



DOUBTING THOMAS

Main Point

- Jesus helps us believe that He is our living Savior

Scripture Reading

- Find John 20:19-29 and read it or have someone read it with you

Prayer Time

- Spend a couple of minutes in prayer; pray for...
 - Friends
 - Family
 - Those who are sick
 - For our Special Needs Ministry Community
 - For our church
 - Anything else
- Remember to thank God for His love and how He listens to us, as well as any answers to prayer

Praise and Worship

- Phil Wickham - Living Hope
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9f2FXxDVO6w>
- Raise A Hallelujah – Bethel Music
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3RRU25dpPg>

Memory Verse

- Then everyone who believes in Jesus can live with God forever. John 3:15

Activity

- **Say:** Have you ever had a time when someone has told you something that you don't quite believe is true. Like maybe they went fishing and said they caught a fish this big...and you looked at them and said, "I don't know...can you prove it?" If you saw it in a picture you might believe it, but you are pretty doubtful that its true.
- This morning I am going to tell you some things and if you believe what I am saying, raise your hand when I say "do you believe it"...but if you doubt what I

am saying and think it might not be true, then raise your hand when I say “do you doubt it”.

- Penguins can smell toothpaste from several miles away?
 - Do you believe it? Or do you doubt it? (*false*)
- 50 years ago, M & Ms were candy-coated peas during a chocolate shortage?
 - Do you believe it? Or do you doubt it? (*false*)
- A violin contains about 70 pieces of wood?
 - Do you believe it? Or do you doubt it? (*true*)
- They have square watermelons in Japan because they stack better?
 - Do you believe it? Or do you doubt it? (*true*)

Lesson

- Before reading the story, have your loved one say with you **“JESUS IS ALIVE!! HALLELUJAH!!!”**
- Read John 20:19-29; it is broken down below
 - Jesus Appears to the Disciples
 - ¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² 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 retain the sins of any, they are retained.”
 - Jesus and Thomas
 - ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, 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 the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, 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. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt 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 come to believe.”

- Then go through the verses and tell the story in your own words; or you're your loved one help you tell the story

Application

- How do you think the disciples felt when they saw Jesus? Have participants state which emotion and why.
- I think they felt all of the emotions listed here...
 - **Sad** – Jesus had left and they didn't know if they would see Him again
 - **Afraid** – they were afraid of the Jewish leaders and what they might do to them because they were followers of Jesus
 - **Puzzled** – Jesus had raised from the dead; that probably was still hard to understand
 - **Amazed** – Jesus came back and showed His hands and feet to his friends
 - **Happy** – they were filled with joy to see that Jesus had raised from the dead
- However, Thomas had missed seeing Jesus...
 - Did Thomas believe the others when they said that Jesus was alive? (no)
 - Did Jesus show Thomas that He was really alive? (yes)
 - Did Thomas believe then? (yes)
- Do YOU believe that Jesus is alive?
 - Talk about this at your tables...what helps you believe that Jesus is alive?

Growing from God's Story

- **Last week**, we talked about how it makes you feel that Jesus is alive. How did you show that this week?
- **This week**, tell someone, what you would like to say to Jesus right now? Whom will you tell about Jesus this week?

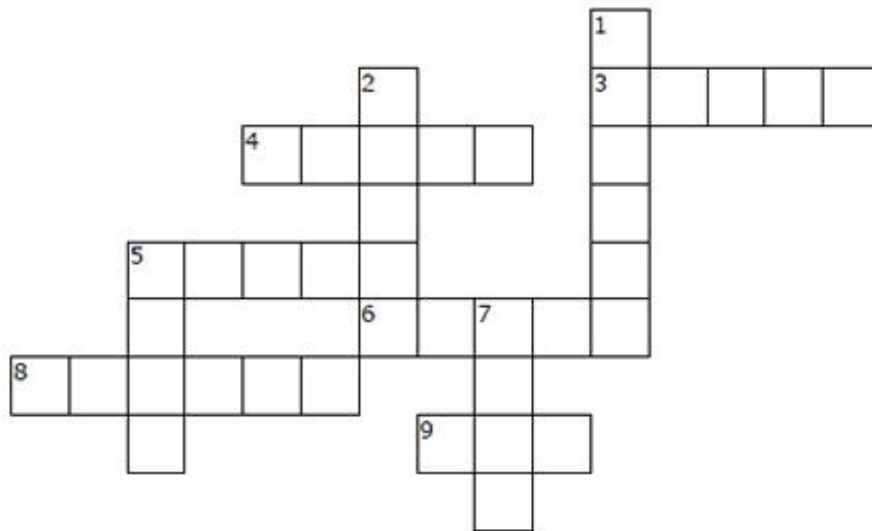
Additional Learning

- Below is a crossword puzzle and a colouring page. Enjoy as you reflect on what you just read and learned about Jesus being our LIVING SAVIOUR!!!

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

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

Based on John 20:19-31 (NIV)



ACROSS

3. To be in a state of pleasure, satisfaction, joy or delight
4. Free from conflict; getting along with others; opposite of war
5. To be undecided or unbelieving that something is true
6. The body parts at the end of the arms
8. Not open
9. To break God's law

DOWN

1. The disciple who would not believe without seeing
2. To believe in something for which there is no proof
5. An entrance into a building or room
7. A thin piece of metal with one pointed end and one flat end which you hit with a hammer

PEACE
NAIL

DOOR
THOMAS

HANDS
CLOSED

FAITH
SIN

HAPPY
DOUBT

