Eye of God Mexican Yarn Ornament (*Ojo de Dios*)

Grades 3–8

Materials:

Two 12" craft sticks or sticks about 1" thick (twigs, popsicle sticks, toothpicks)	6" piece of cardboard, 1 per student
Scissors	Optional: Glue
Various balls of yarn in four colors (length depends upon how large you wish the god's eye to be)	

You will need aides to help the younger students.

Directions:

1. Glue the sticks together or wrap the yarn around both sticks at right angles with centers matching to secure them in the shape of a cross.

2. Tie the end of one color of yarn around the sticks at their centers so that the knot is in the back. Always work with the front side facing you.

3. Hold the crossed sticks in one hand and the yarn in the other. Turn the cross frame and weave the yarn in a circular manner, wrapping it completely around each stick as you come to it.

4. You may change colors at any time. Tuck the old and new yarn ends under and continue wrapping the new color.

5. Continue wrapping yarn to within three-fourths inch of the stick ends.

6. Trim off excess yarn and knot or tuck yarn end under.

7. Add pompoms to the ends of the sticks if desired. To make pompoms, loop yarn around your thumb and first finger, tie the loop in the center and then cut through the ends.

FAITH CONNECTION

The Ojo de Dios, literally translated from the Spanish, means "eye of god" and was a symbol used by the indigenous people of northwestern Mexico. This design has also been found as far south as Peru and as far east as Egypt.

Although the indigenous people did not know God as Jesus, they did know there was a "Great Spirit" greater than themselves. They felt a need for prayer and used this symbol as a request for health and protection.

We can use this as a Christian symbol today by observing that the center is a cross and by reflecting on the power of the cross and Jesus' Resurrection as a sign of God's love for all. The four beams of the cross reach to the four ends of the earth: north, south, east, and west.