

This week we are learning about

Doubting Thomas!

Doubting Thomas

John 20:19-31

We can believe Jesus.



Surprise
Peek to see Thomas' surprise.

Name _____

SPARK
ACTIVATE FAITH

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.

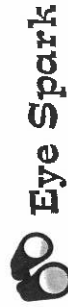
Thank you, Jesus, for the peace you give to all of us. Thank you for calling us to believe. AMEN.

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.



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We Can't See It

We know there are lots of things we cannot see.



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PRJ014850; DEC2010

Shadow Shapes

Match the shapes to their shadows.



FAITH on the GO!

Play a game of I Spy, make up riddles or create a treasure hunt as a family. Discovering things we can't easily see can be fun.

Doubting Thomas

John 20:19-31

Jesus helps us believe.

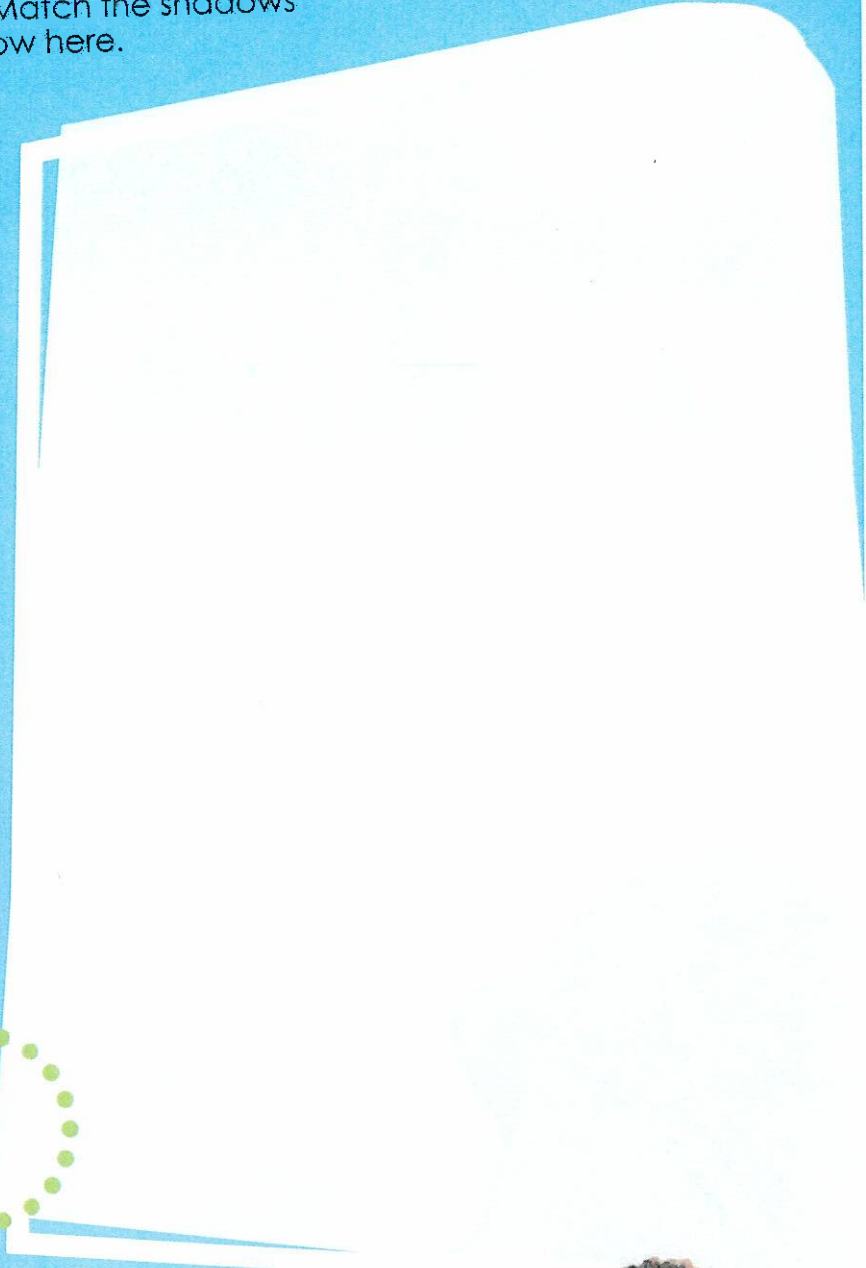
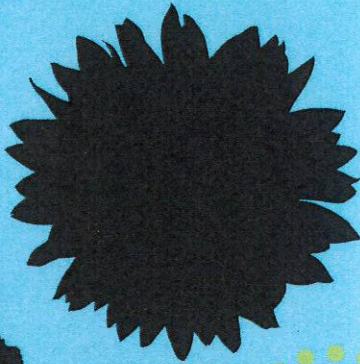
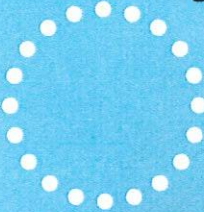
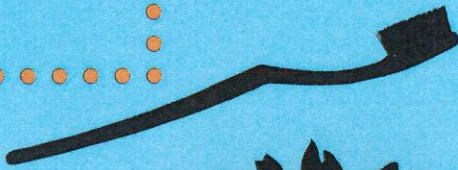
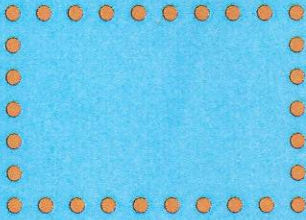
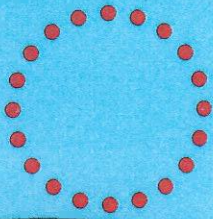
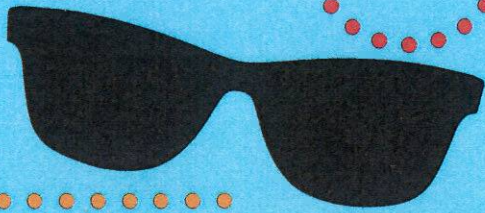
What happened to Jesus' hand that helped Thomas believe? Draw it and then cover the hand with a bandage. Trace your hand over Jesus' hand.

Name _____



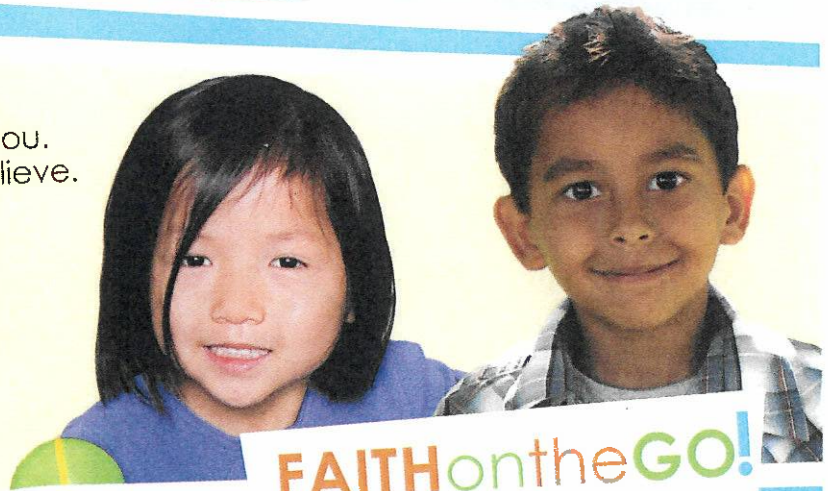
Shadow Shapes

We can believe, even when we can't see. Match the shadows to their picture stickers. Trace another shadow here.



Eye to Eye

Give these friends googly eyes to see Jesus in you. Add to their heads and hearts to show they believe.

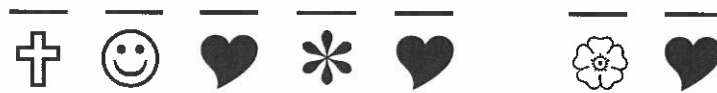


FAITHonthe**GO!**

Glue white cotton cloth on a cardboard cross. Talk about what your family believes about God and Jesus. Jesus helps us believe!

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



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]



**Faith
on the Go!**

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

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

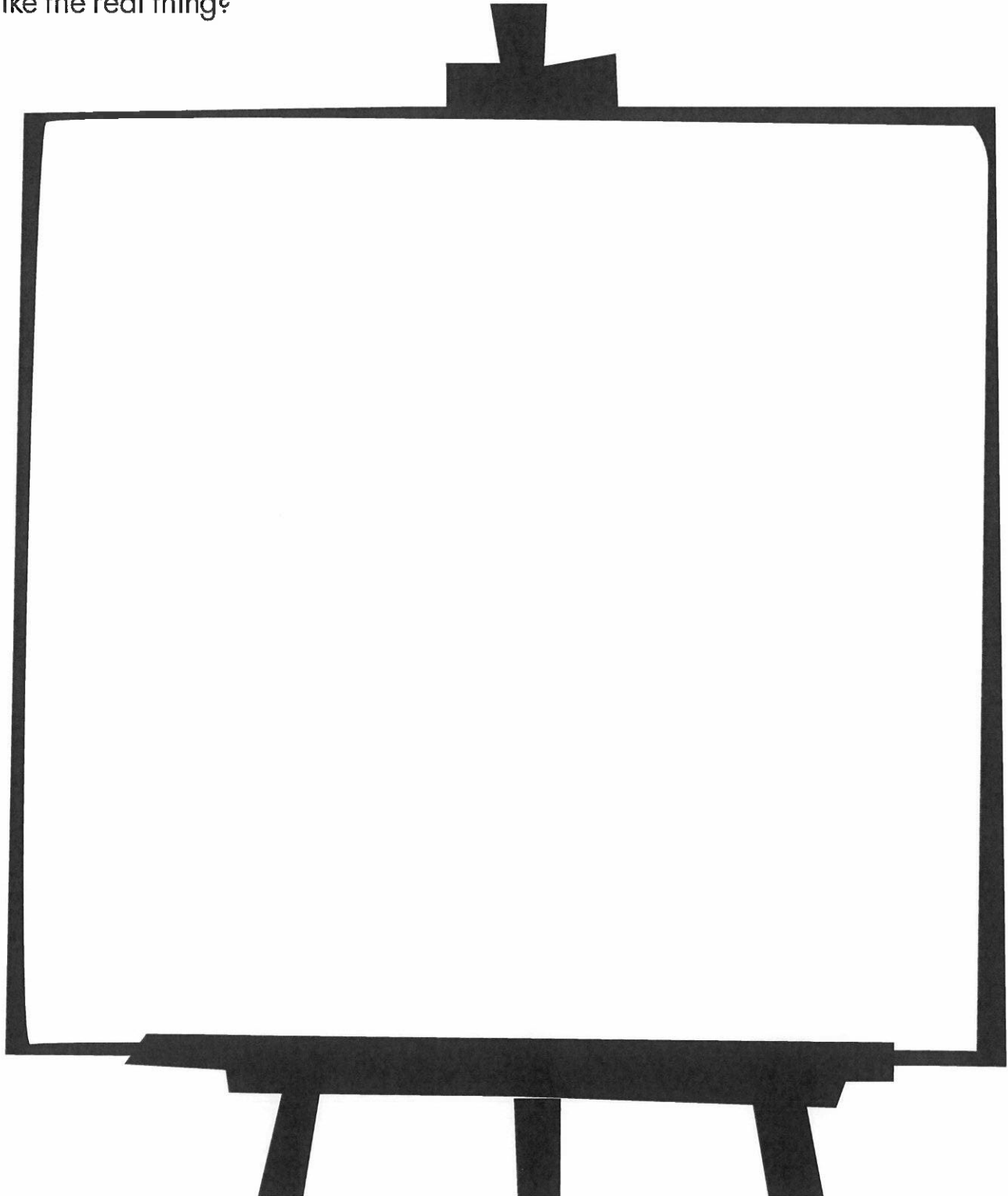
Wish somebody Jesus' peace this week.

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?



Dad's Coming Home

Distribute leaflets. **We have a modern story to read that is a little bit like this story. It is about a boy who struggles to believe his dad is really going to come home. It is on the front page of the leaflet. Would someone like to read it to us?** Have a volunteer read Dad's Coming Home on the first page of the leaflet.

Have you ever not been able to believe something until you saw or felt it? Why do you think Tim had such a hard time believing that his dad was coming home? Sometimes it is hard to let yourself believe the very best news until it actually happens.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Decode the Code

Direct kids to Decode the Code on the second page of the leaflet. Invite kids to work together to decode the code and see what the message is.

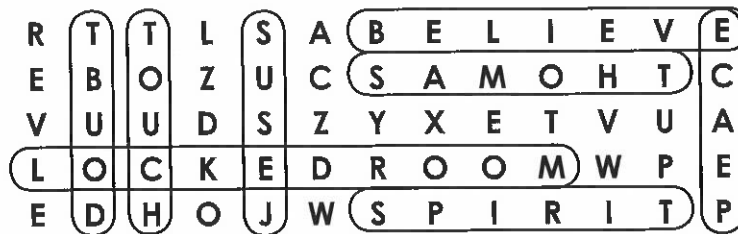
Answer Key
TIME TO BELIEVE!

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils

Doubting Thomas Word Find

Challenge kids to complete the Doubting Thomas Word Find on the second page of the leaflet.



Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Leaflets

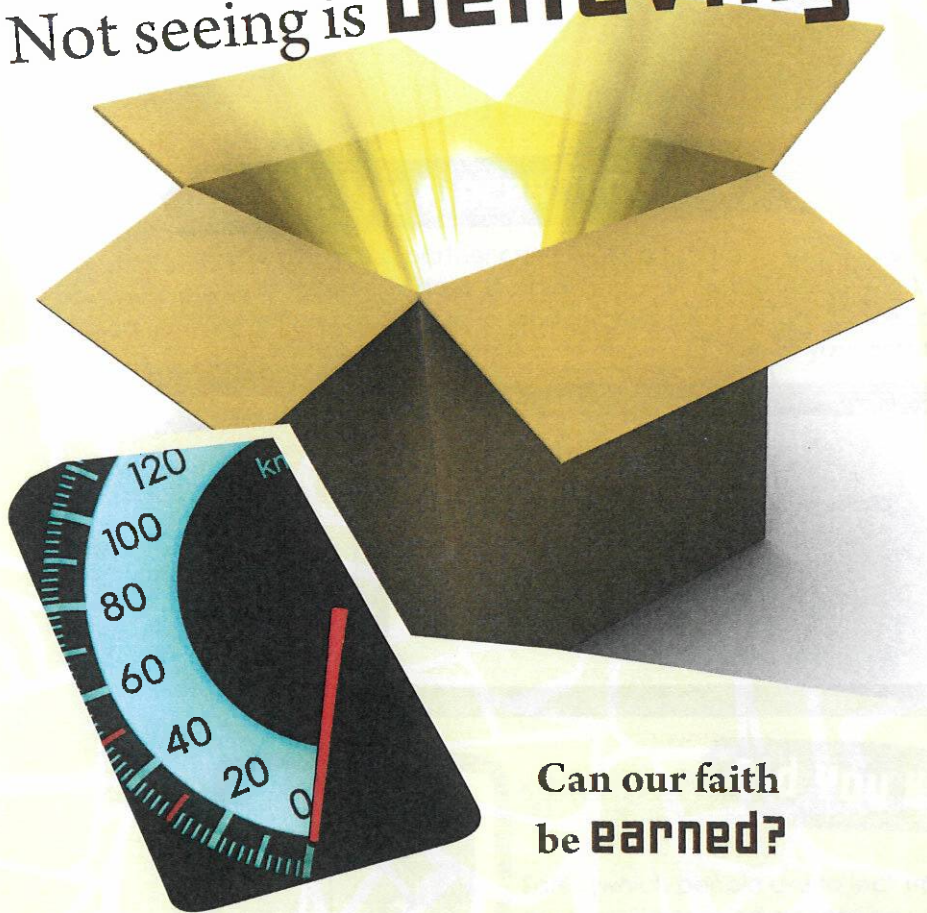
Supplies
Pencils

Ask kids to find Look It Up! on the second page of the leaflet. Help kids find John 21:25 on page 1201 in the Spark Bible. Allow some time for kids to speculate on some of the things Jesus did that didn't get written in the Gospel of John.

Doubting Thomas

John 20:19-31

Not seeing is **believing.**



Can our faith
be **earned?**



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

HUMAN NATURE

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jesus eats a sandwich. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jesus multiplies one sandwich into many sandwiches to feed hungry people. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jesus heals a child who can't walk. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jesus takes a nap for like, three hours. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jesus goes to the bathroom. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jesus saves someone from a snake attack by commanding the snake to stop. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jesus tells a story that shows how God loves everyone. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jesus shaves off his beard – just for a change. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jesus plays soccer with his friends. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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?



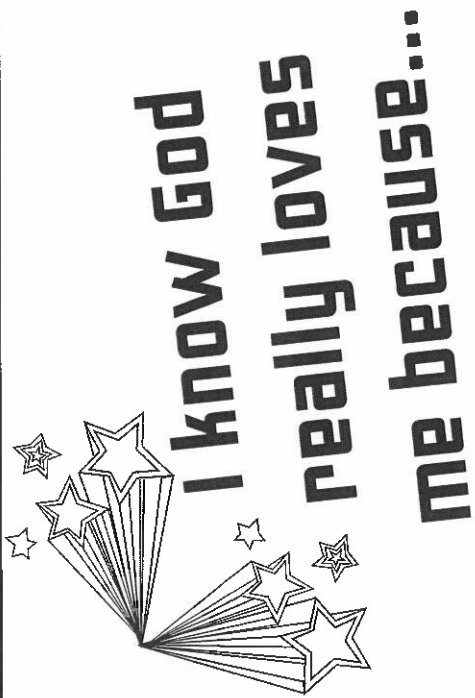
Memory Verse

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!



A series of vertical lines forming a writing area for the card.

Doubting Thomas



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

Doubting Thomas



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