

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

Jesus and the Doubter

John 20:24-29

• **Make it active:**

Shrug your shoulders and shake your head each time you say *doubter or unbeliever*. Point to your eyes each time you say *see or look*. Hold up both hands when you say *hands*. Encourage kids to do the actions with you.

• **Play out the story:**

Invite one kid to be Thomas and another to be Jesus. Let them silently act out the story, moving around the front of the room to simulate the interaction between Thomas and Jesus.

Thomas was one of Jesus' disciples, but he **was not with the others when Jesus visited them. The other disciples kept telling him, "We have seen Jesus!"**

But Thomas doubted. He said, "I don't believe you! I want to see and touch the holes in His hands and His side, or I will never believe!"

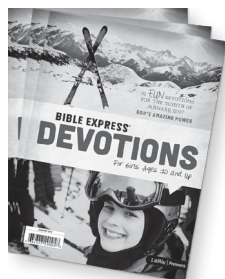
Eight days later, the disciples were indoors again. This time, Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, **Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, "Peace to you!"**

Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at My hands. Reach out and touch My side. **Don't be an unbeliever; believe!"**

Thomas did believe. "My Lord and my God!" he said.

Jesus said, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Those who believe in Me without seeing Me are blessed."

Christ Connection: Thomas saw Jesus for himself. He saw that Jesus had been raised from the dead and was alive. He saw Jesus' scars from the cross, where Jesus died for our sins. We have not seen Jesus, but Jesus said if we believe in Him without seeing Him, we are blessed.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover how God's Word can help them grow in the gospel. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

See and Feel

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TGP FAMILY APP

INSTRUCTIONS: Draw a square around each person's eye(s). Draw circles around each person's hand(s). How many people are in the picture? What is special about Jesus' hands?



KEY PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 15:4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.

BIBLE STORY:

JESUS AND THE DOUBTER

- Thomas said he would not believe Jesus was alive unless he saw and touched Him himself.
- Jesus showed His hands and side to Thomas.
- Thomas believed Jesus was alive.
- Jesus said people who believe without seeing are blessed.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Talk about a time your friend did not believe you or you did not believe your friend. Why did they doubt you or why did you doubt them?
- Why did Jesus say those who believe without seeing are blessed?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

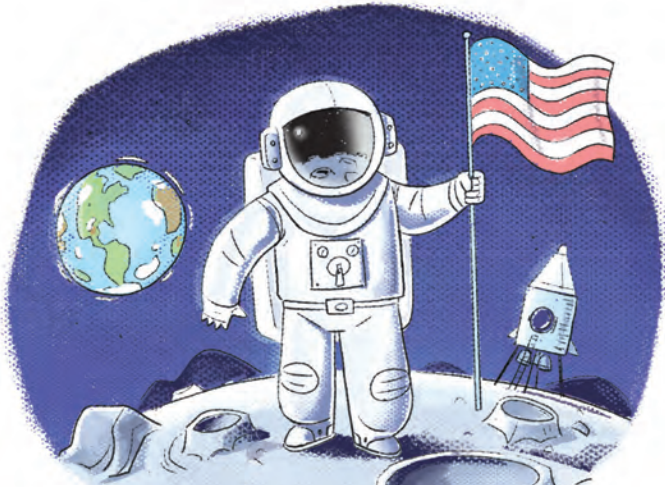
- Think about a relative or friend whom your family has not seen in a long time. Send a card, make a phone call, or plan a visit to reconnect.

Preschool Activity Pages
Unit 27, Session 2

Do You Believe?

DOWNLOAD THE
TGP FAMILY APP

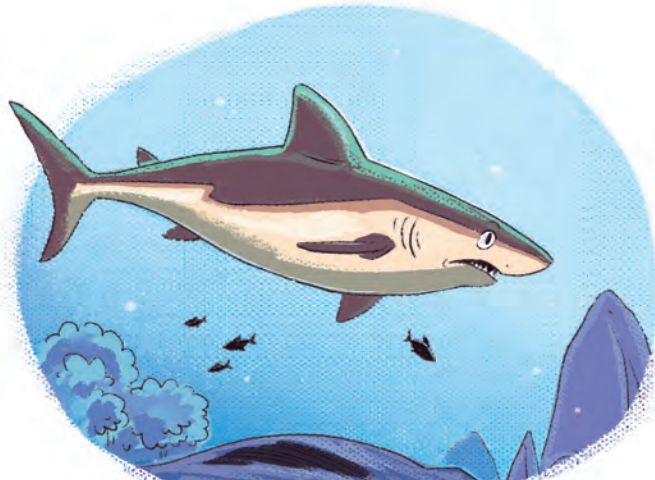
INSTRUCTIONS: Answer each of the questions below with “yes” or “no.” Compare your answers with a friend’s.



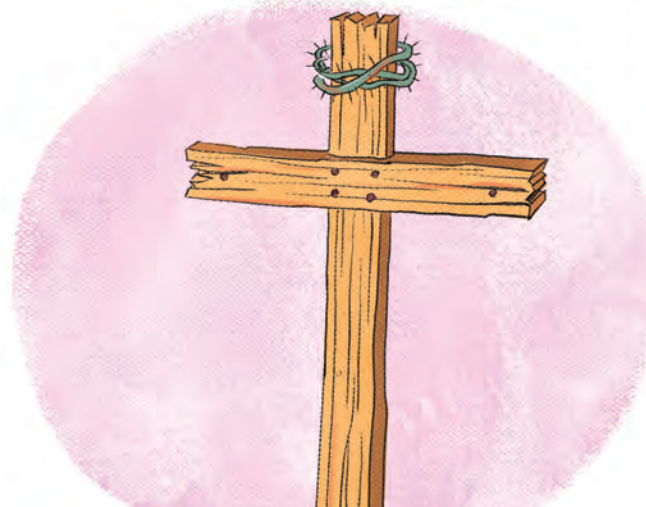
Do you believe that a man has walked on the moon? _____



Do you believe that electricity powers lightbulbs? _____



Do you believe that sharks exist? _____



Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose again? _____

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- What is our mission as believers? Our mission as believers is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Spirit.

BIBLE STORY:

JESUS AND THE DOUBTER

- Thomas was not around when Jesus appeared to His disciples the first time.
- Thomas refused to believe Jesus was alive without proof.
- Jesus showed His hands and side to Thomas.
- Jesus said people who believe without seeing are blessed.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Is it wrong to have doubts?
- What is our evidence that Jesus is alive?
- Whom can we tell about our evidence?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Host a storytelling contest. See who tells the most exciting and the most believable story. Remind them that the story of Jesus is both exciting and true.

Younger Kids Activity Pages
Unit 27, Session 2





Can You Believe It?

Read each truth. Can you believe it? Find the matching reference in your Bible and write it below the correct Bible truth.

Romans 10:13

Ephesians 2:8

Colossians 1:17

Jesus holds
everything together.

Salvation is a gift
from God.

Everyone who calls on the
name of the Lord will be
saved.

Stack Attack

Fill in the missing letters from the New Testament book names. Which disciple doubted that Jesus is alive?



The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.