

Church at Home for Abridge

19th April 2020

Activities for the whole family

Jesus meets Thomas



1. [Here](#) is a video of today's Bible story told through sand art.

2. Act out today's story together

Children and adults together can act out today's story using the following story prompts and sound effect/drama suggestions. There is also a quiz question half way through. Have fun!

Everybody should put fingers to lips and says – **Sh...sh...sh**

The friends of Jesus were nervous – **everyone look worried**

The friends of Jesus were confused – **everyone put on confused faces**

The friends of Jesus were frightened – **everyone act fearful**

It had been a strange Sunday after the worst weekend of their lives. Their best friend Jesus had died. He had been killed and was now dead and buried. That had happened on the Friday but on the Sunday disturbing rumours were flying.

Mary and the women said that the stone had been rolled away – **noisily move a piece of furniture**

Mary and the women said they had seen angels – **everyone spread hands and feet wide like angels**

Mary and the women said they had seen Jesus alive again – **everyone be shocked**

Peter and John had gone to check the story – **everyone running on the spot**

Peter and John had seen the empty tomb – **everyone peer into an empty space in your room**

Peter and John had seen the folded grave clothes – **arrange some clothes into a neat pile in the space**

Something strange had happened. So the friends of Jesus were confused - they were afraid - they were scared. So they.....

...slammed the door shut – **everyone make a loud clap**

...rammed the bolts firmly home – **everyone punch fists into palms**

...pulled the chains tight – **everyone lock fingers with a 'ker-ching' sound**

Now they were safe, hidden and locked away. They were safe.... or at least thought they would be safe. But then, the story says, Jesus just walked in!

Jesus just turned up – **everyone jump with fright**

Jesus appeared right there in front of them – **everyone stare with amazement towards a door**

He was more real than the slammed door – **everyone make a loud clap again**

He was more real than the firm bolts – **everyone punch fists into palms again**

He was more real than the tight chains – **everyone lock fingers with a 'ker-ching' sound again**

Peace be with you, Jesus said – **click on [this link](#) and learn the sign language for peace**

I'm alive, he said. Look at my hands and feet. Now it's over to you with the Holy Spirit inside you

I must breathe God inside you – **everyone take in a deep breath**

All this happened on the first Sunday of Easter. **But Thomas wasn't there.**

Only John tells us the story Thomas and he does so for a very good reason. The story of Thomas is especially there to help us to come to faith in Jesus. This is the story we're exploring.

But first a quiz question!

What do these four pictures have in common?



(dinghy; plough; comb and bouquet)

These words have the same connection! Can you see it?

subtle; rhetoric; soften

Still having problems? How about these names from Ireland;

Ceilidh; Siobhan; Ruairidh

The connection between all of these is also in these two words:

Thomas and Doubt

They all have silent letters - some of them, lots of silent letters. There are things hidden in the words that we cannot initially hear. Hidden in the two words **Thomas** and **doubt** there are silent letters too. It is Thomas' **hopes**, which leads him to **belief**. It is sincere or hopeful doubt

In other words doubt is not the opposite of 'not believing'. Doubt contains within it the potential to believe.

Poor old Thomas! For ever nicknamed the doubter! But it's just not fair. And that's not why John recorded his story in the gospel. All the followers of Jesus doubted at some time or another. The Gospel Christian writers are honest enough to say that they got it wrong; they made a mess; and that they doubted. **So Thomas isn't the only doubter.**

Talk together about how doubting can be a good thing

It's honest, it's real and it can be the route to faith.

Thomas never got to see Jesus the first time when he showed up and we don't get to see Jesus in the flesh either, but John wants us to come through our doubts like Thomas did and fall on our knees and recognise that Jesus is God. It's why John wrote his book.

Jesus promises to meet the Thomases of this world who really want to find the truth about Jesus – **search hard in the room to find as many things beginning with J as you can.**

Jesus comes close to the Thomases who want honest answers – **search hard in the room for as many questions marks as you can (look in books or magazines)**

Jesus shows himself to the Thomases who have honest doubts – **search hard in the room for as many things beginning with D as you can**

3. Here is a picture of today's story to colour and decorate

