Saint Juan Diego

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Ages about 7-11 | Video 8:09 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Mary entrusted Juan Diego with a message that would lead people toward Jesus. His listening, courage, and care for his uncle mattered more than wealth or fame.

Learning goals Children will retell the message, name Juan's competing concerns, and explain how humble service can include speaking with courage.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online Open this video on Servus Dei

Before watching | 2 minutes

Ask: Must someone be famous to have something worth hearing? Introduce Juan Diego and watch for times he listens and times he needs others to listen to him.

Watch and notice

Pause, if helpful, when Juan worries about his uncle. Ask what two responsibilities are on his mind. Resume through the roses, tilma, and welcome at the church.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What did Mary ask Juan to tell the bishop?
She wanted a church at Tepeyac where people could encounter God's love and find comfort.

2. Why did Juan ask Mary to send someone else?
He felt too unimportant to be believed. Mary still entrusted the task to him; his worth did not depend on status.

3. Why did Juan try a different path near the hill?
His uncle was ill, and he was seeking a priest. He was worried and wanted to care for someone he loved.

4. What was the purpose of the roses and image?
They were signs supporting Mary's message. The story leads toward knowing Jesus and receiving God's love, not merely admiring unusual objects.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

Saint Juan Diego

Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Children draw what Juan carried in his tilma, then someone listening respectfully to a person who feels overlooked. Ask them to connect the sign with the message.

Read & Write Children retell Mary's request, explain Juan's worry, and practice a respectful response to someone whose words are being ignored.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: offer the words church, roses, uncle, and listen. Retell one part at a time.

Ages 9-11: distinguish humility from thinking one's voice does not matter. Discuss why careful listening and thoughtful questions can belong together.

Hear the quiet voice | Optional 4 minutes

Give pairs a simple pretend group decision, such as choosing a book. One person shares an idea; the other repeats it accurately before adding their own. Discuss how being heard can help someone who feels unimportant.

Look for understanding Look for Mary's request, Juan's concern for his uncle, and respect for a person's voice. Keep the signs connected to their purpose.

Closing prayer Jesus, help us listen with care and serve with courage. Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Juan Diego, pray for us and lead us closer to God. Amen.

At home At a family conversation, invite someone who has not spoken to share an idea. Listen before answering.

Handout answer notes Mary requested a church at Tepeyac. Juan wanted a priest for his sick uncle. Accept a calm invitation to speak, accurate listening, and respectful questions.

Teach with care

Locate Mexico if a map is available. Speak respectfully about Juan Diego's Indigenous identity; humility does not mean having an inferior culture or less intelligence. The film retells Guadalupe's devotional account with dramatized dialogue. Mary's care points toward her Son; she is not God. The uncle's healing is part of this particular story, not a promise that every illness will end the same way.

Words to explain Tilma: the cloak Juan Diego wore. Pilgrim: a person who journeys to a holy place. Apparition: an appearance of a heavenly person, such as Mary, in a person's earthly life.

Sources for the leader

Juan Diego and his people: John Paul II, canonization homily, 31 July 2002
Mary points to Jesus: John 2:1-11