

Celebrando la Navidad con El Niño Dios



WEEK 1
Caring For Baby Jesus's needs

Theme: Helping your child grow closer to Baby Jesus by imagining His presence with them and learning to care for Him.

Activities to Try This Week

1. Carry Baby Jesus With You

Remind your child that they have been chosen to care for Baby Jesus for the next 4 weeks.

- Invite them to carry Baby Jesus with them during the day, imagining He is truly present.
- Encourage them to check on Him often:
 - "Are you comfortable, Baby Jesus?"
 - "I'll keep you safe with me today!"

2. Make a Bed for Baby Jesus

Create a cozy place for Baby Jesus to sleep:

- Use a small basket, box, or soft spot from around the house.
- Add a handmade blanket from fabric scraps, an old towel, or paper.
- Place the bed next to your child's bed so Baby Jesus can "sleep" safely.



3. Care for Baby Jesus Throughout the Day

Help your child include Baby Jesus in their daily routines:

- Pretend to feed Him and give Him water.
- Keep Him warm and comfortable by wrapping Him in a blanket.
- Hold Him close during playtime or when your child needs comfort.

4. Talk to Baby Jesus

Encourage your child to talk to Baby Jesus as they would a friend.

- Tell Him about their day.
- Share their joys and worries, a special memory from the day or something that made them laugh
- Say "Good night, Baby Jesus" and make the sign of the Cross before going to bed and thank Him for being with them.

A Special Role

Remind your child:



"You have been chosen to keep Baby Jesus safe and cared for over the next 4 weeks. It's your special job to make sure He is okay, just like Mary and Joseph did. Baby Jesus trusts you to look after Him with love and care!"

Building a Relationship With Jesus

This week, help your child:

- Imagine Baby Jesus as part of their day.
- Feel His presence with them, just like a close friend.
- Grow in love and care for Him through their actions and conversations.

Encourage your child with loving words like:

- "You're doing such an amazing job keeping Baby Jesus safe!"
- "He's so happy to be with you!"
- "You are showing Jesus how much you love Him by caring for Him so well."
- "Baby Jesus loves being with you!"
- "You're such a wonderful helper to Him!"
- "Look how close you're growing to Jesus by caring for Him so well."

Hispanic Spirituality: *Persignarse*

Hispanic spirituality teaches us to live our faith from the heart through simple gestures filled with meaning. One beautiful tradition is *persignarse*, making the Sign of the Cross.

For many Mexican Catholics, this prayer ends by gently kissing the fingers that formed the cross. The hand itself becomes a symbol of what we believe: the cross reminds us that Jesus is both divine and human, and the three fingers pointing upward represent the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This small gesture becomes like a mini creed we carry with us, a way of saying with our bodies, "This is what I believe." Invite your child to learn this loving tradition as a daily reminder that God is close and walks with them.



Nurturing your child's faith through Imagination

Helping Your Child Connect With Baby Jesus

Children aged 5 to 9 are in a special stage of development where imagination and role-playing are key to how they learn and understand the world. At this age, they are naturally drawn to concrete images and hands-on activities that allow them to explore relationships and responsibilities.

The image of Baby Jesus offers your child a tangible way to connect with their faith. Caring for Baby Jesus gives them a specific, meaningful role—something they can see, touch, and imagine. Through this role, they begin to understand that Jesus isn't far away in the clouds or abstract; He is close, loving, and someone they can have a relationship with.

By carrying Baby Jesus, talking to Him, and meeting His needs, your child experiences:

- A Sense of Responsibility: They feel proud to care for Jesus, just like Mary and Joseph did.
- An Opportunity to Imagine: Pretending Jesus is present helps bring their faith to life.
- A Growing Awareness of Love: Through simple, loving actions, they begin to see how Jesus is always with them and loves them deeply.

This could be the beginning of a lifelong relationship with Jesus. Introducing your child to Baby Jesus, who is the Incarnation—the Word made flesh—helps them begin to see how God became human to share in our daily lives. Jesus wants to be close to your child and to be their friend.

It doesn't have to be complicated. The simplicity of carrying Baby Jesus, imagining His presence, and talking to Him is powerful. Any extra activities or learning you add only deepens the experience, but even small, loving acts can build a foundation for faith.

Encourage your child's connection with Jesus by affirming their efforts and reminding them of how important their role is. Through these small acts, they'll start to see Jesus not only as the Baby they care for but as someone who loves and walks with them every day.

Praying With Baby Jesus

Help your child connect with Baby Jesus through simple, meaningful prayers. These small moments of prayer will encourage your child to build a relationship with Jesus and feel His presence in their daily life.



Suggested Prayer Ideas:

- **Begin and End the Day With Jesus:** Teach your child to make the Sign of the Cross and say these or other words:
 - "Good morning, Baby Jesus. Thank You for being with me today. Help me to take care of You and love others like You love me."
 - "Good night, Baby Jesus. Thank You for being with me today. I love You. Please watch over me as I sleep."
- **Talk to Jesus Throughout the Day:** Encourage your child to share their thoughts with Baby Jesus, like telling Him about their day, their feelings, or things they're excited about.
- **Pray Before Meals:** Guide your child to say:
 - "Thank You, Baby Jesus, for my food. Please bless everyone who helps take care of me."
- **Ask Jesus for Help:** When they feel sad, worried, or need help, suggest they say:
 - "Baby Jesus, please be with me and help me feel better. I know You love me."
- **Sing a Lullaby: Niño de Amor**
Before bedtime, invite your child to sing the lullaby "Niño de Amor" to Baby Jesus. This gentle song was written especially for the Niño Dios to help children imagine caring for Jesus with the same love they once received as babies. Singing "Niño de Amor" creates a quiet, loving moment that deepens your child's friendship with Jesus and helps them feel His closeness and peace. You can find the lullaby "Niño de Amor" on our website and make it part of your nightly prayer routine.
- **Sing a Faith Song:** Before bed, invite your child to sing a Faith song to Baby Jesus such as "Silent Night" or "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace". These are gentle songs that help them imagine caring for Baby Jesus in the same loving way they were cared for. Singing these songs creates a special, loving connection with Baby Jesus, reminding them of His peace and presence.

Prayer doesn't need to be long or formal. The key is to encourage your child to speak to Jesus from their heart and feel His closeness every day.