



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH THE ROSARY

STUDY GUIDE

1. Alex's class was making rosaries.
Have you ever made a rosary? Have you received any rosaries? At what times in our lives do rosaries make good gifts?

2. A religious mystery is an event or idea that we can think about often, but never completely understand. This is what the Rosary mysteries are—times when Jesus and Mary experienced God's love in a way that we can never fully understand here on earth. Explain how the Birth of Our Lord is a religious mystery.

3. Here are the Joyful mysteries:
 - 1) The Annunciation,
 - 2) The Visitation,
 - 3) The Birth of Our Lord,
 - 4) The Presentation,
 - 5) The Finding in the Temple.

Think of one time when God touched your life in a "joyful" way similar to these mysteries of the Rosary.



4. Go to your Bible. Find the stories that make up the Luminous mysteries.
 - 1) The Baptism in the Jordan [Mark 1: 9-11],
 - 2) The Wedding at Cana [John 2: 1-11],
 - 3) The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God [Matthew 5: 1-12 & all the parables],
 - 4) The Transfiguration [Mark 9: 2-8],
 - 5) The Institution of the Eucharist [Luke 22:14-20].

5. Some people pray the Rosary everyday. Although there is no one correct way to choose which mysteries you will think about while you pray, there are some suggestions. Many people pray the Sorrowful mysteries on Friday when they remember Jesus' death. They pray the Glorious mysteries on Sunday when they celebrate Jesus' resurrection at Mass.

Some people pray each set in the order that Jesus and Mary lived them—Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious.

Another way is to pray the mysteries that fit the liturgical season we are celebrating. During Advent and Christmas we would pray the Joyful mysteries. During Lent we would pray the Sorrowful and during the Ordinary Time of the Year we would pray the Luminous. What mysteries would we pray during Easter and Pentecost?

6. The Rosary is a prayer that lets us relax as we think about God's love for us.

When are good times to pray the Rosary? How could praying the Rosary help you calm your "spirit"? Make a decision to find a little time each day to pray the Rosary, even if you only say one decade each day.

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