

Rosary Key Chain

Lesson Plan

It's important that the children have a sense of the meaning of what they are doing when making the Rosary Key Chain – otherwise it becomes just a craft activity. Use the following questions to open the topic before beginning the rosary making.

- 1. Does anybody here say the Rosary? At home perhaps or at school?** [Ask 1-2 kids to tell where they say it, who says it with them etc]
- 2. Can anybody tell me what prayers make up the Rosary? There are 2 main ones.** [Hail Mary & Our Father. Other prayers said at the beginning are the Apostle's Creed and at the end, the Glory Be. At the end of a full Rosary, we say the Mary Queen of Heaven]
- 3. And can anyone tell me how many Hail Marys and Our Fathers we say in the Rosary?**
[1 Our Father & 10 Hail Marys for each decade]
- 4. Hands up anyone who thinks the Rosary is a bit boring? Saying the same prayer over and over?**
[You may have to coax them to be honest; when you have a few hands up continue with the next question. If no one finds the Rosary boring, ask them how they say it, what they pray for etc.]
- 5. Who would like to learn a different way of saying the Rosary – one that's fun and interesting?**
[That's great! We're going to have some fun today with the Rosary.]
- 6. It helps to know why we pray the Rosary. Raise your hand anybody who has perfect parents. They never shout at you, they're always there when you want them, they give you everything you want, they never get mad at you or do anything that upsets you.**
[Often you'll get one or two hands raised. Acknowledge them and share a short story of a time when you upset your parents.]
- 7. My parents weren't perfect, and I know that I'm not a perfect Mum/Dad either. Sometimes I get upset with my parents and I know my kids get upset with me. Have you ever been upset by one of your parents?** [Let the answers flow]
- 8. What do you do when you get upset with your Mum or Dad?** [Get one or two to give an answer]

- 9. Well, did you know that even when your earthly parents upset you, you still have perfect, HEAVENLY parents you can turn to? Who do you think they might be?** [Mary and the Father]
- 10. Did you know you had heavenly parents? Mary and the Father were Jesus' parents and they're our parents too. They are always there for us whenever we need them.**
- 11. When we say the Our Father, who are we praying to?** [Clue: it's the first line of a prayer - Our father in heaven]
- 12. When we say the Hail Mary, who are we praying to?** [Mary our mother]
- 13. When do you think it would be a good time to pray to your heavenly parents?**
- 14. So the Rosary is really a prayer to our heavenly parents, and you can say it anytime you feel upset with your earthly parents; maybe when you've been a bit naughty and you think they might need some help or for anything that you need help with. Just like you can go to your Mum or Dad when you need help with something, you can go to God the Father and Mary in the Rosary.**

So let's make some beads. [Hold up some samples and tell them this is a Rosary Key Chain.] **You can put it on your school bags or pencil case when you've finished.**

Make the Beads

Get them to get 1 bead for the Our Father, 10 beads for the Hail Marys and 6 beads for the cross. Wait till everybody has their 17 beads and remove the excess beads. Then show them how to string the first bead and so on [refer to the 'Rosary for Kids' Handout for full instructions].

Say the Rosary

At the end of the class say together a decade or, if short on time, the Joey Rosary. [Refer to the handout for the story of Joey and explain that the Joey Rosary is a short version especially for kids.]

Start by asking them to think silently about a special need, something for which they'd like help from Mary and the Father. When ready, start the prayer and show the children how to hold each bead as they say the appropriate prayer. [Refer to the handout for instructions for the Joey Rosary, the Rosary Decade, or the Full Rosary].