

Divine Mercy Sunday

Peace for frightened friends and faith for Thomas

Ages about 7-11 | Video 3:03 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth The risen Jesus brings peace to the disciples, gives the Holy Spirit, and later invites Thomas to believe.

Learning goals Recall the two encounters in John 20; connect mercy with Jesus' mission of forgiveness; and practice honest prayer and caring action.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online [Open this video on Servus Dei](#)

Before watching | 2 minutes

Ask how a caring person can respond to someone who is frightened or uncertain. Watch Jesus' words and his welcome of Thomas.

Watch and notice

Notice the locked doors, Jesus' greeting, his wounds, the gift of the Spirit, and Thomas' response at the second visit.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What greeting did Jesus offer his frightened friends?

Peace be with you. He showed his hands and side, and they rejoiced that he was alive.

2. What mission accompanied the gift of the Holy Spirit?

The mission of forgiving sins through Christ's Church. The Catholic sacrament of Reconciliation belongs to this gift.

3. Why did Thomas struggle to believe?

He had not been present at the first visit and wanted to see Jesus himself. Jesus returned and invited him toward faith.

4. How can we respond to Jesus' mercy?

Bring honest questions and sorrow to him, seek forgiveness, and show mercy through a kind deed. Questions need not be hidden in shame.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

Divine Mercy Sunday

Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Draw Jesus greeting his friends with peace. Then draw a caring action or honest apology you can offer. Accept an oral explanation.

Read & Write Recall the story, explain its central teaching, then apply it through a specific choice.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: draw or dictate answers; revisit the named story moment together.

Ages 9-11: explain the connection between the story detail and the planned response.

Peace, forgiveness, trust | Optional 4 minutes

Make three doorway cards labeled Peace, Forgiveness, and Trust. Inside each write a John 20 story detail. Below each add a respectful response: a calming kindness, an honest apology, and a prayer of trust. Do not ask anyone to reveal sins or reenact sacramental absolution.

Look for understanding Look for the named story details in the answers and a practical response connected to the risen Jesus, forgiveness, and trust.

Closing prayer Jesus, I trust in you. Bring your peace to our hearts and help us receive and share your mercy. Amen.

At home Read John 20:19-31 with an adult and ask about Reconciliation or Divine Mercy Sunday in your parish.

Handout answer notes Jesus offered peace. He invited Thomas to see his wounds and believe; Thomas confessed him as Lord and God. Responses may include prayer, apology, and concrete kindness.

Teach with care

Provide paper and pencils. Preview the video and invite children to ask questions or pass. John says Jesus invited Thomas to touch, but does not state that he actually did. The reflection adds expressions and inner feelings. Trust does not mean every worry immediately disappears. Avoid requiring private confession in a group.

Words to explain Mercy: God's forgiving love in our need. Peace: the gift Jesus brings to his friends. Reconciliation: the sacrament of forgiveness through Christ's Church.

Sources for the leader

Story source: [Servus Dei video and English transcript](#)

Background: [John 20:19-31: peace, forgiveness, and Thomas](#)

Background: [John Paul II: Divine Mercy Sunday, April 30, 2000](#)

Peace in the locked room

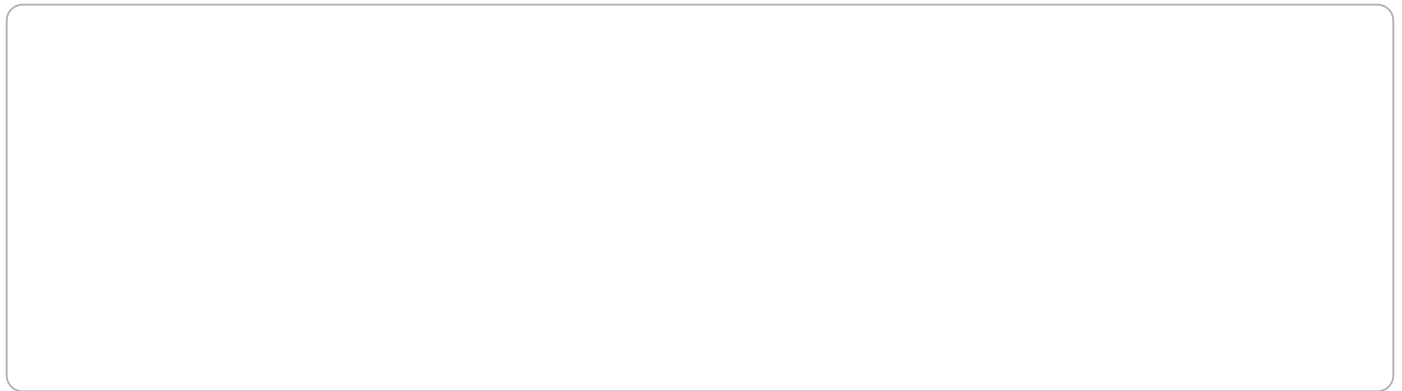
Divine Mercy Sunday

The risen Jesus brings peace to the disciples, gives the Holy Spirit, and later invites Thomas to believe.

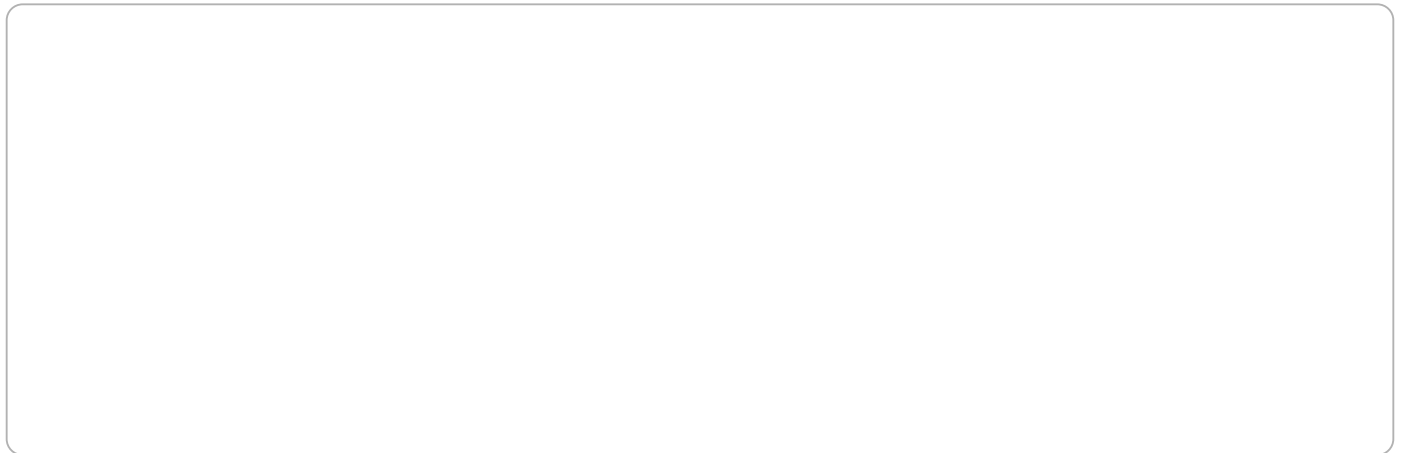
Name _____

Adult helper Read aloud. Invite drawing, pointing, or spoken answers. Writing is optional.

1 Draw Jesus greeting his friends with peace.



2 Draw a caring action or honest apology you can offer.



Tell What changed when Jesus arrived? How can you respond to his mercy?

Pray Jesus, I trust in you. Bring your peace to our hearts and help us receive and share your mercy. Amen.

At home Share your picture and one thing you learned about God or following Jesus.

Mercy stronger than fear

Divine Mercy Sunday

Peace for frightened friends and faith for Thomas. Remember, explain, and respond.

Name _____

1 Remember

What did Jesus say when he appeared?

Jesus greeted them ...

2 Explain

How did Jesus respond to Thomas?

Jesus invited Thomas ...

3 Respond

Write an honest prayer or merciful action.

Jesus, help me ...

Pray Jesus, I trust in you. Bring your peace to our hearts and help us receive and share your mercy. Amen.

Go deeper Why might Jesus' patient invitation help faith more than shaming a question?