

THOMAS

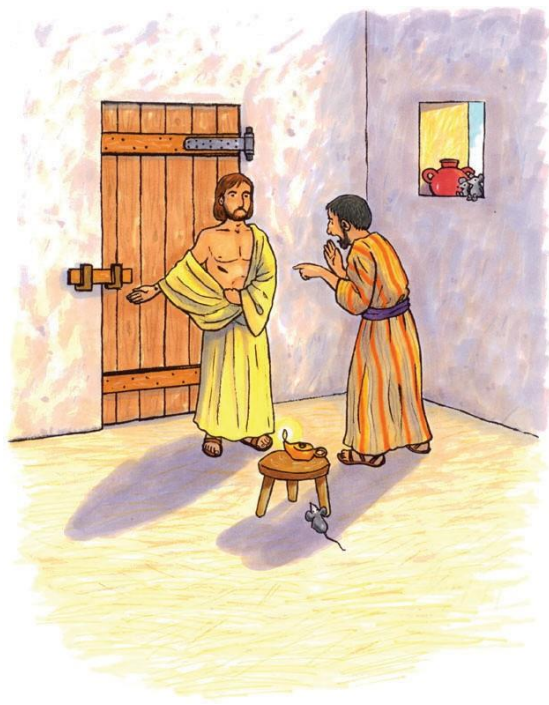
John 20:19-29



Contents

Message	Faith means to believe what we cannot see.
Learning Objectives	The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Apostle Thomas did not believe Jesus resurrected until he saw and put his finger in the marks the nails made in Jesus' hand. He also wanted to put his hand in Jesus' side.■ Although we cannot see Jesus, we believe He is with us every day.
Bible Text	John 20:19 –29

Thomas



After Jesus' crucifixion, the disciples were frightened. Whenever they came together, they locked the doors. The resurrected Jesus appeared to them, "Peace be with you!"

When Jesus said this He showed the disciples His hands and His side.

Thomas was not with the disciples when Jesus appeared to them.

Later the disciples told Thomas they had seen the Lord. Thomas replied, "Unless I see the marks of the nails in His hands and put my finger on those marks and my hand in His side, I will not believe."

Eight days later the disciples were all together again. This time Thomas was with them. Again Jesus appeared to them, even though the doors were locked. Jesus said to the disciples, "Peace be with you!"

He said to Thomas, "Put your fingers here and look at My hands. Stretch out your hand and put it in My side. Then do not be unbelieving, but believing!"

Thomas answered, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus replied, "You believe, Thomas because you have seen. Blessed are those who do not see, yet still, believe."

Suggestions for the Teacher

Lead-In

Show the picture to the children. Discuss with them what they see. Ask what she/he may feel...
Let some of the children play the story in a role-play. Instruct them before.
Provide disguise, a white garment for Jesus....

Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children...

- What happens after the risen Jesus appeared to the Apostles for the first time?
(Thomas is not present when Jesus appears.)
- How does he react when the other Apostles tell him? (He does not believe.)
- If you were one of the disciples, would you believe the person who appeared was Jesus?
- What does Thomas want to experience to believe in Jesus' resurrection?
(He wants to see the marks of the nails in Jesus' hands, and put his hands into Jesus' side.)
- How does Apostle Thomas come to believe?
(Jesus appears unto the Apostles for a second time. This time Thomas is present.)
- What does Jesus do? (He shows him His hands and His side. Then Thomas believes.)

Have the children repeat...

- Thomas did not believe Jesus resurrected.
- He wanted to put his finger in the marks the nails made in Jesus' hand.
- Although we cannot see Jesus, we believe He is with us every day.

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- Apostle Thomas had difficulty in believing that Jesus had appeared.
- Jesus helped Apostle Thomas to believe.
- Sometimes we, too, have difficulty in believing. Jesus can and will help us to believe.
- How do we feel Jesus' presence today?

Repeat the Message
Faith means to believe what we cannot see.