

# Resurrection Faith and Doubt

By Beth Herrinton-Hodge



Each of the Gospels tells about Jesus' friends who found the empty tomb on Easter morning. The story of Jesus' resurrection doesn't end there. Read about Thomas, who had trouble believing that God really raised Jesus from death.

**For**  
Young Family

**Season**  
Spring

## Needed

Bible, or children's Bible storybook with the story of Thomas (John 20:24-29), or text on last page

## Prepare in Advance

Think about your own faith and doubt concerning Jesus' resurrection.

## Activity Plan

1. Gather in a comfortable place and say this prayer aloud to begin:

*Amazing God, it's easy to believe what we can see and touch and hear. Help us to believe in your love and saving power, even when we cannot see it or touch it. Help us to trust that your Word is true. Amen.*

2. Read aloud the story of Thomas (John 20:24-29) from your Bible, a children's Bible storybook, or the text on the last page.
3. Involve everyone in retelling the Bible story, point-by-point. Have one family member tell what happened first in the story. The next person says, "Then ..." and tells the next point in the story. Family members continue like this, in turn, until the story is finished.
4. Discuss:
  - What questions do you have about this Bible story? (Don't feel as if each question must be answered; simply invite questions to be asked.)
  - What questions do you think Thomas had before he saw Jesus?
  - How were Thomas' questions answered?
  - Do you think Jesus was angry with Thomas? Why or why not?
5. This activity may help children think about how a person can be alive, even when we can't see them—as Jesus surely is. Ask one person to move to another room. Ask: Do you believe (*person's name*) is alive, even though he/she is not sitting with us? How do you know? As a group, move to a different room, but not the same room where the absent person is located. Ask: Do you believe (*person's name*) is alive, even though he/she is not standing with us? How do you know? Gather back in your original space, having the absent family member join you.

6. Recall how Thomas needed to see Jesus for himself before he could believe that God had raised Jesus from death. Talk together about how you knew that the person who was in the other space was still alive, even though you couldn't see or touch him/her. Assure everyone that God promises to send the Holy Spirit to help us believe in Jesus, even though we can't see him and touch him.
7. Read again Jesus' words to Thomas in John 20:29: "Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'"

Invite each person to restate Jesus' message in their own words.

8. Say this prayer aloud:

*Sometimes, God, it is hard to believe in things we cannot see. Send your Spirit to strengthen our faith and help us to believe in you and in the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

9. Variation: Some children will enjoy repeating step 5, with different family members taking turns leaving the room.

## Thomas Meets the Risen Christ

### John 20:24-29

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> 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."

<sup>26</sup> 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."

<sup>27</sup> 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." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

