

St. Patrick's Day

Around the World

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in many countries, but is only an official holiday in Ireland, Newfoundland and Labrador (Canada), and Montserrat

In Brazil, they celebrate many different saints. In fact, most towns have their own "saint" they celebrate with a local holiday

Popular St. Patrick's Day traditions include local parades, eating green/Irish food, pinching people who don't wear green, and drinking beer

In Haiti, St. Patrick is connected to the vodou serpent god, Damballa. They are connected as opposites. St. Patrick was said to have removed the snakes from Ireland

Most countries only celebrate St. Patrick's day in the big cities (with Western influence) or where there are groups of Irish and or Catholic people

In Kenya, it's only celebrated in the big cities, or perhaps in connection with Catholic holidays, like in Brazil

In some persecuted countries, specially Muslim majority countries, they don't celebrate St. Patrick's Day, as it is a Catholic tradition

In Tanzania, St. Patrick's Day is not really celebrated

In Mumbai, India, the Gateway of India is turned green for St Patrick's Day. St. Patrick's Day comes not long after the Indian Holi festival

In Uganda, it is not celebrated much, but when it is, it is to celebrate ties with Ireland

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A Basic History

1

300-500AD

Patrick served others and died in 461AD

At 16, he was kidnapped, taken to Ireland, and enslaved. He escaped and returned home, but felt called to return and serve those in Ireland, which he did for the rest of his life. He died on March 17th, which is why we celebrate that day.

2

1600s



The Catholic Calendar includes the feast of St. Patrick

Around this time, the first recorded St. Patrick's Day parade took place in the USA as a time to celebrate Irish culture and history. This is very closely connected with the Catholic church, and considered more of a religious holiday.

3

1900s



St. Patrick's Day is an official holiday in Ireland

The main things we connect with St. Patrick's Day (secular) are now common: eating Irish food, drinking beer, and parades. As Irish continued to migrate, more places celebrated the day, including Argentina and Japan.

4

Now



St. Patrick's Day is a Big Deal

While it isn't an official holiday, many people in the USA will at least wear green (for fear of being pinched if they don't) and/or eat something green or Irish for the day. It is rarely connected to its Christian origins. About 5 billion dollars is spent celebrating St. Patrick's Day around the world.

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Connected to Missions

1



rainbow: symbol of God's Promises

balloon: He LIFTS our burdens! Psalm 55:22

heart: He is abounding in love! exodus 34:6

star: He is SO big, He knows the names of the stars & my name too! Psalm 147:4-5

moon: sorrow only last for the night. Psalm 30:5

clover: reminder of the trinity!

Enjoy the message from Lucky Charms

There are many good ideas of green food and snacks for St. Patrick's Day on the Internet. Here is a simple idea, or you could ask the kids what each marshmallows might represent.

2



Have green food bake sale

There are always a lot of needs with missions. You can ask your missions team or representatives if there are any specific goals, or just general funds you can give to.

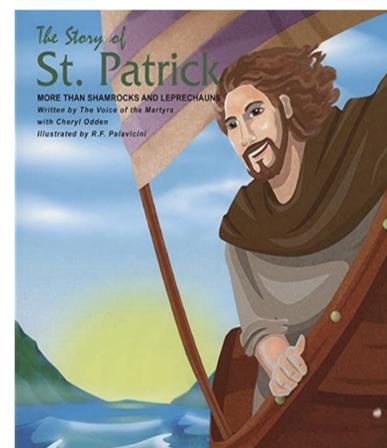
3



Use the 8 Activities from KidsEnjoyingJesus.com

This website has great St. Patrick's Day ideas, with videos, Bible verses, songs, and printable resources,

4



Learn more about Patrick, a Missionary

Voice of the Martyrs has a fantastic book called "The Real Story of St. Patrick's Day" which is an easy and great way to talk about missions, and serving others even when they've hurt you