

# THOMAS WANTS TO KNOW FOR SURE

After Jesus died and rose from the dead, he came to visit the disciples. They were in a room with the doors locked. Jesus came into the room and said, "Peace be with you." He showed them the nail marks on his hands and they knew that it was the Lord. They were happy that He was alive again.

Then He breathed on them and said, "Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Thomas, one of the followers, was not with them. Later they told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later Jesus came to visit them again and told Thomas to touch His wounds. Thomas did. He said, "My Lord, and my God."

Jesus is alive again, and is with us always.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

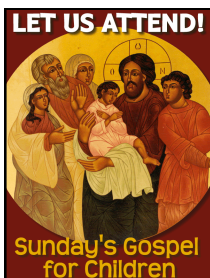
1. After he died and rose, Jesus came to the disciples.

Which disciple was not with the others that day?

2. What did the disciples tell Thomas?
3. What happened one week after Jesus' visit?
4. What did Jesus tell Thomas?
5. Jesus is with us always. Remember this especially when you receive Holy Communion.



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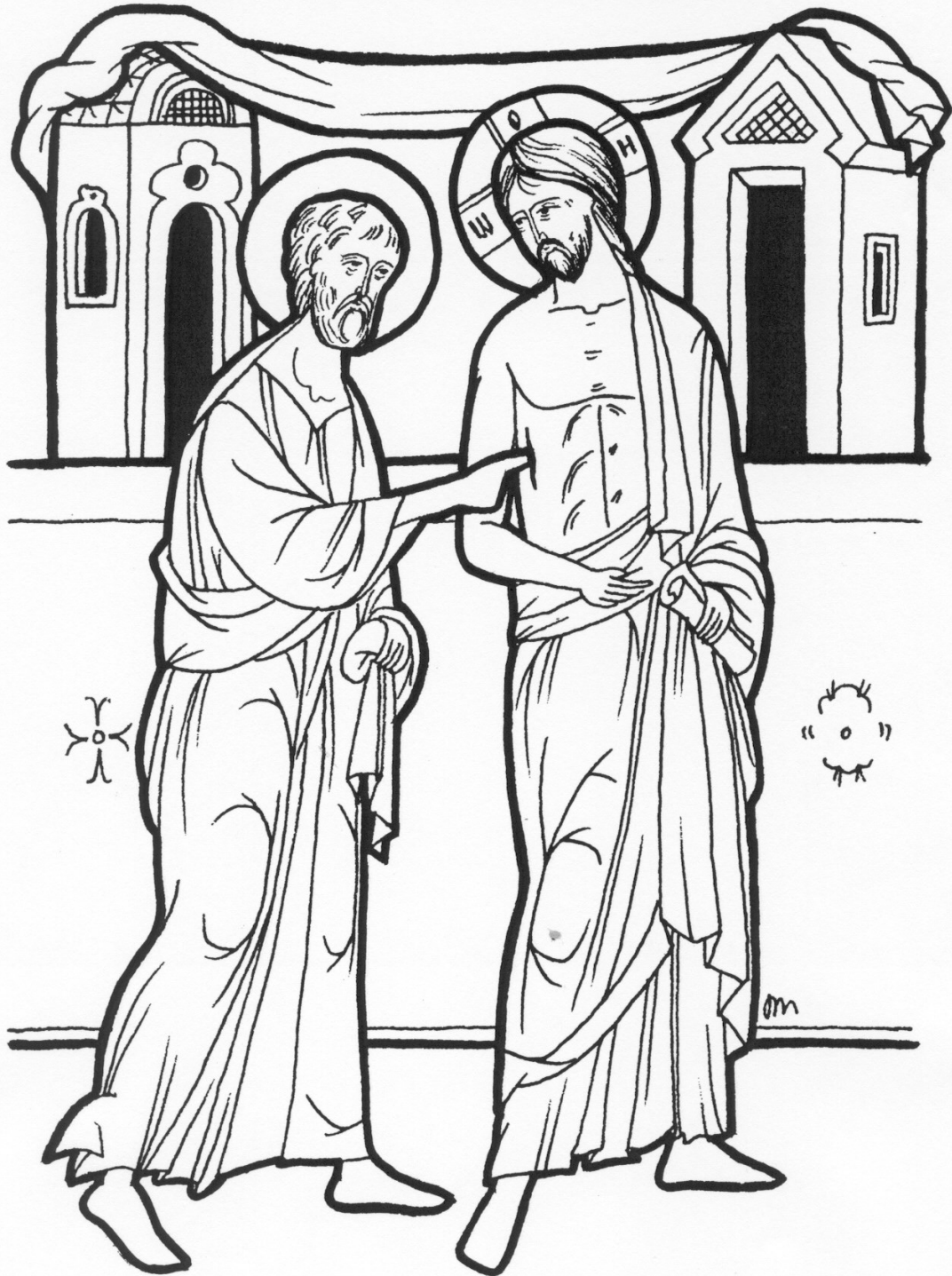


Pre-12



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# ∴ THE DOUBTING THOMAS ∴



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**One Sunday evening**, Jesus' disciples were together in a room. They closed the doors because they were afraid of the Jews.

Suddenly, Jesus was there with them. He said, "Peace be to you!" and showed them the nail holes in His hands and the spear hole in His side.

The disciples were so happy to see the Lord Jesus! He told them that He was going to send them out to help others learn about God. Then, He breathed on them and told them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." It was a very special time for the disciples.

One disciple, Thomas, was not in the room when Jesus came. Later, when the others told Thomas what he had missed, he said, "I will not believe unless I can see—and even touch—the nail and spear marks for myself!"

Eight days later, the disciples were together in the closed room again. This time, Thomas was with them. Jesus came to them again and again said, "Peace be to you!" Then He went to Thomas and said, "Look, Thomas! See the holes in my hands and side? Here, touch them, and believe!"

Thomas answered, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said, "You believe because you got to see it for yourself. People who don't get to see it for themselves, who believe anyway, are blessed."

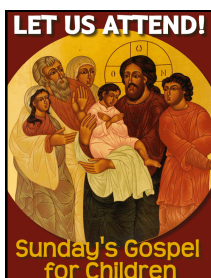
Jesus did so many other things that couldn't all be written down. But the ones that were written, were written so that we can believe that Jesus is the Son of God. By believing, we can have life!



Icon courtesy of Iconographics ([www.theologic.com](http://www.theologic.com))

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Where were Jesus' disciples when He appeared to them?
2. Why do you think Jesus said, "Peace be to you?"
3. How did the disciples feel after seeing Jesus?
4. Who missed this happy time? Did he believe the others?
5. What did Jesus tell Thomas to do, when He came again, eight days later? Did Thomas believe then?
6. Do you know you get to touch Jesus, too? Every Sunday when you receive Holy Communion, you touch our Lord. Holy Communion helps us to believe, too!



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## THOMAS DOUBTS NO LONGER

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them: "Peace be to you."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you."

And when he had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said: "Peace be to you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger

here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing."

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him: "Thomas, you have believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

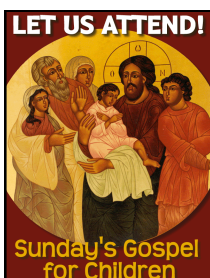
Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.



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### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What did Jesus say to His disciples when He came to the room where they were? What did He show them?
2. How would you have felt, if you were one of the disciples?
3. Who missed Jesus' presence that day? When the others told him what he missed, what did he say?
4. What did Jesus tell Thomas to do, when He came to his disciples again eight days later?
5. Did Thomas believe then? How do you know?
6. The Gospel says that the things that were written down about Jesus were written so we would believe that Jesus is the Christ, and that we may have life in His Name. Do you ever struggle with believing? Take time to read and be strengthened by the stories and words of Jesus in the Gospels.



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Characters: Narrator, Jesus, Disciples, Thomas

Narrator: On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them:

Jesus: Peace be to you.

Narrator: When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again,

Jesus: Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.

Narrator: And when he had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them:

Jesus: Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.

Narrator: Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him:

Disciples: We have seen the Lord.

Narrator: But he said to them:

Thomas: Unless I see in his hands the print of

the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.

Narrator: Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said:

Jesus: Peace be to you.

Narrator: Then he said to Thomas,

Jesus: Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing.

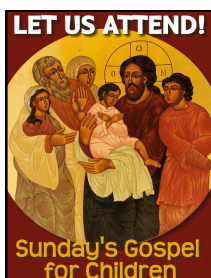
Narrator: Thomas answered him,

Thomas: My Lord and my God!

Narrator: Jesus said to him:

Jesus: Thomas, you have believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

Narrator: Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.



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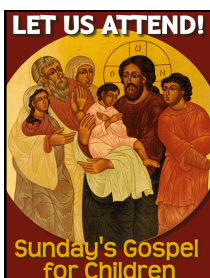


photo courtesy of freeimages.com

but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What do you do when your friends show you a new shirt or video game? Do you just look at it? What might you do?
2. What does Jesus show his disciples when he comes to them the first time? Do you think they just looked at him? What might they have done?
3. How do they react after they have investigated his hands and side? Why do they react that way?
4. How does Thomas react when the disciples tell him the news? Why do you think he says this?
5. What does Jesus tell Thomas to do when he comes the second time?
6. How does Thomas respond when he touches Jesus?
7. What do we sing after we receive communion? What is the true light we have seen, and tasted, at communion?



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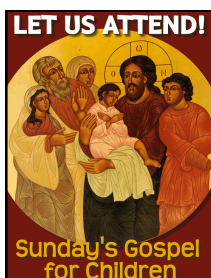
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## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How does Thomas react when the disciples tell him the news? Why do you think he says this?
2. What does Jesus tell Thomas to do when he comes the second time?
3. How does Thomas respond when he touches Jesus?
4. What do we sing after we take communion? What is the true light we have seen, and tasted, at communion?
5. How is our reaction after communion like the apostles' reaction after seeing Jesus?
6. Why do you think we do physical things, like cross ourselves, get sprinkled with holy water, or take communion, as part of our faith?
7. Do you think this helps us believe? Why or why not?



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