



HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF... SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

Every holiday is an opportunity to have fun with your family. So, how exactly does a family celebrate Saint Patrick's Day? Wear green? Got it. But now, what?

(Crickets chirping.)

Don't worry. We've got a few ideas to help your family make the most of all the Saint Patrick's Day festivities! (Including one that gives you an opportunity to share about your faith—like Saint Patrick.)

HAVE SOME LUCK FOR BREAKFAST. Green up breakfast with a little food coloring. Why not serve some green eggs and ham? Or how about some avocado toast? Green pancakes or waffles, anyone? But don't touch the bacon. (No one should mess with bacon.)

POT OF GOLD. Purchase a bunch of cheap items (green sunglasses, new lip balm, a \$5 gift card, candy bar, pack of gum). You will need at least one item for each member of your family, maybe two. Wrap the items in gold wrapping paper, and hide them in your home. Choose one searcher at a time and have them wear a green hat (you can make one out of construction paper) and give him or her one minute to find a hidden gold item. (If they struggle, tell them if they are hot or cold to let them know how close they are.) Once each person finds an item, have them place the still-wrapped item in a large pot (a cooking pot works great)! Once all the items have been found, gather the entire family, and one at a time, each person reaches in the pot and selects an item to unwrap that they can either keep or give to another family member. Play until all items are unwrapped.

PLANT A SHAMROCK. Did you know shamrocks and clovers are very different? Check your local plant nurseries or look online for a shamrock bulb. Find a place outdoors or a pot to keep indoors (shamrocks make great houseplants!). Then, plant and care for the shamrock plant together.

TELL A STORY. Saint Patrick is credited with converting Ireland to Christianity and was a man of courage and perseverance. Talk with your child about what it means to your family to be able to go to church to worship and learn about God. If you are comfortable doing so, share with your child about your personal faith journey and how it impacts your life.

SECRET WORD. Pick a secret word for your family—something you all say often. Maybe it's "phone," "TV," "granola," or your dog's name. Then every time someone says the secret word, they have to do an Irish jig for one minute. (Not sure how to do an Irish jig? Check out YouTube for a quick tutorial.)