

Thomas Sees Jesus

Spring • Lesson 3

Who?

Jesus' friends, Jesus, Thomas

What?

Jesus' friends told Thomas the good news that Jesus is alive, and Jesus showed Thomas that He is really alive (Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-31)

When & Where?

After Jesus' resurrection, in Jerusalem

Why?

To help children be glad that Jesus is alive and to talk about the good news with others



Teacher Challenge

Read Luke 24:36-43;
John 20:19-31.

How can this story make a difference in your own life and in the lives of the children you teach?

Thomas had not been present when Jesus visited the other disciples after His resurrection. When the others told Thomas that Jesus is alive, he refused to take their word on such a life-shaking issue.

Thomas's stubborn honesty may seem negative. But what if he had chosen to pretend he believed only because he feared that others would think he was unspiritual? Isn't it better to honestly deal with our doubts or fears?

Goals For each child

- 1 Tell that Jesus showed Thomas that He really is alive**
- 2 Name someone he or she can tell that Jesus is alive**
- 3 Thank God that Jesus is alive**

- When did you know for certain that Jesus is alive? How did you know?
- How do you introduce Him to others and encourage them to know Him?

A relationship with Jesus is personal. Each person needs to meet Him and make a decision about believing and following Him. The end result will be, as it was for Thomas, a commitment to Jesus that is thoughtful and genuine—yielding the fruit of a living, growing relationship with the same Jesus who invited Thomas to put his finger into His nail prints.

Bible Verse

“Sing praises to the Lord.”

Psalm 9:11

1 Play to Learn 20 - 30 minutes

Teachers guide small groups of children in one or more activities

2 Listen to Learn 10 - 15 minutes

One teacher leads this large-group time to guide children in hearing and understanding the Bible story and Bible verse

3 Talk to Learn 15 minutes

Teachers guide small groups of children to complete *TalkTime* activity pages and other activities as time allows

Art Center
Make a collage of happy faces and tell how Jesus' friends felt when they saw Jesus
Materials: Bible, discarded magazines, scissors, construction paper strips, marker, large cardboard box, glue sticks, crayons

Blocks Center
Build Bible-times houses and talk about the time Thomas saw that Jesus is alive
Materials: Bible, blocks, toy people

Game Center
Play a beanbag-tossing game and say aloud, "Jesus is alive!"
Materials: Bible, container, beanbags

Music Center
Parade to music and thank God that Jesus is alive
Materials: Bible, *Preschool Music #1CD* and player

Come Together
Materials: None

Bible Verse **Materials:** Bible

Prayer **Materials:** Bible

Song
Materials: *Preschool Music #1CD* and player

Puppet Time
Materials: Daffodil puppet

Bible Story
Materials: Bible, Figures 14-19 from *Visual Resources*, mirror, flannel board

TalkTime Activity Page
Materials: Bible, Lesson 3 *TalkTime* activity page and sticker page for yourself and each child, markers or crayons

Bible Story Game
Materials: Paper bag, small classroom objects



- On *Preschool Music #1CD*, play "Come On In!" (track 1) as children arrive and "Are You Ready?" (track 15) during cleanup time

Art Center

Collect

Bible, discarded magazines, scissors, construction paper strips, marker, large cardboard box, glue sticks, crayons.

Prepare

Cut pictures of happy faces from magazines. Print, “We are glad! Jesus is alive!” on strips of construction paper.

Do

Children glue face pictures and paper strips to the box to make a collage. Children may also color box with crayons. As children work, talk about the happy people in the Bible story.

Teaching Tip

At the end of class time, display box collage and invite each child to show family members the area of the collage on which he or she worked.



Tip for Younger Children

Children glue pictures of happy faces to individual sheets of construction paper instead of working together to make collage on box. Each child takes his or her paper home.

Blocks Center

Collect

Bible, blocks, toy people.

Do

Children use blocks to build Bible-times houses. Then children move toy people as you briefly talk about the Bible story.

Teaching Tip

If you have limited space for storing large blocks or building with blocks, purchase small wooden or plastic blocks that easily fit into small hands. Less storage space will be needed and children will still be able to build houses and other structures.



Talk About

- **Today in our Bible story, Jesus wanted to show His friends that He is alive. One friend didn't believe that Jesus is alive until he saw Jesus and touched Him.**
- **Show me a sad face. Jesus' friends were sad before they saw Jesus. What do you think Jesus' friends looked like when they saw Jesus alive? They were happy!** Read aloud words on paper strips glued to box.
- **Show open Bible. The Bible says, “Sing praises to the Lord.” It is such good news to know that Jesus is alive. We can sing to show how happy we are that Jesus is alive.**

Tip for Younger Children

Start making the Bible-times house and invite children to help you finish it. Give children toy people to play with as you briefly tell the Bible story.

Game Center

Collect

Bible, container (trash can, basket, box, etc.), beanbags.

Prepare

Place the container in an open area of the room.



Do

Children stand about four feet away from the container. Give each child a beanbag. Children take one step for each word of “Jesus is alive” and then toss the beanbag into the container. Repeat as time permits.

Teaching Tip

After a few rounds of taking steps toward the container, invite children to jump before tossing the beanbag.

Music Center

Collect

Bible, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player.

Do

Play “Jesus Is Alive!” (track 8 on CD) as you lead children in a parade around the room. Lead children in doing a variety of actions as you walk (wave arms, stomp feet, wiggle fingers, clap hands, etc.).

Teaching Tip

As you talk about Psalm 9:11, occasionally remind children that “Lord” is another name for God, or Jesus.



Talk About

- Hold open Bible. **The Bible says, “Sing praises to the Lord.” When we sing happy songs about Jesus, we are praising Him.**

- **Another way to praise Jesus is to tell other people the happy news that Jesus is alive.**
- **Jesus’ friends told Thomas that Jesus is alive. Who is one of your friends, Julia? What can you say to her about Jesus?**
- **Pray, Dear God, we’re glad Jesus is alive. Help us tell others this good news. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Tip for Younger Children

Instead of taking steps toward container, children stand near container and repeat after you, “**Jesus is alive!**” Then children toss beanbags into container.

Tip for Younger Children

Music is a great way to connect with your nonverbal children. Reproduce the *Preschool Music#1* CD and send a copy home with each child.

Listen to Learn

Large-Group Time

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Collect

Bible, Figures 14-19 from *Visual Resources*; *Preschool Music #1CD* and player; Daffodil puppet; mirror; flannel board; optional—*God's Story for Me* Bible storybook.

Come Together

Lead children in saying the following rhyme:

**Hello, good friends,
And how are you?
Say your name,
And we'll clap for you.**

Point to six children, invite them to stand up and say their names, and then lead group to clap. Repeat the rhyme, point to another six children who say their name, and then lead group to clap. Continue game until all have had a turn to say their name.

Bible Verse

Open your Bible to Psalm 9:11. **The Bible says, "Sing praises to the Lord." "Lord" is another name for God. We can sing to thank God that Jesus is alive. What else can we do to thank God for Jesus?** (Clap hands. Pray. Smile.) Invite children to do one or more of the ways mentioned as you repeat Bible verse with children several times.

Enrichment Idea

Children hold hands and walk around in a circle while you repeat Psalm 9:11 with children several times.



Prayer

Pray with children. **Dear God, thank You that Jesus is alive. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Teaching Tip

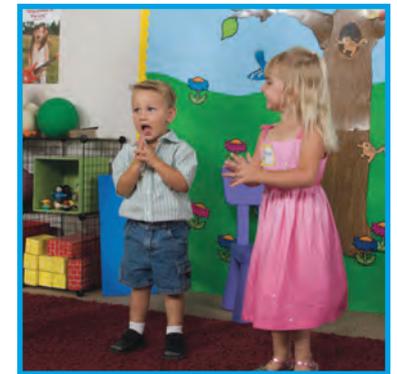
Make prayers for young children brief and simple so that you can demonstrate how to pray.

Song

I'm glad Jesus is alive. Jesus is my friend. Let's sing a song to praise Him. Play "Jesus Is Alive!" (track 8 on CD) several times, inviting children to sing along with you.

Puppet Time

Use Daffodil puppet to perform the puppet script on the last page of this lesson.



Bible Story

Use mirror and Figures 14-19 to help tell the Bible story on the next page.

Listen to Learn

Thomas Sees Jesus

Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-31

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Introduction

Show mirror. Invite children to take turns making happy faces while looking in the mirror. **Listen to hear who was happy and who told good news.** (Hold your Bible open to John 20 as you tell the following story.)



Sad Friends Talk

One night some of Jesus' friends were eating together in a house. They were very sad. Their friend Jesus had been dead for three days. They knew Jesus' body was not in the tomb. They had heard people say that they had seen Jesus and that He was alive! But some of them could not imagine that Jesus was really alive.

As the friends were talking, Jesus came into the room. Jesus' friends were surprised and a little afraid. *How could this be Jesus?* They knew Jesus had died.

Jesus Talks

Jesus cared about His friends. "Why are you afraid?" Jesus asked. Jesus held out His hands to them to prove who He was. Then Jesus asked for something to eat. When the friends saw Jesus and heard His kind voice, they knew He was really alive. The friends were not afraid anymore. This was REALLY Jesus!

Thomas Doubts

But Jesus' friend named Thomas was not there when Jesus came. Later, Jesus' other friends told Thomas that Jesus was alive; but Thomas shook his head. Thomas told the friends, "I will not say that Jesus is alive unless I see Him and touch Him myself."

Thomas Believes

A week later, Jesus' friends AND Thomas were together in the same house. Suddenly, Jesus came into the room, just as He had done before. Jesus knew that Thomas still couldn't be sure that He was really alive. Jesus loved Thomas. "Thomas," Jesus said, "look at My hands. Touch them. I want you to know that I am alive."

Thomas loved Jesus. He looked at and touched Jesus and said, "My Lord and my God!" Now Thomas knew for sure that Jesus is alive. And he was very, very glad!

Conclusion

The Bible says, "Sing praises to the Lord." We can be glad that Jesus is alive, just like Thomas was glad. We can praise and thank God for Jesus. We can tell others the good news that Jesus is alive. (Optional: Review story by using pages 431-434 in *God's Story for Me* Bible storybook.)

Creative Bible Storytelling Idea

As you tell the story, lead children in imitating actions of the people in the story (Jesus' friends eating, Jesus showing His friends His hands, Thomas shaking his head no, Thomas being surprised, etc.).

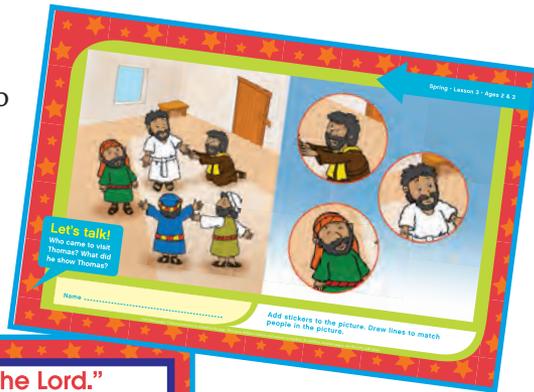
TalkTime Activity Page

Collect

Bible, Lesson 3 *TalkTime* activity page and sticker page for yourself and each child, markers or crayons.

Do

Distribute *TalkTime* activity pages and demonstrate how to complete the page. Distribute sticker pages and crayons or markers. As children complete their own page, talk about the items on the page.



Family FunTime Page

Show page 1 of *Family FunTime*, review the conversation suggestions, and give the papers to children to take home.

Bible Story Game

Collect

Paper bag, small classroom objects (toy car, crayon, block, etc.).

Do

Today in our Bible story, Jesus showed Thomas that He is alive. Jesus told Thomas to touch Him. When Thomas saw and touched Jesus, he knew that Jesus is alive. He was glad! Let's play a game where we use our fingers to touch objects and guess what they are.



Secretly place one small object in bag. Invite a child to put his or her hand in the bag to feel the object and guess what it is. (Note: If a child is unsure about putting his or her hand in the bag, invite the child to look in the bag first.) Child removes the object and shows it to the other children. Repeat with other children and objects.

Talk About

- **Jesus' friends were eating dinner. Who came to see them? Jesus wanted His friends to know that He is alive. Jesus' friends told Thomas that Jesus is alive. Thomas didn't believe them.**
- **Who was glad to know that Jesus is alive? When Thomas touched Jesus, He knew that Jesus is alive and that Jesus is God's Son.**
- **Jesus helped Thomas know that He is alive. We can tell our friends the happy news about Jesus. Who do you want to tell about Jesus?**
- **I'm glad that Jesus is alive. The Bible tells us, "Sing praises to the Lord." Let's praise God for making Jesus alive again.** Pray with children.

Music Fun

During transition times, invite children to sing along as they listen to "Jesus Is Alive!" (track 8), "Come On In!" (track 1) and/or "Wave Good-Bye" (track 14) on *Preschool Music #1CD*.

Puppet Script

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Swimming Party

(Note: Play both parts, changing your voice for the puppet. Or you may have a helper play one of the parts.)

Daffodil: *(Enters, looking very excited.)* Hi, Teacher! Guess what!

Leader: Hi, Daffodil. What?

Daffodil: *(Shakes with excitement.)* I'm having a party! A swimming party!

Leader: Wow! That sounds very fun and exciting!

Daffodil: It is! My mom is making a special worm cake with marsh grass icing. Doesn't that sound great?

Leader: Uh . . . I think that sounds better to ducks than to people. People usually like chocolate cake with sprinkles on top better.

Daffodil: *(Shakes head sadly.)* Oh, that's too bad. But do you know why I'm having a party?

Leader: No, I don't. But I'd love to hear about it. Boys and girls, would you like to hear about Daffodil's party, too?
(Pauses to allow children to respond.)

Daffodil: Well. *(Pauses to take a deep breath.)* I'm having a party because no one believes me.

Leader: Huh?

Daffodil: No one believes me, so I'm going to show them at my party.

Leader: What are you going to show everyone?

Daffodil: My friends don't believe that I really truly learned how to dive under the water. But I really truly did! My dad taught me last week. And we practiced and practiced and practiced. And now I'm really good at diving. But Todd the toad said he didn't believe it when I told him. And Tommy the turtle said that I was too little to be a good diver yet.

Leader: So at your party, you are going to show them that you can dive?

Daffodil: Yes! Then they'll know because they'll see! Then we can celebrate together!

Leader: Wow! Well, I believe you right now, Daffodil.

Daffodil: Really?

Leader: Yes, really. Boys and girls, do you believe that Daffodil knows how to dive? *(Pauses to allow children to respond.)* Let's cheer for Daffodil and celebrate this good news right now! *(Leads children in cheering for DAFFODIL.)*

