

Children and family talk for Sunday 24th April 2022

Good morning!

I hope you enjoyed celebrating Easter last weekend. Today, in our bible reading, we read about what happened next, after Jesus had risen from the tomb and appeared to Mary Magdalene. You can find this reading in John chapter 20, verses 19-31

Jesus Appears to His Followers and then Thomas

¹⁹ It was the first day of the week. That evening Jesus' followers were together. The doors were locked, because they were afraid of the Jews. Then Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. His followers were very happy when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Then Jesus said again, "Peace be with you! As the Father sent me, I now send you." ²² After he said this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven. If you don't forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ Thomas (called Didymus) was not with the followers when Jesus came. Thomas was one of the 12. ²⁵ The other followers told Thomas, "We saw the Lord."

But Thomas said, "I will not believe it until I see the nail marks in his hands. And I will not believe until I put my finger where the nails were and put my hand into his side."

²⁶ A week later the followers were in the house again. Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand here in my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you see me. Those who believe without seeing me will be truly happy."

³⁰ Jesus did many other miracles before his followers that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you can believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Then, by believing, you can have life through his name.

Have you ever doubted God? I know I have. Poor Thomas missed out on meeting Jesus the first time he appeared to the disciples. Then he couldn't believe when they told him they had seen Jesus. I guess he must have felt left out and confused, when they were all telling him they had seen Jesus alive, he just couldn't believe unless he saw Jesus for himself and made sure it actually was him. I guess we all have moments like that, when we need proof of something, before we can believe it is true. It doesn't matter how many times or how sure the people are who are telling us, if we haven't seen it with our own eyes.

If you are having trouble believing, one thing you could try is to separate what you know from what you feel. For example, you may feel lonely, but the Bible says God is always with you, and we know as Christians, that if the Bible says it, then it's true. (Check out Matthew 28 verse 20.). You could do this with other things that you are feeling. Most modern Bibles will have a list of where to turn in the Bible when you are feeling certain ways. Why not check out your Bible and see if you have this in yours?

Let's talk to God now;

Dear God,

Thankyou for Thomas, who showed us that even when we have doubts, we can come to you and your words to take those doubts away. Help us to believe even when we find it hard, or when things are not going the way we want them to. We are sorry for our unbelief. We want to trust in you, Lord. Thankyou that you have given us the Bible, full of your stories, to help us to see the truth.

Amen.

Let's finish by saying the grace together:

And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands as if receiving a present)

The Love of God (Cross your hands over your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (hold hands together)

Be with us all, now and for evermore, Amen. (Bring thumbs together).

Here is a link for a song: Reality, by Tom Smith, with lyrics so you can join in if you want to!

<https://youtu.be/2Sj4X43SKT8>

And here is the link for the activity page: [activity-sheet-24-april-2022.pdf \(rootsontheweb.com\)](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/activity-sheet-24-april-2022.pdf)

And the roots at home pages: [roots-at-home-24-april-2022-colour.pdf \(rootsontheweb.com\)](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/roots-at-home-24-april-2022-colour.pdf)