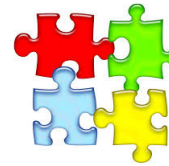


The Connection

▶ April 26, 2020

Weekly Bible Verse: "Faith makes us sure of what we hope for and gives us proof of what we cannot see." Hebrews 11:1 NIV



Together

Together we can continue to make sure that children hear the stories of the Bible and of God's love and promises! Together let's keep doing kid's ministry at the time our kids need it most.

Thomas: Seeing and Believing

Bible Story: John 20:19-31

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus Appears to Thomas

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." ²⁶ A week later his disci-

ples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The Purpose of John's Gospel

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe.



Believe



THE GOSPELS



Each of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) tell different parts of the story about Jesus' resurrection. John is the only Gospel that records Thomas' special encounter with Jesus.



Red letters are used to help the reader discern the actual statements or conversations which can be directly attributed to Jesus. The object is to make it clear when Jesus is being quoted, as opposed to someone speaking to or about Him.

Special Points of Interest:

Watch the YOUTUBE story of Thomas :

- Doubting Thomas - Jesus Film Project (Older Students)
- Jesus Appears to His Disciples - Holy Tales Bible Stories -

Additional Pages:

Coloring Page - Thomas

Word Search-Thomas Word

Alphabet Search - Thomas

Journaling Page

God's Promises for Kids

"I Wonder" questions for the story of Thomas:

I wonder how Thomas felt when the other disciples told him that they had seen Jesus . . .



I wonder how Thomas felt when He saw Jesus . . .

I wonder how Thomas felt when Jesus showed him His hands and side . . .

I wonder what the other disciples said to Thomas after Jesus spoke to Thomas . . .

Learning from the Story of Thomas

- God can turn our doubt into faith. Everyone has doubts about God from time to time. That's not a bad thing. That's just how it goes. We worship a God we cannot see with our eyes. We can't touch Him with our hands, and we can't hear His voice with our ears. It's only natural that we would have our doubts that there's someone up in Heaven listening to our prayers who loves us and cares for us. God isn't upset with us when we doubt him. When we have our doubts, God sees an opportunity to grow our faith. When we give our doubts to God, when we seek him with all our hearts, He shows up.

DOUBT

Jesus promised that when we seek Him with all our hearts, we will find him. Don't let doubt discourage you from seeking God. Use that doubt to ask questions, to pray harder, to look with all your heart. Jesus will be there to comfort you and give you faith.

- Trust God. Thomas had big questions about whether Jesus was alive or not. It's OK to have questions. Trust is believing without knowing absolutely everything. Thomas loved Jesus, but he was struggling with believing without seeing.

TRUST

- Jesus drives out fear. The disciples were hiding behind closed doors because they were afraid. When Jesus entered the room and spoke "peace be with you" their fears were gone.

Pray

FEAR



Reflections

Life can be tough, confusing, joyful, sad or any range of emotions. Kids need a way of releasing how they are feeling to God.. Let's encourage them to journal their thoughts and talk about those feelings with God on a daily basis. God understands. He cares about us and wants us to bring our fears, hopes and experiences to Him. A journaling page is provided as an additional page (OR any piece of paper will do) Younger children can draw pictures.