

9. Thomas Believes (John 20:24-31)

“Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Mark 11:9)



PLAN

Supplies

Deep Blue Resources: One Room Sunday School® Kit: CD-ROM | Leader Guide | Reproducible Kids' Book | Resource Pak

Additional Deep Blue Resources:

CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible | Deep Blue Bible Storybook | Deep Blue Adventure DVD | Deep Blue Bible Dictionary

Basic Supplies: DVD player | CD player | Pencils | Crayons | Markers | Scissors | Tape | Paper plates | Large craft sticks | Glue | Stapler | Staples | Paper lunch bags

Gather: Cupcakes with surprises inside | Googly eyes

Explore: No additional supplies

Respond: Variety of small items with different shapes and textures

Bless: No additional supplies

Before You Teach

The appearances of Jesus after his resurrection revealed the glory of God. Jesus showed himself so that future followers would have the witness of those who saw him. Mary saw Jesus but didn't recognize him until he called her name. Most of the disciples were gathered together when Jesus appeared to them, and they believed in the Resurrection when they saw Jesus alive. But Thomas was not with the group. When the disciples shared with Thomas that they had seen the Lord, he didn't believe them. Thomas wanted to see for himself.

A week after the Resurrection, on Sunday, the disciples, including Thomas, were gathered in a locked room. Jesus entered the room, and said, "Peace be with you." Then Jesus gave Thomas what he needed, "Look at the wounds in my hands and my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

John doesn't tell us that Thomas actually touched Jesus' wounds, but Thomas' reaction was immediate and dramatic. He cried out, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus gave Thomas what he needed, but he said to him, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

John concludes this passage with a statement of purpose, "These things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name."

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display the “Attendance Chart” (Resource Pak—pp. 2 and 23 or p. 3). Two different options for an attendance chart are given in the Resource Pak. Decide which is best for your class.

- Play the theme song, “All Are Welcome” (CD-ROM), as you welcome each child.
- Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.
- Have each child mark an attendance chart. For the “Community Attendance Chart,” the children can write their first names or initials on the building marked #9.

PRAY: Dear God, show us how you met the disciples’ needs and assured them of Jesus’ resurrection; in Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

ASK: What do you find amazing in your life? What do you think is amazing about God?

Thomas Needs to See (Puzzle – Preschool)

Before class: Make a copy of Reproducible 9b for each preschool child.

SAY: Thomas wasn’t with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared to them after his resurrection. They told Thomas about it, but he had trouble believing them. He wanted to see Jesus alive for himself. Glue some googly eyes on Thomas, so he can see Jesus.

- Allow the children time to color their pictures and glue on the eyes.
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Find the Words (Puzzle – Younger Elementary)

Before class: Make a copy of Reproducible 9c for each younger elementary child.

SAY: Look for six words in the puzzle that you can find in John 20:24-31. The words run across and down. The letters to the words are scrambled. Unscramble the words and write them in the blanks.

- Allow the children time to find the six words. Then go over the answers.

ASK: What do these six words have to do with the story of Thomas believing that Jesus had been raised from the dead?

Dropped Letters (Puzzle – Older Elementary)

Before class: Make a copy of Reproducible 9d for each older elementary child.

SAY: All of the letters have fallen out of the grid, but they stayed in the correct columns. Can you work out how to put them back again? When you place the letters correctly, they will spell words that Jesus said to Thomas and Thomas said to Jesus. For help, look at John 20:24-31.

- Work with the children to show them how to get started. You could help them put in the two-letter words first, or you could look for a word in the Scripture that is ten letters long and fill it in.
- Go over the answers in the crossword puzzle.

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Thomas Before and After (Craft)

- Give each child two paper plates and a large craft stick.
 - Have the children write on one plate: I doubt it! And on the other plate: I believe it!
 - Glue the backs of the plates to the two sides of the craft stick, leaving enough of the stick outside the plates to use as a handle to turn the plates.
 - Set the plates aside to use with the story.
-

Surprise Cupcakes (Snack)

Before class: Bake some cupcakes and place a surprise inside each cupcake.

ASK: What do you see when you look at these cupcakes? What kind do you think they are?

SAY: Sometimes when we look at something, we don't see everything. God told Samuel that people look at the outwards appearance, but God looks inside the heart. So God can see more about us than other people see.

- Allow the children to eat their snacks.

ASK: Did you find anything in the cupcakes that you didn't see before you ate them?

SAY: Thomas wanted to see for himself that Jesus was alive after the Resurrection. Jesus knew Thomas's heart, so he gave Thomas what he needed to believe. Thomas's response came immediately.

Transition to Explore – Sacred Conversations

ASK: How do you think you would have felt if you were in Thomas's place? Would you need to see Jesus for yourself, or would you just accept the other disciples' words?

EXPLORE

Read the Bible Story

- Ask the children to find John 20:24-31 in their Bibles. Encourage them to bring their own Bibles and learn how to use them. Read the story from the *Deep Blue Bible Storybook* (pp. 435–7).

ASK: What did Thomas say when the other disciples told him Jesus was alive? (*I will only believe if I see Jesus myself.*) What was the first thing Jesus said when he appeared to all of the disciples? (*Peace be with you.*)

Dictionary Search

- Allow the children to look up *Jesus Christ* and *Thomas* in the *Deep Blue Kids Bible Dictionary*.

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See the Bible Story

SAY: Kat is teaching her cat, Cinnamon, a new trick. But Sophia says she won't believe it until she sees it for herself. Their grandmother tells them the story of Thomas who also wouldn't believe until he saw for himself.

- Watch today's episode from the Adventure DVD.

ASK: Can you think of something you didn't believe until you saw it for yourself?

Interact with the Bible Story

Before class: Make a copy of Reproducible 9a for each child.

- Give each child a copy of the Bible story.
- Allow the children to get their craft they made with paper plates.

SAY: I'm going to read the Bible story to you. Listen carefully for Thomas's part in the story. When you hear parts about Thomas doubting, hold up the paper plate that has the words, *I doubt it!* When you hear parts about the disciples or Thomas believing, hold up the paper plate that has the words, *I believe it!*

- Read the story and allow the children to respond.

ASK: When did Thomas believe Jesus was alive? (*When he saw Jesus for himself.*) When did the other disciples believe? (*When Jesus appeared to them.*)

SAY: Thomas is often called "Doubting Thomas," but he only wanted what the other disciples had already received: to see Jesus alive.

Trivia Review

SAY: This is the last session in Unit 2, so it's time to see how much you have learned this month.

- Play the Unit 2 review and allow the kids to say the answers.

SAY: That was great! This has been a wonderful unit, and you have learned so much.

Bible Verse (Activity)

Before class: Make a copy of Reproducible 9e on card stock for each child.

- Our verse for Unit 1 is Mark 11:9.
- Say the verse without looking at the Bible verse poster.
- Go over the Sign Language for the Bible verse. Encourage all the children to sign and say the Bible verse with you.

SAY: After the disciples saw Jesus alive, they couldn't keep it to themselves. They started telling everyone that Jesus was alive. Let's make a megaphone so you can spread that good news.

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"Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 11:9)



- Give each child a copy of "Megaphone," and ask them to follow these directions:
 - Cut out the pieces on your paper. Color and decorate your megaphone the way you want to.
 - Glue the handle on the side of the megaphone without a tab.
 - Put some glue on the tab, and glue the two sides together. You may want to staple the two ends to help keep the megaphone together.

ASK: Why do people use a megaphone? (*so they can be heard*)

SAY: Use your megaphone to share the good news that Jesus is alive and he is always with us.

Transition to Respond

- Have someone find John 20:26-28 in the Bible and read it for the group.

ASK: What did Jesus do for Thomas? (*gave him what he needed to believe*) What did Thomas do then? (*He believed.*)

- Say together, "My Lord and my God!"

RESPOND

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Fill a paper lunch bag with items that have different shapes and textures.

- Allow the children to take turns putting their hands into the bag, feeling one object in the bag, and guessing what that object is without looking at it. Then have them pull the object out of the bag.

SAY: This is like our faith in God. Thomas wanted to see Jesus before he believed in the Resurrection. We can't see or touch Jesus, but we can feel him in our hearts, and that makes our faith grow.

ASK: What other ways can you think of to make our faith grow? (*the testimony of other people about how God is working in their lives, reading the Bible to see how God worked in the lives of the people in Bible times*)

Review (Group Activity)

Before class: Make a copy of "Review Game" cards (Reproducible Kids' Book—p. 93) on card stock. Cut the cards apart to use with the game and place them in a paper lunch bag.

SAY: Keep in mind the events we have learned about from Lent through Jesus' resurrection. Let's see how much you have learned.

- Allow the children to take turns picking a card out of the lunch bag. Each card will have a picture of something on our timeline. The person who picked the card can't show the picture to the others. That person has to give one-word clues to help the others guess the event the picture goes with.

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- The clues can't be words on the banners on the timeline or names. Allow that person to give three clues. If the event hasn't been guessed yet, place the card back in the bag. Continue until all of the cards have been guessed.
-

Transition to Bless

Before class: Remove the cards from under the banners with the days the events took place.

- Gather the children around the timeline.

BLESS

Inviting

- Invite volunteers to tell about the events on the banners one at a time.

ASK: Can you share the story of Holy Week now? What do you think is the most important event that happened during Holy Week? Why?

Praising

SAY: Our song this month is “Part of the Story.”

- Hand out the songbooks and have the children find the song.
 - Play this month's song and encourage the children to sing and dance.
-

Blessing

SAY: Each week you will receive a blessing. These blessings will show how special you are to God.

- Gather the children in a circle. Go around the circle and offer a blessing for each child.

SAY: (Child's name), God will always be with you.

PRAY: Dear God, we thank Jesus for all the things he did during Holy Week. Help us share this wonderful good news with the people around us; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Loving God/Loving Neighbor at Home

Before class: Make a copy of Reproducible 9f for each child.

SAY: “Loving God/Loving Neighbor – Faith Family Devotional” is for you and your family to use.

ASK: Can you share the story of Thomas believing with your family?

- Send home a copy of Reproducible 9f with each child.

Thomas Believes – Bible Story

9a

The disciples spent three years with Jesus, learning from him and following his instructions. They heard Jesus talk about what was going to happen to him, but they didn't really understand.

But in one short week, all of those things were revealed to the disciples. Their master had gone from being praised as king to being arrested and crucified. And now, their Lord had risen from the grave just like he told them he would.

After Jesus' resurrection, he appeared to his disciples and others several times. The disciples had seen and talked to Jesus, but one of the disciples, Thomas, was not with them.

They told Thomas, "We have seen the Lord!"

Thomas struggled to believe what they were saying. He told the others, "Unless I see Jesus myself, I won't believe he is alive."

Eight days later, the disciples were all together. Jesus appeared to them and spoke to Thomas.

Jesus said, "Peace be with you. Thomas, look at me. No more doubting. Believe!"

Thomas knew the risen Lord was standing in front of him. He said, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence. These things were recorded so that all would believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and have life in his name.

(Based on John 20:24-31)



9b Thomas Needs to See - Puzzle (Preschool)

Thomas wasn't with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared to them. They told Thomas about it, but he had trouble believing them. Glue some eyes on Thomas, so he can see Jesus.



Find the Words – Puzzle (Younger Elementary)

9c

Look for six words in the puzzle that you can find in John 20:24-31. The letters to the words are scrambled. Unscramble the words and write them in the blanks below.

A	D	N	H	S
Y		L		S
P	C	A	E	E
P		I		J
H	E	S	O	U

Across

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Down

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



9d Dropped Letters – Puzzle (Older Elementary)

All of the letters have fallen out of the grid, but they stayed in the correct columns. Can you work out how to put them back again? When you place the letters correctly, they will spell words that Jesus said to Thomas and Thomas said to Jesus. For help, look at John 20:24-31.

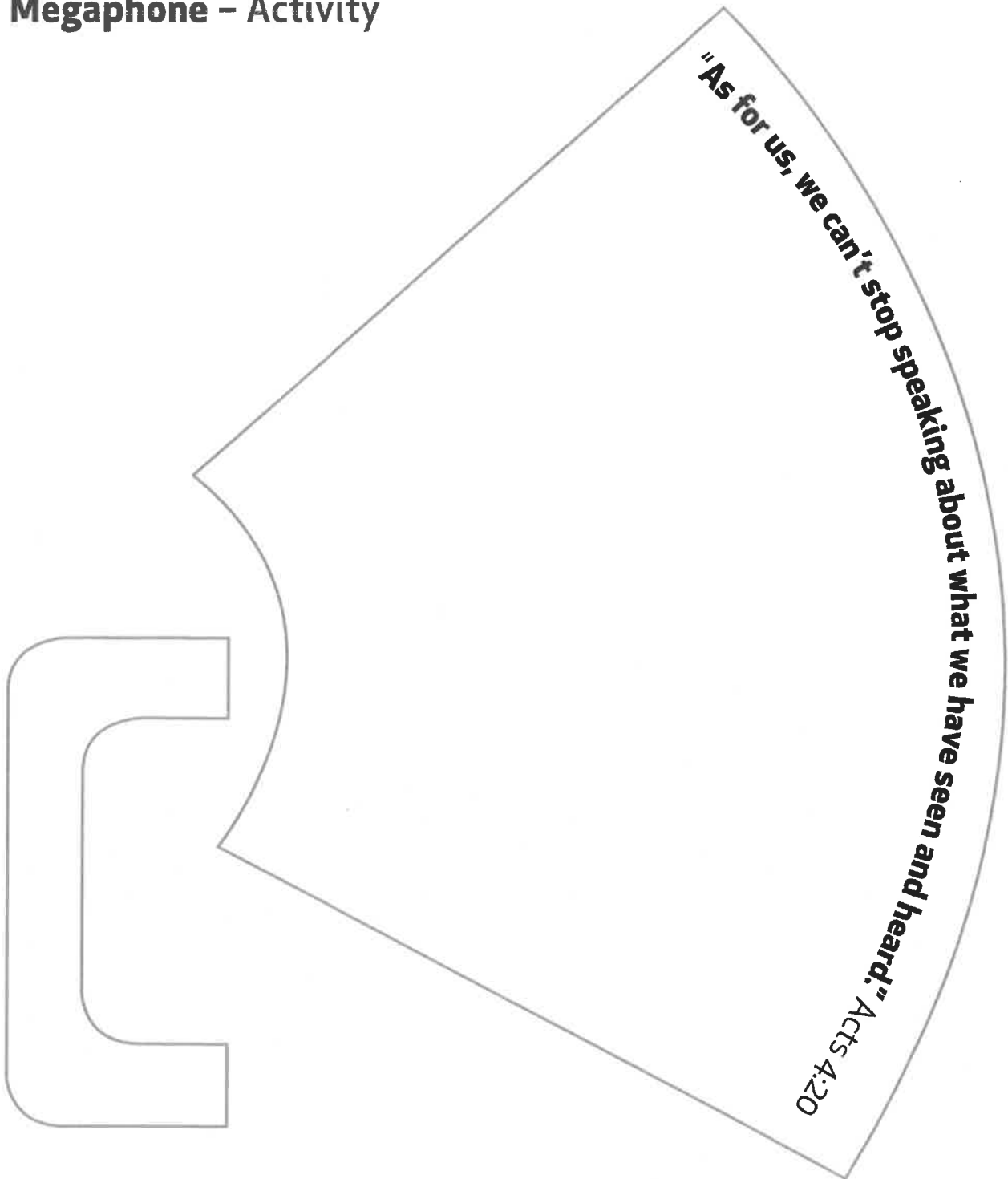
Tip: Put the short words in first.

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										!		

D	I	M	C	E	L	B	G	D	D	A	R	D
P	E	O	B	M	Y	O	O	O	W	I	N	H
	Y	A	U	E	L	N	R	F	M	O	T	E
		S	Y			I	E					

Megaphone – Activity

9e



9f Loving God/Loving Neighbor – Faith Family Devotional

Thomas Believes

John 20:24-31

The disciples were sad and scared when Jesus died, but those feelings changed when Jesus appeared to them. Thomas wasn't with the others when Jesus first appeared to them. They told Thomas that they had seen Jesus. He was alive! But Thomas had trouble believing their words. He needed to see Jesus for himself. So later Jesus appeared to the disciples again and Thomas was with them. Jesus showed himself to Thomas so he wouldn't doubt anymore. Then Thomas knew Jesus was alive. He said, "My Lord and my God!"

Verse of the Month

"Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Mark 11:9

What Do You Think?

What do you think the disciples thought would happen after they saw the resurrected Jesus?

How do you think you would have felt if Jesus had appeared to you?

Family Activity

Talk about things that you wonder about Jesus. Who do you go to when you have questions?

Jesus gave Thomas what he needed to believe. Do you know someone who doesn't believe Jesus rose from the grave? What do they need to believe? How can you help them?

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for giving us what we need. We praise you as our living God; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.