

# Our Lady of Guadalupe

A Stick-With-Me  
Storybook





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# When Two Worlds Came Together

More than 500 years ago, in 1519, explorers from Spain came to the land we now call Mexico. Many native people lived there. They had their own way of life and believed in many gods.

Native people had never heard about Jesus before! Their gods were connected to nature, like the sun, the rain and the earth.

## “We Bring You the Good News”

After the Spanish explorers arrived, priests called friars came to Mexico. They wanted to teach the native people about Jesus and help them learn new things.

The friars learned the native language so they could share their message about Jesus. They taught native people about the Catholic faith and baptized them. They also built churches and schools. The friars showed the native people how to read and write in Spanish. They also taught them how to build houses, take care of animals and make useful objects with their hands.

If someone who didn't know Jesus asked you who he was, what would you say?

Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Juan Diego

Juan Diego was a kind and humble man who worked in the fields. He loved learning about Jesus from the friars and decided to be baptized. Every day, he walked a long way to go to Mass in Mexico City and learn more about God.

## A Beautiful Lady

Early in the morning on December 9, 1531, Juan Diego was walking past Tepeyac Hill. Even though he was 57 years old, he walked quickly to get to Mass. Suddenly, he heard birds singing a beautiful song! Juan Diego looked up and saw a bright light. He thought he was in heaven! Then, he heard a sweet voice calling him: "Juanito, Juan Dieguito."

Juan Diego climbed to the top of the hill and saw a beautiful lady. She said: "My little son, I am the Virgin Mary, the Mother of the True God. I want a church to be built here, *my holy little house*, so I can show everyone my love, which is Jesus. Go to the Bishop in Mexico City and tell him what I want."

The Virgin Mary spoke to Juan Diego with great love.  
She called him "Juanito," "Juan Dieguito" and "my little son."

What are you called by the people who love you?

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# Meet Saint Juan Diego

Saint Juan Diego was a kind and humble man who lived in Mexico more than 500 years ago. He worked in the fields and took care of his family. Juan Diego loved God very much and was always faithful to him.

Saint Juan Diego is very special because the Virgin of Guadalupe chose him to be her messenger. She asked him to share her love, and the love of her Son, Jesus, with everyone. Because of Saint Juan Diego, many people learned more about Jesus and Our Lady's love.

Saint Juan Diego is a great example of being humble, faithful and obedient. He always did what God asked with a loving heart. That's why so many people love him!

In 2002, Pope John Paul II made him a saint. His feast day is on December 9th, the day the Virgin of Guadalupe first appeared to him.



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