

Praying the Rosary

Teaching Plan

Teaching Tips

Ahead of introducing *Praying the Rosary* to the children, take time to familiarize yourself with the contents. Review this handout and how it correlates to the children's resource.

The resource is designed for children to interact with. Have the children follow along as you read aloud, and engage them in hands-on interaction with the resource, as suggested in the teaching steps below.

Background

The Rosary is a devotional that helps us pray to Jesus through Mary. It consists of a string of beads and a crucifix, and can be recited aloud in a group setting, or prayed silently in private. The Rosary is a scriptural prayer because it invites us to meditate on the Biblical events in the lives of Jesus and Mary. We call these events Mysteries.

Saint John Paul II wrote that the Rosary is meant to be experienced as "a path to contemplation." Everything about the Rosary, from the meditations on the Mysteries, to the repetition of prayers, to the fingering of the beads is meant to gently guide us away from distractions and into God's restful, loving presence. By helping children pray the Rosary, we help them contemplate God's gift of salvation as a reality they can picture in their own minds, as it is given to us by Jesus, who was born of Mary.

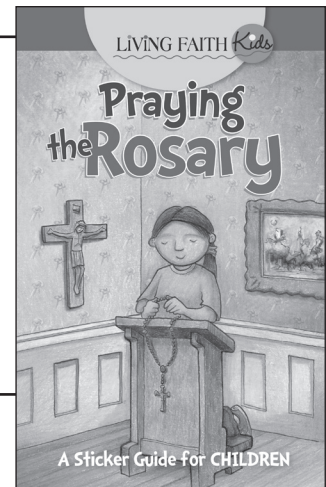
Opening Prayer

Begin your lessons with prayer. Use the following or modify it each time you pray it with the group.

Loving Father, open our hearts as we join Mary in the prayers of the Rosary. Send your Holy Spirit to help us reflect on the saving power of your Son Jesus, so that we can grow in wisdom, faith, and love. Amen.

Teaching Steps

Page(s)	
COVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct the children to look at the cover of their booklets. Say, <i>We will be learning about the Rosary. The Rosary is a way to pray to Jesus through his mother Mary.</i> • Discuss the art. Point out how the child is holding the Rosary beads. Ask, <i>How does the child seem to feel? Peaceful? Relaxed?</i> Note that although kneeling is a prayerful posture, it is not the only way to pray the Rosary. Many people pray while sitting, standing, walking, and even lying in bed!



2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read aloud the text. Repeat the phrase, “the most important stories from the life of Jesus.” Ask, <i>Have you ever prayed by remembering a story?</i> Explain that the Rosary is a way to pray using our imaginations to think about stories of Jesus and Mary in the Bible. Ask, <i>Where do we get the prayers that make up the Rosary?</i> (From the Bible)
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3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite the children to look at the picture of the Rosary beads. Ask, <i>Does this look like a Rosary you have seen? How is it the same, or different?</i> Call their attention to the crucifix. Invite them to place their finger on the crucifix and trace the beads with their fingers, following the arrows. Point out the large and small beads as they go. Ask, <i>How many of the large beads can you count?</i>
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