

# Celebrando la Navidad con El Niño Dios



## WEEK 4

Preparing for February 2,  
Levantar al Niño Dios

### Theme: Jesus Our King, Growing in Love, Friendship, and Mission

This final week prepares your family to celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple on February 2. It honors both the biblical story and the beautiful home traditions found throughout Mexico and the Hispanic world.

Your child has spent four weeks caring for Baby Jesus, receiving His love, and learning to see His face in others. Now we celebrate that Jesus is growing, and our friendship with Him is growing too.



### How Families Celebrate This Day

Across Mexico and Latino communities, this feast is celebrated in two meaningful ways:

#### 1. Bringing Niño Dios, Doves, and Candles to Mass

Just as Mary and Joseph carried Jesus to the Temple, many families bring a basket that holds:

- the Niño Dios image
- two small doves
- a candle
- flowers or simple offerings

They present this basket at Mass to receive a blessing. This act helps children see that faith begins in the home and continues in the Church. Families are invited to take Niño Dios to Mass on February 2. It is a beautiful way to link home traditions with the life of the Church.

#### 2. Levantar al Niño Dios at Home

Families prepare a small celebration where Niño Dios is lifted from His little bed and placed on His special chair or throne. This gesture honors Him as Christ the King. His kingdom is not like kingdoms of the world. His kingdom is built on love, mercy, humility, compassion, and friendship.

This home ritual can be as simple or elaborate as a family wishes. Some families sing alabanzas. Others offer longer prayers. Some gather padrinos, godchildren, or extended family. This guide offers a version that is short and child-friendly, focused on helping children pray, celebrate, and grow in faith.

### Connecting the February 2 Readings to Our Theme

#### Malachi 3:1-4

Malachi announces that the Lord will enter His Temple and purify His people. He comes not with earthly power but with healing and restoration. When families lift Niño Dios at home, they honor this truth. Jesus enters our homes, purifies our hearts, and calls us to walk in His light.

#### Hebrews 2:14-18

Hebrews teaches that Jesus became like us in every way. He entered our humanity completely so He could walk with us and show us the way of love. This is exactly what your family has lived these four weeks. You have held Him, cared for Him, and seen Him as friend. Placing Him on His throne now acknowledges that the King of Love is also the one who shares our life.

#### Luke 2:22-40

Mary and Joseph present Jesus in the Temple. Simeon and Anna recognize Him as the long-awaited King. They see who He truly is even though He looks like an ordinary child. This is what happens in our homes. We honor the humble, gentle, small child who is Christ the King. We celebrate that His kingdom is different: the last are first, love is stronger than power, and mercy heals the world.



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### Christ the King

Jesus is King, but His kingdom is not built on riches or armies. His kingdom grows wherever love grows. He teaches a way that turns the world upside down.

The last shall be first.  
Love your enemies.  
Serve the poor.  
Care for the forgotten.  
Walk in kindness.  
Live with mercy.  
His kingdom is the Kingdom of Love.

By building a small throne for Niño Dios, children learn that Jesus reigns with tenderness, humility, and friendship. He is the King who wants to be close to us. He is the King whose heart is open to the small, the poor, and the humble.

#### Helping Your Child Understand Jesus as King

Jesus is a King.

Not a king with a castle or gold crown.  
He is the King of Love.  
He loves everyone.  
He helps the people nobody sees.  
He forgives.  
He listens.  
He teaches us to be kind and brave.

When we make a throne for Jesus and place Him on it, we are saying:  
"Jesus, You are my King. The king of my heart. I love You. I want to follow Your way."

Imagine Jesus smiles and says:  
"Thank you for caring for Me. Thank you for loving others. I am your friend."

### Activities for the Week

#### 1. Make a Throne for Niño Dios

Create a simple chair or throne using cardboard, sticks, or fabric. This throne represents His kingship and His growing presence in your home. Visit [lafamiliascatechesis.com](http://lafamiliascatechesis.com) for printable chair designs.

#### 2. Dress Baby Jesus

Invite your child to choose or create clothing for Niño Dios. This honors a long tradition of preparing Him with beauty and love.

**3. Storytime:** The Presentation in the Temple  
Read Luke 2:22 to 40. Talk about Simeon and Anna who saw Jesus and recognized Him as the Savior. Prepare a small basket with doves and a candle to take to Mass.

#### 4. Reflection on Growth

Invite your child to draw how they have grown in friendship with Jesus. Help them name moments of kindness, courage, and love.

#### 5. Practice the Home Celebration

Prepare the space for the ritual. Gather flowers, candles, and the throne. Practice lifting Niño Dios and placing Him on His throne.

#### 6. Friendship Promise

Invite your child to write or draw a simple promise to Jesus:  
praying, helping others, choosing kindness, or remembering He is their friend.

## A Note About Piñatas and Fiesta

**Piñatas are always a great addition to a Mexican fiesta.** The traditional piñata with five or seven points represents the sins and the temptations of this world. Blindfolded, we strike the piñata together as a sign that as a community we fight the temptations, stay focused on Jesus, and support one another on the path to heaven. When the piñata breaks, the shower of candy symbolizes the joy and reward of living a faithful life. It becomes a symbol of grace.

Like the Piñata song says:

**Dale, dale, dale, no pierdas el tino,  
Porque si lo pierdes, pierdes el camino."**

**(hit it, hit it, hit it! Don't lose your aim)  
(because if you lose it, you lose the path)**

**Keep your eyes on Jesus, Keep your heart steady, Walk together in faith, fight against the temptations of this world, and We will reach heaven together.**

A fiesta reminds children that faith is joyful.  
God is present in celebration, music, community, and love.



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### Hispanic Spirituality: Educating the Heart of your child

For many Hispanics, the idea of being "educated" extends far beyond academic or intellectual achievements. To be truly educated—bien educado - means to know how to live as a contributing member of the community, guided by values that nurture relationships, hospitality, and human dignity.

It is about forming the heart grounded in the message of Jesus Christ, to care for others, to work for the common good, and to live with respect and compassion for all people, creation, and God's presence in the world. This understanding of education is deeply rooted in the values and wisdom passed down by our ancestors. Values which include, the centrality of community, honoring relationships, and treating all people with dignity, respect, and care to name a few. It is an education of the heart, teaching us how to live as part of the pueblo de Dios (the people of God), where the "I" is always part of the "we." Hispanic spirituality finds its roots in the wisdom of ancestors who lived faith in everyday life and taught through life practices. These traditions inspire our children to live meaningful lives grounded in faith.

These values shape how we "educate," raise our children, instilling in them the practices of:

- **Familia and Community:** Hispanic spirituality emphasizes the beauty of relationships and community. It teaches us that to live well is to live connected—to our families, our neighbors, our environment, and ultimately, to God.
- **Hospitality:** Offering a glass of water to a guest is more than a gesture; it is a reflection of the sacredness of welcoming others.
- **Human Dignity:** Teaching our children to acknowledge the person by saying "Good morning" or "God bless you" is an education in respecting the inherent dignity of every person.
- **Care for the Common Good:** Working not just for personal success but for the well-being of the entire community is a central goal in life.
- **Respect for All:** Valuing people, animals, and the earth reminds us of our interconnectedness in God's creation.
- **Celebration and Joy:** Fiesta is more than a party—it is a sacred time to celebrate life, faith, and relationships through music, dance, and togetherness.
- **Family and Relationships:** Family is the heart of life, and every relationship is an opportunity to encounter God.
- **God's beauty everywhere:** This belief is reflected in the vibrant colors and art that fill homes, celebrations, and even everyday surroundings. These elements are not merely decorative; they are expressions of faith that remind us of God's presence and keep God close.
- **Tradiciones religiosas populares** teach us how to live and love.

These values teach our children that God is found in everyday life. They connect us with our ancestors and prepare our children to live with generosity, compassion, justice, and joy.

Material possessions fade.

Faith endures.

Faith is the inheritance that forms disciples of Jesus who will transform the world with love.

### Parent Reflection: You Are the Catechist

You have introduced your child to Jesus. You have prayed with them, guided them, and helped them grow. Take a moment to reflect.

Who introduced you to the faith?

Why is your faith important to you?

How has walking with Baby Jesus touched your own heart?

What do you want your child to remember about these weeks?

Faith is not only learned. It is lived. You are teaching your child that Jesus is real, loving, and close. You are shaping their heart with values that will last a lifetime.

