

United with Families

April 24th, 2022

Thomas Believes

John 20:19-31

Bible Verse "Jesus said, "So, you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing."" John 20:29

The Story: It was late Easter Sunday night, and the disciples were hiding together. The doors were locked because they were afraid. Suddenly, Jesus was there, and he greeted them saying, "Peace be with you". He showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were jubilant when they saw him. Jesus again said, "Peace be with you. I am sending you, just as God has sent me". Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive someone's sins, they are forgiven. If you don't forgive someone then they will not be forgiven."

Thomas was not in the room that night. When the other disciples told him that they had seen Jesus he replied that he would not believe until he too had seen the mark of the nails in Jesus's hands and the wound in Jesus's side. A week later the disciples were back in the same house and this time Thomas was there too. Jesus once again appeared even though the door was locked. Jesus greeted them saying "Peace be with you". Then Jesus told Thomas to look at his hands and his side and to stop doubting and have faith! Thomas answered, "My Lord and my God", Jesus said, "So, you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing."

Story Video: <https://youtu.be/FsEI5Q-OTCs> Appearance to Thomas and the Disciples (English) May 5, 2016

Talk about: Usually we concentrate on the second part of the story, where Thomas, who doesn't see the risen Jesus doubts. Remember that in the Easter story, none of the men that were Jesus' disciples believed the women, and most weren't even willing to confirm their story, so Thomas is perhaps not so unusual. Think about the first part of the story. Jesus gave his disciples two gifts: peace and the Holy Spirit. We also have been given these gifts. What is one way that you and your family can share peace and forgiveness with one another.

Music Videos: <https://youtu.be/OfOaxB4GCC8> He's Alive! Easter Children's Song Mar 13, 2012
https://youtu.be/v_j7_3ht_HI I BELIEVE | KIDS WORSHIP WITH SIGNING + LYRICS Aug 11, 2014

God Sightings: Think of all the wonderful things you can see; things created by God- our families you, me, stars, sun, moon, animals, birds, and everything! We are looking at ways we see what God is doing or has done all around you. A God Sighting might be a hug or a beautiful sunrise or sunset.

You can be a God Sighting by being kind to others. My God Sighting: _____

Faith and Prayer: Patient God, sometimes it is hard to understand why things happen the way they do. Thank you for Jesus who shows us what your kingdom is like. Amen

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For Youth (grade 6 and up)

Talk about: Thomas isn't the only person that has ever expressed doubt about God. Abraham doubted God when God told him he would have many descendants. We know that many people including Peter, Saint Augustine, Martin Luther, John Wesley and Mother Teresa all had times of doubt. How does it make you feel to know that everyone has questions or doubts at some point? If God was sitting next to you right now, what is one question you would ask God?

Music Video: <https://youtu.be/OX7FyMDLuTo> Thomas Song Apr 5, 2018

<https://youtu.be/rh0B75YB2Yw> I Believe (Thomas' Song) - Original Song By Emily Mitchell Apr 6, 2020