

St. Patrick—Thursday—Games

My dad was an officer in the Roman army stationed in Britain. When I was 16, raiders captured me, took me across the sea into Ireland and sold me into slavery. I wasn't interested in religion but things were very hard for me while I was a slave and so I learned to pray and trust God. I finally escaped and returned home to Britain where I wanted to enter the priesthood.

After about 15 years, in a dream I heard the voices of the Irish people wanting me to come walk with them. Since I already knew the language the church agreed that I would be a good missionary. Many missionaries had been killed before me so I was often in danger.

I remember what it was like to be a slave, so I treated all different people with Christ's love and respect. I also understood the Irish customs so I knew that I needed to convince the most powerful tribal chieftains first. I used the shamrock to explain that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are three in one just as the shamrock is three leaves on one stem.

The leader says a line and demonstrates the motions, students repeat the words and the gestures:
(adapted from Luke 11:9 – 13)

The disciples wanted to learn to pray.	(Hold up praying hands)
But prayer is more than the words we say.	(Cup hands to mouth)
Jesus said we must ask each day.	(Hold up hand like asking a question)
And keep on asking when we pray	(Support arm with other hand while continuing to "ask")
In order to know how to live each day,	(Shrug shoulders; extend arms at sides)
Jesus said we must seek God's way	(Put one hand above eyes and look left & right)
The door of God's love isn't locked away	(Cross hands over chest)
We can knock and receive today	(Mime knocking on a door)
The gift of God's Spirit. Hip! Hip! Hooray!	(Open arms upward, then cheer aloud!)

Shamrock Bean Bag Toss: Coffee Cans Painted green in the shape of a shamrock. Can use ping pong balls too.

Rainbow Water games: make a rainbow with the hose and run through it

Colored Bubble snakes—Plastic bottles with the bottoms cut off, cover the bottom with terry cloth held on by a rubber band. Dip in bubbles. Place drops of food coloring on the terry cloth. Blow through the top of the bottle and create a "snake" of bubbles.