

Learning About St. Patrick

*Thought-Provoking Questions Designed to Bring Home
the True Spirit of This Courageous Saint*

Where did St. Patrick grow up?

He was raised in a Catholic home in Britain in the 5th century. How long ago was that?

Did he live with his parents?

Yes, he lived with and was educated by his parents. They taught him about God. How do your parents teach you about God?

What happened to him?

He was kidnapped by pirates and sold as a slave.

What is being a slave?

That means he was taken from his parents to a foreign land, where he was considered property, like the chair you are sitting on. He had to do what his owner told him to do.

Is slavery still happening?

Yes, in places like Africa it is happening now. Do you think another St. Patrick may be there now?

What did he have to do as a slave?

He was a shepherd. He took care of the sheep. Does that sound like fun?

How do you think St. Patrick felt?

He was sad and lonely. He missed his parents. How would you feel if you were in a foreign place away from your parents and made to do hard work?

What helped St. Patrick?

He talked to God all day. This made him feel safe. How do you talk to God? Do you pray? He also felt bad for the Irish people that had kidnapped him because he felt they didn't know any better. Do you ever feel bad for someone who has hurt you because they didn't know any better?

How did he leave?

God helped him escape and he went back home to his family. How do you think he felt?



Study guide developed by: Patricia A O'Gorman, PhD
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Learn more at: <http://www.SoberStPatricksDay.org>

What did St. Patrick do when he grew up?

He liked praying and talking to God so much that he became a priest. But he kept thinking of the Irish people for whom he felt sorry. So he decided to go back to Ireland to help them.

How do we know so much about St. Patrick?

St Patrick did what some of you do. He kept a journal where he wrote down how he felt, what bothered him, and where he went. How many of you write down your feelings and thoughts in a journal?

Why do we celebrate St. Patrick's Day?

Because he's an example of what we call 'resilience' – how we can use our troubles to teach us skills that can make our problem better and that we can use when we are feeling bad about other things.

St. Patrick was a great man who used his faith to help him when he was sad and lonely, something that you can do as well. How can you pray and use your faith to make you feel better when you are angry or sad?

Information and educational activities are available on:

<http://www.catholicteacher.com/saint-studies-st-patrick-lessons-activities/>



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