



Happy St. Patrick's Day! March 17th is a special day for those

who are Irish (or who pretend to be!) We wear green and look for leprechauns and eat corned beef and cabbage, but how much do we really know about St. Patrick?

Maewyn Succat (that was really his name!) was born in England during the fourth century and didn't go to Ireland until he was 16. In fact, he was KIDNAPPED by Irish pirates and brought to the country where he was made a slave! After six years he escaped and made his way back to England. After a time, Maewyn was called by God to go BACK to Ireland to tell people about his faith in Jesus Christ. You see, people in Ireland didn't know about God or Jesus at that time. The good news hadn't yet reached them. So Maewyn decided that he would bring God's message of love to the very people who had kidnapped and enslaved him!

Maewyn, now called "Patrick", liked to use nature in order to show people truths about God. The shamrock leaf, pictured above, grows in Ireland. Patrick used the three leaves to explain to people about the "Trinity", meaning God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. The leaves are all separate but are all part of the same plant. It is believed that Patrick held up a shamrock leaf and said, "Is it one leaf or three? It is BOTH one leaf and three." Using what was familiar to those with whom he talked, Patrick explained many Christian ideas to the Irish pagan people.

St. Patrick followed the words of Jesus who tells followers to "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20). Like Patrick, we are also to share the good news of Jesus Christ with those around us. So like Patrick, we too can be missionaries, wherever we are!

For more information about St. Patrick, check these sources out:

http://www.hellokids.com/c_20331/reading-learning/stories-for-children/st-patrick-s-day-history-and-fun-facts/the-history-of-st-patrick-s-day

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/celebrations/st-patricks-day/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBhG-7pj43E> Veggie tales version of the Story of St. Patrick



The Story of Peter and Cornelius: Acts 10

Memory verse: Matthew 28: 19-20: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Peter was a disciple (follower) of Jesus who became one of the most important apostles (sharer of the good news) in the early church. At first Peter told the story to other Jewish people that he met, but eventually he heard from God that he needed to begin telling Gentiles (those people who weren't Jewish—so Romans, Greeks, and others).

Cornelius was a Roman centurion (a leader of soldiers) who believed that there WAS one God. Most Roman people believed there were MANY gods and most weren't very nice to Jewish people or Christians. One afternoon he had a vision of an angel telling him to find a man named Peter. Peter, many miles away, also had a word from God through three dreams that told him to “eat any animal”, meaning he should go and tell EVERYONE about Jesus, not just the Jewish people who would only eat certain animals.

Cornelius sent his servants to find Peter, and when they did, Peter went to Cornelius's house to tell him and his family the good news about Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World. When they heard they believed, and God filled them with the Holy Spirit. This opened up the message of Jesus Christ to ALL people, and it is because of events like this that WE can have a relationship with Jesus through the Holy Spirit!

Like St. Patrick, Peter went to those who didn't know about Jesus; people who could almost be considered “enemies” to believers (remember St. Patrick was kidnapped and held as a slave by the Irish people!). We, too, are told by Jesus Himself to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20).

Who was St. Patrick?

Why did St. Patrick go to Ireland as a missionary?

What was similar about Peter's story and St. Patrick's story? What is God telling us through both of these stories?

How can we follow in the footsteps of Peter and St. Patrick?

Prayer: Dear Lord, Thank you for sending us Jesus and showing us how much you love us through him. Help us to be like Peter and St. Patrick so that we might tell other about you. Protect us and keep us healthy and safe during this time. Bless our family and friends. In Jesus name we pray, AMEN.