

Sunday 19th April

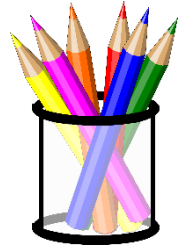
Thomas Believes



What a week after Easter Day and the resurrection! Excitement, amazement and joy for a few but sadness, fear and bewilderment for others.

The story today is in John's Gospel, Chapter 20 : vv19 -29 and in the Sparks Story Bible under Doubting Thomas.

However what about reading a version here and drawing it at the same time? All you need is a piece of paper and a pencil. As the story unfolds choose where on the paper you want to put your drawings and don't forget to use the whole sheet!



As the story of Thomas begins, Jesus' 11 disciples, worried and sad, are gathered in a hidden room. (Draw 11 stick people or 11 faces to represent the disciples wherever you think best on the paper)

The door was locked (Draw a door with bolts and bars)

The disciples had heard unbelievable rumours that Jesus was alive. The last time they had seen him, Jesus was in the tomb. They were afraid. (Draw the cave tomb with the stone.)

Then out of nowhere Jesus appeared before them! Jesus said, ' Shalom!' which means, ' Peace be with you.' (Draw Jesus or his face.)

The disciples were excited to see Jesus. God had flipped their doubt inside out! The disciples' fear and doubt disappeared as soon as they saw and touched Jesus. But one disciple was missing when Jesus visited. Thomas was not in the room when Jesus came. When his friends told Thomas about Jesus' visit , Thomas could not believe it. He wanted to see and touch Jesus, too. Jesus came back a week later just to see Thomas. Jesus showed Thomas the wounds on his hands and feet and in his side. Thomas even touched them! (Draw a wound on a hand)

Jesus turned Thomas' doubt inside out!

Jesus taught Thomas a lesson that day. He told Thomas that many people would not see and touch him, but they would believe anyway. Even when you can't see and touch Jesus, let him turn your doubt inside out!

(Use your imagination to draw a symbol representing inside out)





Some thing to try this week

Asking questions is an excellent way to find things out and to begin to explore possibilities.

Will you have what, why, when and where questions this week . Which will be the best question and why?



I wonder why Thomas went out for food alone?

Why were the disciples so happy to see Jesus?

How did Thomas work out that Jesus was with them?

How did the people in the town act because of what was happening?

EITHER What questions do you have about this story?

OR. What questions do you have for Jesus ?

Thomas was not sure about Jesus being alive - he had to work it out his own way.

Asking questions is an excellent way to find things out about everything around you and further afield and also about yourself.

The answers can amaze, excite, bring you joy and bewilder you !

Prayer:

Dear God

Thank you for Thomas who shows us that when we don't know, we can ask, and when we aren't sure we can still believe.

Amen!

