



**HAPPY  
HALLOWEEN**

Did you know that Halloween is even older than your grandparents?

A long time ago, before it was ever called Halloween, it was known as New Year's Day, even though it was celebrated in October instead of January.

It was not a happy time because people were scared of evil spirits. The priests, called Druids, carved spirit faces on pumpkins and other vegetables and sold them as charms to keep away the evil spirits. Some were so scared, they would offer sacrifices, hoping the spirits would not bother them. It was a time of fear and sadness and it went on for years and years.

In the 8th century, the Pope wanted to persuade people to stop offering sacrifices to evil spirits. So the church tried to turn it into a holy day. They asked the people to use it to get ready for All Saints Day by giving food to the poor. If you were poor, you could go to any home that had a candle in the window and receive a gift of food. The Pope called it a hallowed evening or Hallowe'en.

The people in the church were happy to follow the Pope's plan. But most people kept

on being scared because they didn't know about Jesus.

It's still a scary world. There is really only one way to stop being scared, and that is to invite Jesus into your heart. He wants to come into your heart so much that He gave up His home in Heaven to come to earth to save us from evil. He even died on the cross to pay the penalty for the evil things you and I do. But He rose from the dead and now He is in Heaven getting ready to come back as our King. You can talk to Him anytime, and here is a prayer to get started:

Dear Jesus: I am sorry for the things I do and say that are wrong. Please come into my heart. Take care of me and help me to live for You. Amen.

I love Jesus and I am pleased that you came to my house tonight for a treat. I hope you have a happy Halloween. Most of all, I hope you invite Jesus into your heart because He loves you very much. You can learn more about Jesus by going to Church or Sunday School.