

# Family Faith Packet

Bethany Green Lake | Sunday, April 11th

**Big Idea:** Jesus connects us to each other

**Scripture:** John 20:19-31, 1 John 1:1-4

This week, we are talking about how Jesus appears to his disciples after his resurrection, and how Thomas refuses to believe it until he witnesses it for himself. Help kids see through this story that doubt and questions are not bad things. They might even be essential for them to grow in their faith. But remind them that they have a community here that they can rely on to help them in their walk with Jesus.

SCRIPTURE | **John 20:19-31**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Retell the story using everyone to play the roles. You will need people to play the parts of Jesus, Thomas, and four additional disciples. Set up your stage like a living room with pillows for everyone to sit on. You could even project an image of a night sky with stars and play cricket sounds to show this took place in the evening.
  - *(Disciples are pacing back in forth.)*
  - **Disciple 1:** Hey, be very quiet! We don't want anyone hearing us.
  - **Disciple 2:** Did you hear something? What was that?
  - **Jesus:** *(Jesus appears in the center.)* My friends! Peace be with you!
  - **Disciples 1 and 2:** Ahh! *(One of the disciples whimpers and curls up in the fetal position on the floor.)*
  - **Jesus:** *(Jesus holds out hands.)* Hey, hey. Don't be afraid. It's me, Jesus. See?
  - *(Disciples get excited when they see that it is Jesus and begin to touch Jesus' hands.)*
  - **Disciple 3:** It's really hard to believe, but it really is Jesus!
  - **Jesus:** Just like God sent me, I'm going to send you! *(Jesus begins to pray over the disciples to receive the Holy Spirit. Then, Jesus leaves.)*
  - **Disciple 4:** Guys, did that just happen? Did we really just see Jesus and touch Jesus' hands and side? We gotta tell everyone that Jesus is alive!
  - **Thomas:** *(Enters the room.)* Hey, guys!
  - **Disciple 4:** Thomas! You won't believe what happened! We have seen Jesus!
  - **Thomas:** *(Laughs out loud in disbelief.)* Yeah, right! I won't believe it until I see proof for myself!
  - *(Show a slide or have someone say, "Eight Days Later . . . ")*
  - **Jesus:** Thomas.
  - **Thomas:** Whoa! Who is that?
  - **Disciple 4:** *(Smirks.)* I hate to say I told you so, but I told you so!
  - **Thomas:** Jesus? What? You're alive? But that's not possible!
  - **Jesus:** Thomas, with God, all things are possible. You don't have to be afraid. You can touch the places where my wounds were and believe.

- **Thomas:** My Lord! My God! *(Begins to cry.)*
- **Jesus:** Thomas, now that you have seen the proof, you believe. There will be many who don't get the chance to see me and touch these wounds. They are blessed for believing even though they haven't been able to see me.
- *(Characters walk off stage. Encourage kids to give actors a hearty round of applause!)*
- When Jesus showed up, his friends were no longer afraid. They really believed that Jesus was the same Jesus they had followed until now. Jesus who died was now Jesus who lives! They were brought together to see Jesus so they could tell others the good news!

## SNACK | Climbing Rope

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a [Twizzlers Pull 'n' Peel](#) and instruct them to pull each strip apart. Then, show them how to tie the individual strips together to create a long climbing rope!
- When we're connected together, we are stronger because there are more of us. When we connect these pieces, our rope is longer and can help us climb higher!
- **Would you rather climb a mountain or swim in the ocean?**
- **How high have you climbed before?**

## ACTIVITY | Followers' Chain

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Cut enough two- to three-inch wide strips of paper for each kid and leader. Tell each kid to write "Jesus" on one side of their paper and their name on the other side. Glue or staple each strip of paper together to make a chain. Fold the paper so "Jesus" is facing out. Make one, long chain with every kid and leader's name attached.
- **What do you see when you look at the chain?**
- I see Jesus on each link! Jesus is how each of us are connected!
- Let's hang this up to remind us each week that **Jesus connects us to each other.**

## PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus so that we can be connected to you. Thank you for all the people in our lives we are connected to. Help us to love them like you do. Amen.

## DISCUSSION

- **When Jesus came into the room, what did Jesus say to the disciples?**
- **What did Thomas say to the other disciples when they told him they saw Jesus alive?**
- **For Thomas to believe, what did Jesus show Thomas?**
- **Read I John 1:3. What do you think it means to have fellowship with God?**
- **Fellowship is one way to say we are connecting with others. What are some ways we connect with others in general?**
- **Who are the people you are connected with when you believe in Jesus?**
- **What is one thing you can do to connect more people to your community of people who know and love God?**