

Hi, kids! I'm sure many of you have heard of St. Patrick. Maybe you even wear green on March 17th! When I think of St. Patrick's Day, I usually think of lots of green, shamrocks and maybe even leprechauns with pots of gold!

But that's not really the true meaning of St. Patrick's Day. I bet you didn't know that St. Patrick was actually a missionary. In fact, he's known as the "Apostle of Ireland."

Here's a little bit of history: Patrick was born in Britain, but when he was 16 he was taken prisoner by some people from Ireland who attacked where he lived. They took him back to their country, and he spent six years as their prisoner.

Patrick became a Christian while he was a prisoner. He grew to love God a lot.

One day, Patrick escaped from the raiders and left Ireland. He was finally free!

Years later, Patrick heard God telling him to go back to Ireland to be a missionary. So he decided to obey, and went back to tell the Irish people about Jesus. That's what he did for the rest of his life.

After Patrick died, the Catholic Church made him a saint — a special name they give to people who do important things for God. That's why he's known as St. Patrick to us today! We celebrate his life on March 17, and it's been a religious holiday for over 1,000 years. Traditionally, people attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Then they eat Irish bacon and cabbage. Yum!



Fun facts:

- 🌍 St. Patrick used the three leaves of the shamrock, a native Irish clover, to tell people how God is three parts — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- 🌍 Today, people all over the world celebrate St. Patrick's Day. But instead of being a religious holiday, it's more like a big party with parades, concerts, outdoor theater productions and even fireworks!
- 🌍 The city of Chicago pours 40 pounds of green dye into the Chicago River to turn it green for St. Patrick's Day. Can you imagine a green river? Cool!

You can be a missionary too!

St. Patrick had a good idea when he used the shamrock to tell people how God is three parts (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit). Let's cut out and color these shamrocks, and use them to be a missionary just like St. Patrick!

Maybe you could even make one for each of your friends and write a Bible verse on the back — like John 3:16 or something — so they know how much Jesus loves them. You can be a missionary right now, no matter how old you are or where you live!

Who can you tell people about Jesus this week?

For more activities, visit wycliffe.org/A-Z

