

St. Wenceslas

St. Wenceslas (907-929) was born a Bohemian prince and was educated by his grandmother, Ludmilla, a Christian at what was still largely a pagan court. Like his grandmother, when king Wenceslas tried to improve his people's education and bring them to Christianity, he met with opposition from his brother Boleslav and his followers. He was then murdered by some of them.

Although his death was not solely about religion, he was later seen as a Christian martyr and Wenceslas became the patron saint of Bohemia, later part of Czechoslovakia and now part of the Czech Republic. His statue stands in Wenceslaus Square (Prague). His feast day is September 28.

Wenceslas has become a popular name across the world because of J. M. Neale's carol, although none of those lyrics can be linked with any incident known of his life.



- 1 Sit down with the children and show them the series of pictures overleaf. You may wish to lay the sheets out either on a table or the floor, and then read the story.
- 2 Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-
Which parts of the story did you like or dislike?
Who needs help when the weather is bad?
How can people help others when it's snowing?
What do you like doing in the snow?
- 3 Look at the words of the 'Good King Wenceslas' carol which can be found on iChild, and talk about the words the children do not know.

The Story of St. Wenceslas



Wenceslas looked out of his palace and saw how deep the snow was. He saw a poor person collecting sticks.



He called his servant to help him, “we must help this poor old man” he told the servant. He took food and drink to help the poor.



**The snow was so deep that
the servant needed some help.
The King and servant were
then able to help the poor.**



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