

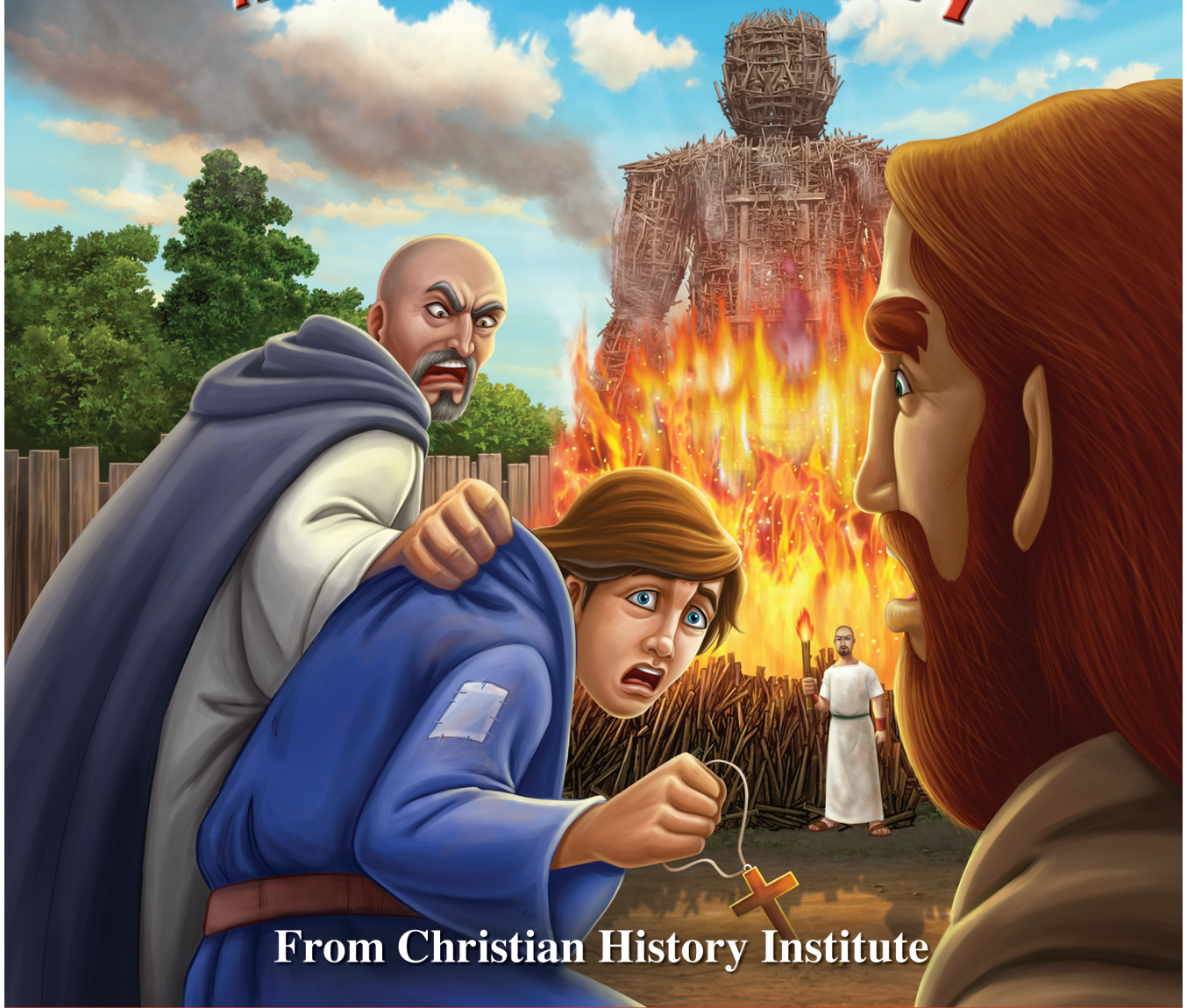


# THE TORCHLIGHTERS

HEROES OF THE FAITH

Student Handouts for

## The *St. Patrick Story*



From Christian History Institute

S T U D E N T



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*NOTE: Answer key for selected pages is on p. 21 of the Leader's Guide.*

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# The Shepherd's Staff

"Your rod and your staff, they comfort me." Psalm 23:4b



Photo by Süleyman Şahan from Pexels.com.

You may know that shepherds in ancient times used staffs, but did you know that modern day shepherds still use staffs today? (And its design hasn't changed much, either!) The staff serves two main purposes:

1. **It guides and corrects sheep.** Sheep need help in finding the right way to go and in following the safest paths. A shepherd uses his staff like an extra long arm to block sheep from the wrong direction!
2. **It catches wayward or injured sheep.** The hook on the end of a shepherd's staff, called the crook, is a very important tool for the shepherd. The crook can gently catch injured sheep and bring them to the shepherd without scaring them or hurting them more. It's also used to pull a wayward sheep back into the herd.

## What about the shepherd's rod?

While it is sometimes used to keep sheep from splitting off from the rest of the herd, the rod's main use is for defense. A thick knob on the end instead of a crook makes it an intimidating weapon for hungry predators.

**Think about it:** What do you think it's like being a shepherd? Would you want to be a shepherd? Why or why not?



## Dig into the Story!

Questions to get you thinking and talking after you watch  
**The St. Patrick Story.**

1. Where was Patrick taken?
2. What did the Druid Priest, Cathbad, want to do to Patrick?
3. What work did Patrick do in Ireland as a slave?
4. How did Patrick escape?
5. What did Patrick do when he returned home?
6. What surprising thing did Patrick decide to do?
7. How did Patrick show God's power to the Irish?
8. What was the result of Patrick's return to Ireland?



## Dig Deeper

### Thinking through hard questions

1. Before Patrick was kidnapped, he did not believe in Jesus like his parents did. Why is it important to “make faith your own” or trust Jesus personally?
2. Even though Patrick was alone in a strange land as a slave, he learned to be content and unafraid. How did Patrick’s growing relationship with God change him and bring him peace?
3. The Druid religion told the Irish they had to make human sacrifices to appease their gods and get favors from them. How is Druidism different from Christianity?
4. Patrick went back to Ireland to share the Gospel with his kidnappers. Why? Can you think of other Christians who shared the good news about Jesus even when it put them in great danger?



## Legends of Patrick

While many Christians celebrate Patrick, we don't really know much about him! Myths and legends outnumber verified historical accounts of this early missionary to Ireland. Read the stories below and discuss—what do you think really happened?

When you've read the legends, complete the word search on the next page!

The Deer's Cry, a poem attributed to Patrick, describes how Patrick and a friend miraculously escaped a Druid ambush on their way to preach at Ireland's ancient capital. It claims they transformed into wild deer, passed by their enemies, and made it to their destination unharmed.

Where did all the snakes go? This myth states that after a 40-day fast on top of the mountain now known as Croagh Patrick, Patrick chased the snakes of Ireland into the sea and banished them from the island forever.

Why are shamrocks so popular? According to one legend, it's how Patrick explained God! Wanting to help the Irish people understand the Trinity (God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), Patrick supposedly used the shamrock to show God as one-in-three.

The legend of Aspatia says that Patrick carried a walking stick made of ash wood. Whenever he stopped to preach, he would put his walking stick in the ground. One day, he preached so long that the stick grew roots and became a living tree!

In another legend, Patrick challenged pagan tradition by lighting a bonfire before the Celtic Feast of Beltaine. Druids and even Ireland's high king tried to put out Patrick's fire, but they could not. The King accepted Patrick's stronger magic, and allowed him to convert the Irish.



## Legends of Patrick: Word Search

Find and circle these words in the puzzle below.  
Words can be found horizontally, vertically, and diagonally.

PATRICK	ASPATRIA
DRUID	IRELAND
TRINITY	LEGEND
SHAMROCK	BONFIRE
CROAGH	CHRISTIANITY

K F W F E K M B E Z Z Y N H C L Q I G L  
C Z M Q H C K N O N W I C H J Z F B V W  
C A J C D I A H U N T J R X G U Z T U F  
V J V P M R F D K G F I S M B H R M Q C  
Y Q L F J T Q E B S S I Z E J I U U K R  
X K U B G A M B F T O X R S T N K G I Q  
Z Y D V I P E Z I X U B T E T C U S J W  
V V T S S H E A G Y U H U T O G G T V A  
U Z O L P R N Q T H D V B J A E G P C V  
Y X N T P I U I M C D Q U X U V A A F M  
S K W D T X N N T A X A F E G T A E C V  
A Y X Y Q I J G P W V Q H Q H I G W L O  
X I E B R D V N X K F G J G H L C X Q G  
H K R T F I Y Z D I R E L A N D R B O T  
F Z N T D L G Y J N Z L E L Q J O D O X  
J B I L A N K E H Y O S E B U X A F E T  
G X J V F P I D P D G G S H Y I G G P N  
N E I C O T S P G M E E C R R M H S O E  
B I B W H W F A N N J R S M D I U R D O  
K C O R M A H S D D H Y N K J M X M O R



## Story Mix-Up

These pictures of St. Patrick's story are all mixed up.  
Number the pictures in the correct order.



Cathbad and Patrick face the fire.



God gives Patrick peace.



Cold and alone, Patrick tends sheep.



Patrick becomes a bishop.



Patrick prays for Chief Sesenen's son.



Patrick preaches the Good News to Ireland.



Pirates kidnap Patrick!



Patrick runs away!





## God's Under-Shepherds Interview

When we think of shepherds, we probably don't think of the pastors and leaders of our churches—but did you know that's one way the Bible refers to them? Get to know a shepherd working under the Good Shepherd with the questions below!

1. What is a spiritual shepherd?
2. Why is this role important?
3. What do you do as a shepherd in the church?
4. How did you become a spiritual leader?
5. How does someone become a pastor, elder, other leader in our church?
6. What is the best part about your role? What is most difficult?
7. Other questions:



## Build a Currach

A **currach** or **curragh** is a type of boat unique to the west coasts of Ireland. During Patrick's time, these crafts were made with a wicker frame and covered with stretched animal hide, making them light enough to carry on a person's back and easy to maneuver in the water. It is likely that Irish raiders used these types of boats for their expeditions to Britain. Make your own currach by following the simple directions below!

### You will need:

Cardstock/heavy paper  
Stapler  
Duct tape  
Scotch tape  
Toothpicks  
Popsicle sticks  
Markers/colored pencils

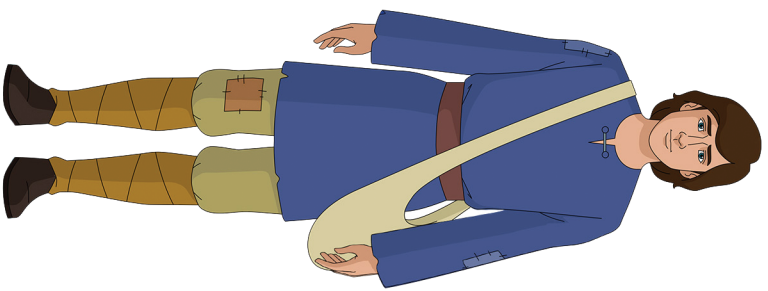
### Directions:

1. Fold paper in half from top to bottom so that you have a long rectangle.
2. Staple the folded ends together to form the ends of the boat.
3. Hold the boat upright on a flat surface and smooth open the bottom so that it can stand up on its own.
4. Cover the outside of the boat with duct tape to make it water-tight. Carefully seal the ends.
5. Place two toothpicks on the inside of the boat and across its middle to reinforce a flat bottom.
6. Choose and cut out a character provided on the next page.
7. Tape your chosen character to a popsicle stick and place in the currach!

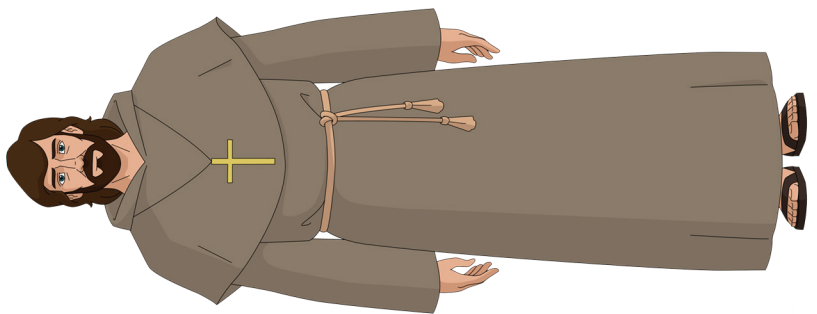
### Currach Races

How seaworthy is your currach? Find out with a race! With an adult's supervision, take your currachs outdoors to a nearby stream or even a puddle. Decide where your race will begin and end before putting your boats in the water. Let the race begin! The first boat to cross the finish line without sinking wins.

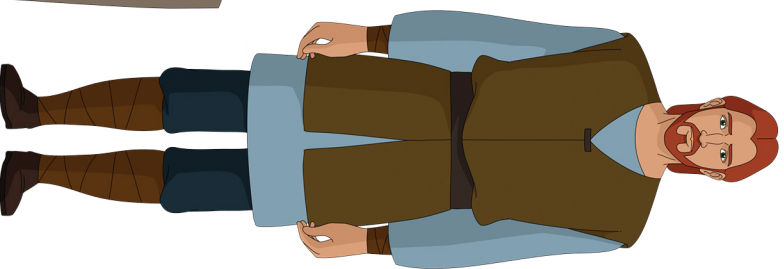
Indoor alternative: No waterways close by? Race your currachs inside! Fill a large basin with water and put your boats in it. Using straws, blow the currachs across the basin. The first currach to reach the other side wins!



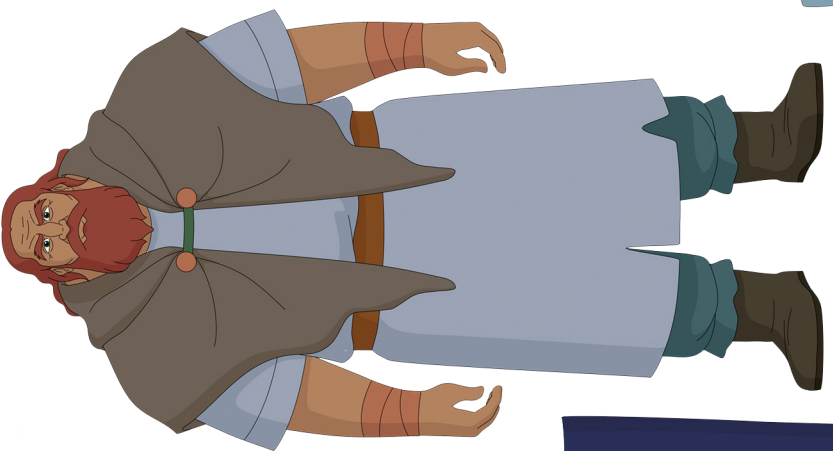
Patrick



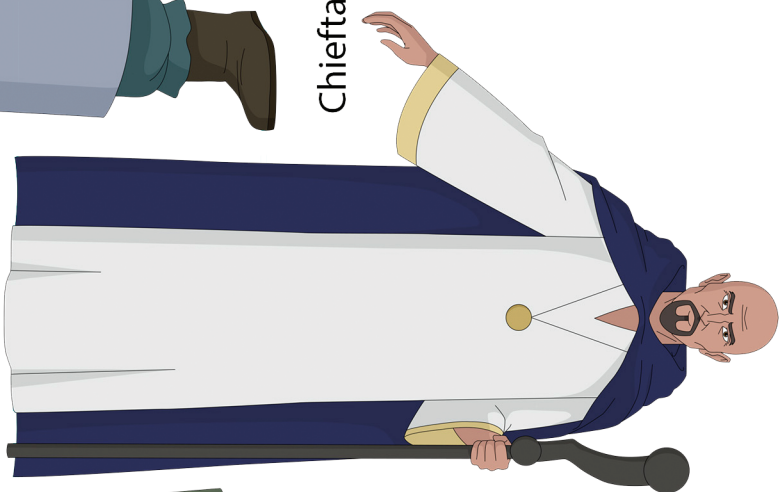
Patrick



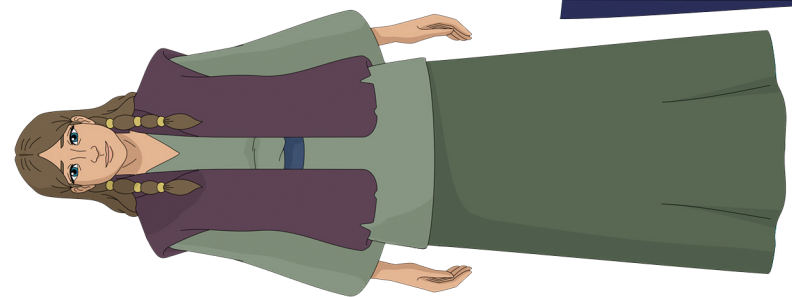
Aeden



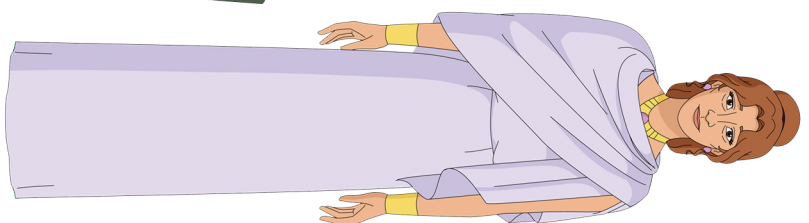
Chieftain Sesenen



Cathbad



Oonagh



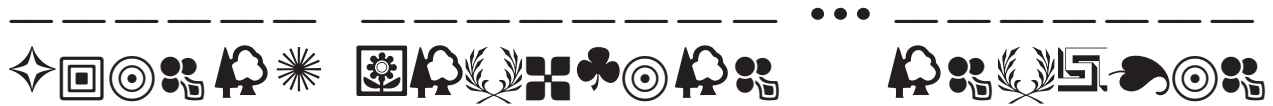
Conchessa



## Decode the Quote

Use the key below to decode the following quotation from St. Patrick.

“



”

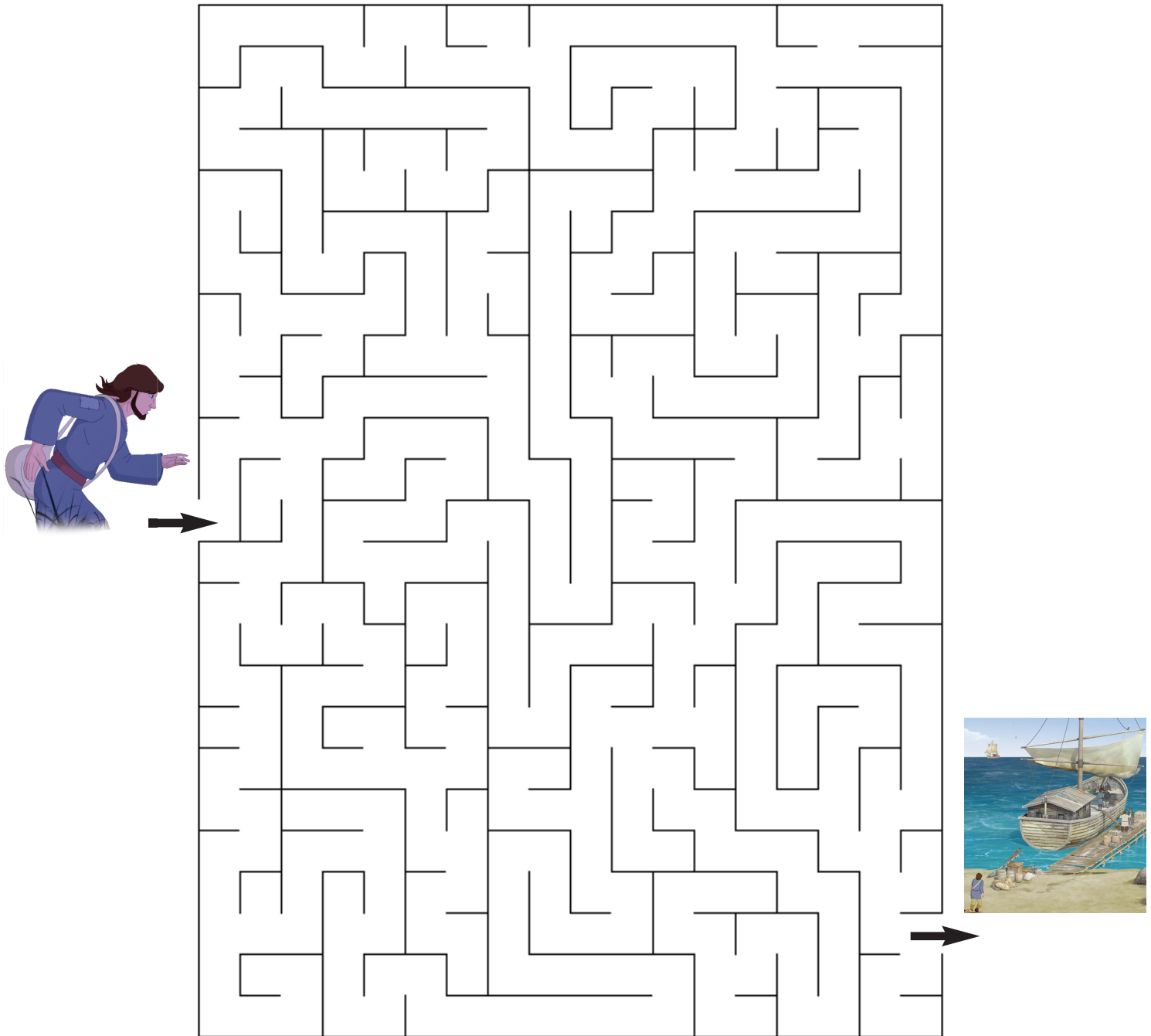


a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z



# Get Patrick Home Maze

Help Patrick escape Ireland and find his way home!





# Encourage Your Shepherd Service Project

Being a church leader can be a lonely and difficult job at times, but knowing that their congregation cares about them and appreciates them can be a huge blessing! Here are some ideas to encourage your shepherds!

## Write a note

Many times church leaders can feel like their work doesn't really matter. Telling them that you are thankful for their service can show them otherwise! Here are a few ways to send an encouraging note:

- Make a giant card out of construction paper thanking them for their ministry
- Cover their office doors with thankful post-it notes and encouraging Bible verses
- Write a personal letter explaining how their ministry helped you

## Pray

Did you know your prayers help your leaders? Ask your shepherds how you can pray for them! Consider going on a prayer walk through your church or gathering in small groups to lift up their requests to God.

## Serve

Giving your time and energy to another person—no matter who it is—is always a great way to show you care! Just as your shepherds serve the church, you can serve your shepherds by:

- Inviting him and his family over for dinner
- Volunteering to help out with a church ministry
- Helping with a needed repair project at your shepherd's home

## What else can I do?

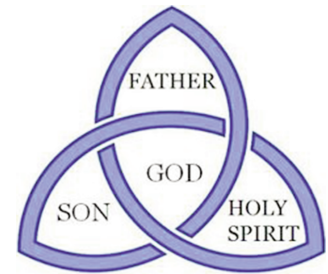
With your group, brainstorm some ways you can encourage your shepherds below:



## What is the Trinity?

The Trinity is who we believe God is. According to the Bible, God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth. There is only one God—but there are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, the same in essence, equal in power and glory.<sup>1</sup> If you think that's confusing, you're in good company! Even the smartest theologians across the centuries have found God difficult to understand—and especially hard to explain without saying something accidentally untrue!

One legend says that Patrick once used a three-leaf clover, or shamrock, to explain the Trinity to the Irish, showing that though there were three leaves, it was still a part of one clover. Similarly, God exists in three persons, but remains one God.



Patrick may not have actually used this specific example, but we do know that he became well-known as a defender of the Trinity by correcting misunderstandings about God. Patrick's teachings on the Trinity became an integral part of Irish culture. For example, the Celtic Trinity symbol to the right shows the oneness of God (all the lines are connected) but also express the three persons on each point.

**Now it's time to think through this on your own! Draw a line from the word on the left to the correct definition on the right. Check the Leader's Guide for the answer key.**

Father	Divine nature; another word for Trinity
Son	Third Person of the Godhead
Holy Spirit	God's Holy Word
Trinity	First Person of the Godhead
Bible	An analogy to explain the Trinity
Godhead	The three-in-one God
Shamrock	Second Person of the Godhead

<sup>1</sup> See **Keach's Catechism**, Questions 8-10. For verses specifically used in support of the doctrine of the Trinity, see 1 Cor. 8:6; John 10:30; John 14:9; Acts 5:3,4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14)



# Trinity Craft

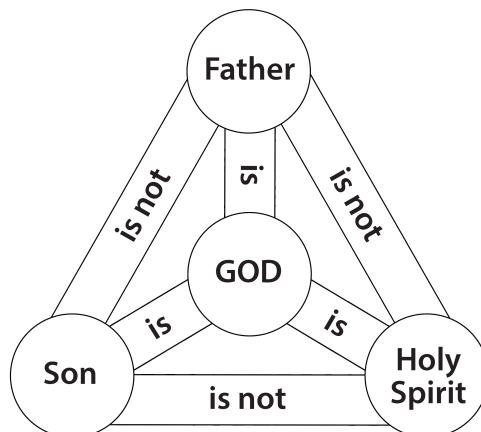
Now that you've learned a little about the Trinity, make this craft to remind you of our unique and awesome God!

## You will need:

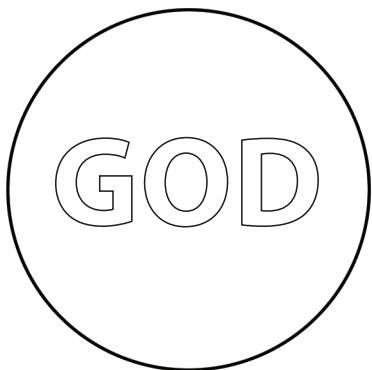
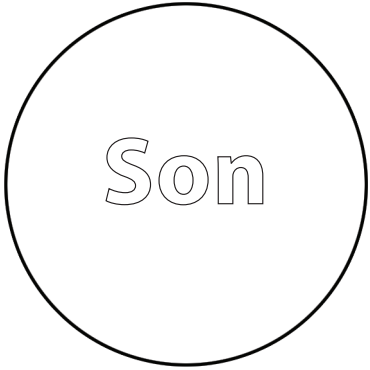
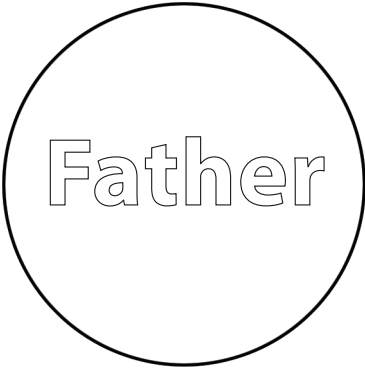
- Wood craft sticks or tongue depressors (5 per person)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Permanent marker
- Markers/colored pencils

## Directions:

1. Color and cut out the templates provided on the next page.
2. On three of the craft sticks, write, "is not" in permanent marker.
3. Cut the other two craft sticks in half. Discard one half; write, "is" on the three remaining sticks.
4. Make a triangle with the three full-length sticks and glue together.
5. Turn the triangle over. Making a "Y" with the half-length sticks, glue each to the angles of the triangle so that they meet in the center of the triangle.
6. Glue "Father," "Son," and "Holy Spirit" templates to the three corners of the triangle. Glue "God" in the center of the "Y".

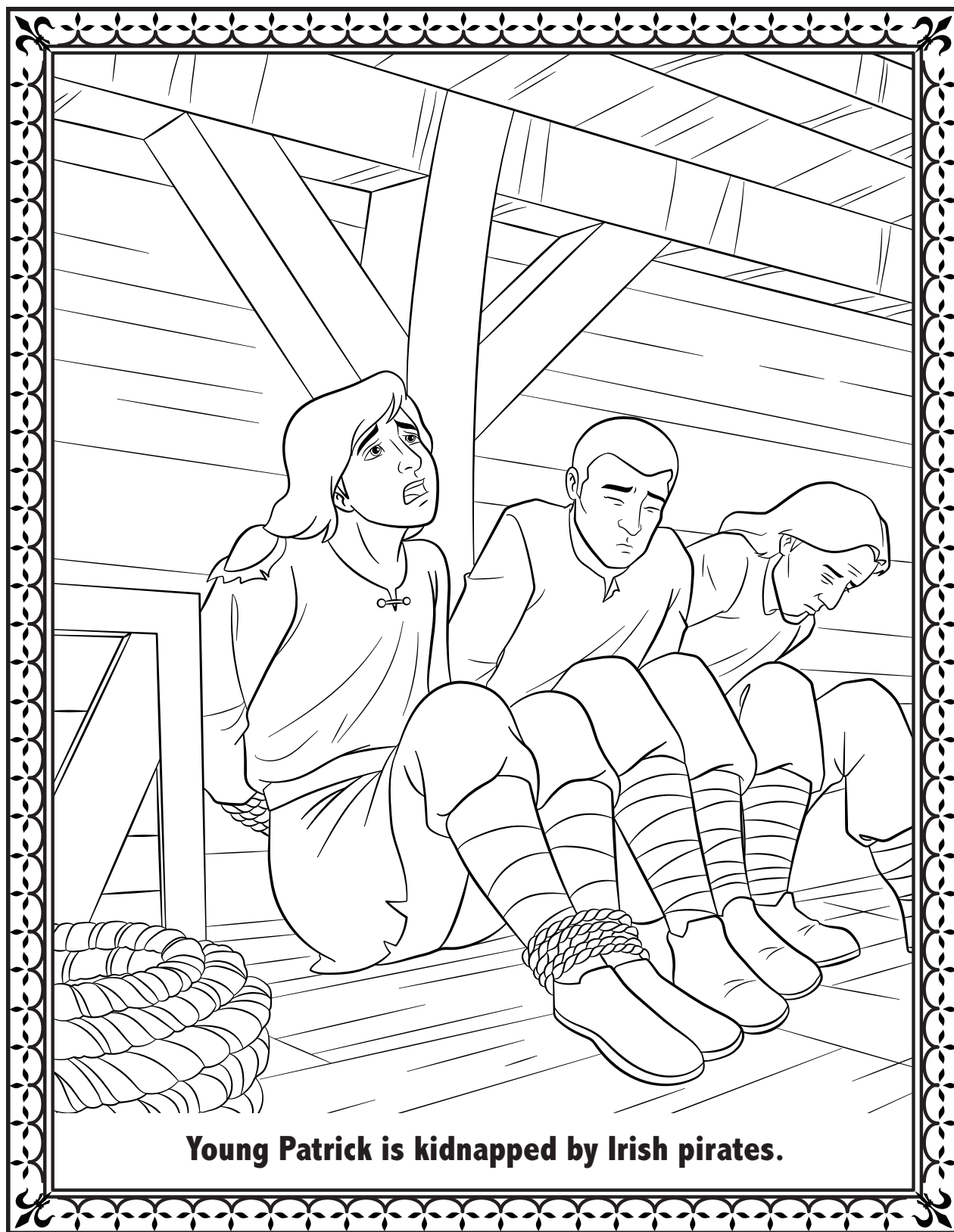








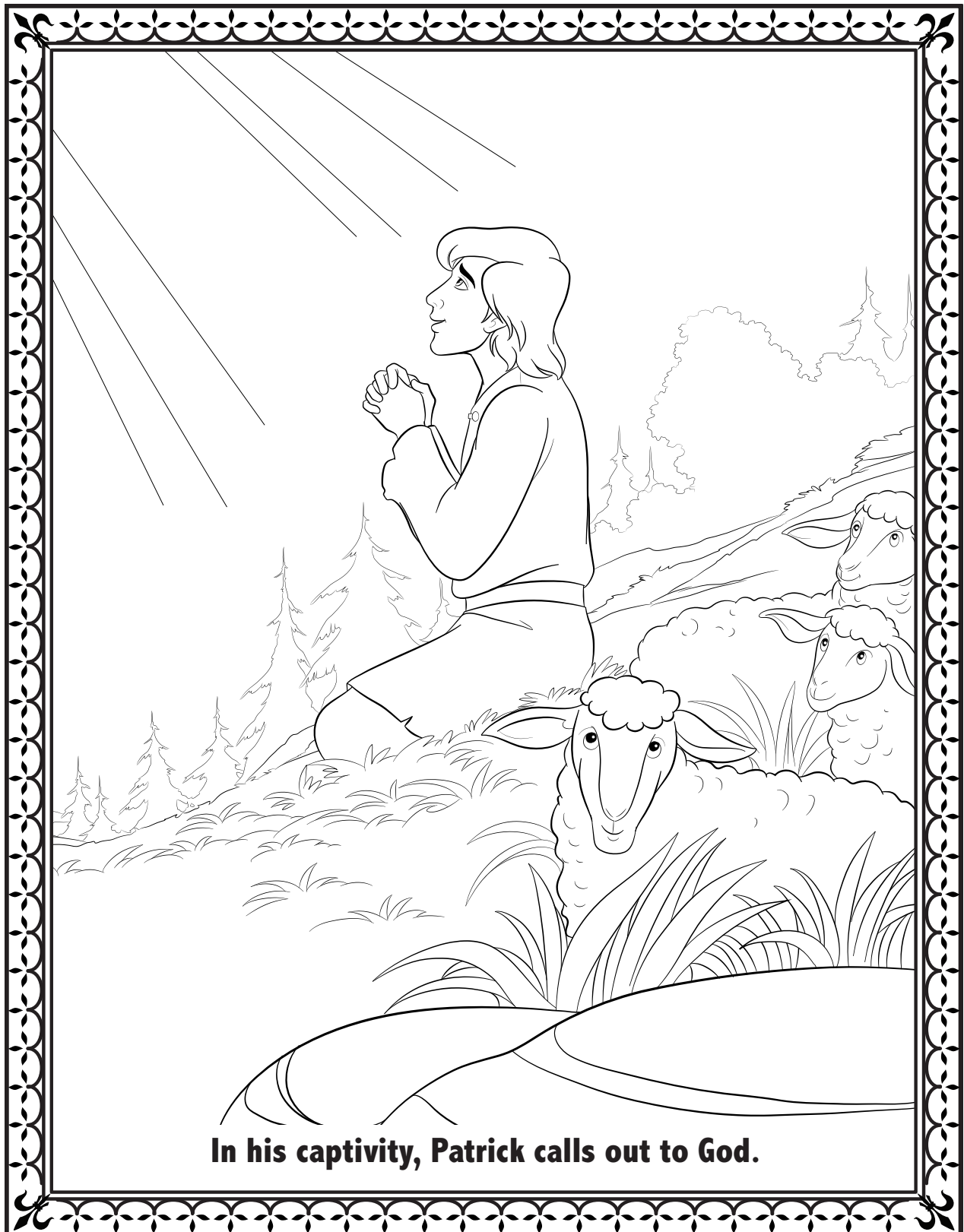
## Color the Scene #1



**Young Patrick is kidnapped by Irish pirates.**



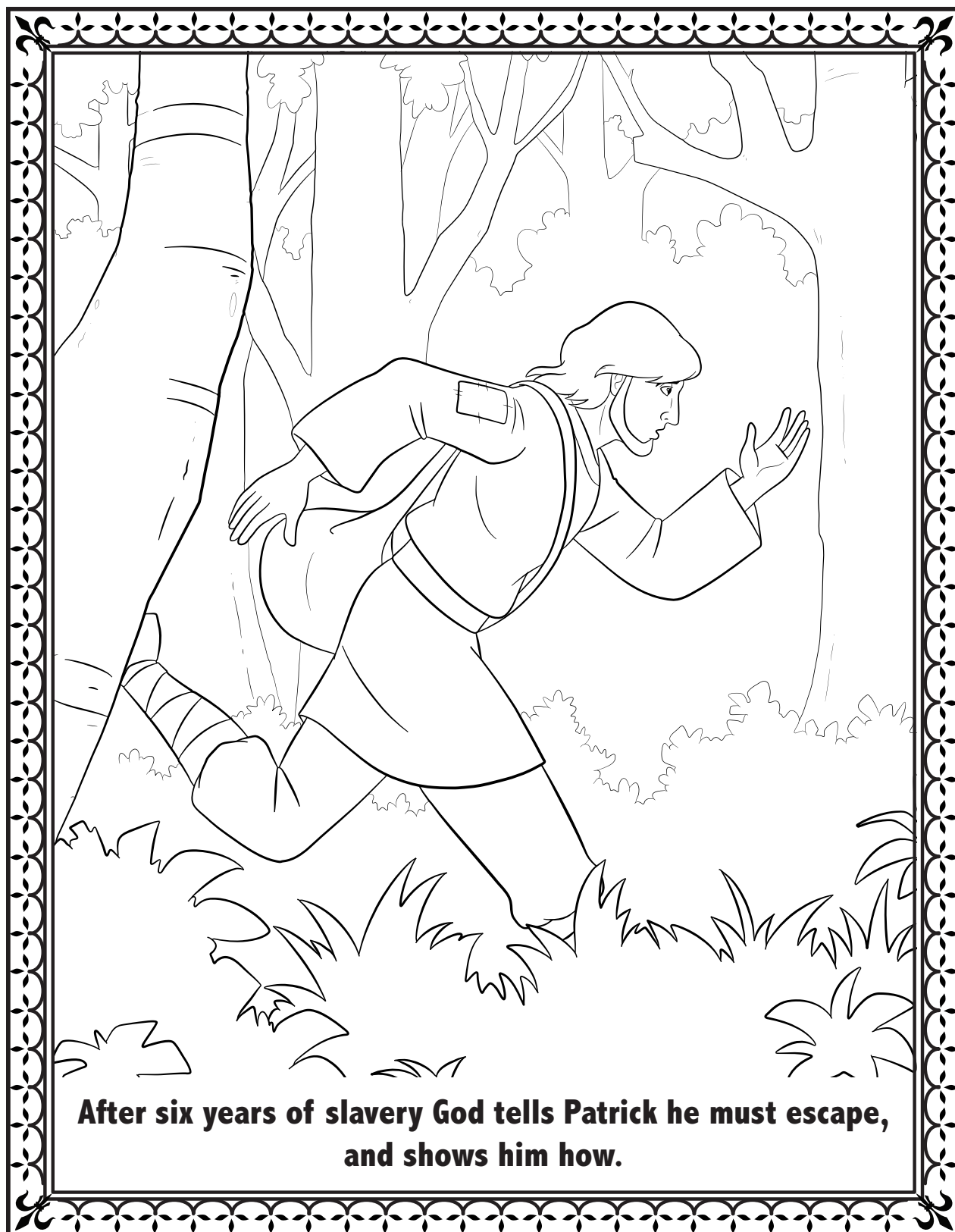
## Color the Scene #2



**In his captivity, Patrick calls out to God.**



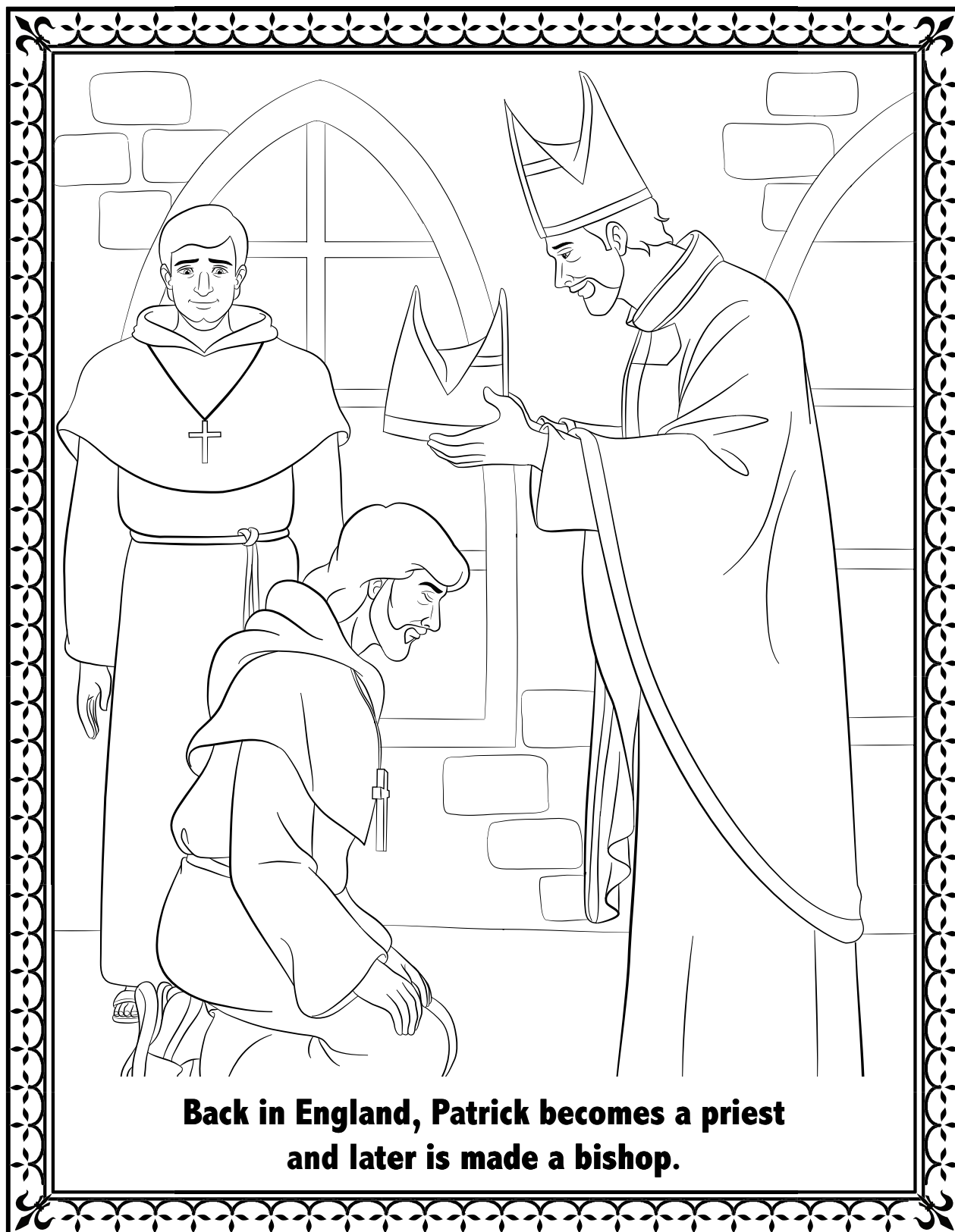
## Color the Scene #3



**After six years of slavery God tells Patrick he must escape,  
and shows him how.**



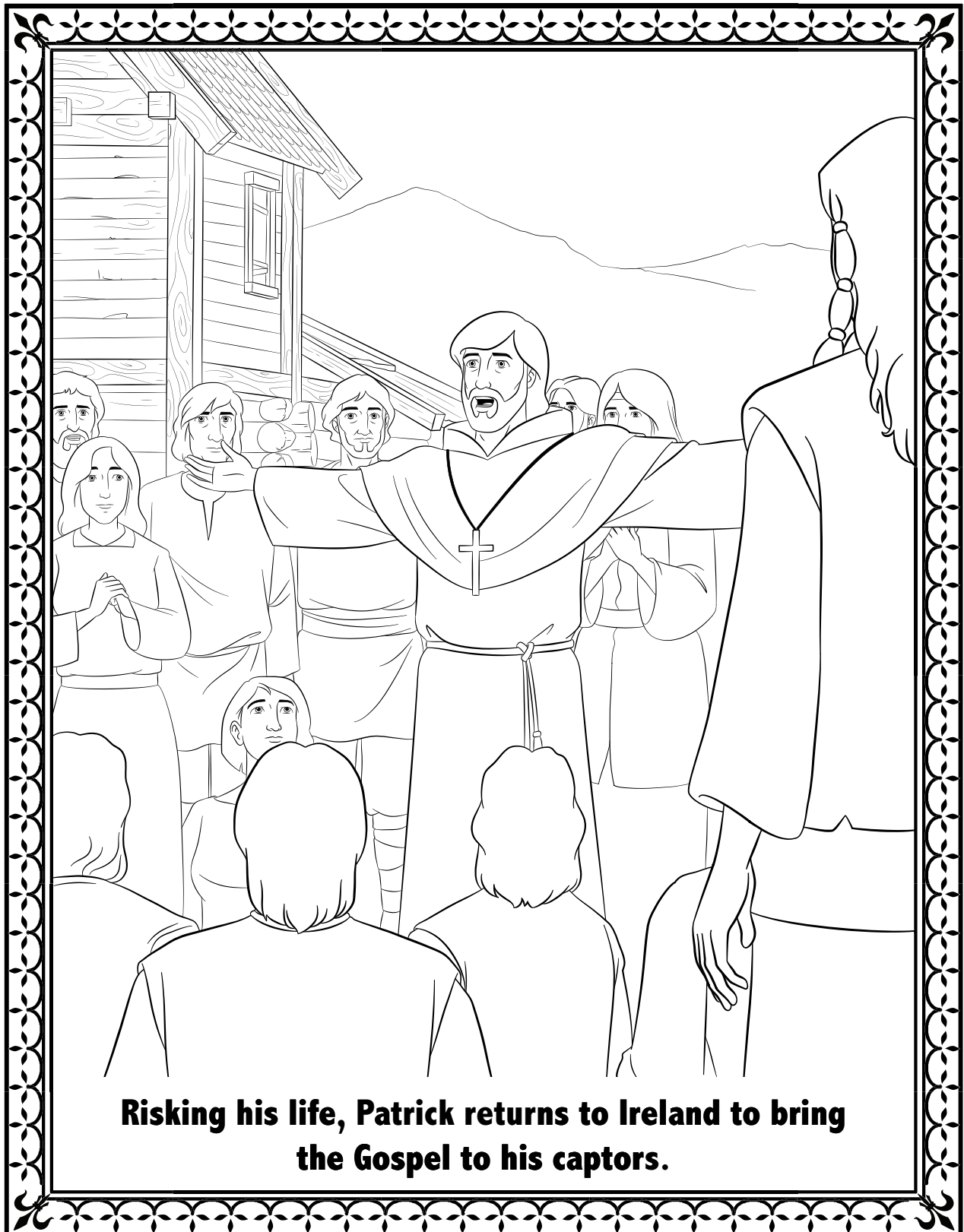
## Color the Scene #4



**Back in England, Patrick becomes a priest  
and later is made a bishop.**



## Color the Scene #5



**Risking his life, Patrick returns to Ireland to bring the Gospel to his captors.**