

Doubting Thomas Welcome, Prayer, Up Rules

Bible Lesson (Encourage kids to listen, you will have a game later and they need to know the story.)

Quick review from last week, ask children: Do you remember what happened in our Bible lesson last week? What were the disciples doing? (self-quarantined in the upper room with fear.) What happened? (Jesus appeared and showed them his hands and feet, and proved He was truly alive.) Our lesson today picks up in the same chapter, John 20, verse 24.

Have the passage marked in Bible and read from Bible, have Bible high enough so kids see you reading from the Bible.

Read: ²⁴Now Thomas , one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him,

Teacher: (Hold up visual # 1 and have children read with you, tell them to be excited, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them,

Hold up visual # 2 and have children read with you, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

Teacher comment: Thomas had a problem, his problem was he couldn’t believe without seeing Jesus alive for himself. Do you have that same problem? Do you wonder if Jesus is truly who the Bible says He is? Let’s see what happens...

Read: ²⁶A week later (it was a Monday) his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said,

Hold up visual #3 and have kids read with you. “Peace be with you!” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Teacher comments: Today we do not see Jesus physically, we cannot touch His hands and His feet. Today we have the Bible, we have God’s Holy Spirit, we have John (in the Bible) and the other disciple’s testimony that we can trust, and we have believers in the church. You have me, Mr Phil & Mrs Debbie, Pastor Paul, and family members to help you know that Jesus is truly alive and real. You can believe... let’s see what happens with Thomas...

(Show visual # 4 and have kids read with you.) ²⁸Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Teacher Note: (this is the climax of the lesson; a climax is one statement where the problem in the story is solved. The problem in this story is that Thomas didn't believe, the solution is that he saw Jesus and he believed. Once you reach the climax of a story, the kids attention will begin to wavier.

Teacher comments for children: That day Thomas believed! He not only believed Jesus was God but that He was also His Lord. He was saying to Jesus, I will follow you. You will be the boss of my life, I believe!

You, too, can believe even though you haven't touched His hands and feet. You can know that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for your sins. Do you see what Jesus said... He said you are blessed when you believe without seeing. God will bless you by saving you from the punishment of sin and giving you His Holy Spirit and the gift of everlasting life.

Salvation Invitation: If you haven't believed in Jesus, and you want to believe today, you can let God know by praying. You can pray this prayer with me but don't say it to me, say it to God. (Remember, this is for if you have never believed and asked Jesus to save you from the punishment of sin before, if you have already believed, you can quietly pray that others will believe too):

Sample Prayer for child "Dear God (pause) I am sorry for my sin (pause) thank you for dying on the cross for me (pause) I want to believe in you (pause) I want you to be the boss of my life (pause). Help me to follow your way. Amen.

Follow-up: If you prayed that prayer, please let us know in a comment or a text message, so we can help you learn more about what it means to believe in Jesus.

Song of your choice (ask the children to stand and sing with you): Peace like a river; You are Holy, or one from the CD

Memory Verse

Why did John write the Gospel of John? John tells us why at the end of chapter 20. Let me read what John says, you can read it, too, if your Bible is open.

Read, tell kids you need their help saying the verse, you have a game in just a minute:

these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is ^{is} the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

I have the words written down so we can read them together, Show Visual #5 and have kids read with you.

Application for child after reading the verse: John wrote these words down because he wants us to know the true facts about Jesus birth, life, death, burial, and resurrection. John was an eye witness! John gives us a special promise if we believe, can you see what his promise is? (show visual again and pause). He said that we can have life in Jesus name. That means he will forgive us the punishment for sin and we can receive everlasting life, that means we can belong to His forever family and receive his Holy Spirit. Isn't that a wonderful promise? This promise is for you if you have believed in Jesus. If you haven't believed, you can believe today and receive the gift of everlasting life in Jesus name. That means that not even the corona virus can take a believer away from Jesus. When our life is over here on earth, we will go to our forever home in heaven with Jesus. Also, when we go through difficult times here on earth, we have God's Holy Spirit to help us!

Memory Verse Repetition Game

Now we are going to play a game.

Instructions: (I have some words from this verse in my bag. I will draw some out of the bag, the words I draw out, I will cover, we will say the verse but we will have to remember the words that are covered.) Let's say the verse one more time and then I will draw the first words out of the bag.

Repeat saying about 4x, drawing from the bag & erasing another set of words after each repetition.

Bible Lesson Review Game (if time permits)

Silly Instructions: I have some silly instructions inside my bag. I will ask a question from our Bible lesson, if you answer correctly (we pretend that they do), I will draw an instruction from the bag. We have to work together to do whatever the instructions say to do. Are you ready?

1. True or False, Thomas was with the disciples the first time Jesus appeared in the upper room. (false)
2. True or False, the disciples told Thomas they saw Jesus, He was alive. (True)
3. True or False, Thomas believed the disciples and was excited they saw him and he was alive. (false)
4. Thomas said he had to see and touch-what- to believe that Jesus was alive? A. nails prints in hands B. wound in side. C. all of the above. (C)
5. How can we believe in Jesus even though we don't see him? A. We can believe the witness of other believers B. We read the facts in the Bible. C. The Holy Spirit will help us believe. D. All of the above. (D)
6. True or False, One week later, Thomas was with the disciples and Jesus appeared again. (True)
7. What did Jesus say to Thomas? A. You should have believed what your friends said. B. I am sorry, because you doubted, I can help you. C. See and touch my hands, feet, and side, and believe. (C)
8. What did Jesus say about people who believe without seeing? (They are blessed)