

Bible Lesson

43. Jesus Appears to Thomas

John 20



“Stop doubting and believe,” Jesus said.
Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”
John 20:28

Jesus Appears to Thomas

Thomas was one of the 12 disciples. He had not been with the others when Jesus appeared to them.

“We have seen the Lord!” the men told Thomas.

“I will not believe it,” Thomas said. “I must see the nail marks in his hands. I must put my own fingers into those marks. Unless I put my own hand into his side, I will not believe.”

A week later, the disciples were in a locked room again. Thomas was with them this time.

Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” Jesus said.

Jesus said to Thomas, “Go ahead. Put your fingers into my hands. Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Thomas fell to his knees and said, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus said, “You believe because you have seen. But blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

Questions

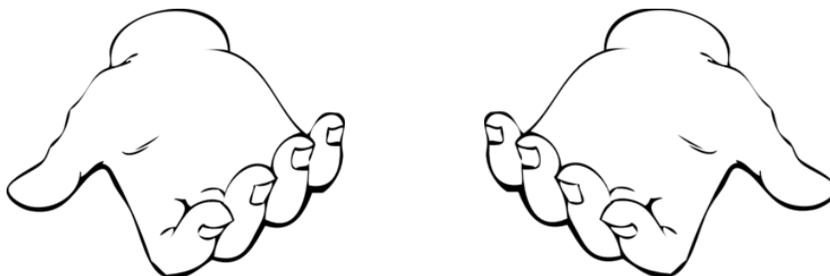
1. Why did Thomas finally believe that Jesus had come back to life?
2. What were his words to Jesus when he believed?
3. What did Jesus say to Thomas about believers?
4. What does this mean? "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Are you a believer?

Dear Jesus,

I have never put my fingers into the holes on your crucified hands. But I believe. I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the Savior of the World. You are my Lord and my God. Thank you for blessing me with this truth.

Amen

Draw red nail marks into the hands of Jesus. Write on one hand, "My Lord." Write on the other hand, "My God."



Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

Before you read:

Activate Prior Knowledge

- Have you ever heard of someone coming back from the dead?
- If a dead person appeared to you, what would you think?
- If you could touch Jesus, would you believe? Why?

After you read:

Blessed YOU!

Create a bulletin board for your class. Cut out big letters from colorful construction paper with the words: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Take pictures of the kids in your class. Use the photos to make a border. Around the letters, they can write about their beliefs (also look at Romans 10:9-10): "Lord Jesus, I do believe that you died and rose again." Have them also write down a way they have been blessed to be a believer.

About Those Who Doubt

Even today, we have those who doubt that Jesus is the Lord God. Who are the "Doubting Thomases" in your life? Jesus went directly to Thomas in the midst of his unbelief. Talk about ways you can help doubters to believe. Add your own ideas. Write them on the board: Invite nonbelievers to church; ask what they don't believe and try to answer. If you can't, ask your pastor to help you. Show your doubter how Jesus fulfilled so many prophecies (see link); give them a Bible; meet a need they may have (friendship, a ride, etc.). Most importantly, pray for them often. When one believes, share the happy news in class.

<http://www.100prophecies.org/about.htm>

What is the Work of God?

Collect a variety of tools used in careers: a pen and notebook for a writer; a hammer for a carpenter, a whisk for a chef, etc. Put these items into a bag and let the kids draw them out one at a time with eyes closed. Guess what the item is and then match the profession to the tool. Then say, for example, "A chef needs a whisk to do the work of a chef." What about a Christian? What is our work? Healing, giving food to the hungry, visiting prisoners? Yes, but our most basic "job" has no tool. It is unseen; it is in our hearts and minds. Jesus said in John 6:29: "The work of God is this – to believe in the one he has sent." Belief in Jesus is the first work of a believer. Then, acts of loving kindness to others should and will follow, as evidence of our faith. Now, put a Bible in the bag and go to Romans 10:17: "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the Word of God."

Unseen yet Certain

What is faith? The Bible tells us: being sure of what we hope for, even when we can't see it. As the kids color this poster, ask: What are some things you hope for? What are you sure of that you cannot see? What would you like to believe in but don't right now?

Faith is being
sure of what
we hope for
and
certain
of what
we do
not see.

Hebrews 11:1



Unseen Realities

What is faith anyway? Belief in what we cannot see. Photocopy two copies of this page onto card stock. Cut out the squares. Provide a small piece of putty for each student to use. On the board, make two columns: "I CANNOT SEE _____" The second column: "But I BELIEVE _____ are/is Real." Turn the cards over and match sets, one at a time, like Concentration. Use the putty to secure the card sets into the columns. State your belief: "I cannot see **love**, but I believe **love** is real." Do this until the cards are gone.

love	gravity	angels	sadness
wind	heaven	words	the Holy Spirit
truth	wisdom	God	molecules
Jesus	freedom	a baby inside the mom	tomorrow
germ	a song	sickness	kindness
fear	pride	dreams	hopes

Hand in Your Doubt

On the hands of Jesus, write this poem. Use the number guide so that each finger has a line. Use a pen. When the ink dries, color the hands, cut, put in your Bible, and believe!

Left Hand

1. Thomas did not
2. understand
3. until he touched
4. the Lord's
5. real hands.

Right Hand

1. Help me believe
2. when I cannot see
3. and take all doubt
4. away from me.
5. Amen

