

This week we are learning about

Doubting Thomas!



## READ IT

This week's Bible story is

### **Doubting Thomas**

from John 20:19-31.



Easter 2

#### **Jesus comes to all in peace!**

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Locked doors
- Jesus
- Thomas
- Disciples
- Peace be with you

After Jesus died, his disciples were in grave danger. They could have been arrested — and even executed. No wonder they were hiding!

### **Read the whole story together in the Bible!**

*Spark Story Bible* pages 492-495

*Spark Bible* pages 1199-1200

### **Family Prayer**

Say this prayer together by your home's front or back door.

**Thank you, Jesus, for the peace you give to all of us. Thank you for calling us to believe. AMEN.**

## TALK ABOUT IT



### **Family Conversations**

- 1 What does it feel like to be afraid?
- 2 Who can you tell if you are afraid of something?
- 3 What does it feel like to be at peace?
- 4 Toss a ball around. Each time you catch it, tell about a time when you felt afraid. Do it again and tell about a time when you felt at peace.

### **Eye Spark**

When you see a locked door, remember you can't lock Jesus out! Jesus always finds us!

### **Ear Spark**

When you hear the words, "Peace be with you!" in worship, think of Jesus giving peace to his disciples.

## LIVE IT

### **For families to do together**

Make cards or postcards with Jesus' words "Peace be with you!" on them. Use photos or art supplies or design programs — whatever makes this a fun activity for everyone in your family. When you are done, mail the cards to someone who might not expect it.

### **For younger kids**

Learn how to sign peace using American Sign Language. Put the right flat hand on the left flat hand, then the left on the right with palms down. Move both flat hands down and to your sides. PEACE!

### **For older kids**

Research how to say "Peace" in different languages. Make a slide show or PowerPoint of the different languages. Intersperse peaceful scenes, people from all over the world, or artwork of Jesus.





# Doubting Thomas

John 20:19-31

Jesus helps us believe.

What happened to Jesus' hand that helped Thomas believe? Draw it and then cover the hand with a bandage. Trace your hand over Jesus' hand.

Name \_\_\_\_\_



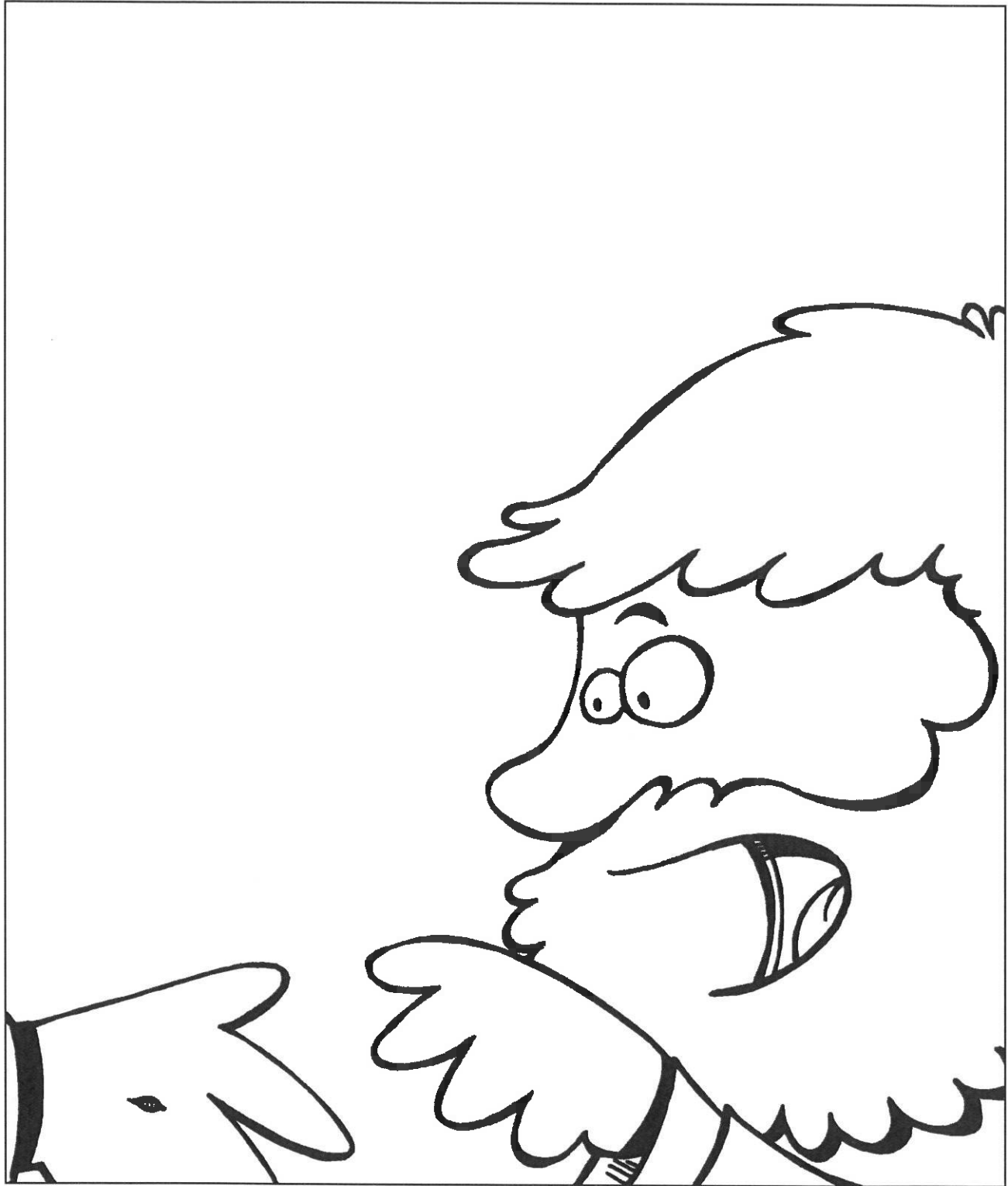


# Doubting Thomas



Thomas was the only disciple not there that night. When he got back, the others excitedly told him about Jesus' visit.

# Doubting Thomas



Thomas' eyes popped. "My Lord and my God!" he exclaimed.

# Can You Believe It?

Sometimes we have a hard time believing the things that people tell us. Solve this code to figure out what Thomas didn't believe.



**SECRET CODE**

A	E	I	J	L	S	U	V



# Can You Believe It? Solution

Sometimes we have a hard time believing the things that people tell us. Solve this code to figure out what Thomas didn't believe.

J E S U S    I S  
+ ☺ ♥ \* ♥    🌸 ♥

A L I V E !  
🌸 ☀ 🌸 👁 ☺

SECRET CODE

🌸	☺	🌸	+	☀	♥	*	👁
A	E	I	J	L	S	U	V



John 20:19-31

It's **time** for you to **believe.**

## I wonder...

- If Thomas really touched Jesus.
- If the other disciples had doubts.
- What it was like to see Jesus again.



## Dad's Coming Home!

"Tim, hurry up! Elena wants to get to there in time to hang the sign she made!"

Tim came down the stairs slowly. He couldn't exactly figure out why, but he was in a rotten mood. Supposedly his dad was coming home today. Tim and Elena hadn't seen him in more than a year—392 days, to be exact. He'd left for Afghanistan before summer started last year. Tim had only been nine.

How would we feel, thought Tim, if this was all a joke and we got there and Dad wasn't really on the bus? He knew the call had come late last night that his dad's plane had landed at the base three states away, but he still couldn't quite believe his dad was going to be home. Elena seemed to have no trouble—she was about to burst. Mom made her make a big sign just to keep her from bouncing off the walls all morning.

When they got to the bus terminal there was hardly room for the sign. Tons of people were there and everyone had a sign and everyone was as excited as Elena. When the bus began to unload, a lot of people wearing fatigues like his dad had been wearing when he left. Elena was bouncing up and down and then she yelled, "There he is! Daddy!" Dad ran and scooped her up and squished her in his hug with Mom. Tim stood off a few feet watching. It still didn't seem quite real. It looked like Dad, except he looked a little different, too. Then Dad was beside him. "Hey, bud," he said as he scooped Tim up, too. Tim was pretty big, but his dad was awfully strong and once he felt his arms he knew right away that it was real. "Dad! You're back!"



# Decode the Code!

Use the example below to decode the code. Using your Spark Bible, in John 20 you will find that the letter "G" is in verse 19, word number 4, and letter number 7.

## Example:

Verse 19

Word 10

Letter 7

ANSWER: G

Verse 20 24 26 27 19 28 19 25 26 25 29 29 22

Word 4 7 12 1 2 8 41 9 5 18 1 7 6

Letter 1 3 4 3 2 2 1 3 7 1 2 6 2

-----!

# Doubting Thomas Word Find



Find the following words from this Bible story in the word find below:

Thomas Jesus Peace Doubt Believe Locked Room Spirit Touch



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



## Look It Up!

Look up **John 21:25**. What do you think didn't get written down?



## Memory Verse

Do not doubt but believe.

**John 20:27c**



## Fun Facts

The **Gospel of John** was the last of the Gospels to be written.

The word for **Spirit** in Greek also means wind or breath.

The story of "**Doubting Thomas**" is only told in the Gospel of John.

Another way to translate *doubt* in this story is "**unbelieving.**" Jesus says, "Do not be unbelieving, but believing!" to Thomas.

The disciples were all **hiding** in a locked room when Jesus came because they were afraid.

It was **dangerous** to be a follower of Jesus in that time and place.

## Believe

There are many languages in our world and many ways to say "Believe!" Try out a few below and put stars on the map where people might use these words for *believe*. Cut out the map and put it in your Bible.

**Tro** (Danish)

**Maniwala** (Filipino)

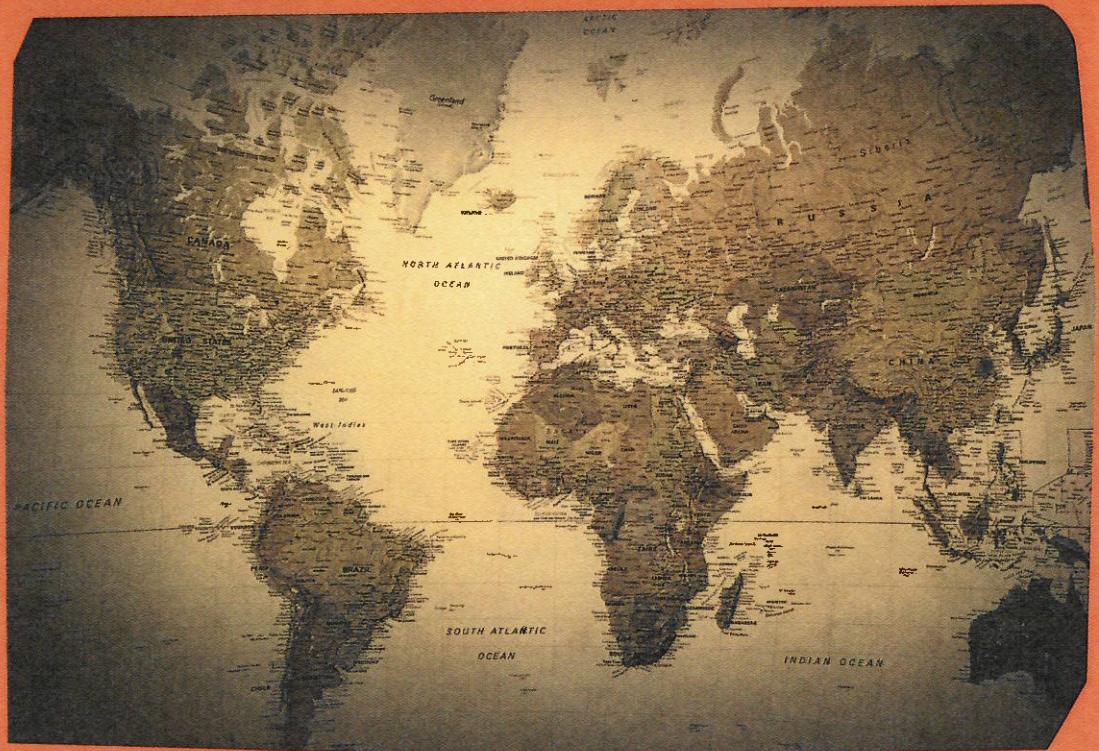
**Pisteo** (Greek)

**Manana** (Hindi)

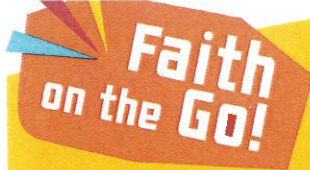
**Creer** (Spanish)

**Kuamini** (Swahili)

**Tin** (Vietnamese)







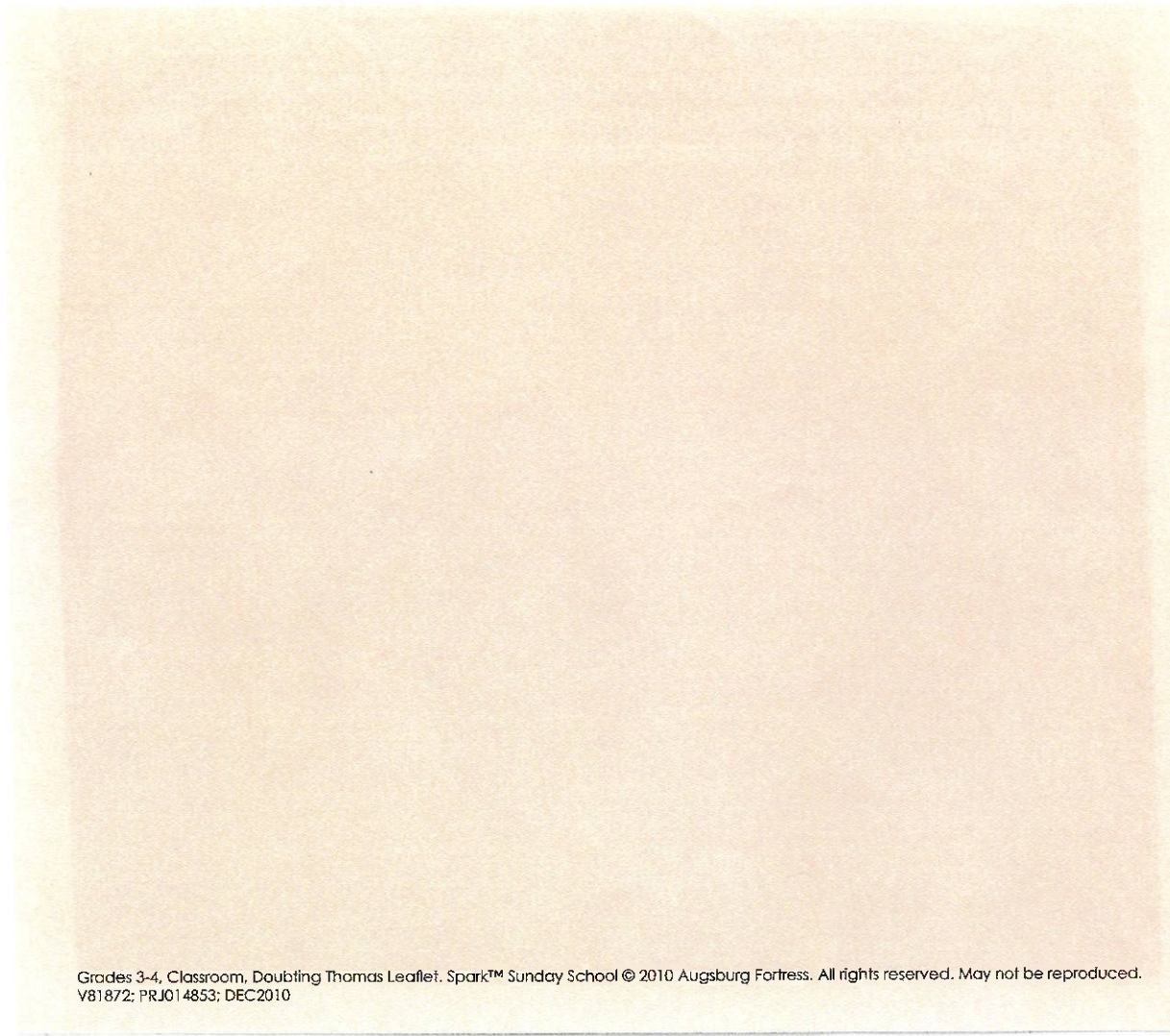
Make a postcard that says "Believe!" and **send** it to someone anonymously.

**Invite** someone to come to church with you and **learn** about Jesus.

**Wish** somebody Jesus' peace this week.

Ask your pastor if they ever **have doubts** like Thomas did.

**Do an online search** for art of this Bible story about doubting Thomas.





# Blind Drawing

Thomas doubted that Jesus was alive because he couldn't see him. Jesus said we are blessed for believing without seeing. What else can you do without seeing? Pick something or someone in the room. Then try to draw it without looking down or picking up your pen from your paper. Does it look like the real thing?

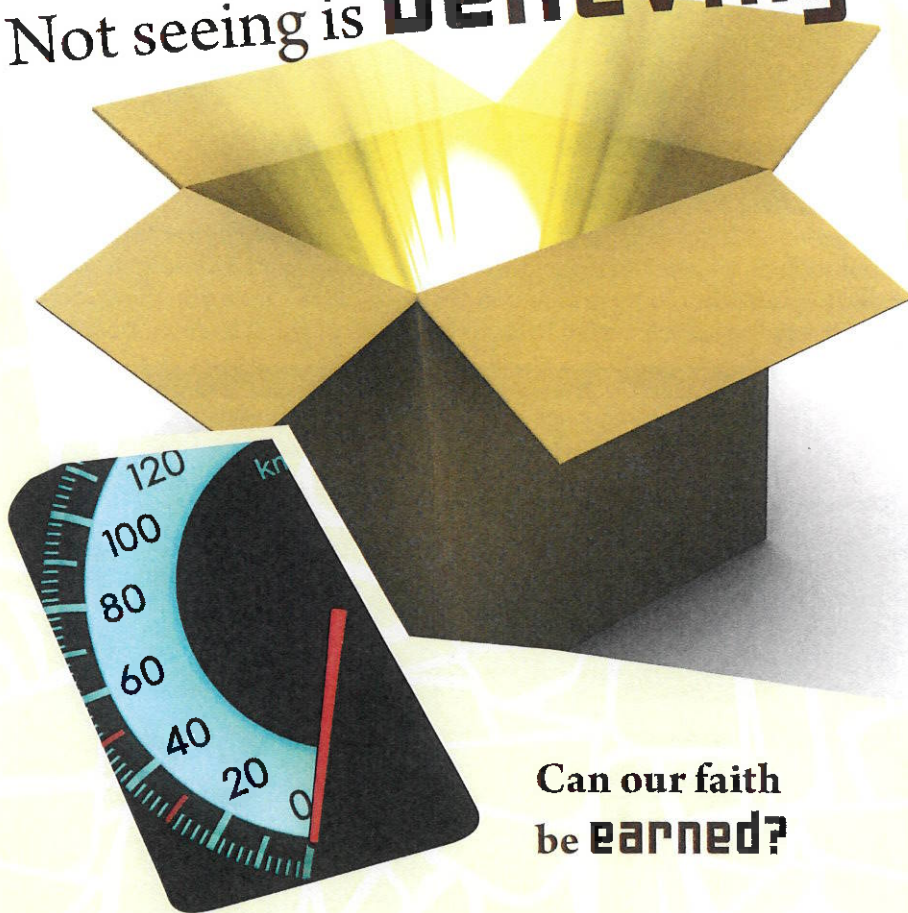


# Doubting Thomas



John 20:19-31

Not seeing is **believing.**



Can our faith  
be **earned?**

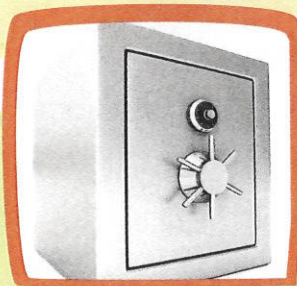
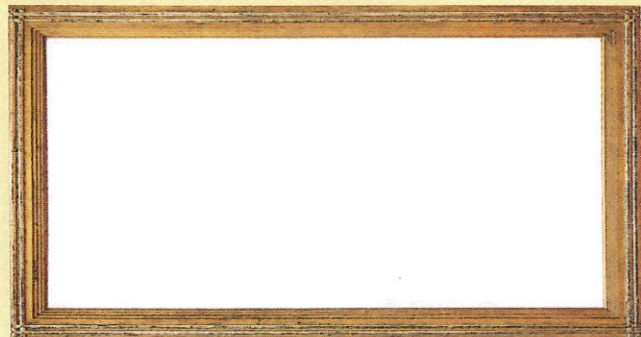
Grades 5-6, Classroom, Doubting Thomas Leaflet, Spark: Activate Faith  
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# Better Know Your Partner Better

In this activity, you'll have to guess what your partner is thinking. How will they respond? When your leader asks you the questions, write your answers below, folding the leaflet so you only show one answer at a time:


## Putting the Pieces Together

See if you and a partner can create a tangram—a picture created out of paper shapes. Sit back to back and wait for the leader's instructions. Talk it out with each other to try and re-create the picture. Once you think you've finished, use the space below to draw a picture of your creation. Does it match?



### Did You Know?

Safes (which people use to lock up valuables) are sometimes rated according to how many minutes it will take a burglar to break in. They are rated in 15, 30, and 60-minute intervals.





## Look it up!

Thomas the disciple is only mentioned once more in the Bible. Read the first chapter of Acts with your group, and find out if Thomas remains a follower of Jesus or not. Pay special attention to verse 24. How does Jesus know Thomas' heart in today's story?

## "Jesus Part II: Even Jesus-er"

The writer of John says that Jesus did other things that weren't included in the Bible. Look at the list below, and group each possible Jesus-activity by whether it would be evidence of Jesus' divine nature (a "God" thing) or his equally important human nature.

### DIVINE NATURE

Jesus eats a sandwich.

Jesus multiplies one sandwich into many sandwiches to feed hungry people.

Jesus heals a child who can't walk.

Jesus takes a nap for like, three hours.

Jesus goes to the bathroom.

Jesus saves someone from a snake attack by commanding the snake to stop.

Jesus tells a story that shows how God loves everyone.

Jesus shaves off his beard -- just for a change.

Jesus plays soccer with his friends.

### HUMAN NATURE

## A Gifted Faith

If your faith came to you gift-wrapped, what would it look like? In the space below, draw a wrapped-up faith. What shape is the box? What does the wrapping paper look like? What else might be added?

# Every Sunday Someday

**Today we learned** that Jesus is still Jesus, no matter what our senses tell us. Working with the materials your leader gives you, create a sign that says, "Jesus is risen TODAY!" Here's the catch – your sign has to use at least 3 of the five senses.



## Faith on the Go!

With your family, do a web search for "church for the visually impaired." Taking today's story very literally, what churches are providing worship opportunities for people with special needs? How are they doing it?



## Memory Verse



Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." John 20:29

# We Can Believe

Sometimes it's hard to believe in God. Thomas had a hard time believing, and he was alive at the same time as Jesus! Fill out this card and put it someplace where you'll see it at home. When you see it, remember that God loves you!

**I know God  
really loves  
me because...**