

## Yr 2 Pascha Thomas Sunday Lesson, John 20: 19-31

**Opening Prayer:** Sing with great joy!

Christ is Risen from the Dead, Trampling Death by Death and to those in the Tombs giving life! 3X

Христос воскрес із мертвих, смертю, смерть подолав, і тим що у гробах життя дарував! 3X

**Gospel:** [John 20: 19-31](#) – Click here to read the Gospel. Listen to it here:

[https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/letusattend/april\\_22\\_2012\\_john\\_2019\\_31\\_told\\_for\\_younger\\_children](https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/letusattend/april_22_2012_john_2019_31_told_for_younger_children) watch a video about Doubting Thomas here:

<http://stswithuns.org.uk/NL-08042018-childrens-reading/> or read while your assistants (or the children) act it out with stick puppets (template provided):

*After Jesus rose from the dead, He came to visit his disciples. He showed them the wounds in His hands and His side. His friends were happy to see Jesus, but Thomas, one of the disciples, was not there. Later when his friends told him, Thomas could not believe that Jesus was alive. He said, "I won't believe it until I see the spot where they put the nails in His hands. I won't believe it until I place my hand in His side." Eight days later the disciples were together at a house. Thomas was with them this time. The doors were shut. Then Jesus came in. "Peace be with you" He said. Then He looked at Thomas. "Put your finger here and see my hands. Put out your hand and place it in my side. Do you believe now?" Thomas answered, "My Lord and my God." Jesus said, "Do you believe because you have seen me? More blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe!"*

**Lesson:** We Believe even though we do not see

Do you believe that there is such a thing as the wind? Yes of course! Has anyone ever seen the wind? What did you see? Blowing your hair or knocking things down, etc. Discuss. Help the children to recognize that they have seen the effects of the wind, but really, they have never seen the wind, yet they still believe that there is such a thing. We do not see Jesus standing before us, but do we still "see" him? Discuss. We feel the love of family and friends, and the peace that He gives us when we pray to Him, we see the miracle of babies and the joy of nature etc. Just like the wind, we experience the effects of God in our world.

Thomas had to touch Jesus in order to believe. We can believe without touching Him, but we need to pray that God can open our eyes and hearts, so that we "see" Him.

We will always have moments when we don't believe - even adults do. Those are especially the times when we need to pray so that we can be stronger in our belief.

God is not going to get angry that we don't believe, but He will help us to come back to him. Faith is a gift from God. We need to open our hearts and God will do the rest!

**Craft:** Colour the Doubting Thomas Icon

**In Church:** Listen to the Nicene creed. Practice saying "I believe" with all the people each time they say it in this prayer. How many times do we say "I believe" in that prayer? (Hint: 4 times - In God the Father, in God the Son, in God the Holy Spirit and in one Holy Church)