

Bible background

John 20:19-30

Aim of lesson

Believing without seeing.

Preparation required

You will need scissors, card for stiffening and colouring materials.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Set the background to the story by reminding them about last week's lesson.
2. Tell them that the same day Jesus appeared to his disciples, despite the doors being closed, when they were all together in a room. You can explain they were afraid for their own safety and so the door was carefully locked.
3. Describe the way the disciples must have felt to see Jesus appear like that and how he showed them his hands and feet. Tell them Thomas was not there.
4. Describe how the disciples would joyfully tell Thomas what had happened and how he doubted them.
5. Go on to tell them Thomas had to wait another week until Jesus appeared to him but treated him kindly. Thomas responded by believing immediately.

Alternative activities

1. If you didn't make the sad/happy faces last week, they fit equally well with this lesson. Make a room out of Lego, blocks or a cardboard box, with Plasticine furniture and figures.
2. Role-play. Act out the story providing some plates, cups and play food as props.
3. Either cut out some food shapes from card in advance for the children to stick on to paper plates or make some food out of Plasticine or salt dough.

Relevance to the children's lives

We have been told about this story so that we can believe that Jesus is alive today.

Prayer

'God, help us to believe your words in the Bible.'

Verse

'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.' John 20:29.

Rhyme

'Jesus is risen,' the disciples said
Thomas replied 'He is still dead.'
'I won't believe 'til I see him here
His hands, his feet with wounds so clear.'
One week later Jesus came
He called to Thomas by his name.
'Look, reach out and doubt no more
For I am alive for evermore.'