



# 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.

## THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Believe the miracles!"

## 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."



# THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Treasure Chest</b>	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of hands
		<b>Whisper Verse</b>	Sign language for "Believe the miracles."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	<b>Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "Everyone Who Calls" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "He Is Mighty to Save" "Heal Me, O Lord" "I Will Remember" "It's Praise Time" "The Lord Is Faithful" <b>Additional Song Suggestions:</b> "Hallelu, Hallelu! (Praise Ye the Lord)" Traditional Hymn <b>Additional Song Collection Suggestions:</b> Cedarhurst Classics Sunday School Songs ABC's of Praise; Mary Rice Hopkins
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: God of Wonders Unit 4, Lesson 20
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Watch the Word:</b> John 20:24-31	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at John 20:27 Visual: magnifying glass
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> "I Believe!" Door Hanger	Standard-size sturdy paper of any color, sturdy white, yellow, and green paper, crayons or markers, glue or glue stick
		<b>Game:</b> Touch and See	Various small objects, paper or cloth bag, large box or container
		<b>Game:</b> How Do You Know?	None
		<b>Snack:</b> Surprise in the Middle	A snack with a surprise in the middle (such as cream or chocolate-filled cupcakes or donuts or lollipops with a gum center)
		<b>Circle of Prayer</b>	None
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 4, Lesson 20 Color This Story: "Jesus Helps Thomas Believe."
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Say &amp; Do:</b> John 20:24-31	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Stop the Music	One paper heart, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "Everyone Who Calls"
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Everyone Who Calls	None
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about believing in Jesus and His miracles.

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Believe the miracles

## THE 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. Jesus helps us believe the miracles He performed, so we might believe in Him! Today's Whisper Verse is "Believe the miracles!"** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.\***

**SIGN LANGUAGE: "Believe the miracles!"**

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com).)

**Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:**

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>"Believe"</b>         | Index finger touches forehead, then hands join in a clasp (hold true to a thought).                       |
| <b>"(the) miracles."</b> | Both palms held out in front of body, pulled in slightly, and then pushed out in an expression of wonder. |

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!  
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

**\*Today's Whisper Verse:** "Believe the miracles," John 10:38. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



Jesus as Savior

## THE WORSHIP

**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.

**It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to Jesus as our Savior. Who knows what the word Savior means?** (Someone who rescues us from danger.) **We call Jesus our Savior. He helps us see and believe His miracles. He helps us believe in Him. That reminds me of today's Whisper Verse, "Believe the miracles!" Let's say it together.** Review the Whisper Verse together: "Believe the miracles." Include sign language.



**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.

**After Jesus helped a man named Thomas believe in Him, Thomas called Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus helps us believe the miracles. He helps us believe in Him and call Him "Lord." What happens to everyone who calls on the name of the Lord?** (They will be saved.) Sing: "Everyone Who Calls."



**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 knew Jesus had died, so it was very hard for him to believe Jesus was alive. To believe that miracle, Thomas said he would actually need to touch Jesus and see Him with his own eyes. Jesus loved Thomas and so He gave him what he needed to believe the miracle. Thomas must have been so excited to see the miracle was true—Jesus was truly alive and with him! Sing: "He Is Mighty to Save" and "I Will Remember."**



Jesus helped Thomas believe

## THE WORD

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.

Last time, we learned how Jesus healed the blind man. Today, we will see how Jesus helped Thomas believe. Let's open our Bible to today's story in the book of John. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to John 20:27.

### WATCH THE WORD: JOHN 20:24-31

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a magnifying glass. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- 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.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read John 20:27 from the teacher's Bible.

The Bible tells us the miracles of Jesus so we will believe in Him. Let's say our Whisper Verse together: "Believe the miracles!" Include sign language or hand motions.



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!" DOOR HANGER**

**Purpose:** Create a door hanger to remind children that they can believe the miracles!

**Supplies:** Standard-size sturdy paper of any color, sturdy white, yellow, and green paper, crayons or markers, glue or glue stick

**Prepare:** From colored paper, cut a 4-inch x 11-inch strip of paper. Two inches from the top of paper, cut an opening for a doorknob. On the door hanger, print: **Jesus helps Thomas believe. John 20:24-31.** From white paper, cut a 1-inch circle. To create an eye, draw a ½-inch circle in the middle of the white circle. From yellow paper, cut a 1-inch bee shape. From green paper, cut a 1-inch leaf shape.

**Teacher Note:** The children are creating a picture sentence with the three shapes:  
"Eye + Bee + Leaf = I Believe."

**Optional:** Cut the doorknob and shapes from craft foam instead of sturdy paper or use stickers for the eye, bee, and leaf shapes.

**Jesus helped Thomas believe the miracle that Jesus was alive. Let's make a door hanger to remind you that Jesus will help you believe the miracles, too!**

#### **Directions:**

1. **Eye:** Color the middle of the white circle with a brown, green, or blue crayon or marker.
2. Glue the eye directly below the doorknob hole.
3. **Bee:** Use yellow and black crayons or markers to color the bee shape.
4. Glue the bee directly below the eye shape.
5. **Leaf:** Draw green lines on the leaf shape.
6. Glue the leaf directly beneath the bee.

**Let's sound out the picture sentence you just made: Eye + Bee + Leaf = I Believe.**

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **What did Jesus let Thomas do?** (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, small ball, small 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 true facts. I'll ask questions about facts you know. Let's discover how we know these facts are true.**

### **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?**

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **SNACK: SURPRISE IN THE MIDDLE**

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

**Snack Suggestion:** A snack with a surprise in the middle (such as cream or chocolate-filled cupcakes or donuts or lollipops with a gum center)

Before the children eat their snack, tell them there will be a surprise in the middle.

### **Directions:**

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other 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. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
  - **Did you find the surprise in the middle?** (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.**
  - **Who remembers the Whisper Verse?** ("Believe the miracles!") **Let's say it together.**
  - **What is your favorite part of this story?** (Children respond.)



## **CIRCLE OF PRAYER**

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ (read every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

**COMPLETED CRAFT:** Take home your "I Believe!" Door Hanger craft. Tell someone that Jesus helped Thomas believe.

**PONDER, PRAY & PLAY:** Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about the ways Jesus helps us believe.**

**COLOR THIS STORY:** "Jesus Helps Thomas Believe." Discuss the Bible Story and play the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Everyone Who Calls," as children color.



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 acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **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: STOP THE MUSIC

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

**Supplies:** One paper heart, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "Everyone Who Calls"

**Let's practice our Bible Memory Verse Song while we play a game. When the music is playing, pass the heart around the circle while we sing along. When the music stops, if you have the heart, see if you can sing the next line of the song. If you don't remember it, we will help you.**

**Directions:**

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Play the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Everyone Who Calls."
3. Children pass the heart around the circle as they sing.
4. Stop the music suddenly.
5. Child with the paper heart says or sings the next line of the song alone or with the teacher.
6. Play again until each child has a turn singing alone (or with the teacher).

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **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.



## **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!** Read John 20:24-31 with your family. Sometimes we doubt – that means we are not sure something is true. Sometimes we need to see something with our own eyes before we can believe it. Jesus helped Thomas to stop doubting and believe. Talk about why you think Jesus did miracles.

**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 with My Little Eye." The leader secretly decides on an object visible in the room and says, "I spy with my little eye something that is word describing object." Others take turns guessing what the item is. After guessing, the leader points to the item to prove what it is.

**Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse:** Joel 2:32

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."