



Jesus' followers had seen Jesus alive! Two disciples met Jesus as they were walking to Emmaus, and then Jesus appeared to a group of His disciples as they met together in a locked room. But one of the disciples, Thomas, had missed out. He wasn't there when Jesus appeared. He hadn't seen Jesus for himself.

So despite his friends' claims that the Lord was risen, Thomas doubted. In fact, he refused to believe. (John 20:25) Witnesses testified that they had seen Jesus, but Thomas wanted physical evidence. He lacked faith and was stubborn in his unbelief.

More than a week passed, and Thomas was with the other disciples in a room. Again, the doors were locked for their safety. Much like before, Jesus appeared before the disciples and said, "Peace be with you."

This time, Thomas was there. Jesus told Thomas to believe. He urged him not only to look, but to feel Jesus' wounds for himself. Here, Jesus gave grace to Thomas. He gave Thomas the physical proof he was looking for. Jesus was no ghost; Jesus was alive!

Thomas immediately believed, and Jesus said, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Those who believe without seeing are blessed." (John 20:29)

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.

The Bible says that God is pleased when we have faith. (Heb. 11:6) As you talk with your kids, explain the meaning of the word *faith*: "the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen" (Heb. 11:1). Faith is believing without seeing. It is trusting that God is who He says He is, and He will do what He says He will do. (See Num. 23:19.)

Faith cannot be mustered up on your own; it is a gift from God. (Eph. 2:8-9) Pray that God would grant your kids faith to believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- **Babies and Toddlers**
 - Jesus is alive in heaven.
 - Jesus showed Thomas that He is alive.
 - Thomas believed Jesus is the Lord.
 - We can believe God's words about Jesus.
- **Preschool**
 - What is our mission? Our mission is to tell others about Jesus.
 - Jesus showed His hands and side to Thomas.
- **Kids**
 - What is our mission as believers? Our mission as believers is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Spirit.
 - Jesus showed His hands and side to Thomas.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- **1 Corinthians 15:3-4** (Preschool: **1 Corinthians 15:4**)