



New Year Mask Missions Activity

Have the kids make their scariest masks like they do in Petrich Bulgaria on New Year's Day to scare away the bad things for the new year. There is lots of music, loud noises, shouting and fireworks too!

Now we don't believe in Dances or Masks to drive away evil spirits and neither do most Bulgarians – But this day is a great celebration in our town and one that is very different – it is a tradition and a fun way to celebrate together.

The history is that all the town folk would dress up in their scariest costumes to scare away the evil spirits for the coming year. After this they would dance and sing and celebrate the new year. Here in Petrich each neighborhood presents a group to play music and dance as part of the New Year's Day Celebration.



In many ways it is much like our Halloween where everyone dresses up in costumes. It seemed to have no real religious observance but rather an excuse for the city to celebrate and have fun. Each section of town creates costumes, masks and has a band that beat a rhythm that the group dance and competes in competition against other parts of town each with their own dances.

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Create your own party around creating Masks to wear and have each group make up their own dance and make noise as they do. With their masks.

Teaching points:

God lives in You

1 Cor 3:16 - Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

Greater is He that is in you than he the is in the world.

1 John 4:4 - You are from God, little children, and have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world

There are forces and spirits around us both good and bad – but when Christ lives in us we do not have to be afraid of them. We do not have to try and scare them off or do what they want so they will do what you want. People without Christ often worry and have fears about the future and the unknown but when we have Jesus with us we do not have to worry for He made everything and all that there is.

Activity:

make mask by cutting eye hole in Paper Plates and having the kids decorate them. Attach a string to tie

them on to wear them.

