

Saint Thomas and the Risen Jesus

Honest questions, growing trust

Ages about 7-11 | Video 5:11 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Thomas brings questions and sorrow to the risen Jesus and responds with faith.

Learning goals Children will recall Thomas missing the first appearance, identify his profession of faith, and name a trusted person for faith questions.

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: Who can help when something is hard to understand? Watch how Jesus meets Thomas and invites belief.

Watch and notice

Notice Thomas asking about the way, his absence at the first appearance, Jesus's greeting of peace, and his response of faith.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. Why had Thomas not yet seen the risen Jesus?

He was absent when Jesus first appeared to the gathered disciples.

2. What did Jesus say when he returned?

He greeted them with peace and invited Thomas to believe, showing his wounds.

3. How did Thomas answer?

He acknowledged Jesus as his Lord and God.

4. What can we do with a question about faith?

Ask a trusted adult or teacher, pray, read Scripture together, and keep learning rather than hide the question.

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

Saint Thomas and the Risen Jesus

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 Thomas with the risen Jesus and yourself asking a faith question.

Read & Write Recall the appearances and Thomas's answer, then choose a next step for learning.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: use a short spoken question and an adult's patient answer.

Ages 9-11: read John 20:24-29 and distinguish biblical text from imagined feelings.

Questions we can bring | Optional 4 minutes

Make a question box. Invite children to draw or write a question about Jesus, privately or anonymously. Read only appropriate questions, acknowledge uncertainty, and choose Scripture or a trusted teacher for follow-up.

Look for understanding Children recall Jesus's Resurrection and Thomas's response without shaming sincere questions.

Closing prayer Risen Jesus, thank you for your patience. Help us bring you our questions and grow in faith. Saint Thomas, pray for us. Amen.

At home Read John 20:24-29 with an adult and share one question you would like to understand better.

Handout answer notes Absence: not with disciples at first appearance. Faith: his Lord and God. Questions: sincere and appropriate with a trusted helper.

Teach with care

Preview brief arrest, Cross, and martyrdom references. Explain that the narrator's account of Thomas's thoughts is a dramatization, not quoted Scripture. The biblical events come from John 11, 14, and 20; Thomas's personality, motives, and inner thoughts are dramatized. Mission to India belongs to ancient Christian tradition. John does not explicitly say Thomas touched the wounds. Questions and grief deserve patient care.

Words to explain Resurrection: Jesus rising from the dead. Apostle: one sent by Jesus to share his good news. Faith: trusting God and responding to his truth.

Sources for the leader

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

Scripture: [John 20:24-29 - USCCB](#)

Peace for a questioning heart

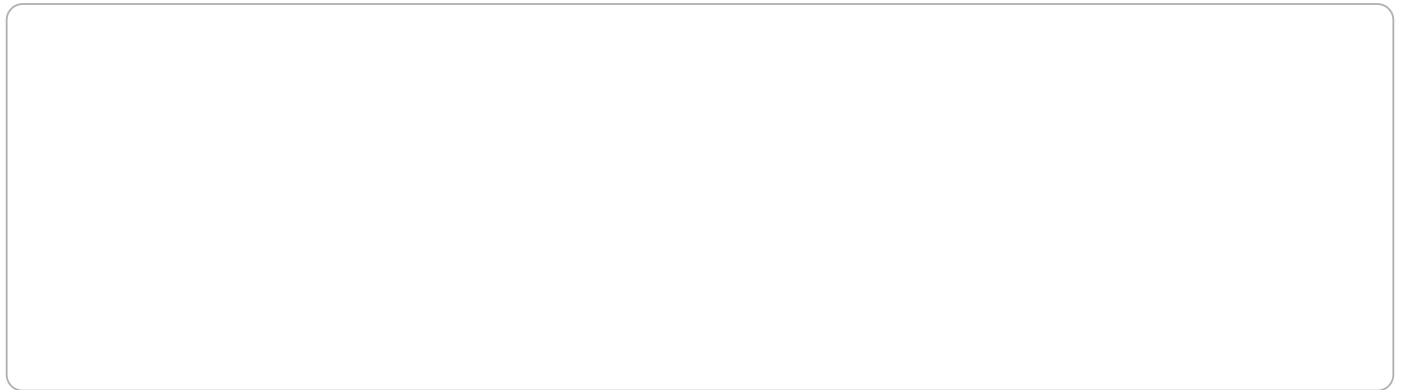
Saint Thomas and the Risen Jesus

The risen Jesus met Thomas and invited him to believe.

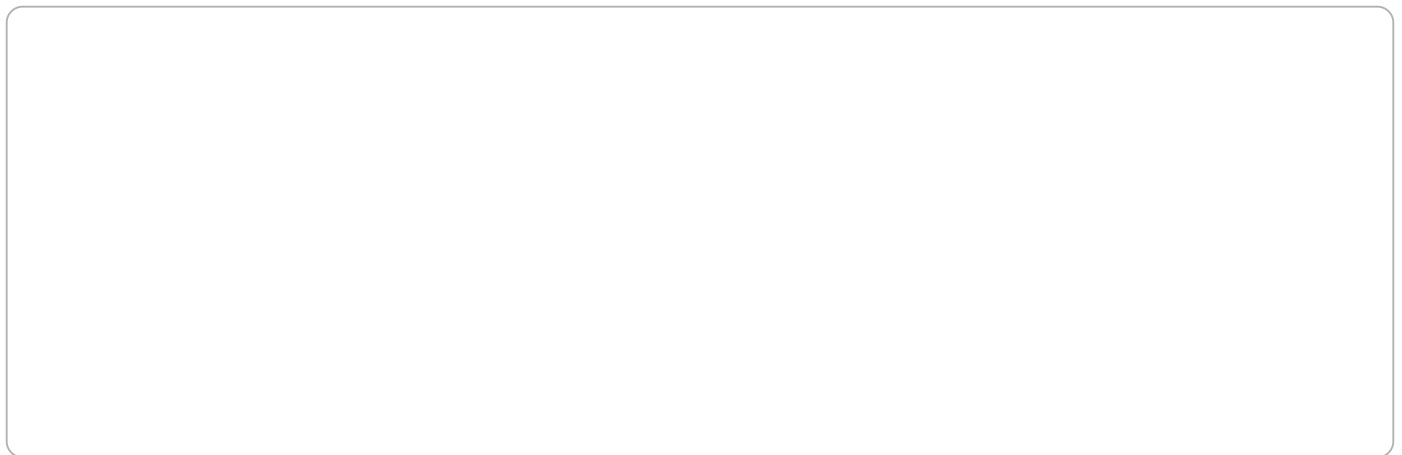
Name _____

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

1 Draw Thomas meeting the risen Jesus with the disciples.



2 Draw yourself learning with a trusted adult.



Tell What did Thomas learn? What question could you bring?

Pray Jesus, help me bring my questions and trust your love. Amen.

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

From questions to trust

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Recall Thomas's encounter with the risen Jesus.

Name _____

1 Recall the absence

Why had Thomas missed seeing Jesus before?

Thomas was ...

2 Recall his faith

How did Thomas respond when he saw Jesus?

Thomas called Jesus ...

3 Keep learning

Name a faith question and someone who can help you.

I would like to ask ...

Pray Jesus, help me bring my questions and trust your love. Amen.

Go deeper How can patience help someone whose heart is hurting?