

Celebrando la Navidad con El Niño Dios



 **WEEK 3**
Seeing the Face of Jesus in Others

This week's theme is about seeing the face of Jesus in the people around us and understanding that caring for others is a way to care for Jesus. The inspiration comes from Matthew 25, where Jesus says:

**"For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me."**

Through simple, heartfelt acts of kindness, your child will learn to share God's Chesed love with others.



Helping Your Child See the Face of Jesus in Others

Something incredible happens at this stage in your child's life (ages 5-9). They're growing in empathy—the ability to understand and care about how others feel. You might notice your child wanting to help someone who's upset or sharing a toy with a friend who doesn't have one. These are natural moments when their hearts are learning to love, and it's a perfect time to nurture their faith.

When it comes to faith, children in this age group are naturally curious and ready to engage with stories and examples they can relate to. They also love being part of something bigger than themselves. This is where their faith journey takes root: not just hearing about God's love, but feeling it in their relationships and living it through their actions.

One of the most effective ways to guide your child's faith development is to let them be the protagonist, the main character, in their own faith story. It becomes intensely personal for them when they realize that their choices, kindness, and actions bring their faith to life. They sense more is happening in their life; there is more significant meaning, a fulfillment, they are experiencing even if they cannot name it. The result is that children begin to see that their love for Jesus is something they can live out every day. A child is motivated to live their faith through friendship with Jesus and loving God by loving others. As a parent, you can't help but feel proud and inspired by the impact your child's actions have on their faith.

As a parent, you play a vital role in this journey. You get to be their guide, their supporter, and their example. This week's theme, 'Seeing the face of Jesus in Others,' gives you an opportunity to help your child take their faith to the next level by making it real in their daily life. It's a journey that will bring you immense joy and fulfillment as you see your child's faith blossom.

Here's how you can nurture both their developmental and faith stages this week. It's a responsibility that you, as a parent, are committed to fulfilling.

Recognize their readiness to care for others. At this age, kids genuinely want to help and make others feel better. Tap into that natural desire by encouraging them to notice when someone needs kindness or help—and to take action, even in small ways.

Help them connect their actions to their faith. Read Matthew 25 with them ("When I was hungry when I was thirsty...") and explain that when we care for others, we're caring for Jesus. Talk about how their love for God can shine through in their treatment of others.

Empower them to lead. Let your child come up with ideas for how they can help someone this week. It could be sharing a snack, drawing a picture for someone lonely, or donating a toy they've outgrown. Celebrate their choices and remind them that they're living out their faith.

Children in this stage want to feel like they can make a difference, and they can. By helping them see Jesus in others and encouraging them to take simple steps of kindness and service, you're teaching them that faith is not just something we believe—it's something we do.

This week, your child can see themselves as part of God's bigger story. They'll learn that their actions, no matter how small, are a way of saying, "I love you, Jesus." And you have the joy of walking alongside them as they take these steps of faith. Together, you're building a foundation for a life of love, service, and connection with God.



Activities for the Week:

1. Scripture Storytime: Matthew 25

- Activity: Read Matthew 25:35–40 together, using simple language and visual aids. Discuss how Jesus teaches us to serve Him by helping others.
- Objective: Introduce the idea that helping others is a way to show love to Jesus.

2. Kindness Chain

- Activity: Create a paper chain. Your child adds a link each time they do a kind act, such as sharing, comforting, or helping someone. Hang the chain as a reminder of how their actions serve Jesus.
- Objective: Reinforce the connection between small acts of kindness and love for Jesus.

3. Feeding the Hungry

- Activity: Have your child help prepare a snack or meal to share with a family member, friend, or neighbor. Remind them that by feeding others, they are feeding Jesus.
- Objective: Teach the importance of generosity and sharing as ways to show love.

4. Quenching Thirst

- Activity: Fill cups with water and talk about how offering a drink to someone who is thirsty is like offering one to Jesus. Encourage your child to look for ways to care for others in everyday moments. Offering water to a guest in your home is a sign of hospitality. One that many Abuelitas taught well.
- Objective: Show how small, thoughtful acts make a big difference.

5. Caring for the Lonely

- Activity: Talk about people who might feel lonely, like a neighbor, friend, or relative. Please encourage your child to reach out with a drawing, a kind note, or by spending time with them.
- Objective: Help your child see the importance of comforting others to be close to Jesus.

6. Clothing the Needy

- Activity: Go through clothes and toys with your child to find items to donate. Explain that sharing these things helps Jesus by helping those in need.
- Objective: Instill a sense of compassion and generosity.

7. Acts of Service for Jesus

- Activity: Encourage your child to help family members with small tasks like setting the table or cleaning up. Have them do each act with the intention of serving Jesus by serving others.
- Objective: Build a habit of seeing service as a reflection of their love for Jesus.

Going Deeper into *Chesed*:

In Week 2, we explored how *Chesed* is God's special love for us—a love that never fails, never gives up, and is always present. This week, we build on that understanding by realizing that God's *Chesed* is not meant to stop with us. It fills us up so completely that it naturally overflows, moving us to share it with those around us. *Chesed* is a love that reaches outward—it inspires us to care for others, especially those who are vulnerable or in need. By sharing God's love, we live out its purpose, reflecting His heart for the world. As parents, you can encourage your child to see that their kindness and care for others are ways of sharing the limitless love they receive from God. Help your child see how their love for Jesus grows when they share kindness with others. Encourage them to look for opportunities to care for people around them, knowing that their acts of love reflect their love for Jesus.

Remind your child often that Jesus is present in the people they serve. Use phrases like:

- "When you share your kindness, you're sharing it with Jesus!"
- "Look how you're helping Jesus by helping others!"
- "Your love is shining so brightly when you care for others!"

By seeing Jesus in others, your child will grow in their understanding of what it means to live out God's *Chesed* love, turning love and kindness into a beautiful act of faith.

Praying with the Baby Jesus

These prayers will encourage your child to recognize Jesus in the people around them and inspire acts of care and kindness. Each prayer is a special moment to build a relationship with Jesus and feel His presence in daily life as they learn to care for others with love and compassion.

It may help to read a part of the prayer and have your child repeat it after you. Feel free to make this prayer spontaneous and personal; the words are provided as a guide, but your heartfelt words are always welcome.

Morning Prayer: Loving Eyes to See Jesus in Others

Hold the Baby Jesus in your hands.

"Dear Baby Jesus, thank You for loving us so much. Please open our eyes today to see You in everyone we meet. Help us notice those who need kindness, care, and love. Show us how we can share Your love through our actions. Amen."

Encouragement: Start the day by setting an intention to look for ways to show love to others, helping the child stay mindful of their actions throughout the day.

Parent and Child Prayer: Helping Hands of Love

Before Starting the Day

Parent and child hold hands and pray together:

"Dear Baby Jesus, thank You for giving us hands to help and hearts to love. Please bless our hands today so we can use them to share kindness, care, and love with others. Let every small act we do—whether helping at home, sharing at school, or comforting a friend—be done for You. Amen." As an optional gesture, you can make the Sign of the Cross on your child's palms as a reminder that their hands are blessed and ready to serve.

Encouragement: This prayer strengthens the connection between parent and child, fostering a shared mission to live out God's love together.

Car Prayer: Loving Eyes to See Others

While Driving or Before School Drop-Off

As you pass people, homes, or schools, say this prayer:

"Baby Jesus, help us see You in the people we pass today. Let us notice those who might feel sad, lonely, or in need. Show us how we can be kind and caring, whether by sharing a smile, helping a friend, or saying kind words. Amen."

Encouragement: Use this moment to teach the child that noticing others' needs is the first step to serving Jesus.

Nighttime Reflection Prayer: Loving Actions for Jesus With the Baby Jesus

Hold the Baby Jesus figurine and pray:

"Dear Jesus, today I tried to show Your love by [name something specific the child did]. Thank You for helping me care for others and reminding me that You are with me in all I do. Please help me to keep loving and serving others tomorrow. Amen."

Encouragement: Reflecting on specific actions ties the day's experiences to their faith, helping the child see their small acts of love as part of their relationship with Jesus.

A Prayer for Those in Need

Prayer:

"Dear Baby Jesus, some people don't have enough food, water, or warm clothes. Please be with them and help me find ways to share what I have. Show me how I can help someone today so they can feel Your love. Amen."

Purpose: To focus on helping those in need and developing compassion.

These prayers create a rhythm of faith throughout the day, encouraging both parent and child to actively live out and reflect on Jesus's love in their daily lives.