

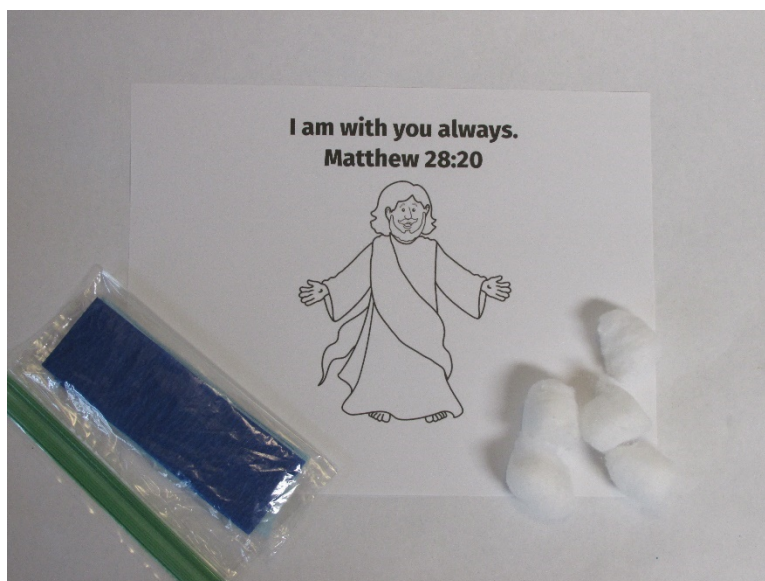
It's time to Make Something

Ascension – Acts 1:1-11 and Luke 24:44-53

It was time to go home. After Jesus rose from the dead He spent 40 days on earth appearing to His disciples and others. Many saw Him and knew that He had risen from the dead and had beaten death. As much as Jesus's disciples would have liked Him to stay with them forever, Jesus was done with what He had come to earth to accomplish and it was time for Him to return to His Father in heaven and prepare a place for us. Before He left Jesus told His disciples that they would be witnesses of all they had seen and heard as they took the Good News of Him to the ends of the earth. Talk about a big job! Jesus didn't intend for them to do it alone though. He told them He would be sending the Holy Spirit to help them and even though He wouldn't be physically with them anymore, He was still with them and always would be.

There are two crafts for this week. The beaded one is a little harder, but read the directions carefully and I tried to include pictures to help you. The beads used in it aren't 'normal' beads. Their colors change depending upon where they are so you can have fun testing how those react when your craft is finished.

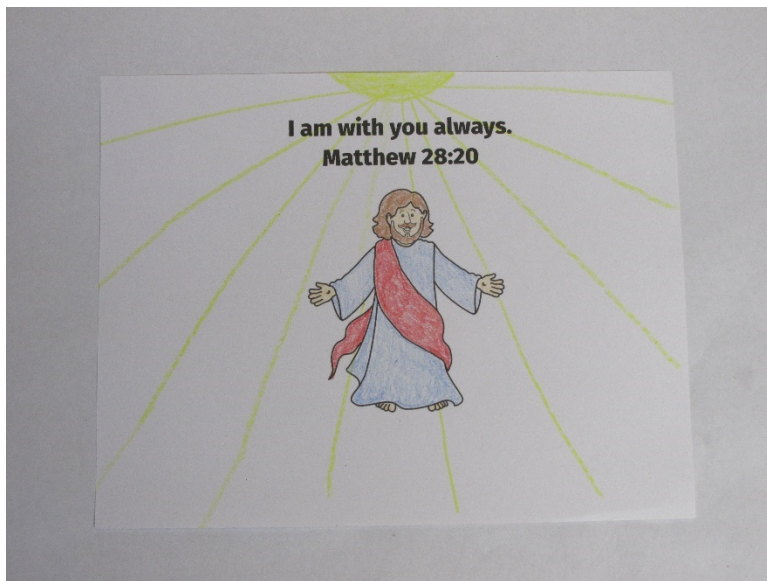
The first craft this week is a windsock. From your 'take out box' you'll need the picture of Jesus, cotton balls, and the streamers.



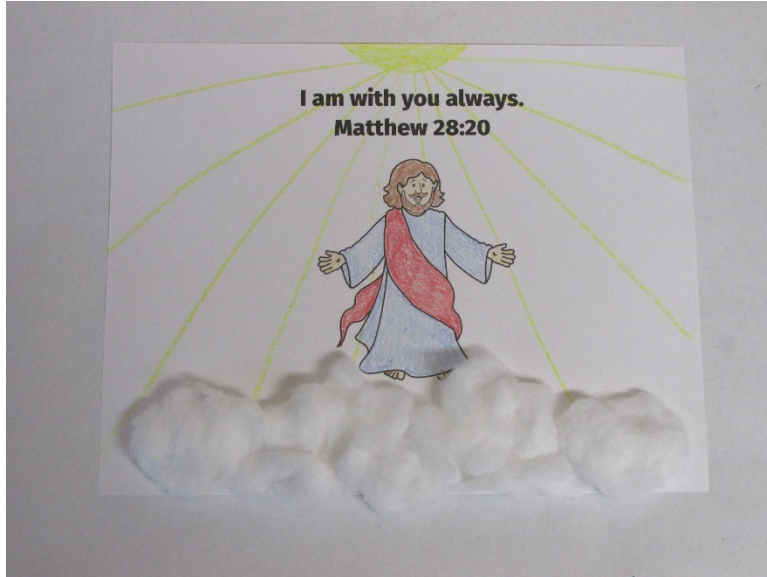
From your supplies at home you'll need crayons or markers, glue, and optional tape.



Start by coloring the picture of Jesus. You can color a background of a sky or sun's rays on the rest of the paper or you can leave it blank.



Take the cotton balls and stretch them apart a little. Glue them around Jesus's feet and/or across the bottom of the paper. Press them down a little so that they make good contact with the glue.



The two colors of blue streamers will hang from the bottom of your windsock. Flip your paper over and glue (or tape) the streamers in a row so that they are hanging off the bottom of the paper.



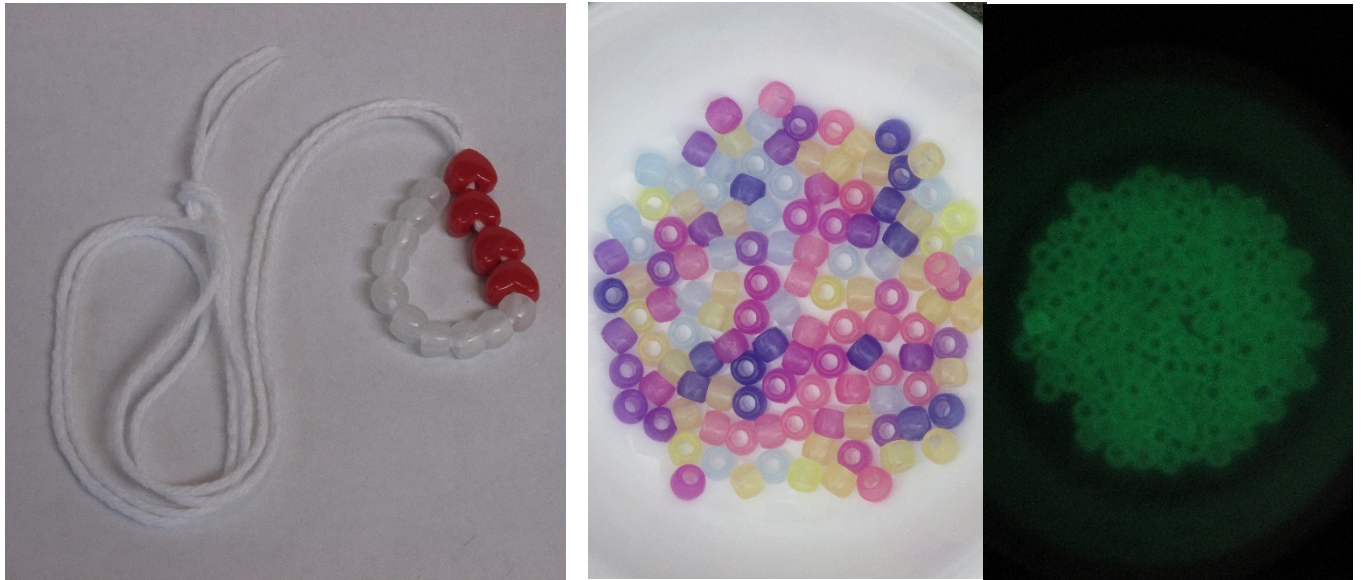
When the glue is set on your streamers, curl your paper into a tube with the short ends overlapping a little. Glue the ends together. A little tape can be used to hold it in place while the glue dries.



Your windsock craft is done. Nebraska winds are too strong so hang your windsock indoors, but you'll probably still be able to see the streamers flutter sometimes. You don't see the wind, but you can see that it has effects. After He ascended the disciples weren't able to see Jesus the same way that they had been, but that didn't mean that He was gone. Someday we'll go to heaven to the place Jesus prepared for us, but even before that time we can know that He is still with us even though we don't physically see Him. He also sent the Holy Spirit just as He said so that we can have faith to believe what He fulfilled. That's the news that the disciples spread after Jesus returned to heaven and what still spreads today.



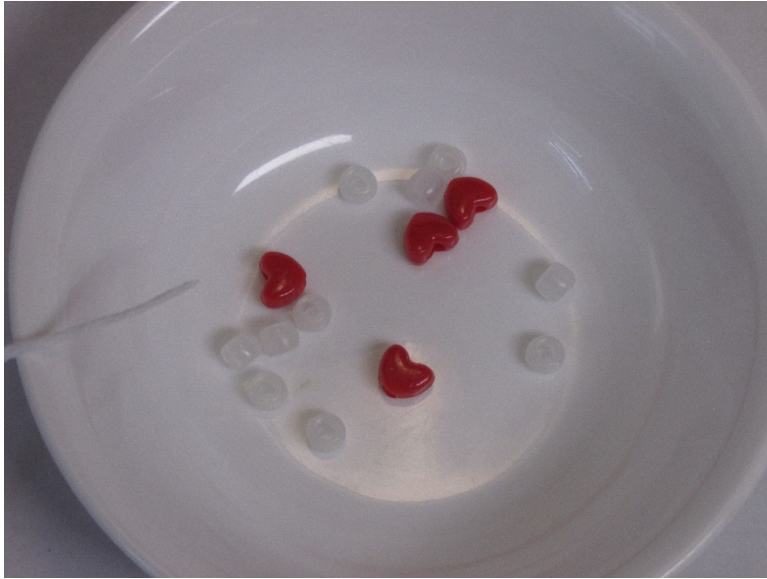
The second craft for this week is a beaded cross. To make the cross you'll need the string of beads from your 'take out box'. The round beads look fairly clear in normal room light, but these beads will change into a surprising assortment of colors in the sunlight and they also glow in the dark.



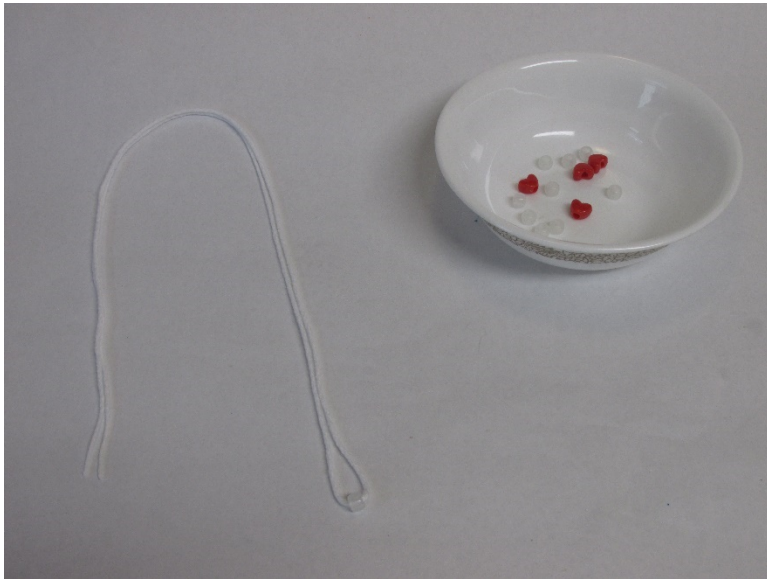
From your supplies at home you'll need a scissors. A bowl can also be used to hold the beads while you're stringing them.



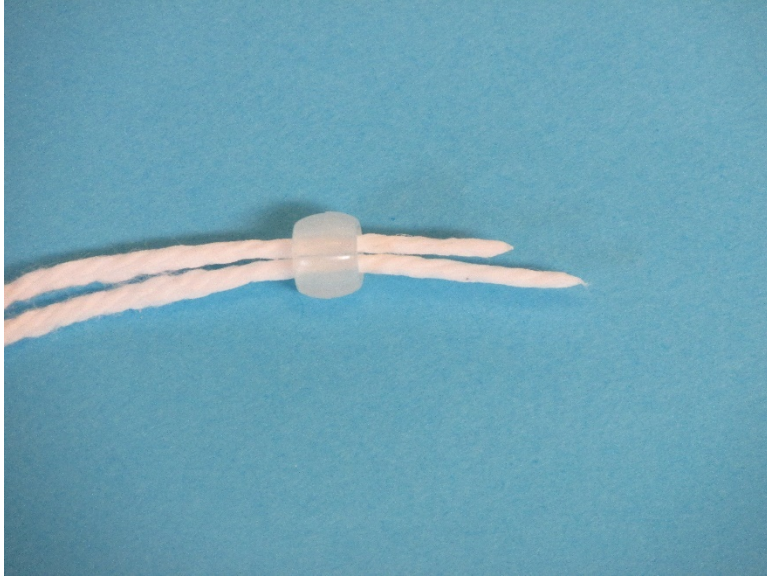
Start by untying the knot on your string of beads and taking them off. Put them into a bowl so they don't roll away while you're working on your project. The ends of the string were dipped in glue to keep them from unraveling while you work. If the ends do start to come apart, you can roll some tape around the end or dip it into glue again to make it easier to string the beads.



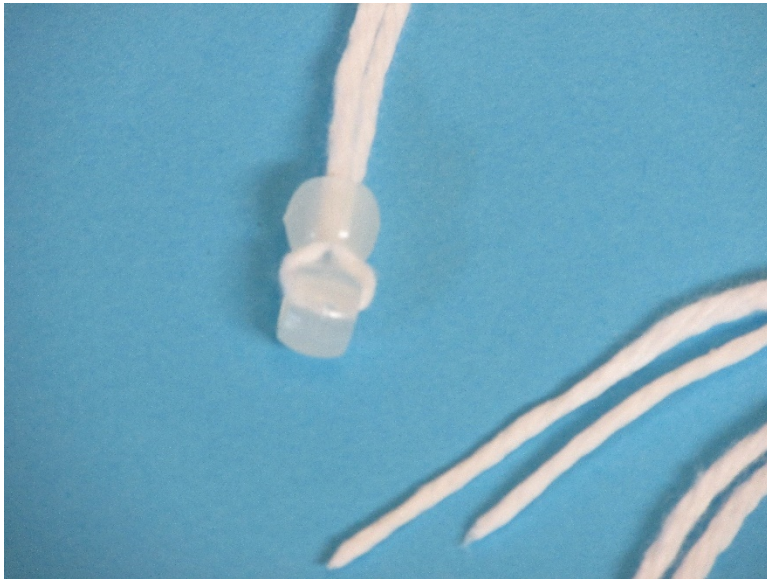
Start by putting one of the clear beads on your string and then hold the two ends of the string together so that you can slide the bead to the middle.



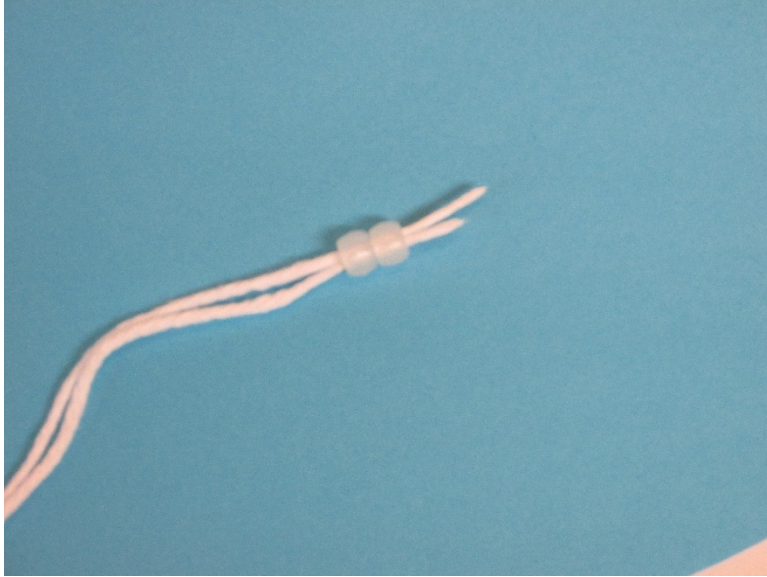
Take another clear bead and put both ends of the string through it going the same way. You can put one end of the string through at a time if that's easier.



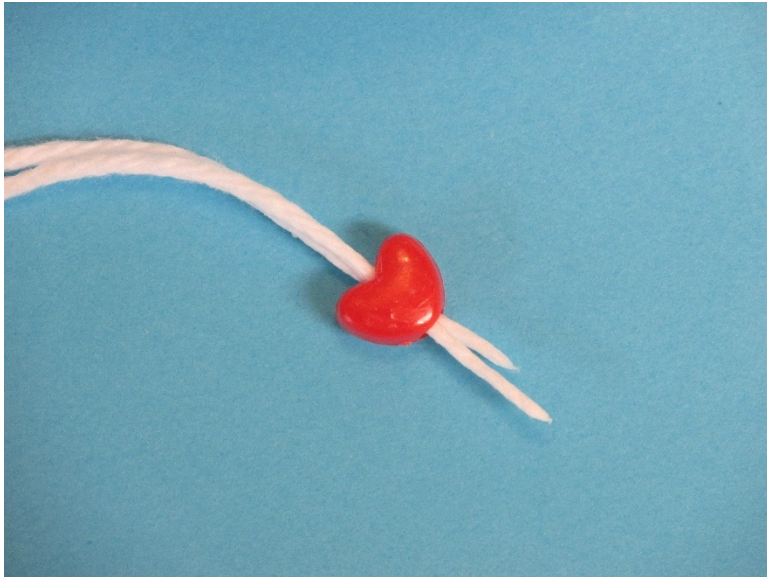
Slide the bead down next to the first one. Make sure that both beads are about in the middle of the string. It doesn't have to be exact, but scoot them over a little if they got too far off the middle when you were adding the second bead.



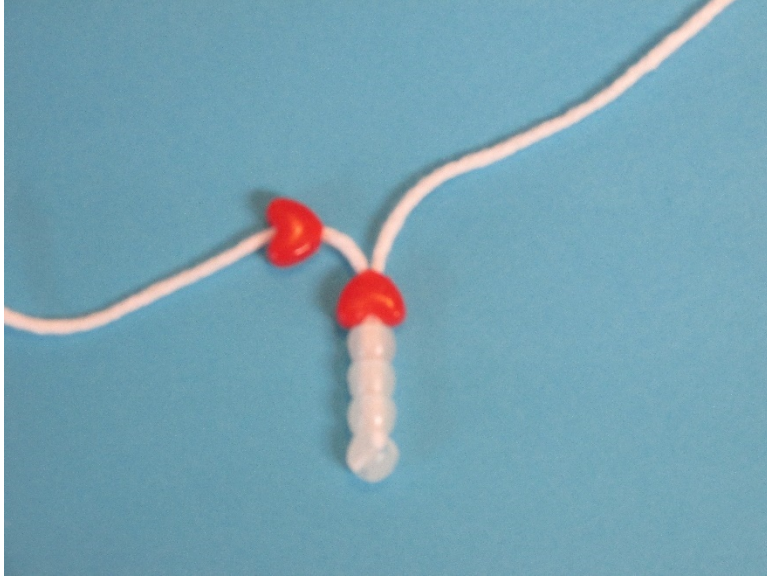
Add two more clear beads like you just did with both ends of the string going up through the hole. Slide them down on top of the first two beads.



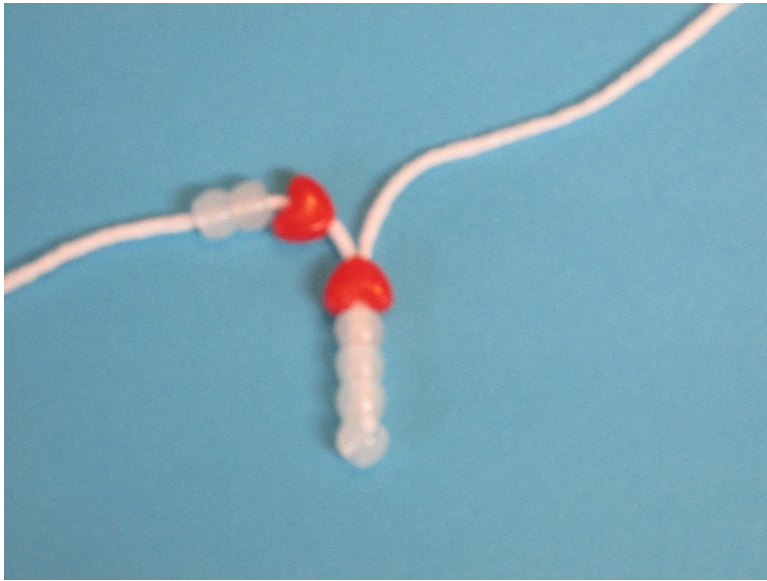
Take one of the heart beads and thread both of the string ends through the top of the heart. This will make it upside down when you slide it on top of the other beads.



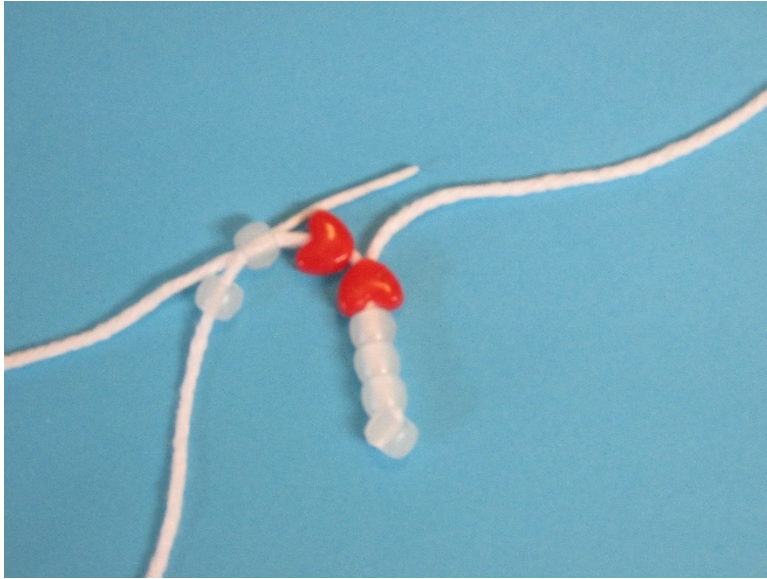
Now it's time to separate your strings and work one side at a time. Thread one string through the bottom of a heart bead. The point at the bottom of this heart will end up next to the point of the other heart.



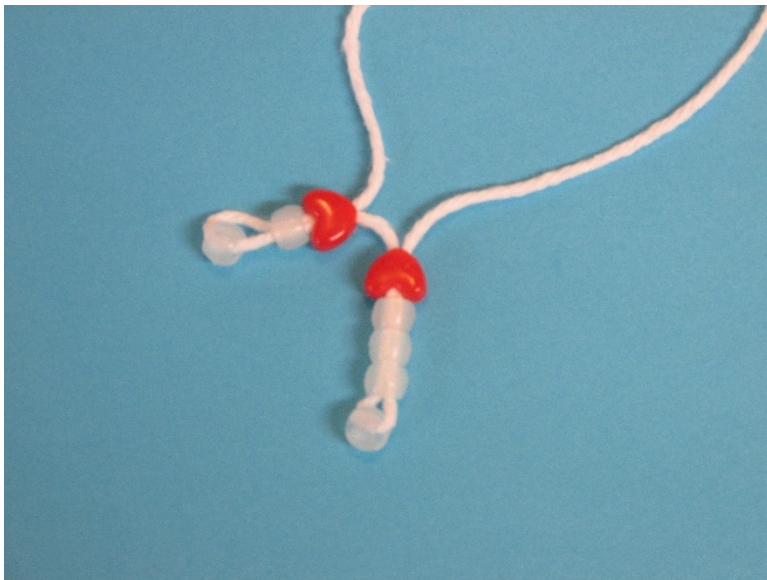
String 2 clear beads onto the same string.



Skip over the last bead you just put on and double back to thread your string through the hole of the bead just before it, heading back towards the top of the heart bead.



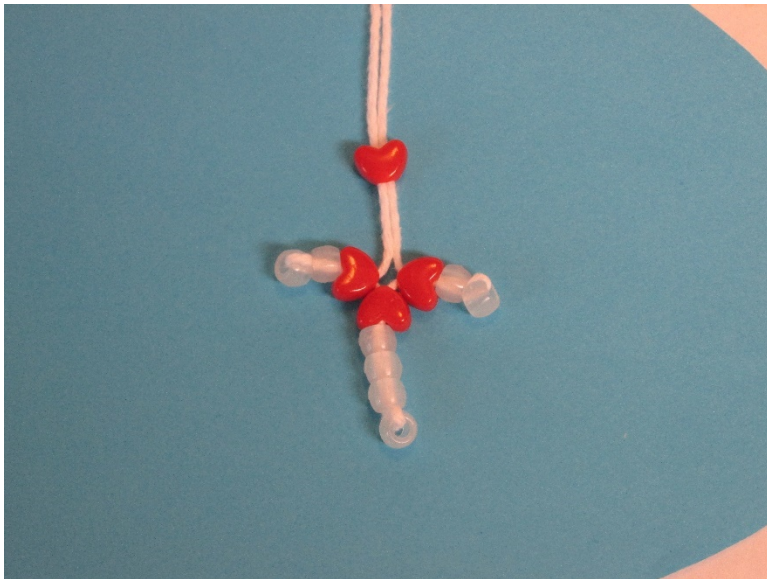
Thread your string through the heart bead going from the top of the heart and coming out the point.



Now go back to the second string and do the same thing with that one so that both sides have 1 heart and 2 round beads. After both sides are done, slide the beads and pull the strings so that the heart beads come together in the center and you get rid of any loose string.



Put both sides of the string back together and thread both of them through the last heart bead going from bottom to the top.



Thread the last two clear beads on top of the heart by threading both strings through both of the beads.



Pull the strings tight to get rid of as much loose string as possible. Have an adult help tie a couple of overhand knots as close to the top of the beads as possible. The arms of the cross may still sag a little, but that's because the tops of the round beads and the heart beads are shaped differently.



Tie the ends of the two strings together to make a necklace. Make sure to make it long enough so that it can be slipped over your head and then cut off any extra string.



Your cross necklace is finished. When Jesus returned to heaven the disciples couldn't see Him in person anymore (kind of like your clear beads), but they remembered what He did and how He showed God's perfect love when He died on the cross and rose again (the heart beads). We may not be able to see Jesus physically as the disciples did, but He is still with us all the time – on our good days, our not so good days when we feel scared and alone, and everything in between. In the sun your cross will look bright and multicolored. In the dark it will glow. The color of your cross may change depending upon where you are when you wear it, but it's always a cross with love at its center so that no matter life circumstances you can always be reminded of Jesus and how He saved us.

