

Lesson Plans: St. Patrick (March 17th)

Watch CCC's "Patrick: Brave Shepherd of the Emerald Isle" on Catholic Brain

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Patrick was taken from his home and kidnapped by raiders. How did Patrick respond when he realized he was a slave and was trapped in a strange land? Do you think you would have responded the same way?

Patrick did not fall into despair when he was forced from his home and made a slave. He didn't turn his back on God, but turned to God in prayer. Like Patrick, we need to remember when we need help we should always turn to God.

- 2) Patrick began to understand that when the time was right God would free him. He waited patiently for that time and continued to pray to God. Although the video didn't mention it, Patrick was a slave for six years. So for six years Patrick waited for God to answer his prayers. Sometimes it's hard to keep praying when it feels like your prayers are not being answered. Was there a time when you felt like your prayers were not being answered? Did you give up asking? Why or why not?

Putting total trust in God can be tough especially when it seems our prayers are not being answered. Patrick's prayers were answered when God knew the time was right for him. Our time and God's time are not always the same and sometimes our plans and God's plans are not the same, either. We need to trust God and that means believing that God knows what is best for us and when it is best for us.

- 3) Patrick said in the video that he believed that God had brought him to Ireland for a reason, but he could not see the reason at the time. We see later in the video that God used Patrick to bring the gospel to the Irish people. Do you think God can bring good out of something bad? Can you think of an example of this in your own life?

Patrick is also a wonderful example of God bringing good out of something bad. God allows bad things to happen, but we cannot always see right away why He has allowed it. Many times we may not see the good for many years later.

- 4) The hardships Patrick had to endure were very unfair. Patrick did not seek revenge, but turned around and helped the Irish people who enslaved him. Can you think of how we can follow Patrick's example of forgiveness in our own lives?

Patrick is a fine example of forgiving others. Jesus said, "love those who persecute" us. Life is not fair all the time, and it can be challenging to deal with such injustices. Sometimes our best response to an injustice is to forgive and pray for those who harmed us.