

THE STORY

On the evening of the first Easter day, the disciples were together, with the doors locked because they were afraid. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he showed them his hands and his side.

The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! Receive the Holy Spirit."

Now Thomas was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples said, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

FAITH AND FAMILY TIME

- Talk about the story picture, and the children's activities. Read more about the story of Jesus appearing to his disciples in John 20:19-31, or in a Bible story book.
- Talk about worshipping God in church, and how every Sunday is like another Easter because we come to church to worship our living Saviour.
- Tell each other what you believe about Jesus. Say the Apostles' Creed together.
- The egg is a symbol of life and rebirth. Talk about how the Easter egg is a special reminder of the resurrection of Jesus and of the hope of eternal life he gives us.

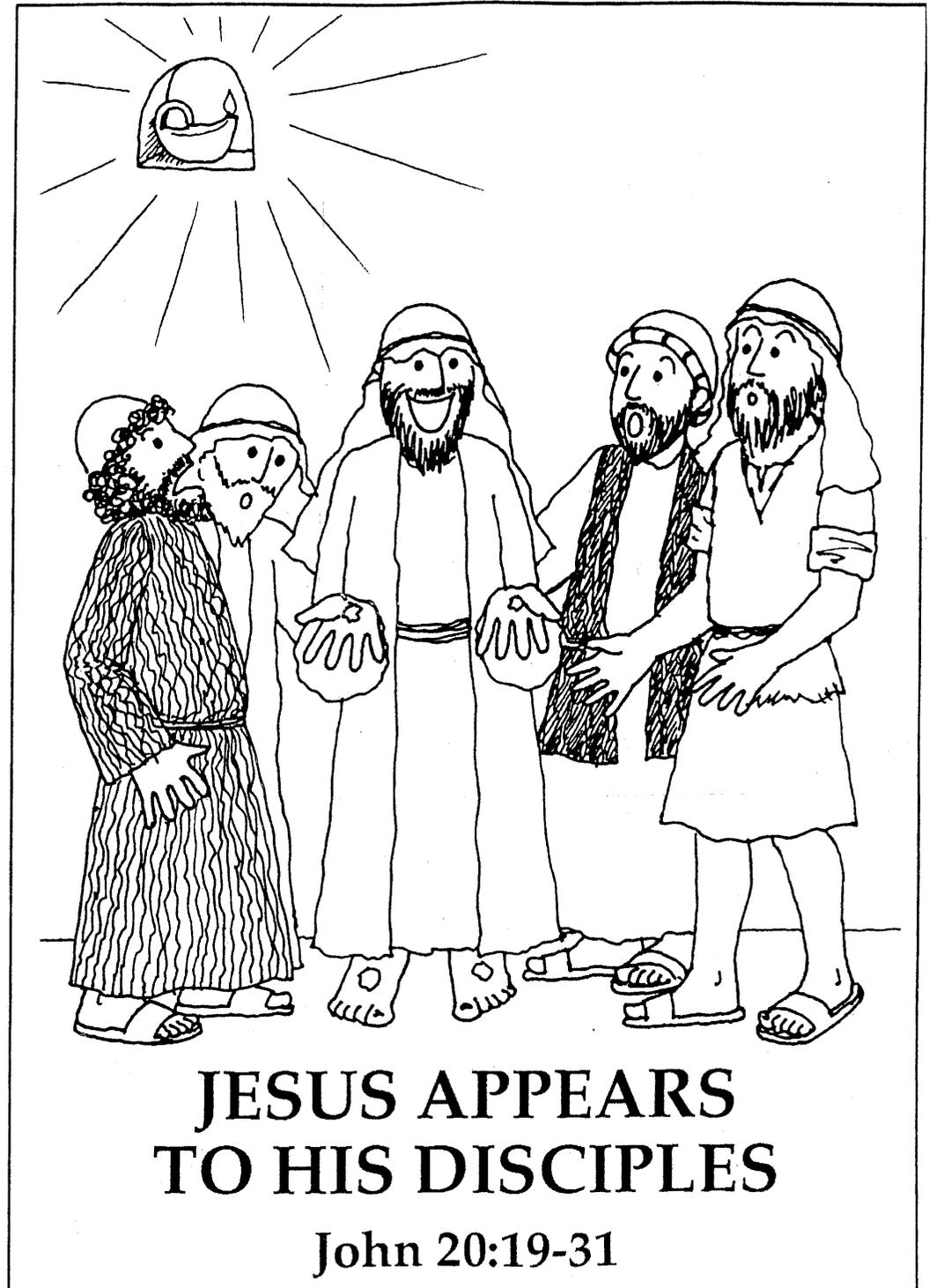


PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank you for defeating death for all people. Help us firmly to believe that you are our living Lord, so that we may live with you forever. Amen.

ABOUT THE PICTURE

- Put a circle around the object that shows that it is night time.
- Colour the nail marks on Jesus' hands and feet red for the blood that was shed for us.
- Put a cross on each of the disciples because Jesus died for each of them.
- Write 'Peace be with you' next to Jesus.
- Write 'My Lord and my God' next to the disciple that is Thomas.



JESUS APPEARS TO HIS DISCIPLES

John 20:19-31

The Apostles' Creed

Jesus told Thomas: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus was talking about you and me. Each week we come to church because we believe in Jesus, even though we have not seen him. We also tell each other that we believe.

It is a wonderful thing to be able to believe in Jesus Christ when you have never seen him. God has given us a special gift, which we call the Holy Spirit who makes it possible for us to believe. Without the Holy Spirit, we would all be like Thomas, saying: "No, until I see him with my own eyes and touch him with my own hands, I will not believe." We thank God that he has given us the Holy Spirit so that we can say "I believe".

I BELIEVE in GOD the
FATHER ALMIGHTY...

I BELIEVE in JESUS
CHRIST

God's only Son
Our Lord

I BELIEVE in the HOLY
SPIRIT...

My

and my



Blessed are those who have not

and yet have believed.



Who said it? Jesus Thomas disciples

Peace be with you. _____

Receive the Holy Spirit. _____

We have seen the Lord. _____

I will not believe it. _____

Put your finger here. _____

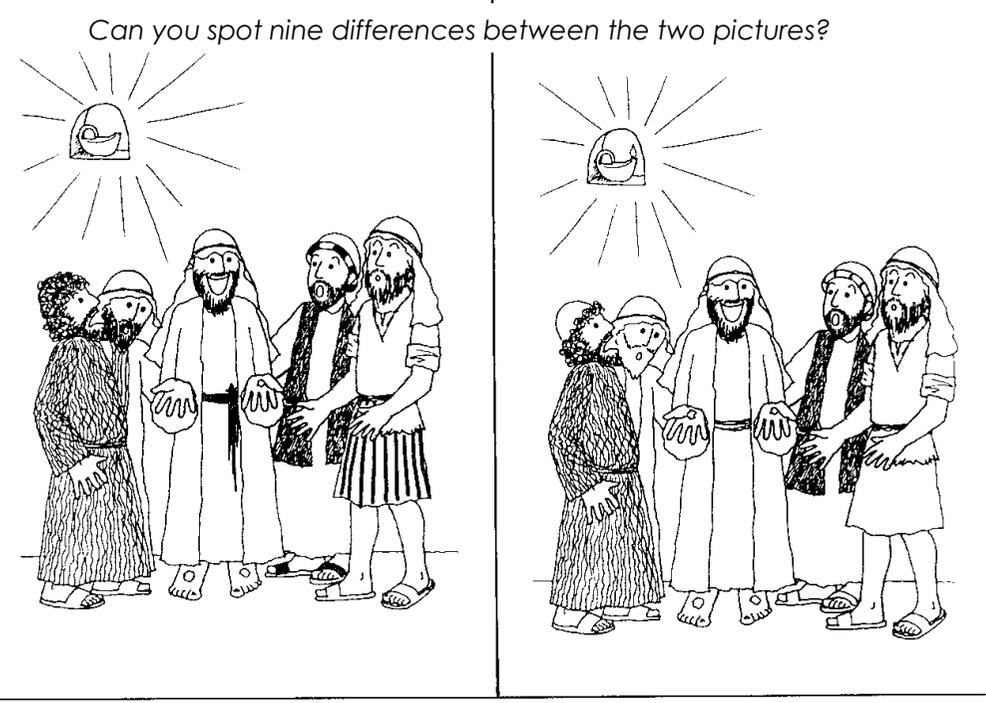
Stop doubting and believe. _____

My Lord and my God. _____

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. _____

Something to think about and discuss

What is meant when people use the term 'doubting Thomas'?
What is meant when people use the term 'seeing is believing'?
When might it be good to have a doubting attitude? When is it not good to doubt?
 All doubt left Thomas when he saw Jesus. *How can we get rid of doubts about God, or Jesus, or the Bible's teachings?*



Peace be with you!

Jesus said the same thing three times in our story. Find the words in the story and put a line around them.
 Why do you think Jesus said these words to the disciples?
 When are these words said in our church service?

Bible Verse
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.
 John 20:29