

Jesus Appears to His Disciples - Day 2

Teacher's Background Information

PRESENTING THE LESSON

Material for "Craft" One piece of paper, crayons, and pencils or pens.

OPENING

Say

In the name of God the Father,
In the name of God the Son,
In the name of the Holy Spirit,

Praise the Lord and clap your hands.

Do

Lift hands above head.
Fold hands across heart.
Hold hands out palms up, with elbows bent at
waist level.

Clap hands.

PRAYER: Precious Savior, throughout the world people are dying without faith in you as their Savior. Help us remember how important it is to spread your Word and prepare us for this mission. Make our faith in our Savior strong for Jesus' sake. Amen.

RE-TELL BIBLE STORY

Late Easter Sunday evening, most of Jesus' disciples were together in a room in the city of Jerusalem. They had locked the doors because they were afraid that the Jewish leaders might be looking for them. Ever since Jesus had been arrested and crucified, the disciples had lived in fear. They were afraid that what had happened to their Lord might also happen to them.

Two disciples from Emmaus had joined the other disciples and were telling them how they had seen Jesus that afternoon. Suddenly, even though the doors were locked, Jesus himself was standing right there in the room with them! "Peace be with you!" he said.

The disciples were startled and frightened when they saw Jesus. They thought they were seeing a ghost!

"Why are you afraid?" Jesus asked them. "Why do you doubt what you see? Look at my hands and feet, and see that it's really me. Touch me, and you'll realize that I'm really here! Ghosts don't have flesh and bones. But you can see that I do." Then he showed them the wounds in his hands and feet and side.

The disciples still found it hard to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. It all seemed too good to be true! To take all their doubts away, Jesus asked them, "Do you have anything to eat?" The disciples gave him a piece of broiled fish. Jesus took it and ate it while they all watched. Now they believed that this really was Jesus come back to life.

Then Jesus said, "While I was still with you, I told you that everything written about me in the Scriptures had to happen." Then Jesus opened his disciples' minds so that they could understand the Scriptures, and he told them, "The Scriptures said that the Savior would suffer and die and come back to life on the third day. Now the message of repentance and forgiveness must be preached to all nations. You have been witnesses of all these things. I want you to go and tell people everywhere what you have heard and seen. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you."

Then Jesus breathed on his disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whenever you forgive people's sins, those sins are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." The disciples were full of joy, knowing that their Savior was alive again!

Jesus Appears to His Disciples - Day 2

Teacher's Background Information

On that Easter Sunday evening, when Jesus appeared to his disciples in Jerusalem, Thomas, one of the twelve disciples, was not with them. As soon as the other disciples saw Thomas, they told him, "We have seen the Lord! He's alive!"

Thomas refused to believe them. He said, "First I have to see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger into those marks. I also have to put my hand into the place where the soldier's spear went into his side. Otherwise I will not believe that Jesus is really alive."

A week later the disciples were together again in the same house. This time Thomas was with them. And even though the doors were once again locked, Jesus suddenly appeared in the room and stood with them. "Peace be with you!" he said.

Then Jesus held out his hands to Thomas and said, "Look at my hands. Put your finger here and feel the nail marks. Then reach out your hand and feel the scar the spear left in my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Now Thomas was certain that Jesus had risen from the dead. He cried out, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Thomas, you believe now because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen me and still have believed in me."

As the Emmaus disciples were telling the others that they had seen Jesus, Jesus himself suddenly appeared in the locked room. He ate food to show the disciples that he was not a ghost but was really alive again. He also opened their minds so that they could understand how the Scriptures showed that he was the Savior. Then he told them to preach his message of repentance and forgiveness to others. Since Thomas was absent when Jesus appeared to the other disciples on Easter evening, they told him what had happened. But Thomas refused to believe that Jesus was alive until he saw Jesus for himself and touched his wounds. A week later Jesus again appeared to the disciples. Jesus showed Thomas his wounds and told him to stop doubting and believe.

REVIEW ACTIVITY

After you read each sentence in the Bible story below, repeat the main points of the sentence as indicated. Then direct the children to echo these main points after you.

Say

On the evening of the first Easter day the disciples were together in a room. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of Jesus' enemies.

All of Jesus' disciples were in the room except for Thomas.

Suddenly Jesus stood among them. "Peace be to you!" he said.

At first the disciples were afraid.

But Jesus showed them the marks the nails had made in his hands and feet.

Then the disciples knew it was Jesus.

Jesus gave his disciples a special job.

Echo

Disciples together behind locked doors.

Thomas was not there.

Jesus appeared. "Peace be to you!" Jesus said.

Disciples afraid.

Jesus showed nail marks in hands and feet.

Disciples knew it was Jesus.

Disciples given a special job.

Jesus Appears to His Disciples - Day 2

Teacher's Background Information

Jesus said "I am sending you to tell people about me."

Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit on them so they would have the power to tell others about Jesus' saving love.

Jesus also gave the disciples the power to forgive sins or to not forgive sins.

Jesus left his friends. When Thomas came back, the others told him, "We have seen the Lord." But Thomas did not believe them.

Thomas said, "Unless I see the marks of the nails in Jesus' hands and touch them, I will not believe that Jesus is alive."

A week later the disciples were together again in the locked room. This time Thomas was with them.

Suddenly Jesus appeared in the room.

He said, "Peace be with you!"

Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Stop doubting and believe."

Now Thomas believed it was Jesus. "My Lord and my God!" Thomas cried.

Jesus said to Thomas, "Because you have seen me, you believe."

Jesus said, "Blessed are they who have not seen and yet have believed."

"Go tell people about me."

Holy Spirit helped them tell.

The disciples had the power to forgive sins.

Thomas did not believe that Jesus is alive.

Thomas wanted proof.

Disciples together; Thomas too.

Jesus appeared. "Peace be with you!" Jesus said.

Jesus said, "Put your finger here. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas believed. "My Lord and my God!" he cried.

"Because you have seen me, you believe."

"Blessed are they who have not seen and yet have believed".

APPLYING THE BIBLE TRUTHS TO STUDENTS LIVES' - The Truth of the Bible

Ask, **How do we know that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead?** (We know this because the Bible tells us that it happened and there were many eye witness accounts.)

How do we know that what the Bible says is true? (We can be certain that what the Bible says is true because the Bible is God's own Word and truth. It does not have any errors or mistakes in it. God is only good and he cannot lie.)

Sometimes Satan tries to get us to doubt or to wonder if the Bible, God's Word is really true. Satan did this to Eve in the Garden of Eden when he asked her, "Did God really say ...?" Satan does this to trick us and to try to get us away from God. Satan is a liar and does not tell the truth. Satan only wants to hurt us.

But "God is love" (1 John 4:8). God knows all things. God is holy which means that he is sinless and that he hates sin. God is faithful. He keeps all of his promises to us. We know this is true because he kept his promise to send us Jesus to save us from our sins and to rise from the dead to give us new life in him. The entire Bible tells us all about God's great love for us in Jesus.

Then say, **The Bible can be called God's love letter to us. In the Old Testament God gave his people the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are God's Law. They tell us what we are**

Jesus Appears to His Disciples - Day 2

Teacher's Background Information

to do and what we are not to do. They tell us how to love God and how to love other people. God gave us his Law because he loves us and wants us to be happy and safe.

We learn about Jesus in the New Testament of the Bible. He lived a perfect life, keeping all the laws perfectly. No matter how hard we try, we cannot keep all of God's Law perfectly. Why did Jesus have to die on the cross? (Jesus had to die on the cross because we are sinners. But because Jesus is perfect, he was able to be the sacrifice God needed so that our sins could be forgiven.)

On the cross, Jesus showed his great love for us by giving his life for our sins. Did Jesus stay dead? (No. We know that Jesus is alive because the Bible tells us so. On the third day after he died, he rose from the dead. Jesus lives forever. Through faith in Jesus we have eternal life and a home in heaven.)

What did we Learn about Jesus today? Jesus showed himself to Thomas and strengthened his faith. Even though we can't see Jesus, the Holy Spirit has given us faith to believe in him as our risen Savior. We study God's Word so that our faith grows and we are prepared to tell others about Jesus.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE: "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:31

Say, **After the story of Thomas, the Bible tells us the reason why all the facts in the Bible were written. The Bible says, "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." When we hear the words of the Bible and read them ourselves, the Holy Spirit helps us to understand them and to believe them. When we believe that Jesus is our Savior, God's Son, who died and rose again, we receive new life in Jesus. Our sins are forgiven. We are given the power to tell others of his saving love. Let's learn these Bible words.**

For younger children: Teach only the first phrase of the verse: "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God."

For older children: Divide them into three groups. Give each group a part of the verse to memorize as shown below:

These are written / that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, / and that by believing you may have life in his name.

When each group knows their verse part, direct them to say them in verse order. Then ask the group, **For what purpose is the Bible is written?** Encourage the students to answer with the Bible verse truth: "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God." Now ask, **When you believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior, what wonderful gift do you receive from God?** Again encourage the students to answer with the Bible verse truth: "you have life in his name." Have the entire group repeat after you several times all of the verse until they know it well.

Jesus Appears to His Disciples - Day 2 Teacher's Background Information

CRAFT: The Truth of the Bible

Students trace their hands as shown, leaving room to write the Bible verse at the bottom. Color.

In the middle of each hand draw and color a red heart.

At the bottom of the hands, students write the Bible verse John 20:29b. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."



If there is time... "I'm Going to Tell ... About Jesus"

Sit in a circle. The game starts when one student says, "I'm going to tell Ting (names a person they know) about Jesus". The second student says, "I'm going to tell Ting and Zhen (names a person they know) about Jesus." The third student says, "I'm going to tell Ting, Zhen, and Jiming (names a person they know) about Jesus." The game ends when someone forgets the names.

CLOSING PRAYER: Ask if there are any prayer requests.

Dear Jesus, you are our living Lord and Savior. We know this is true because the Bible tells us so. Thank you for the Bible, God's own Word, which tells us the truth of how we are saved. By the power of the Holy Spirit, help us to understand your Word and to follow your will for us. Help us to trust in you always because you are the way and the truth and the life. Please continue to be with and help (insert special requests here.) We pray these things in your name, dearest Jesus. Amen.

Before the children leave, make sure they have the picture they drew of their hands.

As each child leaves, say **(Child's name,) God gives you the Bible as the truth of how we are saved.**