

READ IT

This rotation's Bible story is
Doubting Thomas
from John 20:24-29

Believe in Jesus and receive his peace!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Thomas
- Jesus
- "Peace be with you!"
- Disciples
- Hiding

This story about Doubting Thomas is only told in the Gospel of John. Each of the Gospels tells different stories of what happened after Easter.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 492-495

Spark Bible pages 1199-1200

Family Prayer

**Thank you, Jesus, for giving us your peace.
Thank you for calling us to tell your story all
over the world. AMEN.**

TALK ABOUT IT

Family Conversations

- 1** Tell about a time you were afraid and hiding from something.
- 2** Share a time when you have needed to "see it to believe it."
- 3** Think about the disciples' experiences after the crucifixion. Why do you think they were afraid and hiding when Jesus found them?
- 4** In this story Jesus tells the disciples that they are to go out and tell the world about him. While you're cleaning up dinner dishes (or doing some other household chore), take turns listing things you would want to tell the world about Jesus. See how many things you can list in one group clean-up session!

Eye Spark

When you see a picture of Jesus, remember how Thomas needed to see Jesus to believe he had risen.

Ear Spark

When you hear the words "Peace be with you..." in worship or elsewhere, remember this story and how Jesus gave his peace to the disciples.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Make a tablecloth, napkins, or placemats with the word "Peace" written in different languages. (You can use plastic/vinyl/cloth and paint or permanent pens!) Use these table linens when you eat together.

For younger kids

Draw a picture of Jesus. What color hair do you think Jesus had? What color eyes? How tall do you think he was?

For older kids

Find different pictures of Jesus by using an online image search engine. How have artists represented him over the years? How would you paint/draw/sculpt Jesus? Try it!

TRY IT

Art

Have family members draw or paint pictures of their images of peace. Hang the pictures together in your home where family members can go if they need to feel peace. Place a Bible in the peace area as a reminder that only Jesus can give us true peace.

Computer Lab

Read John 20:19-23, when Jesus told the disciples to receive the Holy Spirit. The dove and fire are symbols for the Holy Spirit. As a family, use your computer to draw symbols for the Holy Spirit. Discuss how each of you has experienced the Holy Spirit in your own life.

Creative Drama

Choose one person to be Thomas. Everyone else acts like a disciple and tries to convince Thomas that Jesus is alive. Thomas doubts until a “disciple” reads a favorite Bible story about Jesus. Then, everyone begins to share other stories of Jesus. Thomas believes!

Video

Through Doubting Thomas, Jesus shows us acceptance, mercy, and love. Find an area of doubt and turn it into faith in action! For example, if you doubt that the environment can ever be saved, organize a family neighborhood cleanup.

Bible Skills and Games

Jesus had said that he would rise again, but Thomas didn’t believe until he saw Jesus with his own eyes. Talk as a family about other things in the Bible that may be hard to believe, like creation, the flood, or Jesus’ return. When we believe God’s Word, it’s because God gives us faith to believe.

Cooking

Play with your food! Feed a variety of foods to blindfolded family members. They must name that food without seeing or touching it. Take turns being blindfolded. Trust that each of you will be kind in the food you feed each other, even if you can’t see the food.

Music

Talk about faith—believing, knowing that God is near. Sing or say together:

**We walk by faith and not by sight;
With gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e’er spoke:
“My peace be with you here.”**

Science

Encourage your kids to believe without seeing by looking for evidence of unseen animals around you. Go outside and look for tracks, nests, chewed food (like nuts, berries, or bones), bits of fur, dropped feathers, snail trails, and spider webs. What else can you find? What “signs” of God’s love and care can you point out?