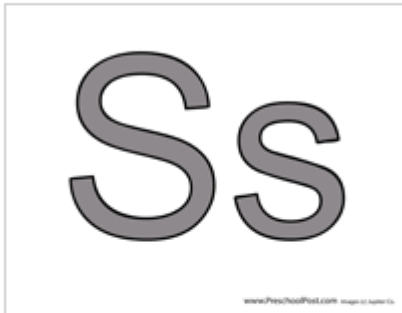
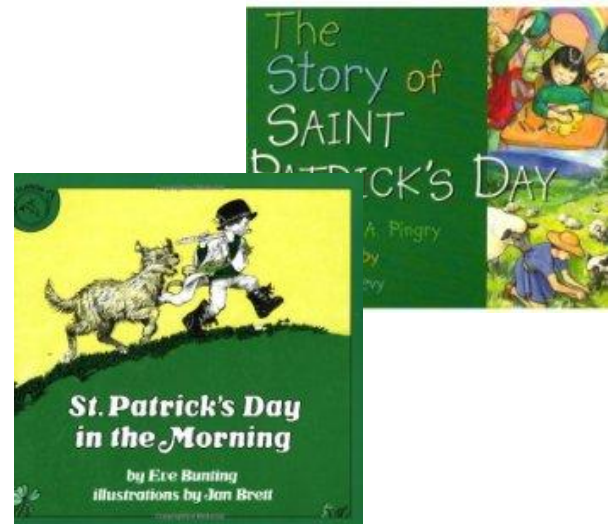


Preschool Post

Lesson 27



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Letter: S

Preschool Theme: Shamrock

Bible Theme: Children will learn how we must call on God for the ability to overcome some of life's biggest obstacles, and how God will equip us when we follow his plan.

Morning Circle:

Review [the letter "s"](#) by asking the children if they can repeat the name of the season learned about in the previous lesson. When they say "Spring," take out the "letter bag" filled with [objects that begin with "s."](#) Begin by giving clues, such as "I have something in my letter bag that begins with 's.' It's sometimes white, sometimes smelly, and it fits on my bare foot." The children might guess "sock" and they may even say "shoe," which would also be acceptable. Other "s" objects might include a "seven," "spider," "starfish," "sun," "snake," and "spoon."

Explain that today's lesson is about another "s" word..."St. Patrick's Day." Briefly discuss the holiday before reading the story. Put on some Irish music on in the background while you read.

Read: Eve Bunting's [St. Patrick's Day in the Morning](#). (If possible, use the audio recording of this book along with showing the illustrations. It's narrated in an Irish accent, and will add a special touch to your St. Patrick's Day celebrations.)

Music & Movement:

Use either green scarves or tape green crepe-paper streamers to the ends of short wooden dowels. Use creative movement to dance a jig to a bouncy Irish tune!

Snack:

Use green sports drinks for beverages, and try some green food like celery, green grapes, green apples, and marshmallows colored slightly with green food coloring.

Centers:

1. Have a "green" center. Place lots of green natural objects on a table for the children to examine. Use pine needles, leaves, clover, greenish-hued rocks, flower stems, broccoli, swatches of green fabric made of natural fibers, etc. Lay out several magnifying glasses and make sure the table is well-lit.

2. Little green people. Blow up a green balloon for each child and sit the balloons in bowls or shallow dishes so they sit upright. Provide a container of shaving foam dyed green with food coloring for each child. Let the children put "hair" and "faces" on their balloons with the shaving foam. The balloons will look like little green people. Note: This activity is messy. Protect your learning area and the children's clothing as needed.

3. Social studies center. Surround an area with [posters of Ireland](#) (can be obtained from travel agencies.) Provide pillows and chairs and a table with lots of glossy books on Ireland. Decorate area with green and shamrocks, and have a few Irish instruments placed there as well (tambourine, drum, and whistles if you can ensure each child has her own, for sanitary reasons.) Play Celtic music softly in the background in this corner.

Art Activity:

Provide a [cut-out shamrock](#) for each child made from white construction or sketch paper. Give each child several shades of green tissue and crepe paper, cut into small squares (make sure these are the type that bleed color when wet.) Instruct the children to place the squares of green paper randomly on their shamrock shapes. Provide either spray bottles filled with water for each child, or a small bowl of water and soft paintbrush for each child. Let the children coat their creations with water. After the water has begun to dry out a bit, carefully peel off the paper to reveal the lovely green watercolors beneath.

**Bible Storytime:**

Tell the children today's Bible lesson is about yet another "s" word..."shamrock." Ask the children if they know what a shamrock is. Take one out and show them. Explain that they might have seen something similar in their yard called clover. Ask them how many leaves a shamrock has. Ask them what color it is. Ask them if they remember what holiday is coming soon that is all about shamrocks and the color green. Explain that St. Patrick's Day is a very old holiday that celebrates a famous Irish religious person. Tell the children, "St. Patrick used the shamrock to show people about God. He said it can help us remember that God is in three persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus,) and God the Holy Spirit. This makes



three important parts of one wonderful God. When you look at the shamrock or 3-leaf clover, you can remember that God our Father in Heaven sent His son Jesus Christ to save us from our sin, and then the Holy Spirit was sent to us to comfort us and guide us until Jesus comes back again. Three wonderful things about our Heavenly Father!"

(Note for parents and teachers: As with most of our holidays, St. Patrick's Day has roots in Paganism. For this reason this lesson will not focus on leprechauns, etc. The shamrock itself was originally used by druids for the spiritual aspect of the triad. However, St. Patrick took this ancient symbol and used it as a means of explaining Christianity to the pagans.)

Read: [The Story of St. Patrick's Day](#), by Patricia A. Pingry.

Bible Verse Bracelets:

"God sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts" [Galatians 4:6](#)

Explain again about how the three parts of the Trinity are mentioned in this verse, and the implications of having the Holy Spirit in our hearts to cry out on our behalf to our Abba Father.

Song:

"Three In One" (Tune: "Are You Sleeping, Brother John?")

Original Author Unknown.

"God the Father, God the Father, (hold up on finger)

God the Son, God the Son, (hold up two fingers)



God the Holy Spirit, God the Holy Spirit, (hold up three fingers)

Three in One, Three in One." (hold up three fingers on both hands)

Additional Activity:

Go outside and find "shamrocks" from clumps of clover in the grass. Bring them inside and press them under glass (use an old picture frame.) Are there any with four leaves? Five?

Optional Resources:

[Handwriting Worksheet S is for Shamrock](#)

[Bible Handwriting Worksheet S is for Saved](#)

Helpful Links:

[St. Patrick's Day Bible Printables on Christian Preschool Printables](#)

[Shamrock File Folder Games on File Folder Fun](#)

Notes:
