

***World Literature for  
Christian Homeschoolers***

**Volume 3:  
*Let Me Die in Ireland***

**Answer Key to Review Questions**

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## Week 12, Day 1 (Chapters 1-2)

1. Sum up the Foreword.

*Patrick was neither Roman Catholic nor Irish. The myths about him were created because he was a simple, praying, faithful man, and to many medieval tale spinners and “Christians” who used force to spread “Christianity,” they couldn’t understand the power of the Holy Spirit’s work in Patrick’s life, so they made him out as a man who did miracles constantly.*

### Chapter 1:

2. Give details of the story’s setting. What happens to Patrick? Who is Marcella, and what effect does she have on him?

*Patrick is 16, living on the west coast of Britain. His village is attacked, and he is kidnapped by Irish invaders. Marcella is Patrick’s old nursemaid; her words are optimistic and have a calming effect upon Patrick.*

3. What does Patrick see hanging on the wooden gate around the king’s castle? How do you think this affects him?

*Five human heads. It is a gruesome sight, probably upsetting and intimidating Patrick, as it was no doubt intended to do.*

### Chapter 2:

4. Describe the Irish king’s courtyard. Why are Patrick and others led to another courtyard?

*It isn’t kingly—just a plain, dirty log cabin and enclosure. Patrick and others are taken to a courtyard where they are sold as slaves.*

5. Who is Cedd? What hypocrisy of Patrick’s family does he point out?

*An older, gray-haired British slave who works for Patrick’s master. He comes from a fisherman’s family and is a Christian. When Patrick denounces the Irish for owning slaves, Cedd points out that Patrick’s family owns slaves too.*

## Week 12, Day 2 (Chapters 3-4)

### Chapter 3:

1. What does Milchu have planned for Patrick?

*He is going to make a shepherd out of him. Patrick protests, but Cedd says it’s a good opportunity, because he can be outdoors and with Cedd.*

2. Sum up Cedd and Patrick’s discussion about God.

*Patrick is angry that God let him be kidnapped, even after he prayed for help. Cedd replies, "What have you ever done for Him?" He suggests that God allowed Patrick to be captured because He loves him.*

3. What does Patrick pray after running away? How does he plan to pray?

*After running away, Patrick later asks God to forgive him, and to let him be His slave, returning to Cedd. He confesses to Cedd, who says he knew the whole time. Patrick plans to pray for his release 100 times a day!*

4. What does Cedd wonder out loud at the end of Chapter 3?

*Whether God is preparing Ireland for something, since there are thousands of British slaves that have been brought there.*

#### **Chapter 4:**

5. Who were the Druids? How does Cedd warn Patrick about Lughnasa?

*Druids were Irish priests who practiced human sacrifice. Cedd warns Patrick not to get mixed up in this pagan celebration of the "god" Lugh.*

6. What does Patrick decide about his prayer for deliverance? Why? How is his character changing?

*He will pray for two years, like Cedd said he did. Patrick becomes less irritable and apt to complain.*

7. What does Patrick learn about Irish religion? Why does Cedd compare them to slaves?

*They worship many gods and goddesses. Druids are their priests, and the most powerful men in Ireland, since even kings fear their religious "magic," and they are the only literate people in the country. Their other basic beliefs: (1) They think water is sacred; (2) they think the number three is holy; (3) they believe souls wander from body to body after death.*

*Cedd compares the Irish to slaves because they are in bondage to what he calls their "dark, demonic religion."*

### **Week 12, Day 3 (Chapters 5-7)**

#### **Chapter 5:**

1. Describe Ireland's chieftains.

*They are "small kings"; each of them (there are around 1000 in Ireland) rules a small "kingdom."*

2. List some of what Cedd says are Irish traits.

*A love of fighting; a good sense of humor; excellent hospitality; skill at farming, shepherding, and crafting.*

3. What results from Patrick's 4 ½ year prayer for freedom? How has his view changed on the Irish?

*God still has said “No.” His love for the Irish people has grown.*

## **Chapter 6:**

4. What does Patrick hear after six years of praying?

*“It is good that you are fasting, for soon you will return to your own country.” Then he hears, “Look, your ship is ready.”*

5. Describe his escape.

*He runs away in the night, sleeping and hiding during the day. He travels east, covering over 200 miles. When he sees what he thinks is the ship God told him about, the shipmaster growls at him to get away, which Patrick can’t understand.*

## **Chapter 7:**

1. What does Patrick talk to the crew about? What shock do they have for him?

*Jesus; he sees them praying to a wooden “god.” They ask where he is from, and then tell him that he’s their slave now.*

2. Describe Patrick’s next dream. How do the men come to him for help?

*God tells him he will only be with them two months. The men can’t find any town with people, and they are starving, so they ask Patrick for help. He prays, and God sends pigs for them to eat.*

3. How is Patrick tested?

*He is offered honey sacrificed to the sun “god” and refuses. Satan attacks him with pain, and he cries out to God for deliverance.*

4. Sum up Patrick’s journey home. How has he changed?

*He sails to France, then to Britain, then walks a week home, joyfully running to his parents. He has changed in the way he treats his servants, which they notice.*

5. Explain the chapter’s last line.

*There is no way Patrick says he’ll be back in Ireland unless God makes it happen!*

## Week 13, Day 1 (Chapters 8-9)

### Chapter 8:

1. What do the people of Patrick's native village notice about him?

*How much he has changed—his bearing, his desire to worship and read the Scriptures.*

2. Explain Patrick's dream and its meaning.

*He dreams that Victoricus, an old hermit, sails from Ireland with a bag of letters from the Irish that read "We beg you, young man, come and walk among us again." Patrick interprets this to mean that God wants him to return to Ireland.*

### Chapter 9:

3. Why does Patrick believe God wants him to return to Ireland? What does his church advise him, and why?

*To share the gospel of Jesus with them. His church leaders advise him not to return, because they claim that Ireland is not ready for the gospel, and that Patrick needs more seminary training.*

4. For what six reasons does Victoricus say the church leaders are wrong? What two things does he counsel Patrick to work on?

*Victoricus counters that Patrick is perfectly qualified to return and preach the gospel by noting that Patrick is (1) a man of prayer, (2) loves the Irish people, (3) has strong faith in God, (4) is willing to lay down his life for the Irish, (5) knows the language, and (6) can endure hardships. Victoricus does say, however, that Patrick needs (1) more knowledge of the Bible, and (2) the church's blessing.*

5. What do the church's leaders say when Patrick tells them of his dream?

*That he has their blessing to return to Ireland, but that he needs to study the Scriptures more.*

## Week 13, Day 2 (Chapters 10-11)

### Chapter 10:

1. What does Patrick confess to Marcus?

*Some serious sin he was involved in when he was 15 years old.*

2. What state is the nation of Britain in?

*Since the Romans left, it is under attack from the Irish, the Saxons, and the Scots. The Romans inform a council that Britain is no longer a part of the Roman Empire, and not under its protection.*

3. How long does it take for the presbyters to recommend Patrick's return to Ireland? What are his sermons like, and how are they received?

*Six years! His sermons are fiery and rebuke the “Christians” for worshiping other “gods” and for being materialistic. They are overall not very well received.*

### **Chapter 11:**

4. Who is Vortigern? What does the delegation suggest Britain should do?

*He is a brutal Saxon leader successful in warding off attacking Scots. A British delegation suggests that Britain make an alliance with the Saxons, give them land for farming, and count on their military strength to stop various tribes and peoples from attacking Britain.*

5. How does Patrick see this idea? What Biblical example does he refer to?

*Patrick loathes the idea, saying that Britain should trust God instead of pagans to protect them. As an example, he points to the example of Israel losing God’s blessing when that nation made alliances with pagan nations.*

6. How do the presbyters answer Patrick’s repeated requests to go to Ireland?

*“Not yet.”*

## **Week 13, Day 3 (Chapters 12-13)**

### **Chapter 12:**

1. How long has Patrick been back in Britain? What do Lomman and Crispus tell him?

*He has been there 20 years. Lomman and Crispus tell Patrick they are going to accompany him to Ireland when he returns, and they vow never to marry so that God can use them to do this.*

2. Explain Patrick’s dilemma regarding Armorica.

*He isn’t sure whether to go, because if he does he might be passed up for the position of bishop. He goes anyway and ministers to many.*

3. What shock does Patrick receive? What does his father say this means for his return to Ireland?

*Marcus has revealed Patrick’s confidential confession, which led the church to choose someone else as bishop. Patrick’s father says now the church will never give Patrick their blessing to return to Ireland.*

### **Chapter 13:**

4. Describe Patrick’s latest dream.

*God says, “We have seen the face of Marcus with displeasure.”*

5. Name some things that Marcus's betrayal does for Patrick.

*It makes him struggle to forgive Marcus. It also makes it harder for his preaching to be effective in Britain, so he thinks more and more about returning to Ireland.*

6. What does Rome's sending a bishop to Ireland mean (a) to Patrick, and (b) to his church's leaders? What do they decide?

*To Patrick it means God could be close to sending him, since Britain hasn't sent help to Ireland, although Rome has. To the church, it means that God is rebuking them for not sending Patrick years ago to the Irish. They decide to send Patrick to Ireland.*

7. What happens to Patrick before he sails for Ireland?

*He hears from Lomman and Crispus that they will go with him, he has an ordination service, and he forgives Marcus for betraying him.*

### **Week 13, Day 4 (Chapter 14)**

1. What does Patrick wonder about his former master in Ireland? What does he decide about this?

*Whether he will reclaim him or kill him. Patrick decides that God has not sent him to Ireland to be killed before He finishes using Patrick for His work.*

2. How does Patrick announce himself to the guards of the village? How is he received?

*He says that he is the messenger of a mighty king who would like to speak to the king of the village. He and his missionaries are invited to a feast given by the king.*

3. Describe Patrick's speech that night.

*He says that he has good news—that Jesus is God's Son, and more powerful than the Irish "gods," who are actually demons. He tells the crowd that Jesus—and by extension, those who trust in Him—has power over these "gods."*

4. What does one of the king's attendants ask Patrick, and how does Patrick answer?

*"How do we know this is true?" Patrick says that he is proof—that God sent him to Ireland to learn Gaelic; that God told him to run away and provided a ship; and that God told him through a dream he would only be with his captors two months. He also shares how God provided food for his captors and sent him back to Ireland to spread the gospel.*

5. Describe how Patrick ends his speech.

*Someone asks him how he can become a son of God, and Patrick says that only the courageous can. He says he will explain how the next day.*

## Week 14, Day 1 (Chapters 15-16)

### Chapter 15:

1. What four basic religious beliefs of the Irish does Patrick use to explain the gospel?

*(1) Their belief in an immortal soul, (2) their belief that pools and springs are sacred (a connection to baptism), (3) their belief that certain trees are sacred (like the Tree of Life and the cross of Jesus), and (4) their belief that the number 3 is sacred (like the Trinity).*

2. How does Patrick warn those who wish to become Christians?

*That they can't still worship other "gods," war against their neighbors, steal from others, and live as drunks.*

3. What does Patrick do for those who still wish to become Christians?

*He baptizes them and puts a sign of a cross on their foreheads.*

### Chapter 16:

4. Why does Patrick present Jesus as a hero? In what ways does he not represent a typical Irish hero?

*To appeal to the Irish sense of hero worship. Jesus, however, altogether doesn't fit their ideal of a hero, since he is not a military conqueror (yet), and he is not handsome.*

5. How have Irish women been affected by the gospel?

*Many have become Christians and given up common practices of Irish women, such as sexual promiscuity, an extreme focus on beauty, and an aggressive manner.*

6. Why doesn't Patrick leave Ireland to visit his home? What does Lomman commit to?

*The Holy Spirit has told him that his work in Ireland will be great danger if he ever leaves. Lomman commits to pray for Patrick for a chance to visit home.*

## Week 14, Day 2 (Chapters 17-18)

### Chapter 17:

1. What does Patrick learn about Britain?

*They had peace with Saxon help for several years, but the Saxons saw the Britons were weak and wanted more land, so they allied with the Picts and Angles to take over the entire nation, burning and killing and looting everywhere. His parents fled, but died of plague, and left him money from his inheritance.*

2. Why does Patrick command such respect in Ireland? How is he like Jesus?

*He is an honorable man of God; the Irish respect him as a hero, since they have a tradition of honoring them. He never marries, has no home, owns little or no property, and loves and forgives his enemies.*

3. What perils do Patrick and his fellow ministers face?

*Non-Christian clans, wandering tribes, kings who demand ransoms, being kidnapped as slaves.*

#### **Chapter 18:**

4. How does Patrick handle backsliders? How do they react, and why?

*He is tough on them, often excommunicating them from the church. But they often submit to his leadership, because of the influence of the Druids and their power over the Irish.*

5. Sum up the treasure box incident.

*A king tries to buy his way back into church by offering Patrick treasure, which Patrick refuses. Quintus, visiting from Britain, arrogantly orders him to take it, and Patrick refuses his order, saying Quintus and the other British presbyters have no more authority over him.*

### **Week 14, Day 3 (Chapters 19-20)**

#### **Chapter 19:**

1. What event begins Chapter 19? How does it soon turn for the worse?

*New converts are being baptized. Soon, however, a British ship arrives, and the sailors come out and cold-bloodedly murder the men, take the women and children captive, and plunder the homes.*

2. How does Patrick react to this horror? What does he order the Irish to do?

*He is broken hearted about the slaughter, but sees that the women and children were kidnapped, and orders a boat to be sent to tell the sailors to release the prisoners and return the stolen property.*

#### **Chapter 20:**

3. Who is responsible for raiding Ireland? Why is this disturbing?

*It is Coroticus. This is disturbing, because he is the "leader" praised so highly by Quintus during his last visit to Ireland, and also because the kidnappers call themselves "Christians."*

4. How does Patrick respond? (Look at his strong actual words on page 151.) How does Britain react? Explain Bishop Brannoc's words.

*He excommunicates Coroticus in a letter delivered to him, accusing him of bloody brutality and treachery, and of being a citizen of demons instead of Christ. He calls Coroticus an enemy of God, and forbids other*

*Christians to associate with him in any way. When the letter is read, there is an uproar. Quintus ridicules Patrick, but Brannoc says that the British “Christians” have chosen Barabbas over Jesus.*

5. Explain Quintus’s lie about Patrick, and Patrick’s response.

*Quintus says Patrick charges for baptisms. When Patrick finds out, he is crushed, but finally writes a response, which is ignored, so he is forced to simply press on and forgive his enemies.*

## **Week 14, Day 4 (Chapter 21, Epilogue, Appendix I)**

### **Chapter 21:**

1. List some “final lessons” from Patrick as he approaches death.

*He has done nothing on his own strength, but God’s; he admonishes his assistants to accept whatever good or bad that happens, and to thank God either way.*

2. What final request does Patrick make of his fellow ministers? Why?

*He realizes he is revered in Ireland, so he asks to be secretly buried, so people won’t give him undue honor and make pilgrimages to his tomb.*

### **Epilogue:**

3. How did Patrick help the British far more than Coroticus?

*Because many Irish became Christians, they (1) stopped attacking Britain’s coast, (2) befriended the British, (3) helped the British church, which was in trouble, (4) let British settle in Ireland, safe from the Saxons, and (5) sent out missionaries to Britain. In short, Patrick’s work helped to bring true Christianity to England and Scotland.*

4. List the author’s main lessons to learn from Patrick’s example. Why does he believe no one has heard of the “next Patrick”?

*To pray faithfully, to wait on God. The author believes that the “next Patrick” won’t be a famous author or speaker, but someone who is faithfully praying and following God’s leading.*

### **Appendix I: Was Patrick a Roman Catholic?**

5. Who is mainly responsible for the myth of Patrick’s Roman Catholicism? List Roman Catholic practices that Patrick never followed.

*Medieval authors who wished to elevate the status of Roman Catholicism. Roman Catholic practices that Patrick never followed include Mary worship, purgatory, indulgences, praying to “saints,” papal infallibility, transubstantiation, relics, statues, rosaries, forbidding marriage, wearing clerical costumes, masses for the dead, and so on.*

6. What elements of primitive (early) Christianity was Patrick known for?

*Obedience instead of theology, separation of church and state, not using force to spread the gospel.*

7. Briefly sum up how Ireland became largely Roman Catholic.

- *The Roman Catholic Church opposed the independence of the Irish Church.*
- *The Pope encouraged the Norman William the Conqueror to invade England in 1066 to bring England under the control of the Roman Catholic Church.*
- *Pope Adrian “gave” Ireland to Norman Henry II of England, who invaded Ireland and brought down the Irish churches.*
- *Ireland eventually became independent again, but “Protestant” Henry VIII tried to rein them in.*
- *When Henry VIII broke with Rome, the Irish, to break with Henry VIII, stayed with Rome; this mindset was solidified when Queen Elizabeth I punished Ireland for having Roman Catholic services.*
- *Ireland’s independence from Britain is now in the minds of Irish closely associated with its Roman Catholicism, causing conflicts between the two peoples even to this day.*

### ***Let Me Die in Ireland: For Additional Thought/Essay Topics***

1. Cedd patiently explains to Patrick during their discussion about the Lord (page 21) that “sometimes God uses calamity to bring people to Him,” and says, “Patrick, you can choose to be hardened by what has befallen you, or you can choose to be softened by it.” How does God sometimes use calamity to bring people to Him? How are people both hardened and softened by God’s chastening or allowing hardship? List some personal examples or examples from the Bible.

*Answers will vary. Some might include the example of the Pharaoh who was hardened by God’s plagues upon Egypt, or David’s repentance after God killed his child conceived by Bathsheba, among many other examples.*

2. After his conversion to Christianity, Patrick is careful not to get involved with idol worship or to eat food sacrificed to “gods.” Although very few Christians in America worship stone or wooden “gods,” in what ways can Christians stay pure of forms of idol worship?

*Answers will vary, but Christians can refuse to follow a life of pursuit of money or prestige; they can refuse to participate in activities that exalt men or institutions above God or demand blind allegiance; and they can eschew pursuits that tend to glorify ungodly behaviors above a Christian’s calling to be separate from the world.*

3. After Coroticus leads British invaders in slaughtering and enslaving Irish, Patrick cries (page 151), “Paul says the kingdom of God becomes nothing when Christians take each other to court. What would he say about Christians *slaughtering* other Christians—merely because they belong to a different nation?” Are there parallels to this in the modern age? That is, are Patrick’s words still meaningful today? Give examples.

*Answers will vary, but yes, there are still examples of Christians (or at least those who call themselves Christians) who do ungodly things, even to others who are Christians. Christians still sue each other in court, and they fight publicly over issues that should be dealt within the church. And in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, hundreds of millions of lives were lost in world wars, often with one “Christian nation” at war with another “Christian nation,” with millions of soldiers who were Christians (or at least called themselves Christians) killing others of the same.*