

**April 21**  
**9:00am & 11:00am**  
*Three and Four Year Olds*  
**JESUS APPEARED TO THOMAS**  
(John 20)

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus is still alive today. We have not seen Jesus, but if we believe in Him, we will be blessed.

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do we know God wants us to know Him? We know God wants us to know Him because He shows Himself through the Bible.

**KEY PASSAGE:** This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent —Jesus Christ. John 17:3

**Key Passage Phrase:** People who know the only true God will live forever. John 17:3

## LEARN

(GATHER ON THE RUG FOR THE LESSON)

### 1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Place **five classroom items** on the floor in front of the children and cover the items with a **cloth or towel**. Invite children to be seated in the group time area. Tell the children that you are going to remove the cloth so they can see the items under it, but they are only going to have 10 seconds to see what is there. Remove the cloth, and count to 10 slowly and loudly. Then, re-cover the items on the tray. Prompt children to tell you the items they remember seeing.

**SAY** *You were really good at telling me what you saw. When I put the cover back over the tray, were the items still there? [Allow responses.] Yes, they were. You did not have to see them to know that they were still there. In today's Bible story, one of Jesus' disciples had a little trouble believing something because he had not seen it with his own eyes. Our Bible story comes from the book of John. It is true because all the stories in our Bible are true.*

### 2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

\*9AM Volunteers with 3s in room 125: You will need to combine with room 124 for bible story time.\*

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today's date (If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

*If you have issues with the video, there is a teaching outline at the end of this guide.*

### 3. LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** *The big picture question and answer says, **How do we know God wants us to know Him? We know God wants us to know Him because He shows Himself through the Bible.** In the Bible story, Thomas would not believe that Jesus was alive until he saw Jesus for himself. Unlike Thomas, we cannot see Jesus. We cannot see His face, or touch His hands and side, but we can hear about Jesus and learn about Him by reading Bible stories about Him. What is your favorite Bible story about Jesus?*

### 4. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Before the session, print one copy of "**Key Passage Puzzle**" printable. Cut out the pieces and hide them around the room. Place the key passage marker in your Bible at John 17:3. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage and to remove the marker. Read the verse aloud to the children. Invite children to find the key passage puzzle pieces that you hid in the classroom. When they have found the pieces, guide the children to work together to assemble the puzzle by matching the icons in the corner of each piece. Read the verse again to the children and guide them to say it with you as they do the motions they learned from last week.

**SAY** *Our key passage verse says that eternal life, which means to live forever with God, is found through knowing God and His Son, Jesus. Thomas knew Jesus, but he had trouble believing that Jesus was*

*alive. It was not until Thomas saw Jesus and could touch His hands and side that he believed that God had brought Jesus back from the dead. Jesus told Thomas that those who know and believe in Him without seeing Him will be blessed.*

## 5. REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Review today's Bible story by asking the following review questions.

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (*Preschoolers' answers will vary.*)
2. Which disciple did not believe that Jesus is alive? (*Thomas*)
3. What did Thomas say would make him believe that Jesus is alive? (*if he sees and touches the holes in Jesus' hands and side*)
4. Why did Thomas finally believe that Jesus had risen from the dead? (*He saw Jesus, spoke to Jesus, and touched Jesus' hands and side.*)
5. We cannot see Jesus, but how can we believe in Him? (*read the Bible, hear Bible stories from our teachers, pray*)
6. **How do we know God wants us to know Him? We know God wants us to know Him because He shows Himself through the Bible.**

**SAY** *Thomas had trouble believing that Jesus was alive. He knew that Jesus had died on a cross and that some of his friends said that they had seen Jesus alive. But he could not believe that Jesus was alive until he saw Jesus for himself. Once he saw that Jesus was alive, he believed. Jesus is still alive today. We have not seen Jesus, but if we believe in Him, we will be blessed, just as Jesus told Thomas.*

## 6. PRAY

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have. Pray for them.

**SAY** *Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to save us. Please help us to believe in You and to know You, even though we cannot see You with our own eyes. In Jesus' name, amen.*

## ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE AS FEW AS ONE ACTIVITY OR USE ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES)

### TRACE A HAND

Demonstrate for children how to draw a hand by pressing your own hand flat onto a piece of paper, spreading apart your fingers, and then tracing around it with a crayon. Prompt them to trace their own hands on the back of their activity page. Help as needed. When children have finished, suggest they draw "holes" in their hand pictures. Help children write *Jesus is alive* on their pages.

**SAY** *Show me your hand pictures. In the Bible story, Thomas did not believe that the disciples had seen Jesus. He said, 'I want to see and touch the holes in His hands and His side, or I will never believe!' A week later, Jesus came and stood among the disciples, including Thomas. Jesus told Thomas to touch the marks in His hands. Thomas then believed that Jesus was alive. Jesus is still alive today. We have not seen Jesus, but if we believe in Him, Jesus says that we will be blessed.*

### COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE (*please send this home with parents*)

Lead preschoolers to complete the **activity page**. As they work, emphasize the The Christ Connection.

**SAY** *Jesus is still alive today. We have not seen Jesus yet, but if we believe in Him, we will be blessed.*

### PLAY "I SPY"

Invite preschoolers to be seated in the group time area. Identify an object in the room but do not tell the children what it is. Say the phrase, "I spy with my little eye, something \_\_\_\_\_ [*name a color of an object that you spy in the room*]." Invite children to look around the room from where they are seated and to try to

guess what item in the room that you are spying. When the item has been guessed, choose another item in the room to spy or select a child to choose an item. Continue play as time allows.

**SAY** *What are some of the things that we spied, or saw in the room during our game of "I Spy?" [Allow responses.] It's easy to believe that something exists when we can see it with our own eyes. When the disciples told Thomas that they had seen Jesus, Thomas did not believe them because he had not seen Jesus for himself. It was only after Jesus appeared to Thomas, and Thomas saw Him and touched Him, that Thomas believed Jesus was alive. Is Jesus still alive today? Yes, Jesus is alive! We have not seen Jesus, but if we believe in Him, we will be blessed.*

## OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE

Open your Bible to John 20. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bold version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

### JESUS APPEARED TO THOMAS

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

*Cover your eyes: Show children how to cover their eyes with their hands. Direct the children to cover their eyes with their hands every time you say the name "Thomas" while telling the Bible story. Prompt children as needed.*

*Talk in different voices: As you read the story, use different voices for the disciples, Thomas, and Jesus. You might use a happy voice for the disciple's dialogue, a stern voice for Thomas, and a kind voice for when Jesus speaks. Practice the different voices ahead of time so that you are comfortable with them.*

***Jesus had visited some of His disciples. At that time, one of Jesus' disciples, Thomas, was not there. "We have seen the Lord!" the disciples said. But Thomas did not believe it. "I want to see and touch the holes in His hands and His side, or I will never believe!" Thomas said.***

***One week later, the disciples were together again. This time, Thomas was with them. Jesus came in and stood with them. "Peace to you!" Jesus said.***

***Then Jesus told Thomas, "Touch the marks on My hands and My side. I am alive! Believe it!" Thomas did believe. "My Lord and my God!" he said.***

***Jesus said, "You believed because you saw Me. Those who believe in Me without seeing Me are blessed."***

***Christ Connection: Jesus is still alive today. We have not seen Jesus, but if we believe in Him, we will be blessed.***

## DISMISS PRESCHOOLERS

- Release preschoolers to parents by matching up the number on the child's sticker with the guardian receipt.
- Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.
- Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.

**April 21**  
**9:00am & 11:00am**  
*Two Year Olds*  
**JESUS APPEARED TO THOMAS**  
(John 20)

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God made Jesus alive again! We can tell others this good news.

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do we know God wants us to know Him? We know God wants us to know Him because He shows Himself through the Bible.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** People who know God will live forever. John 17:3

## LEARN

*(CIRCLE TIME ON THE RUG)*

### 1. INTRODUCTORY GROUP TIME ACTIVITY: GUESS WHICH CHILD

Welcome the children to group time! Describe a child by saying, "I'm thinking of a child with black hair, a red shirt, and blue jeans." Let the children guess which child you are describing. Repeat several times, describing different children or adults. Comment that the children can find the person you describe because they can see. Say that our story today is about a man who saw Jesus..

### 2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

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### 3. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at John 17. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Play music as you walk around the room in a circle. Stop the music several times and encourage the children to say the key passage phrase with you. Comment that Jesus' friends saw Him walking and talking and they knew He was alive!

## ACTIVITIES

### TRACE A HAND

Demonstrate for children how to draw a hand by pressing your own hand flat onto a piece of construction paper, spreading apart your fingers, and then tracing around it with a crayon. Distribute crayons and construction paper to children. Prompt them to trace their own hands. Help as needed. When children have finished, suggest they draw "holes" in their hand pictures. Help children write *Jesus is alive* on their pages.

**SAY** *Show me your hand pictures. In the Bible story, Thomas did not believe that the disciples had seen Jesus. He said, 'I want to see and touch the holes in His hands and His side, or I will never believe!' A week later, Jesus came and stood among the disciples, including Thomas. Jesus told Thomas to touch the marks in His hands. Thomas then believed that Jesus was alive. Jesus is still alive today. We have not seen Jesus, but if we believe in Him, Jesus says that we will be blessed.*

### COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

Lead preschoolers to complete the **activity page**. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the GOSPEL GEMS below:

- Thomas wanted to see Jesus.
- Jesus showed Himself to Thomas.
- Thomas believed that Jesus is alive.

### OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE:

Open the Bible to John 20. and tell the following Bible story:

### **JESUS APPEARED TO THOMAS**

Some of Jesus' friends saw Jesus alive, but Thomas was not there. The friends said, "Jesus is alive! We saw Him!" but Thomas wanted to see Jesus for himself. Later, the friends were together with Thomas in a locked room. Jesus came in and stood with them. Jesus said to Thomas, "See? I am alive!" Thomas believed it was true. "My Lord and my God!" he said. Jesus said, "You believed because you have seen Me. Whoever believes in Me without seeing Me is blessed."

**Check diapers and release toddlers to parents according to security procedures. Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.**