

TEACHER'S NOTES

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| 6 year olds | OUR HEAVENLY FATHER |
| Chapter 9 | Mary Hears Some Wonderful |
| Lesson 4 | The Rosary is Mary's Prayer |

AIMS

1. Children will learn about the rosary, our Lady's prayer.
2. They will learn that since Jesus is their brother and Mary is His mother, she is their mother as well.
3. They will understand that the rosary teaches about the lives of Jesus and Mary.
4. They will begin to pray the rosary.

STEP 1

Remind the children that Mary spent her entire life preparing for the saviour. Remind them also that the church has a special time waiting and preparation before Christmas each year. Ask them to name this season (Advent). Tell them that today they will learn about a new way to pray and prepare for the birth of Jesus.

STEP 2

Hold up a rosary so that students can see it. Point out the crucifix at the end, the short row of beads, and the longer circle of beads. Tell them that this is a rosary, a prayer that Our Lady asked everyone to say every day.

STEP 3

Remind the children that because Jesus is their brother and Mary is His mother, they are also her children. She is in Heaven now with Jesus, and loves her children on earth very much. By staying close to her, a person will always stay close to her Son, Jesus. One way to stay close to Our Lady is to play her rosary.

STEP 4

Give a rosary to each of the children and let them examine them (remind them that they should treat them with reverence, i.e., do not swing them about or put them around their necks). Explain that the rosary is a series of prayers that a person says with his voice, while at the same time thinking about the Blessed Mother and Jesus in his heart. That sounds complicated, but it is actually not difficult. Looking at pictures often helps to keep one's mind on Jesus and Mary while praying the rosary. We will practice doing this today.

STEP 5

Tell the children that the rosary begins with the Joyful Mysteries. Hold up your beads so they can see you move your fingers along them as you say your prayers. Announce that the first joyful mystery is the Annunciation, and remind them of this story. Have them turn to the picture of the Annunciation in their packs. Then save the Our Father and a few Hail Mary's moving your fingers along the beads. Have the children join in by saying the second half of the Hail Mary. Finish with the Glory Be.

STEP 6

Explain that Catholics often add another prayer to the rosary called the Fatima Prayer. It is called the Fatima Prayer because our lady revealed it when she appeared at Fatima. It and the GlorY Be are in the children's packs.

When you are finished, have the children bless themselves with the crucifix and put the Rosary beads reverently away where there will be easily accessible.

STEP 7

1. Have the children colour the rosary picture in their packs.
2. Give the children a chance to practice their memory work with questions 22 and 23

CONCLUDE

1. Encourage the children to visit a statue of Lady, kiss the statue and say "Hail Mary, pray for us."
2. Seeing "Immaculate Mary," *Adoremus hymnal*, #532

PREVIEW

In the next lesson, we will review all that we have learned and take a quiz.