

THOMAS BELIEVES

Readings: Luke 24: 36-49 & John 20:19-31

Aim: To introduce to the children that not many people believed in the Lord's resurrection, even the people most close to him i.e. the disciple Thomas.

Objectives:

- **Recall the resurrection of Christ.**
- **How we should believe without doubting**
- **That through his resurrection and appearance to his disciples we are all saved.**

Memory verse:

You are my friends if you do what I command. John 15:14

LESSON:

Everyone had seen Jesus die on that cross. So imagine their great joy when Jesus came to the disciples after he had risen from the dead. Now Thomas, one of the disciples was not with them when Jesus had come. So, excitedly, the others told him "We have seen the Lord!" But Thomas couldn't quite believe it. He said that unless he saw the nail marks in his hands and could put his fingers where they were or put his hand into Jesus' side, he just wasn't going to believe it.

Well, about a week later all the disciples were in the house, this time Thomas being with him.

And even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. Jesus told Thomas to feel his hands and feel his side. He told Thomas to stop doubting and to believe! Of course then, Thomas believed it was **Him!**

Then Jesus said this: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Are you a 'Doubting Thomas'? Do you always have to see something before you believe it? Do you know what Jesus is talking about here? He is talking about **FAITH**. Is there something that you have been praying about for a while now? Don't give up! Just because you don't see anything--- Don't Doubt! God is working in His own way, in His own timing. Have faith and don't doubt because He loves you and is doing what is best for you. Don't doubt His love for you. Don't doubt because you can't see changes right now---God is working. Have faith and Don't Doubt!

Basic points of the lesson for little ones:

1.) Jesus wants us to trust Him, even when we can't see him. He is there even when we can't see him.

2.) When we have doubts and fears, Jesus wants us to bring them to Him so He can minister to us.

3.) When we believe Jesus it is a blessing for us and God.

4.) Jesus promises to be with us when we meet with other believers in His name.

5.) **Prayer: Thank You Jesus, that You are always near us, that you can bring us from doubt to greater faith in you as you did with Thomas.**

Activity: Thomas the Doubter Game

Introduce game: Who wouldn't believe that Jesus was alive until he saw the marks of the nails on Jesus' hands and feet, and touch the wound in Jesus' side?

Need: Large nail with blunt point (or any object that resembles a nail), 1 chair

Directions: A student is picked by the teacher to play the part of Thomas. He or she will sit in a chair with their back to the class. A large nail is put under the chair. While Thomas is turned around with his or her eyes closed, the teacher will choose a student to sneak up and take the nail and hide it somewhere on his person. When this person is ready, then everyone will say: “Doubting Thomas, where is the nail?” The teacher will then say. “Does _____ have it?” (This student may or may not have it). Thomas will then stand up and turn around. Will Thomas doubt what the teacher says or will he believe the teacher? If Thomas believes the teacher, he will say, “I believe _____ has it.” Or he will not believe the teacher and guess who might have the nail. Whoever has the nail is now Thomas.

OR

IF YOU HAVE ENOUGH SERVANTS IN YOUR CLASS YOU CAN DO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITY (PLAY)

Doubting Thomas – John 20:24-29

Characters: Narrator, Thomas, Peter, Andrew, John, the other disciples, Jesus

Narrator: When Jesus appeared the first time to the disciples Thomas wasn't with them.

Thomas walks into the room

Peter: Hey Thomas you should have been here!!!

Thomas: Why?

Andrew: Jesus – he was just here a minute ago. We have seen Him!

Thomas: That's impossible.

John: No, it's not. We have seen the Lord!!

Thomas: Before I can believe this I must see the nail scars in His hands and touch them with my finger --- and I must put my hand where the spear went into his side.

Narrator: A whole week passed. The disciples talked of nothing else but Jesus' appearance, and what it might mean. But Thomas remained convinced that they had not seen Jesus at all.

Peter: Andrew just checks that we really have locked that door. We don't want the Romans to find us.

Andrew: Yep it sure is.

John: You don't understand Thomas we saw what we saw. It really was Him.

All the disciples: It sure was. We can't all be wrong.

Jesus suddenly appears.

Jesus: Peace be with you all.

The disciples are too afraid to say anything.

Jesus: Look Thomas, here are the marks in my hands. Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and have faith

Thomas: You are my Lord and my God

Jesus: Thomas, do you only believe because you have seen me? The people who believe without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed!

Narrator: Then Jesus disappeared.

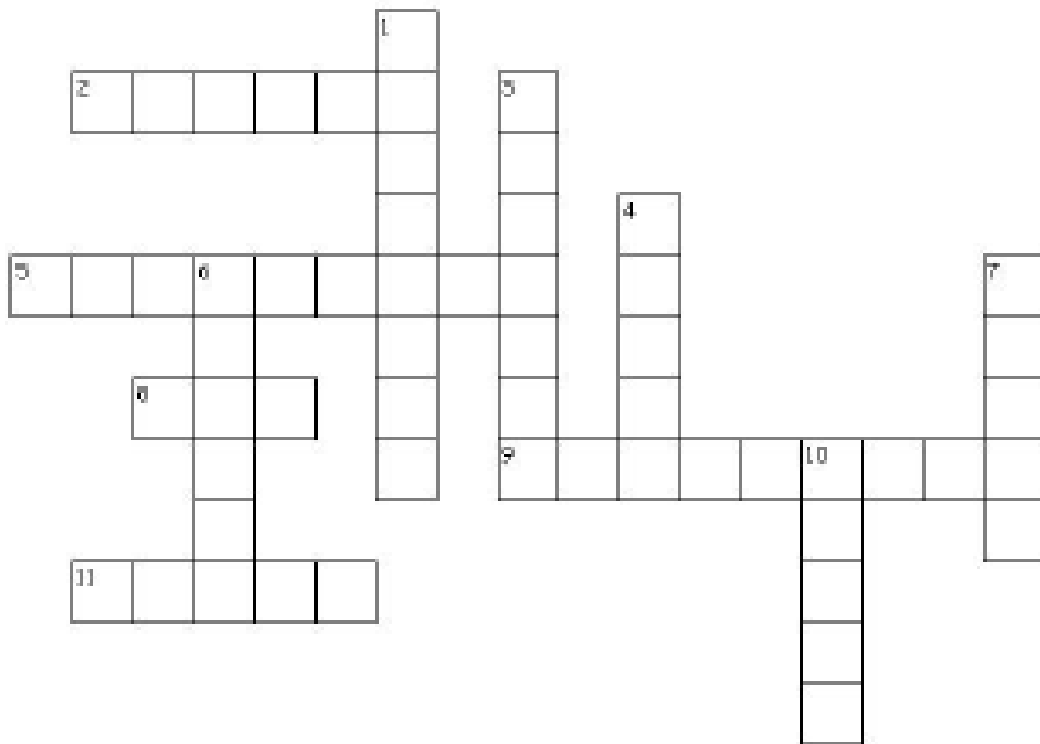
BIBLE STUDY - THOMAS BELIEVES

Readings: Luke 24: 36-49 & John 20:19-31

Memorise and Copy

You are my friends if you do what I command. John 15:14

Crossword Puzzle



Across

2. number of disciples 5. full of doubt 8. Father ____
9. followers of Jesus 11. Son of God

Down

1. trusted, had faith in 3. Highly favored 4. pierced Jesus' hands
and feet 6. Doubting _____. 7. among 10. blessed assurance

seen

have not

seen

Jesus was here.

believed

Bible Quiz

1. Who was not with the disciples when Jesus came?
2. What did the other disciples tell Thomas?
3. What did Thomas say he needed to see before he would believe?

6. When Thomas found out that Jesus was really alive, what did he say?
7. Fill in the blanks: "Because you have _____ me, you have _____; blessed are those who have _____ and yet _____."

You are My Lord and My God

Jesus was here.

Jesus' hands and side