

# Hero's for Jesus Parties



It was October and Halloween decorations were everywhere. We don't celebrate this particular "holiday" because of its origins and focus on ghosts, witches, and darkness. I didn't want to do a "Halloween Alternative" either. Then it hit me! We could celebrate All Saints Day! And so, the "Hero's for Jesus" parties were born. We would have fun, dress up in costumes, eat candy, and learn about church history. The children would dress up as a saint who accomplished some kind of exploit for God. The adults and older teens would dress up as Church History Hero's too. We would tell the children about the person we were dressed up as in first person.

We set up six to eight "stations" (usually tables) around our large meeting room. The tables were set up to go around in chronological order. One church history hero was at each table with his/her rehearsed speech, game and candy to pass out. The children would divide into small groups and stay at each station fifteen minutes. Then each group would move on to the next station. At the end, I would sum up with a little time line, then walk from first station to last, recapping the times and people we had just spent time with.

“Charles Wesley” (wearing a wig made of quilt batting) told the children about himself, his brother, and his ministry. Then he sang some of the hymns he had written with the children.

“Georg Mueller” shared his testimony and talked about the orphanage. The children played a game with him based on the way he would “pray in” food and other needs for his ministry.

“St. Patrick” talked with an Irish accent and had the children enthralled as he talked of his capture by Irish pirates, his escape, training for the ministry, and eventual return to the people who had originally kidnapped him. We colored maps of Ireland.

“Joni Erikson Tada” shared her testimony and then taught the children to paint with their teeth. “Amy Carmichael” explained how her brown eyes turned out to be a blessing in her ministry even though as a child she had wished they were blue. The coop children played a game based on her rescue of orphaned children in India.

Each year we had a different set of hero’s. Our children loved it and they learned about church history too!