

## The topic for this week: Holidays & Halloween

Holidays are unique and special. They can teach us about ourselves and people. I could never understand being raised multi-religious family. why Jehovah witness doesn't celebrate holiday. My Aunt is a Jehovah witness. I went to the Kingdom Kingdom Hall one time but often come into contact with Jehovah witness. often they visit your home etc. But I was being raised in a Christian home. Also being deeply rooted in the church because my Stepdad was a Pastor. Even in the Holy Bible such as the Feast of Tabernacles was a special celebration involving the whole family Leviticus 23:34, Exodus 23:16, Deuteronomy 16:13 . Like Passover, this feast taught family members of all ages about God's nature and what he had done for them and was a time of renewed commitment to God. our families also need rituals of celebration to renew our faith and to ~~pass~~ pass it on to our children. In addition to Christmas and Easter, we should select other special days to commemorate God's goodness.

For instance Halloween is coming up. Everybody's buying costumes and candy. trying to figure out how they can take the kids trick or treating due to cov-19 pandemic . Growing up in the 80's and 90's. we was always ready to go trick or treating. Back then we had a serious problem with people putting razors in the candy or ~~the~~ apples. Thank God, because of the reputation of my parents in the community. we got to trick or treat at doctors homes and offices, stores downtown and the mall for our safety. At the church we would have halloweayah festival for the children in the

communities that was members and nonmember. The Hanukkah festival was the same as fall festival. Cake walks etc. Second best thing I love our teachers would be allowed to have a Halloween party for us in our classes. Don't let nobody ~~ever~~ tell you God don't want you to have fun or enjoy ~~holid~~ holidays. Worship involves both celebration and confession. But in Israel's national holiday, the balance seems heavily tipped in favor of celebration - five joyous occasions to two solemn ones. The God of the bible encourages joy! God does not intend for religion to be only meditation and introspection. He also wants us to celebrate. Serious reflection and immediate confession of sin is essential, of course. But this should be balanced by celebrating who God is and what he has done for his people. What special occasions on your calendar would you describe as times for joy? Which would be times for confession? How are you doing with the five-to-two balance? The final reflection point God established several national holidays each year for celebration, fellowship and worship. Much can be learned about people by observing the holidays they celebrate and the way they celebrate them. Take note of your holiday traditions. What do they say about your values? In what ways do your celebrations and holidays reflect your relationship with God?

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