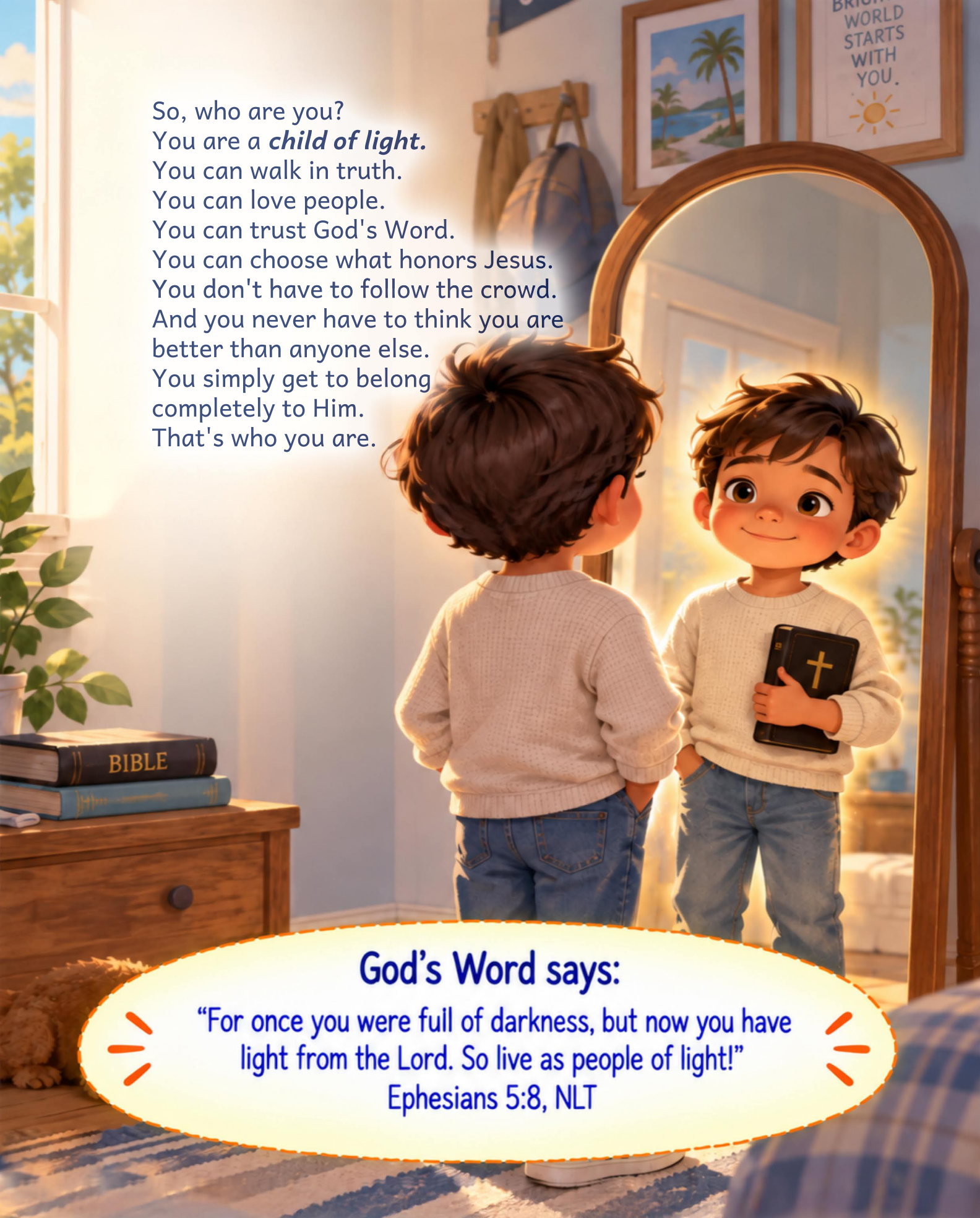

But wait. What if your family celebrated Halloween before?
Does that mean God is angry with you?
No.
Maybe you simply did not know what you know now.
The Bible says there is no condemnation for those who belong to Jesus.
God teaches us. We listen.
And when He shows us something, we can make a new choice.
That is part of growing with Jesus.
God's Word says:
"So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus."
Romans 8:1, NLT



Do you remember what Jesus called Himself?
The Light of the World.
And Jesus said that if we follow Him, we will not walk in darkness.
So when our family says no to Halloween, we are not just saying no to something.
We are saying yes to Someone.
Yes to ***Jesus.***
Yes to ***truth.***
Yes to ***light.***

God's Word says:

"I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."
John 8:12, NLT



So, who are you?
You are a ***child of light.***
You can walk in truth.
You can love people.
You can trust God's Word.
You can choose what honors Jesus.
You don't have to follow the crowd.
And you never have to think you are better than anyone else.
You simply get to belong completely to Him.
That's who you are.

God's Word says:

"For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light!"
Ephesians 5:8, NLT



So, do we celebrate Halloween?
No.
But what do we celebrate?
Jesus!
We celebrate His goodness.
His truth.
His love.
His presence.
His power.
And the wonderful life He has given us.
Because Jesus is more than enough.

God's Word says:

"You are the light of the world – like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden."

Matthew 5:14, NLT

A Note to Parents from the Author

This book was written to help young children understand, in a simple and age-appropriate way, why our family chooses not to celebrate Halloween.

Our goal is not to create fear of Halloween, nor is it to teach children to judge families who make a different choice.

Instead, we want our children to develop a lifelong habit of bringing everything before the Word of God and asking: "Does this please the Lord?"

Scripture teaches believers to stay away from spiritual practices that do not come from God. As parents, we have chosen not to participate in Halloween because of its historical connections to beliefs and practices that we do not believe honor Him.

At the same time, we want our children to understand that standing for truth and loving people are not opposites. We can hold firmly to our convictions while remaining kind, humble, and loving toward others.

Most importantly, we want our children's curiosity about spiritual things to be directed toward the real, supernatural God: His presence, His power, His Word, and His love.

Our prayer is that this book helps begin meaningful conversations in your home and teaches your children to walk confidently as children of light.

"Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them."

Ephesians 5:10-11, NLT

This book was created from the sermon "Trick or Truth: Should Christians Celebrate Halloween?" by Alex Pappas, found on YouTube.

Alex Pappas




A Prayer We Can Pray
Jesus, thank You that I belong to You.
Help me to know what is true
and choose what pleases You.
Help me to walk in Your light,
love people well, and never be afraid
to be different.
Fill my heart and my home with
Your love, Your truth, and Your presence.
I love You, Jesus. Amen.

Scriptures to Remember

Every scripture used in this book

John 17:17
"Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth."

Psalm 118:24
"This is the day the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it."

Ephesians 5:10
"Carefully determine what pleases the Lord."

Ephesians 5:8
"For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light!"

1 Corinthians 10:31
"So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

Isaiah 5:20
"What sorrow for those who say that evil is good and good is evil, that dark is light and light is dark."

Ephesians 5:8–9
"For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true."

Romans 12:2
"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think."

1 Peter 3:15–16
"If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way."

Ephesians 4:15
"Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ."

James 1:17
"Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father."

1 Timothy 2:5
"For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity — the man Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:8
"Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise."

Romans 8:1
"So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus."

John 8:12
"I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

Matthew 5:14
"You are the light of the world — like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden."

Ephesians 5:10–11
"Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them."


As for me
and my house,
we will serve
the Lord.
Joshua 24:15

Why doesn't our family celebrate Halloween?

Because I Belong to Jesus helps young children understand why some Christian families choose not to celebrate Halloween, without teaching them to be afraid of it or to look down on those who make a different choice.

Children learn to ask an important question: ***"Does this please the Lord?"*** They discover that following Jesus means knowing the truth, trusting God's Word, loving people well, and sometimes choosing a different path.

Most importantly, this book reminds children that following Jesus isn't about what they're missing. It's about what they already have in Him: His goodness, His truth, His love, His presence, and His power.

When we belong to Jesus, we are called to walk in truth and live as children of light.

Because Jesus is more than enough.

