



Group Discussion for Taking Back October

*Whenever I speak, I cry out proclaiming
violence and destruction.
So the word of the LORD has brought me insult
and reproach all day long.
But if I say, "I will not mention his word
or speak anymore in his name,"
his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones.
I am weary of holding it in;
indeed, I cannot.
Jeremiah 20:8-9*

From the author,
The topic of this book is a tough one; people don't want to hear it. So why did I write it anyway, knowing it would not be a big seller? Why keep going against the flow? Because God has given me this message and I cannot keep silent. We, His people, are sinning greatly in our participation and promotion of a dark and ungodly celebration. Whether people listen or don't listen, out

of obedience to my God, I had to speak out.

I've added a few other thoughts to the questions already in your copy of *Taking Back October* (also included here). I hope you will be able to explore them together with friends or family and ask God how He wants you to respond:

Chapter One: Fall, a Season of Fear?

1. What are your childhood memories of fall?
2. How has the season and day itself changed since then?
3. What do you think about the amount of money being spent on Halloween? As believers, how can we rationalize that?
4. What do you want your children, grandchildren, and future generations to remember about the fall season?

Chapter Two: Copying the World

1. How does Halloween stack up against the themes of the other traditional holidays we celebrate?
2. Name the theme (or reason for) each of the following holiday:

- a. New Years
 - b. Valentines
 - c. Presidents' Day
 - d. Easter
 - e. Memorial Day
 - f. Fourth of July
 - g. Labor Day
 - h. Thanksgiving
 - i. Christmas
3. What reasons do we tell our children/grandchildren why we “celebrate” on Halloween?
 4. Why would a former Satan worshiper, like Glenn Hobbs (p. 12), be so strongly against Christians celebrating Halloween?

Chapter Three: How Halloween Began

1. What did you learn about the symbols of Halloween in this chapter that you either didn't know before, or gave you a jolt to hear it again?
2. What are the dangers of playing party games that promise secret knowledge (Ouija boards, tarot cards, 8 ball)?
3. Why do people desire this kind of knowledge?
4. Read **Genesis 3:1-7** aloud. Satan claimed God was withholding secret knowledge from Adam and Eve. What were the results from trying to obtain it?

Chapter Four: Halloween Today

1. What evidences do you see in your community that there is a spiritual battle going on?
2. How many Christians do you know who regularly pray and fast for the salvation of ungodly or even occult leaders? How does this compare to the woman Pastor H.B. London Jr. met on the airplane?
3. What are the top news stories during the months of September and October? What kinds of crimes are more prevalent in the fall than any other time of the year?

4. What's wrong with Christian parents telling their children that witches, ghosts, and supernatural beings are just make believe?
5. How does the WOKE agenda being forced on us and our children fit in with this discussion?

Chapter Five: Comparing Halloween Themes to Scripture

1. Why do you think the themes of Halloween appeal to so many people (death, fear, darkness, supernatural powers)?
2. Read aloud together the additional scriptures given on pages 32, 33, 35, 36, 38, and 39.
3. How does continuing to participate in Halloween stack up against God's Word?
4. What are some habits you have given up for spiritual or health reasons (i.e., smoking, drinking, illicit sex)? Did you go cold turkey, or replace them with something better? What happened when you didn't have a better option to turn to?

Chapter Six: A Better Option

1. What did you know about All Saint's Day before reading this book?
2. Have you noticed how many new holidays (that are in direct opposition to Christianity) have suddenly been added to our cell phone calendars? And you can't choose to opt out. Yet All Saint's Day has ceased to show up on both printed calendars and cell phones. It's not even mentioned at most churches! Why is that?
3. What is your definition of a Jesus Freak? Do you want to be one? Why or why not?
4. What mixed messages about their faith do some believers give to others around them?

Chapter Seven: All Saints' for Today's Believers

1. What is a saint? Did the definition (on p. 52) surprise you? Why or why not?
2. What fun ways to celebrate All Saints' Day are your favorites from this chapter?
3. Which would be the easiest to start doing?
4. If your spouse or family are not on board with this idea, what can you still do on your own?

Chapter Eight: Taking Back October at Home

1. What do you think your family's response will be to these ideas?
2. What obstacles will have to be overcome?
3. Why is it important for Christians to not only know the stories of the Bible, but the stories of Christians throughout history?
4. Discuss how the following quote from chapter six of *Live Not by Lies*, by Rod Dreher applies to celebrating All Saints' Day:

"Less formal, everyday acts within the home are more powerful than you might think. The way Christians talk about God and weave the stories of the Bible and church history into the fabric of domestic life is of immense significance, precisely because these things are so ordinary. This is training children and parents alike in cultural memory. The language Christians use—the words, the metaphors—matters, as does the way we pray together and the symbols we employ to embody and transmit meaning across the generations. We may not be able to communicate that meaning to a world gone insane, but as Orwell knew, simply by staying sane when everyone else is mad, we may hope to convey the human heritage."

Chapter Nine: Taking Back October at Church

1. What is your role at church? Are you in a position to present some of these ideas to your leadership?
2. How might these ideas affect the children and youth in your church?
3. Have you ever participated in a prayer walk or prayer night? What excites you about the possibilities? What are your fears? How can God help you overcome them?
4. How could this new way of celebrating fall be more effective in reaching your community for Christ?

Appendix Material:

1. What do you want to emphasize on scripture banners or signs for All Saints' Day? Make a list of possible scriptures.

2. What are some new books and movies that have come out that would appeal to adults, children, families, believers and nonbelievers alike?
3. Who are some of your favorite Christian heroes? If you can't think of any besides Jesus and Noah, it's time to do some reading! (Or *watching*; there are many good movies out now!)
4. What are some of your favorite songs that highlight faith and courage?
5. What are some fun interactive games you could play to learn about our Christian heritage?
6. Why do you think it's important to be specific in our prayers for:
 - Our church
 - Our community
 - For the innocent being targeted or groomed for Satan's work
 - For Christians to be set apart
 - For those being persecuted for their faith

Thank you for reading *Taking Back October*, and for taking the time to meet together for discussions that will hopefully change your life, your church, and your community.

May God give you courage to live wholeheartedly for Him!

Beth Vice

Other recommended reading:
Return of the gods, by Jonathan Chan
Live Not by Lies, Rod Dreher
The Holy Wild, Mark Buchanan