

# **The Story of St. Patrick with a Box!**

*Get a box big enough that you can sit.  
A cardboard grocery store tote works great! A laundry basket can work too.*

Our story begins a long time ago, like 1500 years ago in a land...now this may surprise you...called Britain, not Ireland. WHAT?! That's right, St Patrick was born and grew up Britain, not Ireland! He lived in a very nice home with a very nice family.

**Set your box on it's side & pretend it's a nice house!**  
*What would your house look like?*

Well one day, when St. Patrick was 16 years old, he was taken captive by pirates from Ireland! WHAT?!? Yes pirates! They took him by boat to Ireland and sold him into slavery.

**Turn your box upright & pretend it's a pirate ship!**  
*Give loud AARG and AYE MATEY!*

During his time in Ireland, St. Patrick worked in the fields as a shepherd. This caused him to spend a lot of time alone and made him feel very lonely. So he turned to God for comfort and grew very strong in his faith.

**Turn your box upside down & pretend it's a sheep to shepherd around!**  
*Take good care of your sheep, give it lots of love!*

One night St. Patrick heard God's voice telling him to go back to Britain. So he escaped to the coast and snuck on a ship and headed back to his homeland. What do you think that voice of God sounded like? Try it out, say "St. Patrick go back to Britain".

**Flip your box right side up again into a row boat!**  
*Pretend to row it back to Britain*

When he got back to Britain he went to school to become a priest, that's just a fancy name for a pastor or someone who shares God's good news. He believed God saved him from his time in captivity and that he wanted to share that good news with others. Sounds pretty nice huh?

**Turn your box on it's side like a school desk!**

***Pretend write "God's good news"***

Once he became a priest, can you believe the place God told St. Patrick to go share that good news was Ireland?!?! The very place he was take captive! That seems like it would be pretty hard to do. But we know, with God, all things are possible! So back over the sea he went and shared the stories of God's love with all the people there and that why today we know him as their patron saint.

**Turn your box into a boat again!**

***This time, be the proud captain!***

Now, is there anything in our story we missed?? Did you hear anything about leprechauns in the story? Or scaring off snakes? Or shamrocks? Nope, none of those things really have anything to do with St. Patrick or why we celebrate him each year. We celebrate him because he trusted God even when life was pretty scary, he never questioned how much God loved him, and he chose to share that good news with everyone, even those who were his enemies. That seems like a pretty good reason to celebrate!

**“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.”**

**Matthew 28:19-20**