

**Sunday, April 11, 2021:** This second Sunday of the Easter season brings us the story of Doubting Thomas. Here are some activities for your child to help them understand the gospel reading.

**Gospel Summary:**

Last Sunday, we celebrated Jesus' resurrection from the dead! What a time of joy for us! But the disciples were still living in fear as they didn't want people to know that they were followers of Jesus. They were afraid they might be killed, too! After Jesus rose from the dead, he made many appearances to his disciples. This gospel tells the story of one of those times. It comes from John 20:19-31, pp. 459-461 in the Beginner's Bible and pp. 1704 in the Catholic Children's Bible. Read about it and then check out this video link for a fun retelling of the scripture.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLqX5VQTCbg>

Jesus appeared to the disciples but poor Thomas was not there. When his friends told him that they saw Jesus, he didn't believe them. He wanted to be able to see Jesus for himself, and look at his hands and feet to see the nail holes from when he was on the cross. The next time Jesus appeared, Thomas was with them. Jesus showed him the wounds on his feet and hands and even the hole in his side from the soldier's sword. Finally, Thomas believed and he said, "My Lord and my God!" Thomas needed to see Jesus in front of him to believe. But Jesus can't appear to everyone. He knows that we must have faith to believe in him without being able to see him. He says when we do this, we are blessed!

**Questions after reading/viewing:**

*How did the disciples feel when they first saw Jesus and he was alive? (They were overjoyed and full of happiness to see their Lord alive again!)*

*Why do you think that Thomas didn't believe them when they said they saw Jesus alive? (He didn't understand that Jesus had the power to come back to life. He needed more proof.)*

*How would you have felt if someone told you that?*

*How did Jesus convince Thomas that it was really him? (He showed Thomas the wounds in his hands and feet, and the wound in his side.)*

*Do you think Jesus was mad at Thomas because he didn't believe right away? (No. Jesus understands that sometimes we doubt what we can't understand, and we ask questions or need proof. He knows that we need his loving help to believe what we hear in the gospel stories. He helps us to make our faith stronger!)*

**Activities: Hands of Faith craft**

1. Take a sheet of white paper or colored construction paper. Fold in half (hamburger fold)



2. Draw a line across the bottom, about 2 inches up. Then trace your left hand, with the palm resting on the line you drew and your thumb on the fold.



3. Cut around the hand and across the line as shown. Be sure not to cut the thumb at the fold.



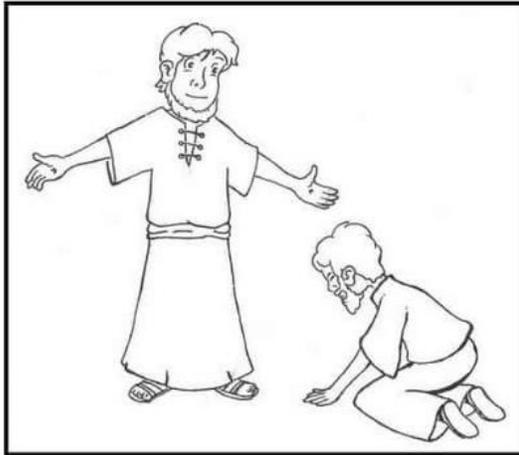
4. Open the hands. Draw a heart on each and write the words from John's gospel.



"Blessed are those who believe without seeing me." John 20:29

Find the differences- see if you can find two differences in both Jesus and Thomas in the two pictures.

## CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?



Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"  
Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me,  
you have believed; blessed are those who have not  
seen and yet have believed." John 20:28-29 NIV

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At first Thomas would not believe that Jesus was alive. What did he say when Jesus showed him his wounds?

Use the code to find Thomas' words

2	5	9	1	8	6
7	3	6	2	5	
4	1	6			

**CODE CRACKER**

O (1) N (3) Y (5) A (7) L (9)  
M (2) G (4) D (6) R (8)

The disciples were overjoyed to see Jesus again!

Colour the picture

"Peace be with you!"  
JOHN 1  
20:20-21