

Good morning!! Here is a collection of activities for all ages that you can do as a family this week. My hope is that this lesson can help you connect together as a family and with God and will open up some authentic discussion as a family. If you are meeting with a small group this week, there are some games in this lesson that will be more fun to play with friends!

Jesus as Savior

What He has done: Jesus appeared and proved to Thomas that He was the risen Lord.

Lesson Aim: To show Jesus helps those with doubts to believe.

1. Setting the story:

Last time, we learned Jesus healed a man who had been blind from birth. Today, we will discover how Jesus helped Thomas believe that He had really risen from the dead. This happened in a house in Jerusalem with some disciples who had already seen Jesus.

2. Telling the story

Here is a link to a video of the story:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_QcGnwilXI

Preschool version of the story:

Jesus is our Savior. The word Savior means someone who rescues us from danger. We call Jesus our Savior. He helps us see and believe His miracles. He helps us believe in Him. After Jesus helped a man named Thomas believe in Him, Thomas called Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus helps us believe the miracles. He helps us believe in Him and call Him "Lord."

What happens to everyone who calls on the name of the Lord? (They will be saved.)

Thomas knew Jesus had died, so it was very hard for him to believe Jesus was alive. To believe that miracle, Thomas said he would actually need to touch Jesus and see Him with his own eyes. Jesus loved Thomas and so He gave him what he needed to believe the miracle. Thomas must have been so excited to see the miracle was true—Jesus was truly alive and with him!

Last time, we learned how Jesus healed the blind man. Today, we will see how Jesus helped Thomas believe.

Thomas was a follower who saw the Lord Jesus die.

One day, others told him, "We've seen the Lord!" they cried!

"Unless I see Him," Thomas said, "I will not believe."

Thomas told the others, "I, myself, must see."

Later they were in the house; all the doors were locked.

Jesus came into the room, and everyone was shocked.

"Peace be with you," Jesus said. "Thomas, come and see."

"Come and touch My hands and side. Stop doubting and believe."

He touched the parts on Jesus that were hurt upon the cross.

Then Thomas said, "My Lord and my God!"

Preschool discussion:

- Was Jesus unhappy with Thomas for doubting or not believing? (No.)
- What did Jesus say and do to help Thomas believe? Read John 20:27 (He told Thomas to come and see for himself.)
- What did Jesus let Thomas do? (See and touch the wounds He received on the cross.)
- Did Thomas believe after He saw for himself that it was truly Jesus? (Yes.)
- Can Jesus help you believe His miracles are true? (Yes.)
- Sometimes we believe something is true because we taste, touch, and see it. Sometimes we believe because someone we trust tells us it is true. We can trust that the Bible tells us the truth.
- What is your favorite part of this story?

Elementary age version of the story:

Today, we worship Jesus as our Savior. He saves everyone who believes that He is the Lord that God raised from the dead. If our hearts are open, He gives us what we need to believe in Him. Some of us learn truth by hearing it. Others must see it or touch it to know that it is true. In today's story, Jesus helped Thomas believe in Him. He helps us in that same way. Jesus gives us the faith we need to believe in what we cannot see.

Jesus helped Thomas with his doubts. To doubt is to be unsure or to think something is probably not possible. Listen very carefully as we read how Jesus helped Thomas believe.

Read John 20:24-31.

Elementary age discussion:

- What did Thomas need to do to believe Jesus had risen from the dead? (To see and touch the nail marks in Jesus' hands and feet and the wound in His side from the spear.)
- What did Jesus say when He appeared? ("Peace be with you.")
- Just as He knew with Thomas, Jesus knows when you have doubts. Do you think Jesus is angry with you if you question or doubt His miracles?
- How long did Thomas wait for Jesus to give him the proof he needed? (1 week.)
- Have you ever asked Jesus to give you an answer or some proof about God or His plan?
- Do you have the answer or proof yet?
- If so, how long did you wait for it?
- Is it wrong to need to see or touch to believe? (No.)
- When you have doubts about who God is or what He has done, what can you do? (Pray and ask Jesus for help to believe, or talk to a trusted adult such as a parent, pastor, or ministry leader.)
- Sometimes Jesus takes our doubts away by giving us answers and proof. Even if the answers and proof do not come, God can still give you the faith needed to believe.
- What did Jesus say about those who believe without seeing? (They are blessed.)
- Why did John report details about so many miracles? (So that we might believe in Jesus and have life forever with Him.)
- Jesus knew that He would soon be returning to heaven. He knew many people, including us, would read about His miracles, and might sometimes have trouble believing they really happened. He knows it is harder to believe by faith than to believe by seeing it.
- Has someone told you something that seems just too strange to be true? What was it?

3. Prayer

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us, loving us and taking care of us. We lift up to You a special prayer for _____. We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.

4. Games (from the curriculum- you may need to play with your kids to fill out the teams):

TOUCH AND SEE

Purpose: To experience helping someone believe as Jesus helped Thomas.

Supplies: Paper or cloth bag (pillowcase), large box or container, small objects that are familiar to children (if possible, one per child). Examples: apple, banana, small ball, small stuffed animal, hat, hairbrush, comb, etc.

Prepare: Place an item in the bag. Hide the remaining objects in the box.

How did Jesus help Thomas believe? (He invited Thomas to touch and see his wounds from the cross.) In this game, we will help each other believe what we are told.

Directions:

1. Child 1 stands and peeks into the bag to identify the object.
2. Same child announces: "There is a name of object in this bag. Touch and see so you will believe! I call name of child 2."
3. As child 1 holds the bag, child 2 stands and reaches into the bag to touch, feel, and identify the object.
4. Remaining children ask: "Is it true? Do you believe?"
5. Child 2 retrieves and reveals object to children and says: "Yes, it's true as you can see!"
6. Children hide their eyes as teacher replaces that object with a different object from the box.
7. Repeat steps 1-6 until each child has had a turn as child 1 and 2.

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

Purpose: To introduce the idea of doubts.

Supplies: None

Let's play a game! I am going to make several different statements. You will decide if you believe what I say is true because you have heard it, seen it, or touched it, yourself. Or you may also decide not to believe what I say is true.

Directions:

1. Assign one of the following titles to each corner of the room and help the children remember the title for each corner: Heard It, Saw It, Touched It, Don't Believe It.
2. State a series of objects, facts, or inaccurate statements. After each one, the children run to the corner that corresponds with whether they believe what you have said because they have heard it, seen it, or touched it in the past. If they do not believe what you have said, they are to run to the Don't Believe It corner. Try to include objects or statements that the children may have experienced in more than one way. Examples: a horse is fast, the sun is

hot, the beach is sandy, bells can make noise, or velvet is soft. Also include wrong statements such as pigs have wings and the floor is made of cheese.

3. After children have all chosen a corner for each statement, ask volunteers in each corner to say why they chose that corner.

- Many times we believe something is true because we have experienced it with our senses.
- What are our five senses? (Taste, touch, smell, sight, hearing.)
- Sometimes we believe because a trusted person has taught us. Or, we may just have a feeling in our hearts that makes us believe. Thomas, who was one of Jesus' disciples, had trouble believing his friends when they told him that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thomas wanted to use his senses to know Jesus was alive.

5. Craft:

See hands love card pdf.

6. Bible Verse Memory:

This is a new unit with new memory verses. You have 2 MORE WEEKS to learn these (until July 11th). If you want to learn and say your verse, I can get a prize to you at your house. You can call me to say it or say it to your parent and they can text me to let me know you said it to them. I KNOW YOU CAN DO THIS!!!

Preschool verse: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Joel 2:32

Elementary aged verse: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6