

Kids time

Seeing Is Believing

Theme

We believe in Jesus.

Object A dollar bill, two paper clips, "Linking Paper Clips"

Scripture John 20:19-31 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Today I am going to show you something that I'm not sure you'll believe. First I am going to take this dollar bill and fold it into thirds. Next, I will take one paper clip and clip the top section of the dollar to the middle section. Now I will take the other paper clip and clip the bottom section to the middle section. Before I put the paper clips onto the bill, they were separate. But when I pull on the two ends of the dollar bill, they're going to jump off the bill and connect themselves. Do you believe me? (Pause.) Let's try it! (Pull the ends of the bills to make the paper clips jump off, then show kids that the paper clips became connected.)

I need you to help me tell what happened in the Bible. Whenever you hear the word "believe," please make this motion. (Mouth wide open and hands beside sides of face.)

That's cool, isn't it? Now that you have seen it, do you believe (Pause.) it? Sometimes we must see something before we believe (Pause.) it, don't we?

It was like that for some people in the Bible, too. On the evening of the first Sunday after Jesus had been crucified, His disciples were together in a locked room. They were afraid of those who had crucified Jesus. Suddenly, Jesus appeared there in the locked room with the disciples. It was hard to believe

(Pause.), but they saw Him, and Jesus showed them His wounds in His hands and His side, so they knew it was Him.

One of the disciples, Thomas, was not with the others when Jesus appeared to them. When they told Thomas, he didn't believe (Pause.) them. He had seen Jesus crucified and buried. How could He be alive? Thomas said, "Unless I see the wound in His side and put my finger in the holes where the nails were in His hands, I will not believe (Pause.) it!"

A week later, the disciples were in the locked room again, and this time, Thomas was with them. Again, Jesus came and stood among the disciples. Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe (Pause.)."

Thomas fell on his knees and answered Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed (Pause.); blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed (Pause.)."

You and I have never seen Jesus with our own eyes. The question is, will we be one of those who is blessed because we believe (Pause.), even though we have not seen?

Kids can stop making the believe motion now.

Dear God, help us to believe in our heart the truths we find in Your Holy Word, even though we have not seen them with our own eyes. In Jesus' name, amen.

Seeing Is Believing Group Activities

PAPER PLATE TOMB:

Provide each child with a paper plate and a plastic or styrofoam cup. Children can color the paper plate and cut the bottom edge of the plate off so it is flat and even with the table. Cut a hole or 4 slits in the middle of the plate so the plastic cup can be pushed through the middle. Children can cut out a round circle out of black construction paper and place over the cup opening and move it back and forth to show the "empty tomb" to prove that Jesus is alive. Children can write words from today's lesson about the Easter story, empty tomb, He is Risen, Believe, etc, on the top of the paper plate as desired.

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Thomas

John 20:19-29

Seeing Is Believing

So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "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 it." John 20:25 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



K	I	A	F	C	M	D	W	B	G	Z	X	N	U	S	L	T	Q	Y	O	H	J	R	P	E	V
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 7-2-15-5-2-24-16-25-15 _____
- 7-20-20-23-15 _____
- 16-20-5-1-25-7 _____
- 21-3-13-7-15 _____
- 15-2-7-25 _____
- 17-21-20-6-3-15 _____
- 7-20-14-9-17-2-13-10 _____
- 17-20-14-5-21-25-7 _____
- 9-25-16-2-25-26-25-7 _____
- 7-2-15-5-2-24-16-25-15 _____

DOUBTING	DISCIPLES	LOCKED	SIDE	DISCIPLES
TOUCHED	HANDS	DOORS	THOMAS	BELIEVED

Seeing Is Believing

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But he said to them, "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 it." John 20:25 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 20:19-31



K T S T K O N V A E S N M G G
Q X U H H T D R H G S M Q S S
L T F O B W K E M N W I J P R
E Y R M E E X K G H G R Q Z C
W Y V A L T H I I A Y A B C S
Q V V S I O S Q L N S C O S S
D A V Q E G C C C D F L B H P
O O E L V E W K W S J E S O T
O S S U E T S A E X B S L W O
R M O A D H D B J D P V C E U
S H V C I E O I E T P P J D C
D Q S D L R R E C O R D E D H
S I D E I I J P Q I Y J S Y E
V M D I S C I P L E S X U I D
V E D O U B T I N G H F S P A

THOMAS
HANDS
SIDE

DISCIPLES
TOGETHER
RECORDED

DOORS
DOUBTING
BELIEVED

MIRACLES
SHOWED
JESUS

TOUCHED
SIGNS
LOCKED