

Who was Saint Patrick?

A lesson for children
about St. Patrick and
the gospel he taught.
With activities, craft
and lots more!

Teaching Guide



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Digital Resources

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LESSON – Who was Saint Patrick?

You will need:

- Six lesson visuals
(A3 flashcards or Powerpoint (available in the **digital resources**))
- St. Patrick's Day accessories
- Toy snake
- Five fun facts
(See pages 3-7 of the Resource Pack in the **digital resources**)
- "God", "Me" and "Us" hexagons
(See page 8 of the Resource Pack in the **digital resources**)

(Before the lesson, hide the five fun facts around your teaching area. Stick the fun fact facing the wall and write the number on the back, facing the children.)

Can you tell me which special day is celebrated on 17th March? **(Allow response.)** What do people do to celebrate St. Patrick's Day? **(Allow response and show some St. Patrick's Day accessories.)** Have you ever wondered what St. Patrick was really like? Did he carry a bunch of shamrocks? Were all his clothes green? Even his pyjamas?! What would he have thought about having a special day named after him?

As you probably know, Patrick was a real person who lived around 1,600 years ago. If you google "St. Patrick", you'll find lots of fun facts about him, but the best facts are the ones he wrote about himself. Patrick wrote two letters in a language called Latin. They have been translated into English and you can read them on the internet. You might be surprised to find that Patrick doesn't talk about leprechauns or pots of gold! So, what does he say? Let's find out!

1. Patrick wasn't Irish!

(Ask a child to find fun fact number one and read it out loud. You may wish to display the fact on a board or wall and then add the other facts as you come to them.)

Some people watch Irish dancing or eat traditional Irish food on St. Patrick's Day, but do you know that Patrick wasn't Irish! He lived across the Irish Sea in Britain when it was ruled by the Romans.



(Show visual 1.)

One night, when he was 16, Patrick heard people screaming in terror. Irish raiders were attacking! He was tied up and marched with many others down to the harbour and forced onto a ship. Can you imagine Patrick as the ship sailed further and further from his home and family? How do you think he felt? **(Allow response.)** I'm sure he was frightened. Maybe he could hear his captors shouting angrily or the sobs of another prisoner.



(Show visual 2.)

The ship brought Patrick to Ireland and there he was sold as a slave. "Take care of the sheep in the mountains," snarled his new master. Patrick didn't have any other choice. He brought the sheep up to the mountains and through the woods. He was cold and hungry. **(Ask the children to shiver and rub their tummy.)**

Patrick wouldn't be paid for this hard work. "What bad luck!" some people might say. Was it bad luck? Let's look at fun fact number two.