

St. Patrick's Day Youth Night 2

You Will Need:

Gold pot – enough for each group to have one (or cup, bowl, flowerpot)

Candy or goodies to fill the pot – enough for each student divided

2 of each - Red, Orange, Green, Blue, and Purple cardstock or construction paper

Plastic play coins (8-10 per student)

A penny or another 2-sided coin for each student

Prizes

Before the meeting:

Print out the shamrocks. Glue the corresponding shamrocks to the correct color of cardstock or construction paper and cut out. Once finished, you should have 8 red, 8 orange, 8 green, 8 blue, and 8 purple shamrocks with the same color outline clues for each team.

Hide a pot of gold with candy or goodies in them for each team and write in the location on the last correct shamrock for each team. There is a box outline where it should be written in.

Hang the shamrocks around the room (solid color out) and fill in the location on the lines below for each one. The shamrocks do not need to be hidden; they can be in plain sight. My students just thought I decorated the room. Make sure you have the correct color and answer with each one. Some examples of where I hid them “over the trash can”, “behind the door”, “under the window”, etc.

Read over “Luck, Serendipity, and Blessings” by Susannah Pearce. Print out enough of the Small group discussion questions for each small group.

Print out tic-tac-toe board sheets. Each student will need a sheet

St. Patrick's Day Agenda

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we exist not as single individuals, but as members of communities. Faith and virtue are communal things, meant to be shared with others as we live out our vocations. Lord, in these tribulations we experience, I ask that You give all the gift of faith. Help everyone to focus not on their own merits, but upon Your providing hand, which bountifully gives us all things. For You are surely a just a giving God. Amen.

St. Patrick's Pot of Gold: Break the group into 5 smaller groups. Give each group a color name (Red, Orange, Green, Blue, and Purple). Hand each group their Team's St. Patrick's Pot of Gold sheet.

Explain the Rules: **Read the questions in order and determine the answer. When you figure out the answer, go to the corresponding location to find your next clue. Please remember to only look for clues with shamrocks in your team's color. When you have collected all 4 shamrock's you should be able to read the clues at the bottom left of each shamrock to find your pot of gold. Please SHARE your pot of gold with everyone on your team.**

Lucky or Blessed: Read aloud "Luck, Serendipity, and Blessings" by Susannah Pearce to the group. Break into small groups based on how many adult leaders you have available. Make sure each adult has a copy of the Small Group Discussion questions and allow time to discuss.

Coin Exchange: Have the students sit in 2 rows facing each other. If you have cafeteria style tables, that works best. Divide up the plastic coins among each student so that they all have the same number of coins, give them each a 2-sided coin that can be flipped (I suggest a penny so it's not too expensive if they get pocketed), and give each student a paper of tic-tac-toe boards. The students directly across from each other should challenge each other to their choice of Tic-Tac-Toe; Rock, paper, scissors; or heads or tails. They choose only 1 game. The winner will get a coin from their opponent. Then everyone moves one spot to the right and challenges the next opponent across from them. If a student runs out of coins, they should sit out and cheer on their friends. After a set time, have the students stop playing and "purchase" prizes with their winnings.

Team Red
St. Patrick's Pot of Gold

Read the question below and determine the answer. When you figure out the answer, go to the corresponding location to find your next clue. Please remember to only look for clues with shamrocks in your team's color.

1. Was St. Patrick Irish?

If Yes – Look _____

If No – Look _____

2. St. Patrick was a _____

Slave – Look _____

King – Look _____

3. What city Celebrates St. Patrick's Day by turning their river green?

New York – Look _____

Chicago – Look _____

4. What was St. Patrick's birth name?

Maewyn – Look _____

Patricius – Look _____

Team Orange
St. Patrick's Pot of Gold

Read the question below and determine the answer. When you figure out the answer, go to the corresponding location to find your next clue. Please remember to only look for clues with shamrocks in your team's color.

1. Is the Shamrock the symbol of Ireland?

If Yes – Look _____

If No – Look _____

2. March 17th is when St. Patrick _____

died – Look _____

was born – Look _____

3. St. Patrick was a _____

Slave – Look _____

King – Look _____

4. What was St. Patrick's birth name?

Maewyn – Look _____

Patricius – Look _____

Team Blue
St. Patrick's Pot of Gold

Read the question below and determine the answer. When you figure out the answer, go to the corresponding location to find your next clue. Please remember to only look for clues with shamrocks in your team's color.

1. Did St. Patrick really drive all of the snakes (or in some stories, toads) out of Ireland?

If Yes – Look _____

If No – Look _____

2. What city Celebrates St. Patrick's Day by turning their river green?

New York – Look _____

Chicago – Look _____

3. Is the original color associated with St. Patrick green?

If Yes – Look _____

If No – Look _____

4. Is the Shamrock the symbol of Ireland?

If Yes – Look _____

If No – Look _____

Team Green
St. Patrick's Pot of Gold

Read the question below and determine the answer. When you figure out the answer, go to the corresponding location to find your next clue. Please remember to only look for clues with shamrocks in your team's color.

1. Is the original color associated with St. Patrick green?

If Yes – Look _____

If No – Look _____

2. What was St. Patrick's birth name?

Maewyn – Look _____

Patricius – Look _____

3. St. Patrick was a _____

Slave – Look _____

King – Look _____

4. Did St. Patrick use the shamrock to teach about the Trinity?

If Yes – Look _____

If No – Look _____

Team Purple
St. Patrick's Pot of Gold

Read the question below and determine the answer. When you figure out the answer, go to the corresponding location to find your next clue. Please remember to only look for clues with shamrocks in your team's color.

1. Did St. Patrick use the shamrock to teach about the Trinity?

If Yes – Look _____

If No – Look _____

2. What was St. Patrick's birth name?

Maewyn – Look _____

Patricius – Look _____

3. St. Patrick was a _____

Slave – Look _____

King – Look _____

4. Is the Shamrock the symbol of Ireland?

If Yes – Look _____

If No – Look _____

Luck, Serendipity and Blessings

JANUARY 11, 2017 BY SUSANNAH PEARCE

Sometimes I encounter something wonderful just accidentally and I think “That sure was lucky!” For instance, I might happen to glimpse a gorgeous sunset only because I had to wait for the last wayward chicken to finally make her way into the coop. Or, I might have arrived at a bakery just as they take something scrumptious out of the oven, piping hot and delicious. I’d say I was lucky!

It has happened more than once when I have said this, that someone has “corrected” me by saying “You were blessed.” This is a comment I find more than just annoying. It’s true that I was and am blessed—because God loves me and blesses me, not for any merit of my own, but because it is in His nature. It seems to me that insisting that these things are not lucky occurrences but blessings shows a bit of misunderstanding about who God is and what His blessing does for us.

It suggests that God is “up there” looking for ways to reward nice people with pleasant things *because* they believe in Him. And it suggests that He does not bless those who are less good. This is a gross misunderstanding of God’s nature. Our purpose in life is to know, love and serve God in this life that we may be happy with him forever in the next, not to believe in God’s goodness in order to have nice things happen to us. I say some correcting of this misperception could be considered a spiritual work of mercy on my part! It is in that spirit I will continue my harangue.

“God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.” (John 3:16)

God loves *all* His people. He loves every person He has ever created—whether they know Him or not, whether they live according to His principles or not. He even loves the ones who have given themselves over to evil. *Even people we think we’re better than.* He loves us all before we are good. That a person exists shows that God is, at every moment, blessing him or her. He loves each of us into existence every instant.

I have also observed that sometimes God’s blessings are, shall we say, unpleasant to experience. Remember when you prayed to become more patient and God gave you an opportunity to exercise greater patience in order to grow in this virtue? Well, that miserable opportunity was a blessing. But probably no one said “Wow! You sure are blessed!” Probably you didn’t think, “Boy am I lucky!” In fact, you were not lucky, but you *were* blessed.

There is not a power or force called “Luck” that affects peoples’ lives. On the contrary! When I say, “You’re lucky,” I mean that something nice happened for you that doesn’t happen for everyone. Luck is when God’s blessings for you happen to be things you like and enjoy while they’re happening. Another word that works is “serendipity.”

This distinction is more important than you may think. If you insist that every good thing that happens is a visual sign of God blessing you for your faith in Him or your virtue or whatever, it can be very easy to slip into thinking God works on a system of rewarding good people who please Him and punishing those bad people who don’t please Him.

Well, all it takes is a look into the life of any canonized saint to see that the holiest people generally aren’t the people who have the most nice things happen to them. Sure, there are some holy people who happen to have lovely lives—but they are the exception. They are lucky! And I challenge you to show me a canonized saint who did not experience suffering and, in fact, receive it as a blessing.

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor 12:9).

This we see in the life of St. Paul.

“And to keep me from being elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated” (2 Cor 12:7).

We see that the “thorn,” was unpleasant and was allowed by God to afflict St. Paul. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, “But even the most intense prayers do not always obtain the healing of all illnesses. Thus St. Paul must learn from the Lord that ‘my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness,’ and that the sufferings to be endured can mean that ‘in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his Body, that is, the Church.” (CCC 1508)

“God is love.” (1 John 4:8)

God’s blessings are not always what we want or pray for, but they’re always for our good. We know this because we know God. We know that He is all that is good. “‘God is Love’ and love is his first gift, containing all others. ‘God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.’ (Romans 5:5)” (CCC 733)

I have no idea why God gives some people nice blessings and others blessings that they may actually have prayed to avoid. It’s not my business to know why. It’s enough for me to trust on my knowledge of who God is and that He knows what He’s about. Remember the story of Job? If you don’t know it, read the Book of Job in the Old Testament. He endured great suffering of every kind. His friends suggested that it must be because of his sins that God had afflicted him. They probably went around telling people who said, “Boy, am I lucky!!!!”

“No, you’re blessed.”

Luck is just the word we use for when pleasant and unexpected things happen. God blesses us all because He is love—but we will never fully understand what He’s up to besides that it is good.

“Even when he reveals himself, God remains a mystery beyond words: ‘If you understood him, it would not be God.’” (St. Augustine, Sermo 52, 6, 16: PL 38:360 and Sermo 117, 3,5: PL 38, 663. quoted in CCC 230)

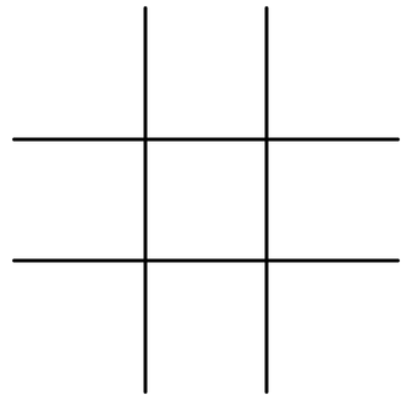
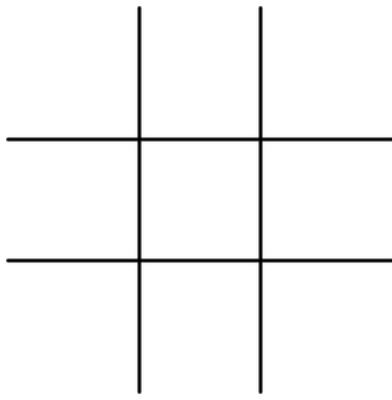
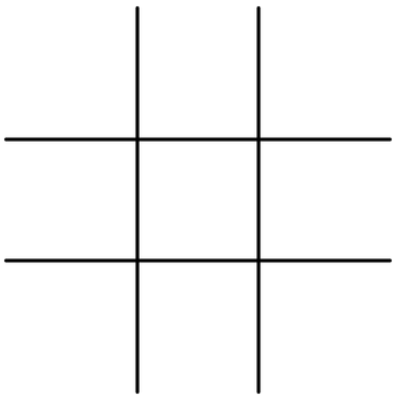
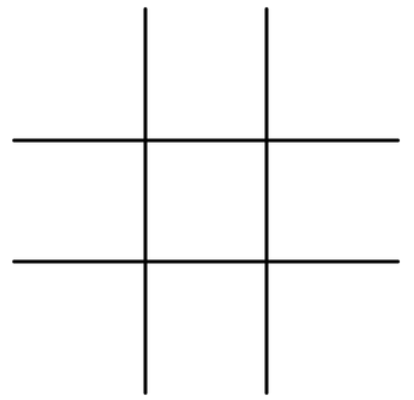
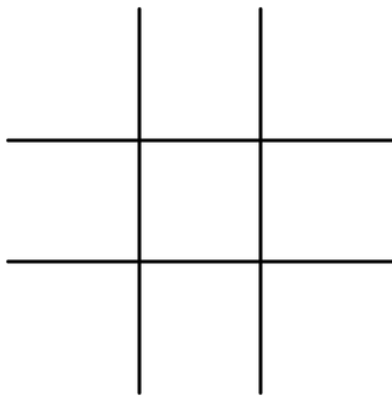
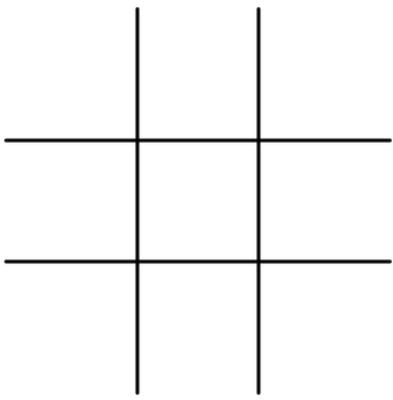
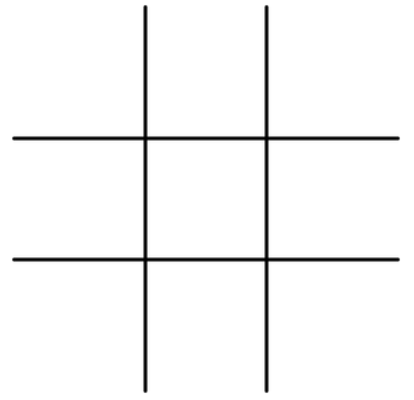
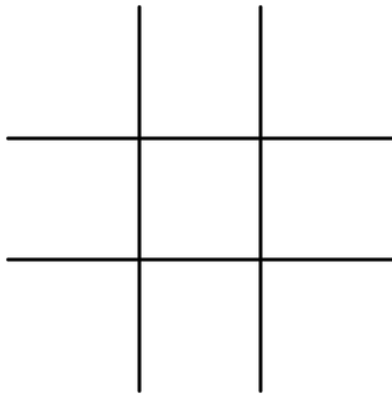
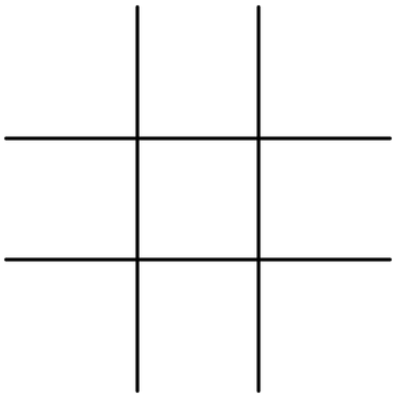
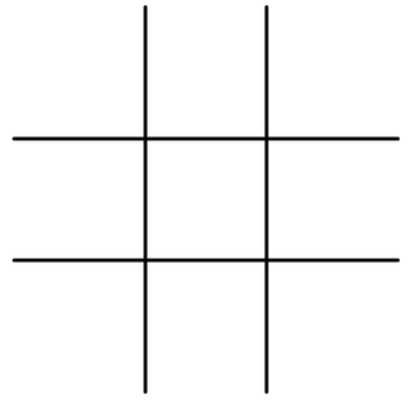
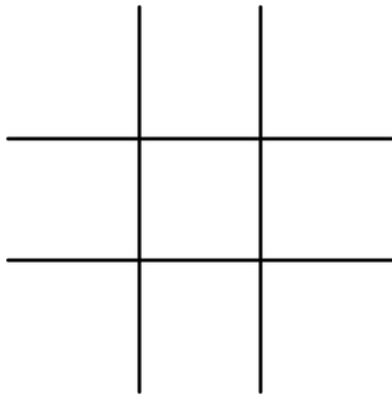
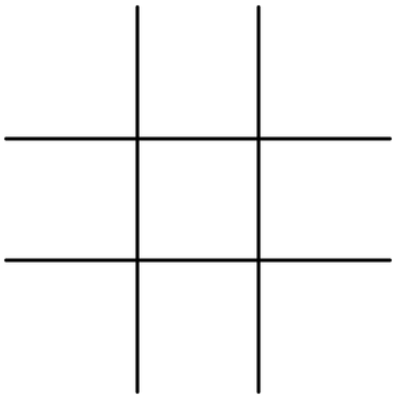
Small Group Discussion:

Can you think of a time when you thought “I sure am Blessed”! After hearing this narrative, would you still think you were “blessed” or “lucky” in that instance?

In the narrative, the author says that sometimes are blessings are somewhat unpleasant. Sometimes the Lord blesses us with suffering in order to learn. Can you think of a time when you were Blessed, but not lucky?

Did hearing this narrative change the way you thought of the Lord’s Blessings?

What are some reasons the Lord may not give you what you prayed for? Why would He “bless” you with suffering or struggles?



Correct!

St. Patrick wasn't Irish, and he wasn't born in Ireland. Patrick's

parents were Roman citizens living in modern-day England, or more precisely in Scotland or Wales (scholars cannot agree on which). He was born in 385 AD. By that time, most Romans were Christians and the Christian religion was spreading rapidly across Europe.

Your Pot
Of Gold

Correct!

At the age of 16, Patrick had the misfortune of being kidnapped by

Irish raiders who took him away and sold him as a slave. He spent several years in Ireland herding sheep and learning about the people there. At the age of 22, he managed to escape. He made his way to a monastery in England where he spent 12 years growing closer to God.

Is Hidden

Correct!

New York may have more manpower, but Chicago has a spectacle all

its own. The city has been celebrating St. Patrick by dumping green dye into the Chicago River since 1962. And though the organizers won't reveal their exact formula, we do know that the orange powder used is dispersed through flour sifters by the local Plumbers Union.

In the

Correct!

According to Irish Legend, St. Patrick Wasn't originally Called

Patrick. His birth name was Maewyn Succat, But he changed it to Patricius after becoming a priest.



Correct!

The shamrock is a Popular Irish Symbol, but it Is not the

Symbol of Ireland. As early as the medieval period, the harp has appeared on Irish gravestones and manuscripts. However, it is certain that the harp was popular in Irish legend and culture even well before that period.

Your Pot Of Gold

Correct!

St. Patrick is a saint of the Catholic Church, and his holy day is the day

of his death, and subsequent entrance to heaven, rather than the day of his physical birth. After spending most of his adult life converting the pagans of Ireland to Christianity, St. Patrick went to his reward on March 17, 461 AD.

Is Hidden

Correct!

At the age of 16, Patrick had the misfortune of being kidnapped by

Irish raiders who took him away and sold him as a slave. He spent several years in Ireland herding sheep and learning about the people there. At the age of 22, he managed to escape. He made his way to a monastery in England where he spent 12 years growing closer to God.

On the

Correct!

According to Irish Legend, St. Patrick Wasn't originally Called

Patrick. His birth name was Maewyn Succat, But he changed it to Patricius after becoming a priest.



Correct!

According to legend,
St. Patrick drove all
The snakes, or
In some
Translations,

“toads”, out of Ireland. In reality, this probably did not occur, as there is no evidence that snakes have ever existed in Ireland, the climate being too cool for them to thrive. Scholars suggest that the term “snakes” may be figurative and refer to pagan beliefs and practices rather than reptiles or amphibians.

Your Pot
Of Gold

Correct!

New York may have
more manpower, but
Chicago has a
spectacle all

its own. The city has been celebrating St. Patrick by dumping green dye into the Chicago River since 1962. And though the organizers won't reveal their exact formula, we do know that the orange powder used is dispersed through flour sifters by the local Plumbers Union.

Is Hidden

Correct!

The original color
associated with St.
Patrick is blue, not
green as

commonly believed. In several artworks depicting the saint, he is shown wearing blue vestments. King Henry VIII used the Irish harp in gold on a blue flag to represent the country. Since that time, and possibly before, blue has been a popular color to represent the country on flags, coats-of-arms, and even sports jerseys.

Behind
the

Correct!

The shamrock is a
Popular Irish
Symbol, but it
Is not the

Symbol of Ireland. As early as the medieval period, the harp has appeared on Irish gravestones and manuscripts. However, it is certain that the harp was popular in Irish legend and culture even well before that period.



Correct!

The original color associated with St. Patrick is blue, not green as

commonly believed. In several artworks depicting the saint, he is shown wearing blue vestments. King Henry VIII used the Irish harp in gold on a blue flag to represent the country. Since that time, and possibly before, blue

has been a popular color to represent the country on flags,

**Your Pot
Of Gold**

coats-of-arms, and even sports jerseys.

Correct!

According to Irish Legend, St. Patrick Wasn't originally Called

Patrick. His birth name was Maewyn Succat, But he changed it to Patricius after becoming a priest.

Is Hidden

Correct!

At the age of 16, Patrick had the misfortune of being kidnapped by

Irish raiders who took him away and sold him as a slave. He spent several years in Ireland herding sheep and learning about the people there. At the age of 22, he managed to escape. He made his way to a monastery in England where he spent 12 years growing closer to God.

**Under
the**

Correct!

According to Irish legend, St. Patrick used the 3-leafed plant (which is not To be

Confused with the 4-leaf clover) as a metaphor for the Holy Trinity when he was first introducing Christianity to Ireland.



Correct!

According to Irish legend,
St. Patrick used the
3-leafed plant
(which is not
To be

Confused with the 4-leaf clover) as a metaphor for the Holy Trinity when he was first introducing Christianity to Ireland.

Your Pot
Of Gold

Correct!

According to Irish
Legend, St. Patrick
Wasn't originally
Called

Patrick. His birth name was Maewyn Succat,
But he changed it to Patricius after becoming a priest.

Is Hidden

Correct!

At the age of 16,
Patrick had the
misfortune of being
kidnapped by

Irish raiders who took him away and sold him as a slave. He spent several years in Ireland herding sheep and learning about the people there. At the age of 22, he managed to escape. He made his way to a monastery in England where he spent 12 years growing closer to God.

On
the

Correct!

The shamrock is a
Popular Irish
Symbol, but it
Is not the

Symbol of Ireland. As early as the medieval period, the harp has appeared on Irish gravestones and manuscripts. However, it is certain that the harp was popular in Irish legend and culture even well before that period.



