

Seeing and Believing



Memory Verse

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). - John 20:16

On the evening of the Sunday of Jesus' resurrection, the disciples were gathered together with the doors locked, because they were afraid of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them and said, "Peace to you." Then, He showed them His hands and side. The disciples were **full of joy** when they saw the Lord **with their own eyes!** Jesus repeated His greeting: "Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I am sending you." Then, He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (Jesus was giving the disciples their future mission - to preach the Good News about Jesus so people's sins might be forgiven).

But Thomas, one of Jesus' twelve disciples, was not with the other disciples that evening when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in His side, I won't believe it." (We don't know why Thomas, often called "doubting Thomas," was absent the first time Jesus appeared to the disciples. But he was not ready to believe their witness to Christ's resurrection. Not even ten friends could change his mind!)

A week later, the disciples were gathered together again and Thomas was with them. Again, Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them and said, "Peace to you." Then, He focused His attention on Thomas. "Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don't be unbelieving. Believe."

Thomas said, "My Master! My God!"

Jesus told him, "You believe because you've seen with your own eyes. More blessings are for those who believe without seeing." When **you** experience doubt, be encouraged by Thomas who didn't **stay** in his doubts, but allowed Jesus to bring him to belief.

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Lesson Activity

Who Am I?

Unscramble each name on the right using the clues given in each statement, on the left. Your answers will be names of people who were important in the story of Jesus' resurrection.

1. I had Jesus killed to try to keep the peace.

Who am I?

ITLAPE

2. When I saw Jesus die, I knew he was an innocent man. Who am I?

ORNCITUNE

3. I asked for Jesus' body so I could bury it before the Sabbath.

POJESH

4. I wanted Pilate to post guards at Jesus' tomb.

Who am I?

WIHEJSDERELAS

5. I was resurrected on the third day. Who am I?

ESSUJ

6. I was crying in the garden by the empty tomb. Who am I?

RAYM

7. I ran to the tomb with John to see if Jesus' body was gone. Who am I?

ETPRE

8. I did not believe Jesus was alive until I saw him. Who am I?

STAHOM