

No Room for Doubt

Overview:

Scripture: Jesus appears to Thomas
Luke 24: 33-45 ; John 20: 19-31

Bible Truth:

A new life in Christ is a life of faith, not sight.

Life Aim:

To encourage students to live by faith, not by sight.

Memory Verse:

"For we walk by faith, and not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7 (KJV)

Materials:

Worksheet p. 13-14, Bible, Pencils

Discover Activity Braille Background: Questions, Answer Key and Pencil

Craft Materials: Glasses of Faith

Glasses of Faith Template p.36

Tape

Colored cellophane (if available, if not you can make your own.)

If making your own you will need a clear plastic baggie & a colored permanent marker.

Preparing your heart to teach and helping your child learn the word:

Read the texts for this week's lesson: Luke 24: 33-45 ; John 20: 19-31

- Think about what changed Thomas's mind in the passage.
- It is common to want as direct an experience with truth as possible to believe it. How can a Christian make the truth of the gospel as concrete as possible for a seeker? How will you do that with your kids this week when helping them with their lesson? Pray for insight to recognize the right things to say and do, to help lead them.

THE LESSON:

Implications of Faith: Explore how your children exercise faith in daily life. Describe the following situations, and ask your students what they do in each. Jot down their answers on a wipe off board or a piece of paper.

- You wake up at night. It's very dark, but you want to go to the Kitchen. What's the first thing you do? (Turn on the light switch.)
- You've finished getting ready, it's time to leave for school. Where do you go? (Get in the car, or walk to the bus stop.)
- You go into the classroom. The teacher tells you it's time to start the school day. What do you do? (Sit down in your seat and listen.)
- After school, you hurry outside. What do you do there? (Get in the car or on the bus.)

Go back over the situations and answers, discuss how faith affects their actions.

- You turn on the light switch because you believe - have faith- that the light will go on.
- You go to the bus stop or get in the car because you believe - have faith- that the bus / car will get you to school.
- You sit down in your seat because you believe - have faith- that your seat will hold you up.
- You get back in the car or on the bus because you believe - have faith- that it will take you back home.

*Everyday what we believe in- have faith in- determines what we do. As Christians, our faith affects all of our lives. The way we act is determined by what we believe in- have faith in. We can't "see" Jesus, but we do believe in him, and this belief will make all the difference in our lives. Lets see how that works in our bible study.

Exploring the Bible Truths: Today's lesson takes place after the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The Disciples See & Believe (Luke 24: 33-43)

Some of Jesus' friends knew for sure that Jesus had risen from the dead. Cleopas and his friend had actually seen Jesus and talked with him on the road to Emmaus. They had not recognized him at first, but when they did, they were thrilled! Then Jesus suddenly disappeared.

Though they had just walked seven miles, they immediately turned around and hurried back to Jerusalem to tell the others, they had seen Jesus! They found the disciples and some other followers hiding in a room in Jerusalem, they were talking about the Lord's appearance to Simon Peter. Peter was the first disciple to see Jesus after his resurrection. (1 Cor. 15:5)

While Cleopas and his friend were telling the others about seeing Jesus on the road to Emmaus, Jesus appeared, right there in the room with them! He greeted them, and said "Peace be with you." At first they were shocked and became a little scared, they thought he was a ghost. After all he was just there, standing in the middle of the room, He didn't come through the door or anything.

Jesus knew their feelings and asked, "Why are you afraid? Why do you doubt your eyes and ears?" Jesus showed them his hands and his feet, and they could see his wounds from the cross. He then told them to touch him and they could feel he was real. Jesus then asked if they had anything to eat. They gave him some fish to eat, and he ate it right there in front of them, and then they knew, there wasn't any question. This was Jesus and HE WAS ALIVE!!!

A Doubter Sees & Believes (John 20:19-31)

Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples, wasn't with the others when Jesus appeared that first night. We know that Thomas was not a coward, he was a brave man.(John 11:16) and he wasn't afraid to ask questions. (John 14:5)

A week later all the disciples met together and Thomas was with them, Thomas just could not believe what they were telling him, about seeing Jesus alive. He told them " I won't believe unless I can see and feel the nail marks in his hands and the wounds in his side."

All the disciples met in a locked room, and suddenly Jesus was there too in the room with them! After Jesus had greeted them, he spoke directly to Thomas. Jesus said " Thomas, feel the wounds in my hands and put your hand on my side. Stop doubting and believe."

However Thomas couldn't do it, when he saw Jesus face to face, he knew it was him. All doubt was gone, Thomas fell on his knees and said, "My Lord and My God!" Jesus said, "Thomas because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me, yet still believe." (John 20:29)

Discussion Questions: Answer and Discuss these questions together.

- How did Jesus show that he wasn't a ghost?
- When Thomas saw Jesus what did he believe?
- What makes us believe, even though we can't "see" Jesus?

Braille Background Activity:

The Braille alphabet, used in this activity was invented by Louis Braille, who became blind as a young child. Louis spent most of his lifetime developing this reading system for the blind. Yet when he was done, his work was rejected by most people. But he believed - had faith- in his idea. Louis never gave up, he stuck with it even though he didn't realize the results for several years. Now that's faith.

- Using the Braille Code Answer Key, decode the answers to each faith builder. To make it more interesting, your kids can use their pencils to poke holes through the back so the fronts are "bumpy". Allow them to close their eyes and feel the clues, giving them a better understanding of the braille code.

Glasses of Faith Craft:

Making "faith glasses" will help your child to understand how faith provides perspective.

- Copy the faith glasses template. (I would recommend using card stock if available, if not regular copy paper will be fine.)
- Cut out the glasses and earpieces. Cut out the eyepieces as well.
- Cut out pieces of colored cellophane to place in the eye pieces.

If you do not have colored cellophane, just make your own. Using the baggie and permanent colored marker, color a space on the bag with the colored permanent marker, allow time for it to dry, Simply cut out two eyepieces and tape them into your faith glasses. I have included a picture of the supplies I used and my completed glasses.

- As children look through their glasses, explain the analogy.

- Faith enables us to see the world very differently from those who have no faith. Knowing God and believing in him through faith "colors" everything in life more beautifully.

Worksheet p. 13-14

Using your bibles and pencils, complete worksheets 13 & 14.

- P.13 - Faith that Grows
- P.14 - Faith Needed

I have included the answer key to page 13.

Get Up and Get Moving! Activity

Faith Fall - Ask your child to get up and stand up straight, and then tell them to just fall backwards. Promise them you will catch them (and be sure you do! lol). After they have taken the risk, ask them if it was easy or hard to trust you. Explain how being willing to fall meant they believed in - had faith in - the fact that you would catch them.

In Closing:

Lesson Summary -

In today's lesson, Thomas didn't believe Jesus was alive until he saw Jesus in person. We cannot see Jesus face to face as Thomas and the other disciples did. But the Holy Spirit convinces us in our hearts that He is real, that we can trust Him, and that He loves us. Jesus promised us we would be blessed because of our faith in him.

People who don't believe in him, will act as if he doesn't exist. However those of us with Faith, know that he is real; therefore we want to love him and please him by the way we live.

Jesus said that those who follow him will have trouble in the world. But when we have faith in Jesus we try to please him by doing what he says. Faith makes a difference in the way we live. This is the key to victory over sin and overcoming life's challenges!

A note for parents:

In these different times, it can be very confusing for our kids. They have a lot of things changing in their lives. Remind them that our faith in God will get us through and we are overcomers through him! Have your kids put on their faith glasses and say this with them:

"Whatever happens this week, I will see through faith glasses, and trust you Lord that everything is gonna be okay!"

Be blessed and have a great week!



1. _____ is being certain of
what we don't see. (*Heb. 11:1*)



2. Jesus said that those who _____ in
Him without seeing Him are specially blessed. (*John 20:29*)



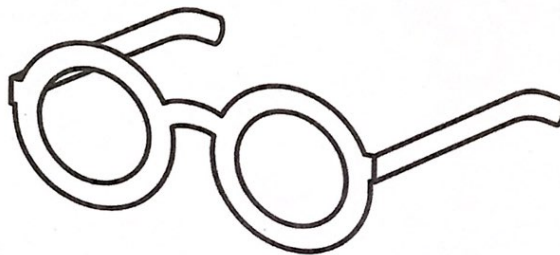
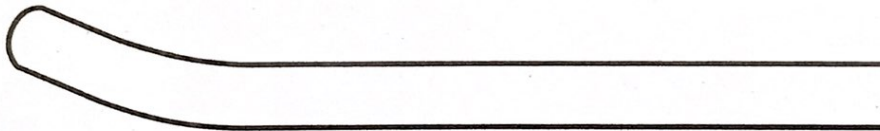
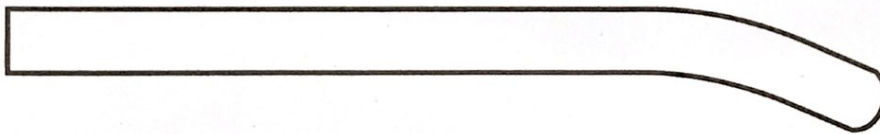
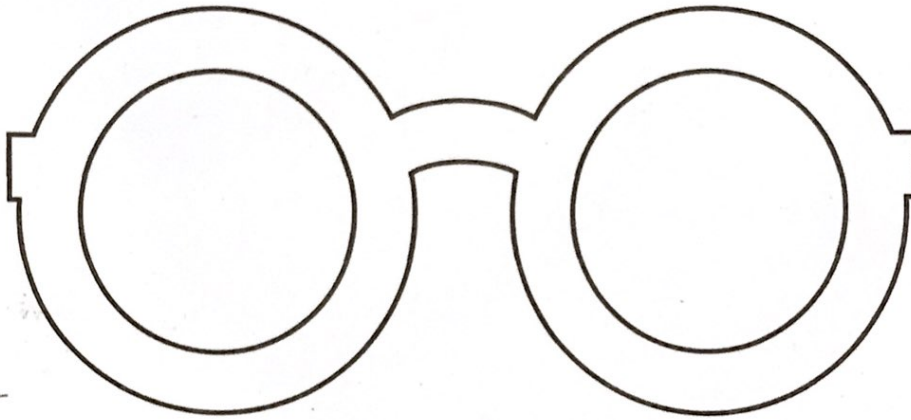
3. Without faith it is impossible
to _____ God. (*Heb. 11:6*)



4. Faith is the _____ that
overcomes the world! (*1 John 5:4*)

Answer Key

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



Faith Needed!

It's easy to have faith in God's goodness when things are going your way.
It's not as easy when you have problems.

Read the situations and look at the pictures. Write what you would say or do if your faith were strong. Reading *Romans 8:28* will help you.



The day before you are supposed to play in the soccer tournament, you sprain your ankle.

Faith in the goodness of God needed!

Your father is sick in the hospital and the doctors aren't sure what's wrong.

Faith in the power of God needed!

Your best friend just moved faraway. You feel lonely and wonder if you'll ever have another friend like that.

Faith in God's care needed!

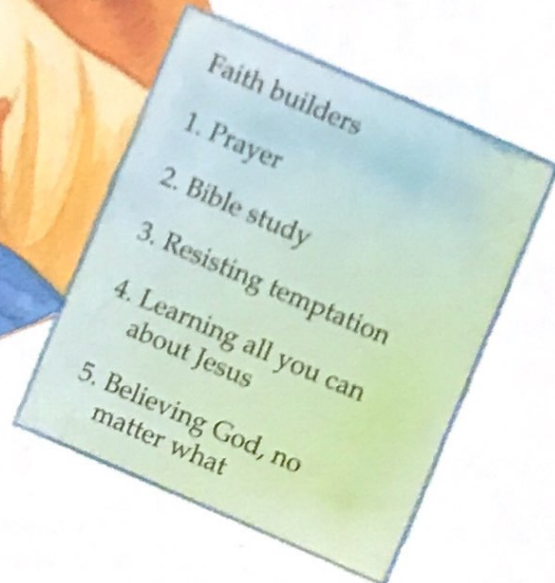
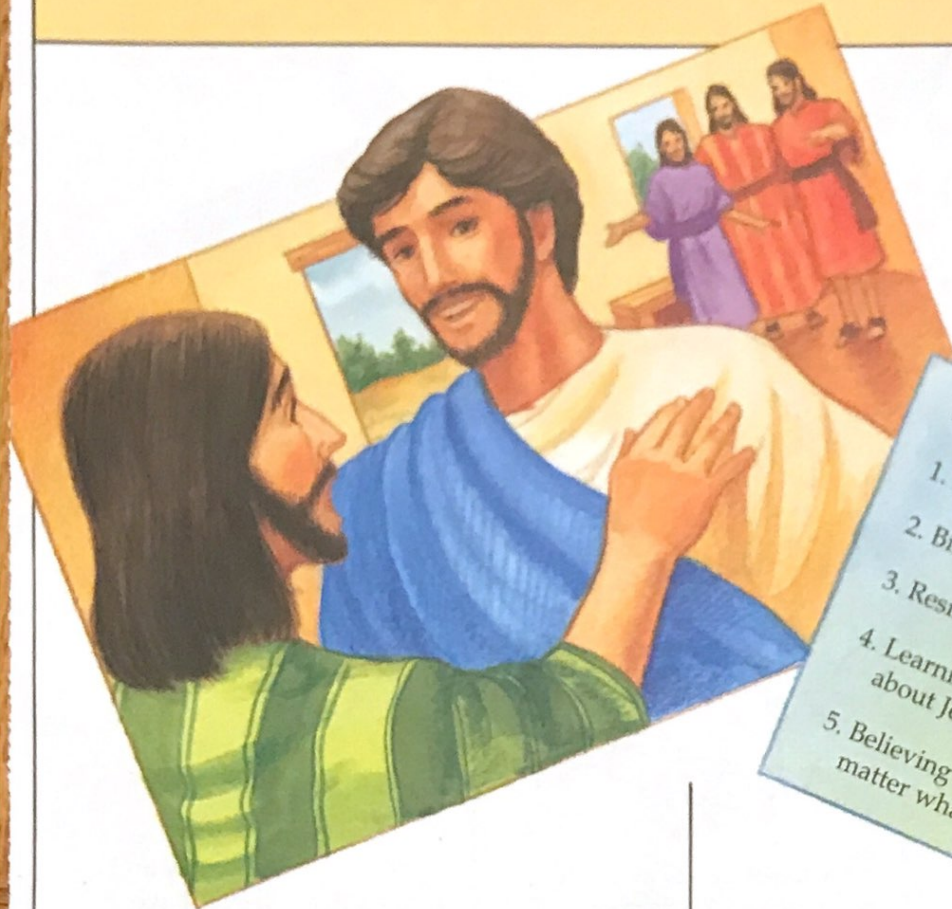
Where do you need stronger faith in your life right now? Describe your "faith needed" situation.

Faith is believing, not feeling. You can trust God even when you don't feel like it. No matter how much your feelings change, God is always the same. You can have faith in Him!



Faith that Grows

It takes faith to become a child of God. It also takes faith to live for Him after that. As we use our faith, it grows. What are some other ways we can build up our faith and make it stronger?



Read the statements from Bible verses.
Match each one with the correct "faith builder."

- ☐ Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18)
- ☐ Faith comes by hearing the message of the Word of God. (Rom. 10:17)

- ☐ Jesus' disciples said to Him, "Increase our faith." (Luke 17:5)
- ☐ Run away from your youthful evil desires, but follow righteousness. (2 Tim. 2:22)
- ☐ Abraham believed that God was able to do everything He promised, and that He would do it. (Rom. 4:13, 20-21)



A Verse to Remember

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2 Corinthians 5:7

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Faith builders

1. Prayer
2. Bible study
3. Resisting temptation
4. Learning all you can about Jesus
5. Believing God, no matter what

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