

## Holiday Lesson Series

# St. Patrick's Day

### Bible Verse:

Revelation 4:3

And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.

### Why We Celebrate This Holiday:

St. Patrick's Day is traditionally celebrated to honor the Irish St. Patrick. He was a patron saint who wanted to spread the word of Christianity throughout the land. There are many myths and embellishments about St. Patrick and most of them are not true. One story says that it was St. Patrick who drove a mass of snakes out of Ireland. Today, many countries celebrate this day, whether Irish or not. It is tradition to wear green on this day to honor St. Patrick and to bring luck to the wearer.

### Lesson Ideas:

1. Study clovers. Kids are fascinated with clovers. You can actually buy clover seeds and grow them in a pot. Start well before St. Patrick's Day so the children can watch them grow.
2. Study rainbows. Rainbows are synonymous with St. Patrick's Day. Use this time to teach children how rainbows form and the colors of the rainbow.
3. Study Ireland. This is a great time to look at the country and study its customs and traditions.

### Decorations:

1. Green! Anything green is perfect to use for St. Patrick decorations. Cover the table with a green tablecloth and hang green streamers.
2. Hang pictures of rainbows in the room.
3. Make a pot of gold. Use a black cauldron or a black pot and fill with candy or plastic gold coins.

### Craft:

Tissue Paper Rainbow: Cut rainbow shapes out of sturdy paper. Give the kids small squares of tissue paper to represent each color of the rainbow. Show them how to wrap the tissue paper on the end of a pencil, dip into glue and put into place.

### Snacks: *(can be a recipe or a store bought suggestion)*

1. You can serve almost anything for this party as long as it's green. Consider adding green food coloring to cake mix and making green cupcakes or adding it to sugar cookies to make green cookies.
2. Make green pudding. Jell-o makes green instant pudding (pistachio flavor). Mix it and spoon it into cups. Let the kids top with green sprinkles.
3. Green drinks. Make green ice cubes ahead of time by adding food coloring to ice cube trays. Put the ice cubes in a cup and add clear beverage such as Sprite. As the cubes melt, the drink will turn green.

**Game:****Hidden Coins**

Make up a scavenger hunt in the classroom, or use the playground if you can. Hide small plastic coins around the room and see how fast the children can find all of the gold coins. You can even give small prizes to those that find the most.

**Gift Idea:**

Leprechaun Dust: Fill a small bag with gold and green glitter. Tie it closed with a green ribbon and add this poem: Keep three wishes handy, in case you chance to meet, a little Irish Leprechaun, walking down your street.