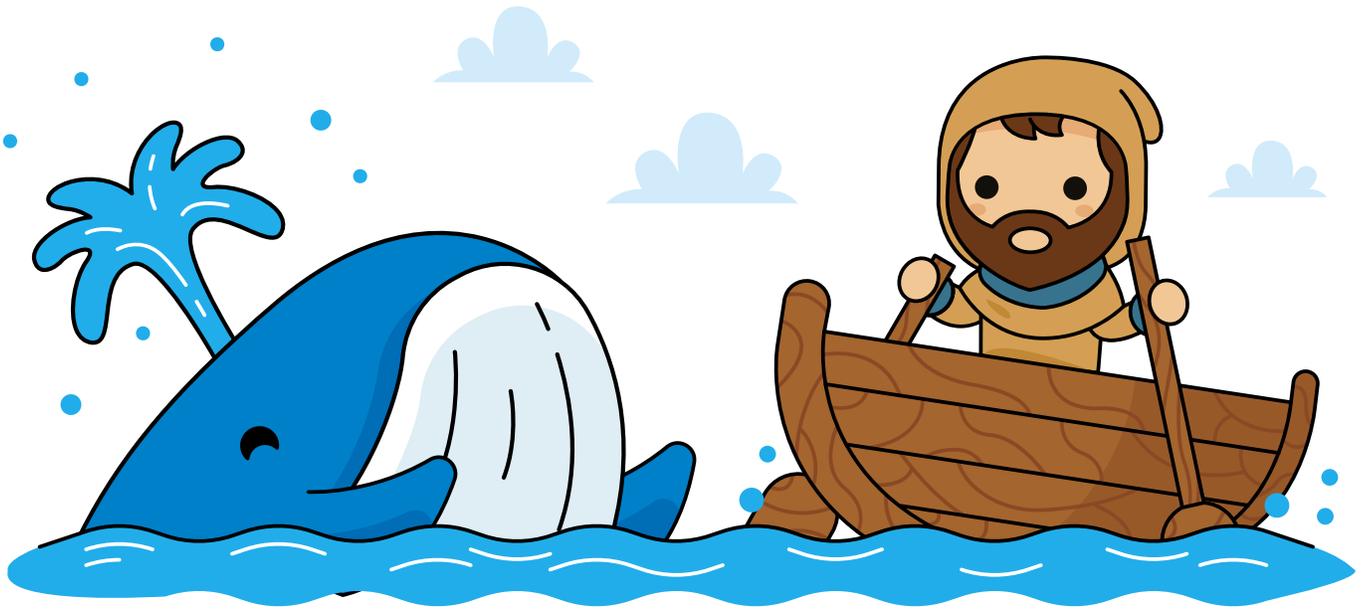


+ Saint Brendan +



Saint Brendan was an Irish priest born around 484 A.D. Irish legend holds that angels presented themselves in a bright light above his home when he was born. Brendan was baptized as an infant and taken from his home at the age of one to be placed under the foster care of Saint Ita, "Foster Mother of the Saints," as was custom during this time. Brendan lived with Saint Ita until the age of 6, when he was then allowed to return home to continue his education under Saint Erc, who ordained him priest in the year 510.



Brendan, a brave and adventurous monk, sailed around northwest Europe, spreading the Christian faith. His heroic devotion to the Gospel inspired many. He recruited many disciples and founded multiple churches and monasteries. However, his missionary travels are often overshadowed by the story of his most famous journey, the seven-year journey to the Land of Promise. While meditating in chapel, Brendan is said to have a vision of this land, so he constructed a boat and set out with a crew of over a dozen men to seek it. He took no guidance, but trusted God to guide his boat to their destination.



Just how far Brendan traveled remains a mystery to this day. However, according to legend, at one point they stopped on a small island to celebrate Easter Mass only to discover the "island" was actually an enormous whale!

+ Saint Brendan

Activities

Family Discussion: Brendan was sent at the age of one to live with Saint Ita, where he stayed until he was six. It must've been scary for him to leave home at such a young age! Have you ever been scared to be away from your family? Perhaps it was the first day of school when you were with a new teacher. Maybe you've even gotten lost before and had to ask a stranger for help! Sometimes, being away from our family can make us so nervous that we even start to cry, but that is okay! How did you eventually calm down? Did another adult help to comfort you? Talk to your family about ways to be brave next time you feel scared or alone!



Family Activity: Saint Brendan set out on a voyage to find the Land of Promise. Think of a place your family would like to go, and take a virtual trip there! You can find articles, Youtube videos, and maybe even travel videos online! Your "destination" could be anywhere in the world! Once you have taken your virtual trip, maybe your family could even come up with a plan to be able to visit in person one day!



Individual Activity: During Saint Brendan's journey, legend has it that he and his crew landed on an "island" that was actually a giant whale. Use the following page to turn the island into your own sea creature by drawing it right underneath the island! Then discuss what it would be like to land there. Would you want to stay for a while, or would you escape as quickly as possible? If you could only bring one thing, what would it be?