BIBLE STORY RETELLING

Thomas Believes (John 20:24-31)

1

Narrator 1: Thomas, who was also called Didymus, was one of the Twelve. He was not with the other disciples when Jesus came to them after his resurrection.

Other Disciples: We've seen the Lord!

Thomas: Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger in them I won't believe. Unless I touch his side, I won't believe.

Narrator 2: Eight days later, the disciples were gathered in a house. Thomas was with them. All the doors were locked, but Jesus entered and stood among them. He greeted them all.

Jesus: Peace be with you.

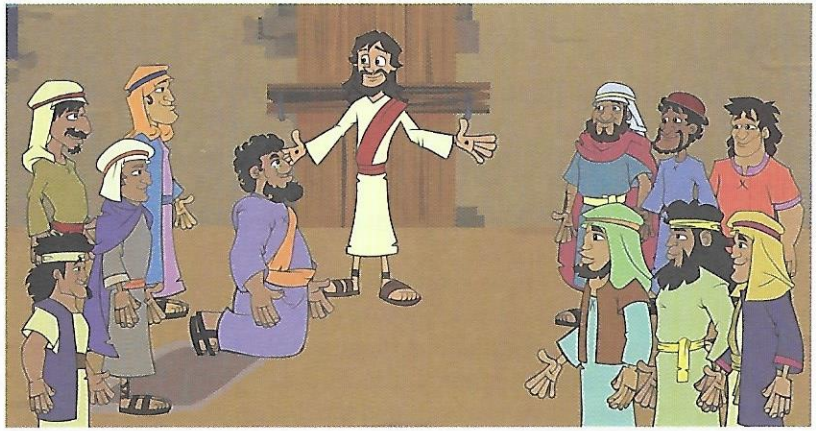
Narrator 1: Then he addressed Thomas.

Jesus: Look at my hands. Touch them. Touch my side. Do not doubt any longer. Believe!

Thomas: My Lord and my God!

Jesus: Do you only believe because you can see me? People who don't see me but still believe are happy people.

Narrator 2: Jesus did many other miraculous things that the disciples saw. Some of these things were not recorded in writing. But this story was written down so that you will believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son.



SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Journal

2

What do you believe even though you have not seen it? Why do you believe these things? Write your thoughts below.

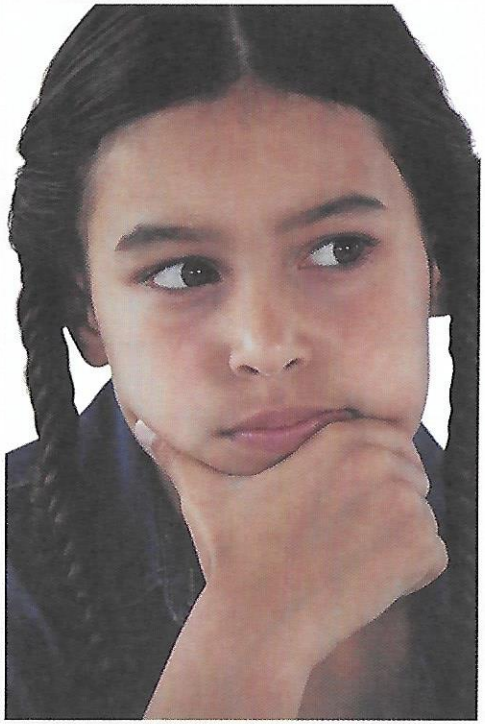
SESSION 9
Thomas Believes

Mark 11:9 "Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

LIFE CONNECTION

Doubt

3



In our Bible story, Thomas struggles with doubt. He doubts what the other disciples are saying about having seen Jesus. He doubts that Jesus has risen and is alive. Thomas says he won't believe it unless he sees Jesus and even touches Jesus himself.

When most of us are doubted by our friends or family, we feel offended and may even get upset that they don't believe us. However, this was not the case with Jesus. In fact, days later when Thomas and the other disciples were gathered at a house, Jesus showed up to give Thomas the proof that he needed to believe.

Some people look at Thomas as an example of a person whose faith was not very strong because he didn't believe without seeing. Yet, Jesus did not become upset with Thomas for not believing. Instead, Jesus met Thomas where he was in his faith journey and gave Thomas the proof he sought. Jesus does the same thing with each of us.

Most Christians experience doubt of some sort at some point in their faith journey. It could be doubt about the events of a Bible story. It could be doubts about God's ability to help him or her with a particular problem. It could be doubt about whether God is even there listening to each and every person. Despite our moments of doubt, like Thomas, Jesus never leaves us. Instead Jesus meets us where we are and helps us overcome our disbelief.

FAMILY FAITH ACTIVITY

Planting in Faith

4

Today, your child(ren) learned about Thomas coming to believe in the Resurrection through John 20:24-31. Read this story together in the *CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible*.

I wonder:

- Were the other disciples frustrated with Thomas for not believing what they told him?
- When Thomas finally saw Jesus, was he concerned that Jesus would be upset with him for not believing?
- When have you seen something that you did not believe?

When we plant a seed in soil, we have faith that it is growing beneath the surface and will one day become a flower or vegetable, even though we can't see it growing. Gather some seeds and planting tools, and plant either flower seeds or your favorite vegetable with your family. Discuss the story as you plant. Take care of the seeds over the next several weeks, and watch their growth together.

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Thomas Believes

Mark 11:9 "Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"