



Inspire

Hope for the World

Shamrocks and the Message of Hope

A shamrock is a popular symbol of St. Patrick's Day. Shamrocks are three-leaved weeds that are native to Ireland, and yet they have become a common symbol of St. Patrick's Day.

Why the shamrock? St. Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at the age of 16. He was taken to Ireland and sold as a slave. While in Ireland, he worked as shepherd. It was while tending sheep, spending times in the fields that he drew closer to the Lord.

St. Patrick eventually escaped Ireland and returned to Britain where he studied to become a priest. One night Patrick had a dream. In his dream the voices of the Irish people were calling to him to come back to Ireland and tell them about Jesus. When he awoke, he packed his bags and returned willingly to the land where he was enslaved, and shared the hope of the gospel—the good news of Jesus Christ dying on the cross for our sins—to them. Legend says that St. Patrick used the three petals of the shamrock to illustrate the mysteries of the Trinity to the Irish people—the three leaves represented the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

Through St. Patrick's obedience to God and willingness to return to the people who had enslaved him, and his passion to tell them about Jesus, he laid the groundwork for the establishment of hundreds of churches in Ireland, and a massive religious shift occurred in Ireland and Christianity spread like wildfire.

Romans 10:14-15 says, ***But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"***

St. Patrick challenges us to all be messengers of who bring good news—sharing the hope of Jesus Christ to everyone we meet. Every time you see a shamrock this month, think of someone you can tell about Jesus. Be praying for people you know who don't know Jesus as their personal Savior, and pray for the opportunity and the courage to speak to them.



INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS from the Territory

Centennial, CO started a new WM group—"Bloom." It is a discipleship group for moms and daughters ages 8+.

Eureka, CA ladies made woven mats for the homeless and made homemade applesauce from the tree on the corps property.

Glendale, CA had a lemon party (the ladies loves this theme).

Grand Junction, CO made fleece baby blankets and donated them to one of the birthing centers in their community.

Inglewood, CA made over 50 pink ribbons for their Worship in Pink Sunday for Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October).

Merced, CA WM created a recipe book that is being included with the food boxes through their social services.

Pasadena, CA moved their Home League meetings to the Silvercrest, which allows for more ladies to attend and more people to see what is going on.

Pendleton, OR had a Women's Open House (Annual Meeting) with the theme "Hope for the World." It included dinner, fellowship, table talk, a presentation of highlights from last year as well as learning about what's to come this year, and a devotional.

Redding, CA are making toiletry kits for the clients that are receiving assistance in their social service office.

Sacramento Citadel, CA started a Working Women's Bible Study that is held in the evening weekly via Zoom.

Commissioner Colleen Riley—Territorial President of Women's Ministries

Colonel Donna Igleheart—Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries

Major Beth Desplancke—Territorial Women's Ministries Program Secretary

Be sure to check out our website for more resources: <https://usw-womensministries.org/>

Monthly Bible Trivia Question—People Who Shared the Message of Hope

Who are some of the evangelists (those who told the good news about Jesus) to others in the Bible?

1. Who were the first people to tell others that Jesus had been born (Luke 2:15-20)?
2. When Andrew heard about Jesus, who was the first person he went and told saying “we have found the Messiah (that is, the Christ)” (John 1:40-41)?
3. When Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well about living water, she left immediately to tell the people in the town about Jesus. What did she leave behind (John 4:28-30)?
4. Who was the person to tell the disciples that Jesus’ tomb was empty (John 20:11-18)?
5. Immediately before ascending into heaven, what did Jesus commission His disciples (followers) to do, and where were they to go (Acts 1:8)?
6. Who preached on Pentecost and 3000 accepted his message and were baptized (Acts 2:1-41)?
7. Who preached a fiery sermon to the Sanhedrin and then ended up being stoned to death (Acts 6:8-7:54)?
8. Who was led by an angel of the Lord to go down a certain desert road and witnessed to an Ethiopian man who happened to be reading the prophet Isaiah and needed someone to explain it to him (Acts 8:26-40)?
9. Why is Paul not ashamed of the gospel (Romans 1:16-17)?
10. Paul ended up in prison because of his preaching about Jesus Christ, but he never viewed it as a bad thing. What did he have to say about his chains (Philippians 1:7, 12-14)?

Shamrock Craft Ideas

Have fun celebrating St. Patrick’s Day and enjoying the hopeful meaning of the shamrock with these craft ideas.

Shamrock Tree on Canvas. What a fun project to do for a WM paint night! <https://craftsbyamanda.com/shamrock-crafts-shamrock-tree-on-canvas/>

St. Patrick’s Mason Jar Centerpiece. <https://www.thehappyflammy.com/2020/02/st-patricks-mason-jar-centerpiece-diy.html>

Shamrock Button Craft. <https://homefreshideas.com/easy-st-patricks-day-craft-idea/>

Felt Shamrock. <https://indoorzy.com/how-to-make-felt-shamrocks-free-shamrock-outline-template/>

