Date: 3/14/15 (Repeated 3/16/19 with some changes)

Title: St. Patrick and His Enemies

Theme: Jesus forgave His enemies, so did St. Patrick, so should we.

Object: St. Patrick Day paraphernalia or pictures of such.

Text: Luke 23:34 Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”

Well we’re almost to another holiday that comes on the 17th of March (Tomorrow!).

Who knows what it is?

Who knows what Saint Patrick’s Day is all about?

What color do you see on St. Patrick’s Day?

Today it has become a day in which the Irish celebrate their country, Ireland. (Others celebrate too.)

[Show pictures or objects] So these are the kinds of things you see on St. Patrick’s Day: Pictures of Leprechauns or people dressed up like Leprechauns. Leprechauns are make-believe fairies or elves that spend their time making shoes and have a hidden pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. You see they have a shillelagh stick, and wear a Leprechaun hat. And people dress up like that and march in a St. Patrick’s-day parade. And they carry Shamrocks which are three-leaf clovers that grows like grass. And people eat traditional Irish food like corned beef and cabbage, or the famous seven course Irish dinner: a six pack and a baked potato!

None of these have anything to do with St. Patrick.

St. Patrick was a Christian missionary to Ireland.

He was not even Irish himself: He was from Scotland.

When he was only 16 years old, he was kidnapped by slave traders and taken to Ireland where he was sold as a slave.

There Patrick worked on a farm. He had to work very hard and do all the worst jobs. Life was very hard.

But Patrick believed in God, so he began to pray, and he would pray all the time.

After he had been a slave for 6 long years, one night as he prayed, he heard a voice that told him his ship was waiting for him.

He believed that it was God’s voice he heard.

So the next day, Patrick ran away and ran and walked 200 miles to the coast of Ireland.

There, just as God had told him, there was a ship, and it took him back to his home country of Scotland.

The Christians in Scotland at that time were called Celtic Christians.

These Christians believed the Bible, and because they went by the Bible, they kept the 7th day Sabbath just like our church does.

So Patrick was a Sabbath keeper. He loved the Lord and wanted to become a missionary.

One night he had a dream where an angel had a lot of letters and he gave one to Patrick.

The letter told him that the Irish people wanted him to teach them about Jesus.

So Patrick became a missionary to Ireland, the same country where he had been a slave for 6 years.

Now you would think that Ireland was the last place Patrick would want to be a missionary.

But Patrick was able to forgive those who treated him mean, and he did something very nice for them.

He told them about Jesus who died for their sins and how they could be forgiven by trusting Him.

Like Jesus who forgave his enemies who nailed him to the cross, Patrick forgave his enemies who made him a slave.

So when I think of Saint Patrick’s Day, I think of a man who forgave his enemies, who taught them about Jesus, who followed the Bible, and who kept the Sabbath.

I know that Jesus wants us to be forgiving to those who have been mean to us.

Do you know, you can forgive your enemies too, like Jesus and St. Patrick?

Let’s ask Jesus to help us to be forgiving Christians that can love even our enemies.

