



## Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

### April 18- 1 year olds and 2 year olds

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Luke 24, John 20

**KEY PASSAGE:** 2 Corinthians 5:17

**BOTTOM LINE:** The Holy Spirit leads me to overcome my doubts and depend on God.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** For 40 days, Jesus showed himself to more than 500 people and proved that He is alive. Jesus is still alive today. We have not seen Jesus, but if we believe in Him, we will be blessed. He sends out believers to tell others about Him and gives us power through the Holy Spirit.

#### Context

The disciples were devastated that Jesus had died. They believed that Jesus was the Messiah, but they had abandoned Him and Jesus was killed. How could He save anyone if He was dead? But now some people were reporting that Jesus was alive! Was it true?

The disciples were talking about these things when Jesus stood among them. "Peace to you!" He said. Imagine how Jesus' words might have calmed the disciples anxious hearts. Their Lord, whom they had deserted, didn't show up to scold them for their failures or shame them for their lack of faith. He spoke peace to them.

Thomas, who was not with the disciples when Jesus came, had a hard time believing. Thomas wanted physical proof. A week later, Jesus showed Thomas His hands and His side. Thomas immediately believed, and Jesus said, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." (John 20:29)

With His resurrection, Jesus' mission was accomplished, but the disciples' work was just beginning. Jesus gave His followers a job to do: "As the Father has sent me, I also send you" (John 20:21) This verse contains the Gospels of John's version of the Great Commission.

Jesus, the One sent from the Father, sent the disciples to be His messengers and representatives. Jesus equipped the disciples with the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel- the good news of what Jesus has done- to the world.

Emphasize to kids that Jesus is alive today. We haven't seen Him for ourselves, but we believe by faith. He sends out all believers to tell others about Him, and He gives us power through the Holy Spirit.

#### TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus appeared to His closest friends so that they would understand all that had happened when He was arrested, crucified, buried, and raised again.
- He had taught them about His death and resurrection many times, but they didn't get it.
- Jesus showed his disciples that He was alive so that they would believe and follow Him.
- Even when Thomas doubted that Jesus was alive, Jesus came to him so that he would stop doubting and believe.
- **Bottom Line:** The Holy Spirit leads us to overcome our doubts and depend on God.

### **Social Activity: What's Missing**

**What You Need:** 6 items, tray, towel

**What You Do:**

Lay all 6 items on the tray. Show kids the items. Then cover the items and remove one of them. Tell children to close their eyes while you remove an item. The children open their eyes when you say "Open", then tell you as a group what's missing. Do this same thing with another item, until they are all missing. When you are finished, place all the items in a ziploc bag. **Say:** That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's pray and listen to our story today."

**Small Group Prayer:** "Dear God, thank you for making me, thank you for loving me and thank you for sending your son, Jesus to be my savior. We love you, Amen."

### **Introduce the Story**

"Jesus' friends were hiding in a locked room. Suddenly, Jesus stood in front of them. They thought He was a ghost! "Peace to you!" Jesus said. Jesus showed them His hands and His feet, and they were so happy. Jesus was alive! One of Jesus' friends- Thomas- was not there when Jesus spoke and ate with His friends. Thomas said, "Unless I see the marks on Jesus' hands and side and touch them myself, I will never believe!" Eight days later, the friends and Thomas were in a locked room again. Jesus stood in front of them! Jesus said to Thomas, "Look at My hands and touch them. Reach out and touch my side. Believe!" Thomas said, "My Lord and My God!" Jesus told Thomas, "Those who believe in Me but don't see Me are blessed."

### **PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO**

Check diapers and listen to a worship song

### **Application Activity See it and Believe It**

**What You Need:** "See It Believe It" Cards (printed and cut apart)

**What You Do:**

- Show kids the cards and remind them that we can know God's plan for the items He made because we can see them with our eyes.
- Show the picture of Jesus last, and then retell the Bible Story.

**What You Say** "The friends were hiding in a room when Jesus showed His friends He is alive! Thomas was not there, and he did not believe the friends. Jesus appeared again, and Thomas worshipped Him! Jesus told Thomas to believe. We have not seen Jesus, but we believe He is alive. Jesus is alive in Heaven.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- **Why did Thomas doubt that Jesus was alive when the other disciples believed?** Help kids recognize that Thomas was not with the disciples the first time Jesus appeared to them as a group. He didn't get to see Jesus, so He didn't believe. (Heb 11:1)
- **How are we blessed by believing in Jesus without seeing Him?** Lead kids to recall that when we believe in Jesus, we have forgiveness and eternal life. We will have peace and power through Him. (Mark 11:23)
- **What can we do when we doubt what is true?** Assure kids that when they have questions about the Bible, Jesus or their faith, it's OK to ask them. Encourage kids to talk with one of their leaders to help answer any questions. Remind them they can pray, asking God to speak to them through His Word and His Spirit to clear away their doubts. (Romans 10:17)