

Seeing Is Believing

Theme

We believe in Jesus.

Object

A dollar bill, two paper clips, "Linking Paper Clips" How-to Video

Scripture

John 20:19-31

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.

Sermon Title: "Seeing Is Believing"

Scripture Reading: John 20:19-31

HIDE AND SEE:

Children will take turns hiding as a team and the other team will try to SEE them. When they have been SEEN, it will be the other team's turn to SEE the hiding team. The teacher can also have the teams hide an OBJECT for the other team to find and SEE, instead of a team player, etc.

OBJECTS TO SEE:

The teacher can hide many objects around a designated area. Give the children a piece of paper and marker or pencil to record the items that they SEE but without telling the other children what they have SEEN. There will be a specified time allowed for the SEEing game. Then the children can sit in a circle and tell what they SAW from reading the words or the pictures that they drew while looking for the objects. (Younger children can draw pictures and older children can write the words of the items that they see). The teacher can tell them to look for any item that has a ribbon on it so that children will know an item that is to be written down for this class project, such as a pencil, a stuffed toy, a cross, a Bible, a drinking cup, a flower, a picture, a toy, a bracelet, etc.

HANDS AND NAILS:

Give children supplies to draw and cut out their own traced hands. Glue onto a piece of construction paper and glue a black round circle in the middle of each hand as a "hole" that Jesus had placed in his hands and feet.

NAIL NECKLACE:

Each child can be given a large nail and plastic string to tie and hot glue the nail to the necklace string. Tie around the child's neck and remind them to share today's story and "Believing". (If children are too young, a picture on card stock of a nail could be hole punched and used for the necklace).

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.

I BELIEVE HEART:

Children can trace and cut out a large red heart - adding glitter and I BELIEVE in the middle of the heart, Children could be encouraged to draw a small hand on the middle of the heart with a small "nail hole" as well. Hang the I BELIEVE HEART by a ribbon from the top of the heart.

HEART FACE:

Give each child a heart to cut out, as well as big craft eyes to glue onto the heart. Yarn can be added for hair and a cut out mouth to glue to the heart, etc. Children can write EYE BELIEVE or other words from today's lesson - place and glue a strip of card stock paper to the back to make a "stand" so the heart can stand up on its own. (The strip of card stock will just be folded and one end glued to the bottom of the heart and the other section will be on the table and hold the heart up.)

BELIEVE ACROSTIC:

On a poster board or the chalkboard, the teacher can write B-E-L-I-E-V-E down the left side of the board and let children talk about words for each of the letters that would help them BELIEVE, or ideas of what JESUS has done to help us BELIEVE, etc.

EYES TO SEE:

Provide children with supplies of various colors of construction paper and markers, to draw very large eyes. Glue the eyes, lashes (cut from another color of paper and cut to look like lashes), eyebrows, etc on a piece of construction paper. Write today's Bible verse or words from today's lesson to help us SEE JESUS and to believe the truths of God's Word even though we can't SEE Jesus!

SING A SONG:

OPEN MINE EYES THAT I MIGHT SEE; ONLY BELIEVE

SHARE A SNACK:

Heart shaped cookies for children to frost and decorate. Remind children to BELIEVE with all their heart and to trust God's Word!

Song: "Open My Eyes"

[Words and Music \(pdf\)](#)

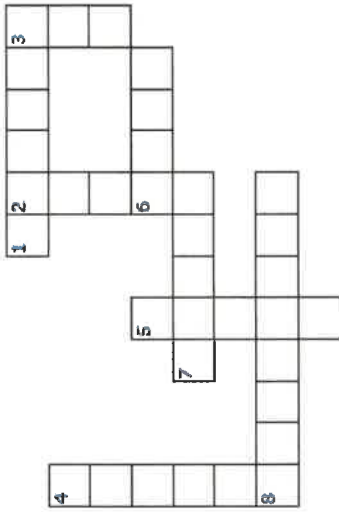
[MP3 Accompaniment Track \(right click to save to your computer\)](#)

Song: "Only Believe"

[Words and Music \(pdf\)](#)

[MP3 Accompaniment Track \(right click to save to your computer\)](#)

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- The disciple who would not believe without seeing
- An entrance into a building or room
- A pointed and headed fastener designed to be pounded into wood
- Unwilling to believe that something is true

DOWN

- The body parts at the end of the arms
- To observe with your eyes
- Not open
- To believe in something for which there is no proof

FAITH	THOMAS	CLOSED	NAILS
HANDS	SEE	DOUBTING	DOOR



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Children's Worship Bulletin

Seeing Is Believing

John 20:19-31

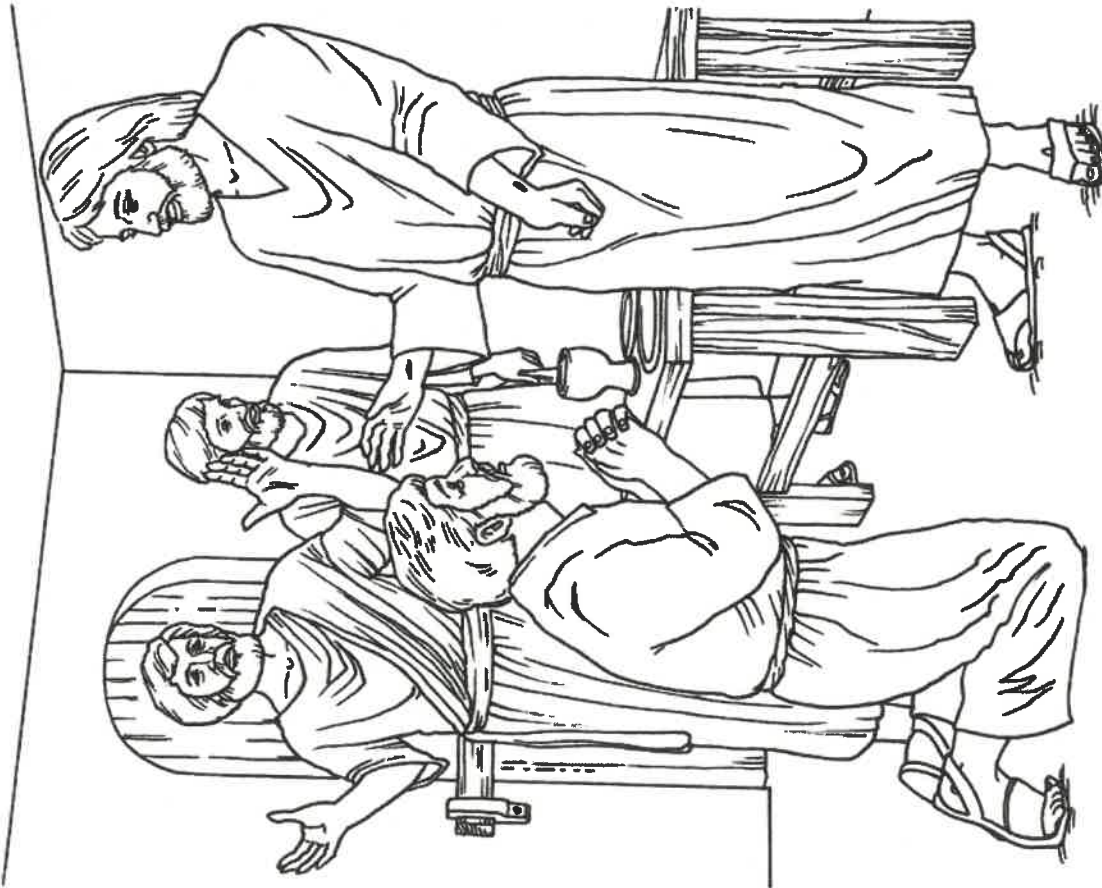
Word Search Puzzle

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
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 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	DISCIPLES	DOORS	MIRACLES	TOUCHED
HANDS	TOGETHER	DOUBTING	SHOWED	SIGNS
SIDE	RECORDED	BELIEVED	JESUS	LOCKED

Your Church Name Here
Anytown, Anywhere

Coloring Page



Jesus Appears!

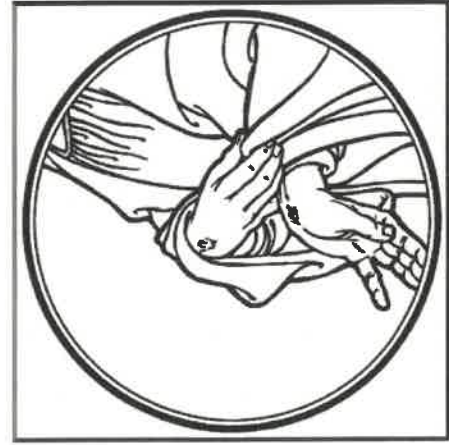
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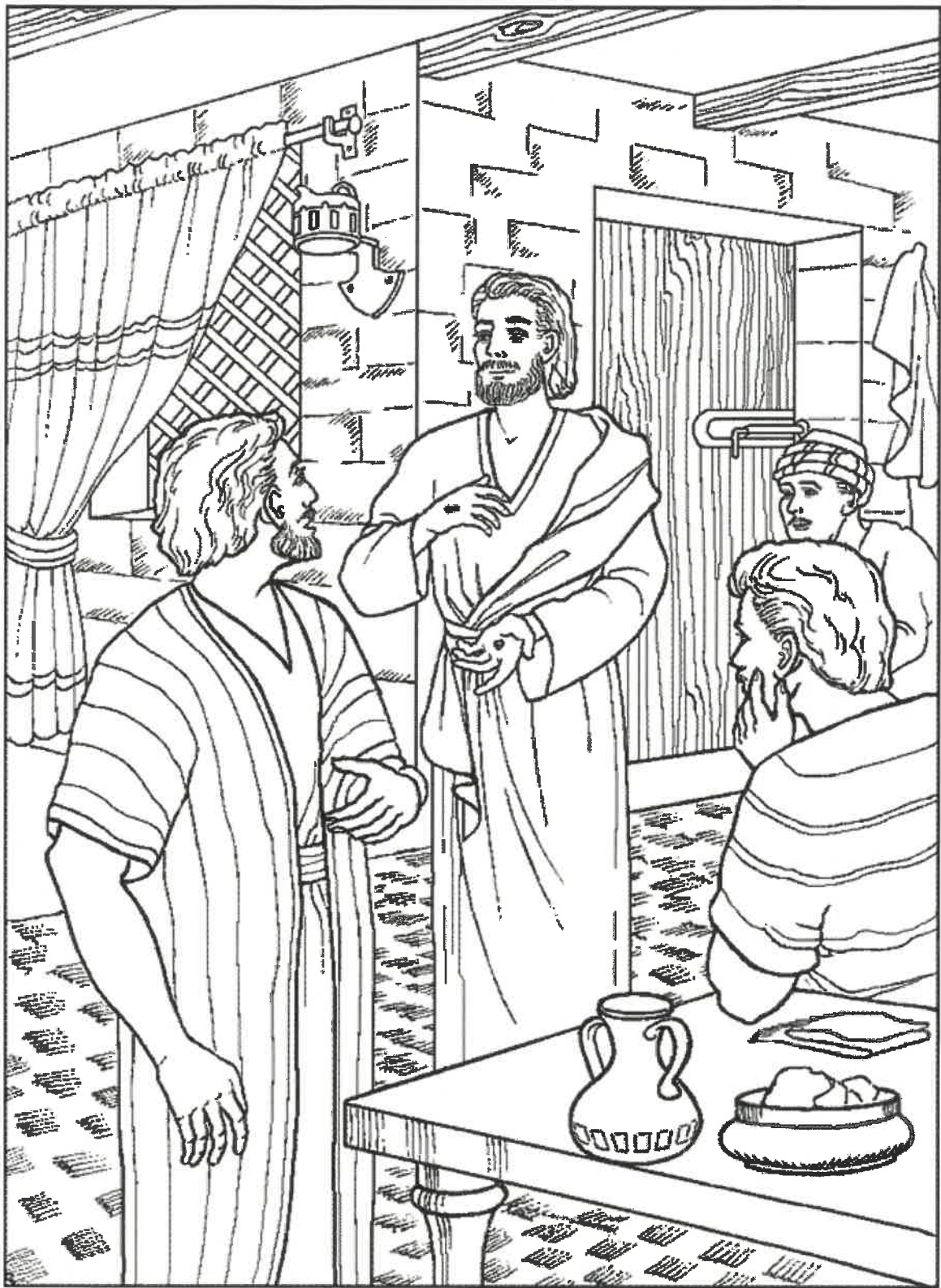
Decoder Puzzle

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





Jesus Appears to Thomas

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