



History & Geography

For this session's History & Geography, we have included a biography of Scotland's national saint, Saint Andrew, for you and your family to study!

Learn about Loch Ness, Mary Queen of Scots, William Wallace, and more! (These documentaries are on the website and not included in the PDF.)

*'The birth-place of Valour, the country of Worth;
Wherever I wander, wherever I rove,
The hills of the Highlands for ever I love.'*

~Robert Burns

History & Geography



Saint Andrew

Saint Andrew, also known as the "First-Called Apostle," was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ.

He is celebrated as a saint in both the Eastern Orthodox and Catholic churches.

Born in Bethsaida, Galilee, during the first century AD, Andrew was originally a follower of John the Baptist.

He was a fisherman by trade, working together with his brother, Simon Peter. Andrew was there when John the Baptist proclaimed that Jesus was the Messiah, after which he left and told his brother. Later, the two were called by Jesus to follow him and become "fishers of men," so they left their nets behind to become His disciples. Because of this, Andrew is often referred to by scholars as the "First-Called Apostle."

Andrew was a devoted follower of Jesus, witnessing many miracles and teachings firsthand. After the death and resurrection of Christ, he traveled extensively as a missionary, spreading the good news of the Gospel throughout modern-day Turkey and Greece. He continued teaching about Jesus for the remainder of his life, boldly sharing his faith with others despite threats from the leaders of his day.

According to tradition, Andrew was martyred for his faith in the city of Patras, Greece. The governor of the city had ordered that he stop preaching the gospel and speaking of Jesus, but Andrew refused to compromise his beliefs. He is said to have been crucified on an X-shaped cross, which is now known as the Cross of Saint Andrew and is a prominent symbol in Christianity.

Saint Andrew's legacy goes beyond his missionary work and martyrdom. He is also credited with founding the Church of Byzantium, which later became known as Constantinople and is now Istanbul, Turkey. He is also the patron saint of Scotland. According to legend, a king named Óengus II (King Angus MacFergus) had a dream in which Saint Andrew appeared and assured him of victory in his upcoming battle against the Angles. The next day, Óengus won the battle and gave thanks to Saint Andrew by making him the patron saint of Scotland and bringing his relics from Greece to Scotland.

Saint Andrew is also reflected in the Scottish flag, commonly known as the Saltire or the Saint Andrew's Cross. Legend has it that a white saltire was seen in the sky during a battle, inspiring Óengus to adopt it as his emblem. Today, this flag is still used as the national flag of Scotland and serves as a symbol of the country's connection to Saint Andrew.

In addition to being the patron saint of Scotland, Saint Andrew also holds special significance for fishermen, singers, and maidens. He is often depicted with a fishing net or book in hand, making him an inspirational figure for those who share his profession or interests.

Today, modern Christians can take inspiration from Andrew's boldness and dedication to sharing the Gospel. May we always remember to be "fishers of men" in our own lives, spreading the light and love of Christ wherever we go.