

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

John 20:19-31

The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders, and on the evening of that same Sunday they locked themselves in a room. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group. He greeted them and showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they became very happy.

After Jesus had greeted them again, he said, "I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven."

Although Thomas the Twin was one of the twelve disciples, he wasn't with the others when Jesus appeared to them. So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But Thomas said, "First, I must see the nail scars in his hands and touch them with my finger. I must put my hand where the spear went into his side. I won't believe unless I do this!"

A week later the disciples were together again. This time, Thomas was with them. Jesus came in while the doors were still locked and stood in the middle of the group. He greeted his disciples and said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands! Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and have faith!"

Thomas replied, "You are my Lord and my God!"

Jesus said, "Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me? The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed!"

Jesus worked many other miracles for his disciples, and not all of them are written in this book. But these are written so that you will put your faith in Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God. If you have faith in him, you will have true life.

Storyteller: *Spread out the underlay. It has a well-defined square in the centre of a larger piece of felt, indicating the borders of the upper room. Place the backstand facing the children, at the end of the room closest to you. On the evening of the same day ... place the disciple dolls in their stands into the "room" ...*

disciples were all together in the same place ... *carefully close and latch the doors on the backstand* ... and on the doors of the room where the disciples were staying were closed because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. *Place the Jesus doll in the middle of the room.* Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group. He greeted them and showed them his hands ... *hold your hands out palm up: touch the centre of your left palm with your right middle finger then touch the centre of your right palm with your left middle finger (the ASL sign for "Jesus") then hold both hands out again.* and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they became very happy.

After Jesus had greeted them again, he said, "I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me." Then he breathed on them ... *take a deep breath and slowly blow the air out with puffed cheeks...* and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven." *Put the Jesus doll back in the basket for now.*

Place the Thomas doll on the edge of the underlay, outside the Upper Room square. Although Thomas the Twin was one of the twelve disciples, he wasn't with the others when Jesus appeared to them. *Unlock the doors and move Thomas through them into the room.* So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But Thomas said, "First, I must see the nail scars in his hands and touch them with my finger. I must put my hand where the

Story Materials

- Upper room underlay
- Upper room back-stand, with doors and moon
- Rag dolls with stands
 - Jesus
 - Thomas
 - three or more other disciples

spear went into his side. I won't believe unless I do this!"

Move the moon dial on the backboard to show a half-moon. A week later the disciples were together again. This time, Thomas was with them. *Lock the doors again.* Even though the doors were locked ...*Place the Jesus doll into the room...* Jesus came in and stood in the middle of the group. He greeted his disciples and said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands! Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and have faith!"

Move Thomas over beside Jesus. Thomas replied, "You are my Lord and my God!"

Jesus said, "Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me? The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed!"

Pick up the Jesus doll and hold it out in both hands toward the children. Jesus worked many other miracles for his disciples, and not all of them are written in this book. But these are written so that you will put your faith in Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God. If you have faith in him, you will have true life.