



Appearing to Thomas

Lesson Aim: To see Jesus did miracles so we might believe in Him.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: Jesus as Savior

THE WORD

Bible Story: John 20:24-31

What He Has Done: Jesus showed Thomas proof He was the Lord.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Joel 2:32

Unit 4: Jesus as Savior			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
17	Saving the Official's Son, John 4:46-54	Jesus saved the boy from a terrible fever.	To know we can trust God to always keep His promises.
18	Walking on Water, Matthew 14:22-34	Jesus walked on water and saved Peter from drowning.	To know we do not need to fear because Jesus is with us and He will save us.
19	Giving Sight to the Man Born Blind, John 9:1-3, 5-11	Jesus healed the man's blindness.	To see God purposefully made everyone with different needs to show His greatness.
20	Appearing to Thomas, John 20:24-31	Jesus showed Thomas proof He was the Lord.	To see Jesus did miracles so we might believe in Him.
21	Appearing to the Disciples, Luke 24:36-48	Jesus explained why He died and rose again.	To see Jesus did miracles so we might believe in Him and tell others.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Hebrews 11:1-3. Please join us in praying, "Lord Jesus, thank You for Your miracles and for Your patience with us when we doubt. Use us as You help the children believe in You. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

Help the children remember the story by asking them to tell it back to you. Make a game of it by having each child tell you one thing they remember, or ask them, "What happened next?" or "Then what?" Finish by reviewing the lesson aim.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME		Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of hands
		Coloring Center: Appearing to Thomas	Coloring pages of Jesus and Thomas, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: Do You Believe Me?	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Block Center: Thomas Sees Jesus	Blocks
		Activity Center: I Spy	None
		Preparing for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Everyone Who Calls" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "He Is Mighty to Save" "Heal Me, O Lord" "I Will Remember" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful" "With God All Things Are Possible" Additional Song Suggestion: "I'm Gonna Clap My Hands"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: God of Wonders Unit 4, Lesson 20
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: John 20:24-31	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at John 20:27 Visual: Picture of the Bible story, stuffed sheep or other toy animal in a bag
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: "I Believe!" Glasses	Sturdy paper, stickers, craft decorations, crayons or markers, glue or glue stick, optional: "I Believe!" glasses template (available at ResourceWell.org)
		Game: Touch and See	Paper or cloth bag (pillowcase), large box or container, small objects that are familiar to children (if possible, one per child). Examples: apple, banana, ball, stuffed animal, hat, hairbrush, comb, etc.
		Game: How Do You Know?	None
		Snack: Snack Surprise	A favorite snack (See suggestions for preparation.)
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 4, Lesson 20
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: John 20:24-31	None
	Up to 10	Game: Everyone Who Calls	None
	Up to 10	Game: Call on the Lord	Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "Everyone Who Calls," optional: musical instruments
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about believing in Jesus and His miracles.

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Jesus as Lord

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of hands. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of hands help you remember Thomas touched Jesus' hands so he could believe the miracle that Jesus was alive.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: APPEARING TO THOMAS

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Jesus and Thomas, crayons

DO

Children color while talking about the story.

TALK ABOUT

Do you remember what we celebrated at Easter? (Jesus died and came back to life.) **Some people had a hard time believing Jesus was alive. Thomas was one of those people. He didn't believe until he saw Jesus with his own eyes and touched Him with his own hands. Can we see or touch Jesus? (No.) We can't see or touch Jesus, but we can believe because the Bible tells us of Jesus' miracles and we know the Bible is true.**

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: DO YOU BELIEVE ME?

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough as they discuss trusting and believing.

TALK ABOUT

I'm going to make a shape with the play-dough but I don't want you to see what it is. Make a simple shape with the play-dough, such as a ball or a smiley face. Without showing the shape to the children, say, **I made a shape with the play-dough. Do you believe me?** (Children respond.) **Why do (or why don't) you believe me?** (Children respond.) **If I show you the shape I made, will you believe me?** (Children respond.) **Sometimes, it is difficult to believe in things we cannot see but if we trust someone, we can believe what they say is true. If we believe in God, can we believe His words in the Bible are true? (Yes!)**

Optional: Have children take turns making a shape in secret. When the shape is made, they say, **"I made a shape with the play-dough. Do you believe me?"** The other children respond and then the child shows the shape he or she made to show what he or she said was true.

THE WELCOME *continued...*

BLOCK CENTER: THOMAS SEES JESUS

SUPPLIES

Blocks

DO

Children build a house with doors that are shut and "locked."

TALK ABOUT

At Easter we remembered that Jesus died and came back to life. After He rose to life, He went to see some of His friends. In our story today, His friends were together in a house and all the doors were locked. Can you build a house with doors that are shut? We can pretend that they are locked and cannot be opened. Help children build a house with doors that are shut.

While Jesus' friends were in the house, they were surprised when Jesus appeared. How do you think Jesus got through the locked doors? (It was a miracle.) Jesus did miracles so people would believe in Him. He wants you to believe in Him, too.

ACTIVITY CENTER: I SPY

SUPPLIES

None

DO

Play "I Spy": Choose an object in the room without revealing what it is to the children. Say, "**I spy with my little eye, something that is** name the color of the object." Have children take turns guessing which object you chose. Play as long as children have interest. Allow the children to take turns choosing an object.

TALK ABOUT

Jesus' friend Thomas didn't believe Jesus had come back to life until he saw Jesus with his eyes. Let's use our eyes to play "I Spy."

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

"Everyone	(each) Hold up left fist with thumb pointing up. Move the thumb of right fist down the backside of the left fist. (one) Then, hold up index finger of right hand.
who calls on the name	(call (give name)) Make "H" handshape on both hands by holding pointer finger and middle finger together. Tap one "H" handshape on top of the other.
of the Lord	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
will be saved."	(saved) Fists begin crossed in front of chest and then pull apart, ending with both fists facing outward.
Joel 2:32	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Jesus as Savior

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved," Joel 2:32. We can call on Jesus by praying to Him. Let's call on Him now. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear Jesus, thank You for Your miracles. We believe in You. Amen.**



Who remembers what we call it when Jesus does something no one else can do? (A miracle.) Jesus did miracles so we might believe in Him. Do you believe in Jesus? (Children respond.) Sing: "I'm Gonna Clap My Hands" or "With God All Things Are Possible."

Let's ask God to bless our offering and use it to help many people believe in Jesus' miracles. Sing: "The Lord Is Faithful" while collecting the offering.



In our story today, Jesus helps a man named Thomas believe in Him. Let's see if Delbert and Lello have heard about Thomas. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 4, Lesson 20.



Thomas called Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" What happens to everyone who calls on the name of the Lord? (They will be saved.) Sing: "Everyone Who Calls."



Just like our song says, Jesus loves us all and He is always with us. If we call on Him, He will save us. Can you say our Bible verse with me? Practice a few times with the sign language.

"Everyone

(each) Hold up left fist with thumb pointing up. Move the thumb of right fist down the backside of the left fist. (one) Then, hold up index finger of right hand.

who calls on the name

(call (give name)) Make "H" handshake on both hands by holding pointer finger and middle finger together. Tap one "H" handshake on top of the other.

of the Lord

(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

will be saved."

(saved) Fists begin crossed in front of chest and then pull apart, ending with both fists facing outward.

Joel 2:32

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Jesus helped Thomas believe

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at John 20:27, picture of the Bible story, stuffed sheep or other toy animal in a bag

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Hold up the bag with the sheep in it. **Who would believe me if I told you I had a sheep in this bag?** (Children respond.) **Why don't you believe me?** (A sheep is bigger than the bag. It would be moving. We'd hear it.) Show them the sheep. Allow the children to touch the sheep.

Now, if I put the sheep back in the bag, would you believe there's a sheep in the bag? (Yes. We saw the sheep. We know it's a toy sheep.) Place the sheep back in the bag.

Today, we are going to hear a story about a man named Thomas who wouldn't believe Jesus was alive until he saw and touched Him. Let's listen. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to John 20:27.



WATCH THE WORD: JOHN 20:24-31

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **Thomas was a follower who saw the Lord Jesus die.**
- **One day, others told him, "We've seen the Lord!" they cried!**
- **"Unless I see Him," Thomas said, "I will not believe."**
- **Thomas told the others, "I, myself, must see."**
- **Later they were in the house; all the doors were locked.**
- **Jesus came into the room, and everyone was shocked.**
- **"Peace be with you," Jesus said. "Thomas, come and see."**
- **"Come and touch My hands and side. Stop doubting and believe."**
- **He touched the parts on Jesus that were hurt upon the cross.**
- **Then Thomas said, "My Lord and my God!"**

Was Jesus unhappy with Thomas for doubting or not believing? (No.) What did Jesus say and do to help Thomas believe? (He told Thomas to come and see for himself.) God gave us the Bible to help us believe in Him.



We can trust God to keep His promises

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: "I BELIEVE!" GLASSES

Purpose: Create eyeglasses to remind children that they can believe the miracles!

Supplies: Sturdy paper, stickers, craft decorations, crayons or markers, glue or glue stick, optional: "I Believe!" glasses template (available at ResourceWell.org)

Prepare (without template): On sturdy paper, trace and cut out the shape of eyeglasses (with holes for eyes) for each child. On the eyeglasses, print:

I Believe!

Jesus helps Thomas believe. John 20:24-31

Prepare (with template): Print and cut out the "I Believe!" glasses template for each child. Attach the arms to the eyeglasses with tape or glue.

Adaptation for Ages 2-3: When considering craft decorations for younger children, it is best to avoid anything that could be a choking hazard. Some craft decorations that work well for this age are stickers, stampers, sturdy paper, tissue paper, wrapping paper, ribbon, yarn, pom-poms, cotton balls, felt, foam shapes, small feathers, non-toxic glitter paint, or watercolor paints.

Jesus helped Thomas see and believe the miracle that Jesus was alive. Let's make pretend eyeglasses to remind us that Jesus will help us believe the miracles, too!

Directions:

1. Color the glasses and decorate them with stickers and other craft decorations.
2. Bend the eyeglass arms to fit each child.

Craft Discussion:

- Read the text on the glasses to the children. **What did Jesus let Thomas do to help him believe?** (See and touch the wounds He received on the cross.)
- **Did Thomas believe after He saw for himself that it was truly Jesus?** (Yes.)
- **Can Jesus help you believe His miracles are true?** (Yes.)

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: TOUCH AND SEE

Purpose: To experience helping someone believe as Jesus helped Thomas.

Supplies: Paper or cloth bag (pillowcase), large box or container, small objects that are familiar to children (if possible, one per child). Examples: apple, banana, ball, stuffed animal, hat, hairbrush, comb, etc.

Prepare: Place an item in the bag. Hide the remaining objects in the box.

How did Jesus help Thomas believe? (He invited Thomas to touch and see his wounds from the cross.) **In this game, we will help each other believe what we are told.**

Directions:

1. Child 1 stands and peeks into the bag to identify the object.
2. Same child announces: **"There is a name of object in this bag. Touch and see so you will believe! I call name of child 2."**
3. As child 1 holds the bag, child 2 stands and reaches into the bag to touch, feel, and identify the object.
4. Remaining children ask: **"Is it true? Do you believe?"**
5. Child 2 retrieves and reveals object to children and says: **"Yes, it's true as you can see!"**
6. Children hide their eyes as teacher replaces that object with a different object from the box.
7. Repeat steps 1-6 until each child has had a turn as child 1 and 2.

GAME: HOW DO YOU KNOW?

Purpose: To understand how we confirm truths about visible and invisible things.

Supplies: None

We each know many things that are true. Let's play a game called, "How Do You Know?"

Directions:

1. Teacher points to a child and asks: **We know this is name of child. But, how do we know?**
(Children respond.)
Teacher hints: **What is the name on his or her nametag?**
What does name of child do when we call his or her name?
What does name of child's family call him or her?
2. Teacher asks: **We can't see it but we know when the wind blows. But, how do we know?**
(Children respond.)
Teacher hints: **What do you see the trees do in the wind?**
What does a kite do when the wind blows?
What sound do you hear when the wind blows?
3. Teacher asks: **We know Jesus did many miracles. But, how do we know?** (Children respond.)
Teacher hints: **Where do we read that Jesus walked on water?**
Were others there who saw it happen?
Where do we read that Jesus healed the blind man?
Were others there who saw it happen?
Where do we read about many of Jesus' miracles?

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: SNACK SURPRISE

Purpose: Children will expect the surprise when they bite into the middle of the snack.

Snack Suggestion: A favorite snack (See suggestions for preparation.)

Prepare: Surprise the children by having a snack that would be considered special to them or surprise them by spreading a tablecloth or sheet on the floor for snack time. Early in the class or before you serve the snack, let them know you have a special surprise for them.

Directions:

1. Serve the snacks and drinks.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another familiar tune.
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again,
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Pray. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **We had a special surprise for our snack today. What was the surprise?** (Children respond.)
 - **Did you believe there would be a surprise as I said? Why?** (Children respond.)
 - **Sometimes we believe something is true because we taste, touch, and see it. Sometimes we believe because someone we trust tells us it is true. We can trust that the Bible tells us the truth.**
 - **What is your favorite part of this story?** (Children respond.)



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"Everyone	(each) Hold up left fist with thumb pointing up. Move the thumb of right fist down the backside of the left fist. (one) Then, hold up index finger of right hand.
who calls on the name	(call (give name)) Make "H" handshape on both hands by holding pointer finger and middle finger together. Tap one "H" handshape on top of the other.
of the Lord	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
will be saved."	(saved) Fists begin crossed in front of chest and then pull apart, ending with both fists facing outward.
Joel 2:32	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: JOHN 20:24-31

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **Thomas was a follower who saw the Lord Jesus die.** (Make sad face.)
- **One day, others told him, "We've seen the Lord!" they cried!** (Make happy face.)
- **"Unless I see Him," Thomas said, "I will not believe."** (Point to eyes.)
- **Thomas told the others, "I, myself, must see."** (Point to self.)
- **Later they were in the house, all the doors were locked.** (Lock imaginary door.)
- **Jesus came into the room, and everyone was shocked.** (Look surprised.)
- **"Peace be with you," Jesus said. "Thomas, come and see."** (Beckoning motion.)
- **"Come and touch My hands and side. Stop doubting and believe."** (Point to hands and side.)
- **He touched the parts of Jesus that were hurt upon the cross.** (Touch palms.)
- **He saw and believed. He said, "My Lord and my God!"** (Sign language for "believe," index finger touches forehead, then hands join in a clasp.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Joel 2:32

GAME: EVERYONE WHO CALLS

Purpose: To help children learn the meaning of the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Choose one child to stand in the center of the circle.
3. Remaining children chant the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse in rhythm:
Group: **Everyone who calls – on the name of the Lord – will – be – saved!**
Center child: **"Even me?"**
Group: **"Yes, you!"**
Center child: **"What about name of child?"** (Child in the center chooses a child in the circle.)
Group: **"Name of child chosen, too!"**
4. Child whose name was called stands in the center of the room.
5. Repeat step 3 until each child has a turn in the center.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: CALL ON THE LORD

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "Everyone Who Calls," optional: musical instruments

Our Bible Memory Verse tells us to call on the name of the Lord. Remember that "Lord" is a special name for God. We can call on Him no matter where we are or what we are doing. When our Bible Memory Verse Song is playing, let's march around the room while we sing along. When the music stops, I want you to freeze in place and together we will say our Bible Memory Verse.

Directions:

1. Play "Everyone Who Calls" as a helper leads the children in marching around the room.
2. After a short time, pause the music. The children freeze in place.
3. Lead the children in saying the Bible Memory Verse: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved," Joel 2:32.
4. Play as long as you like. Give the children each a turn in leading the group around the room.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about believing in Jesus and His miracles.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 4, Lesson 20: Appearing to Thomas

PONDER! Jesus helped Thomas believe He was the Lord (John 20:24-31). Jesus did miracles so we might believe in Him. We can read about those miracles in the Bible!

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord Jesus, thank You for Your miracles. Thank You for helping us believe. Amen."

PLAY! Play the game "I Spy." Choose an object in the room without revealing it. Say, "I spy with my little eye, something that is color of the object." Have your friends and family take turns guessing which object you chose. Take turns choosing an object.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Everyone

(each) Hold up left fist with thumb pointing up. Move the thumb of right fist down the backside of the left fist. (one) Then, hold up index finger of right hand.

who calls on the name

(call (give name)) Make "H" handshape on both hands by holding pointer finger and middle finger together. Tap one "H" handshape on top of the other. (Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

of the Lord

will be saved."

(saved) Fists begin crossed in front of chest and then pull apart, ending with both fists facing outward.

Joel 2:32

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.