



# UNBELIEVABLE

JESUS' RESURRECTION APPEARANCES

IPHC CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

# JESUS COMES TO THOMAS

## BIBLE PASSAGE

John 20:24-29 (ICB)

## BIG IDEA

Jesus does the unbelievable.

## FOCUS VERSE

“Stop doubting and believe.” John 20:27 (NIV)

## LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | White Paper | Clipboards (Optional) | Construction Paper | Pencils | Scissors |  
| Crayons |

## GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What kind of music do you like?
- Have you ever been to a concert before? If so, which one?

## WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

It's great to use familiar songs for your worship time every week, but it's also important that children hear new music. *Seeds Family Worship* has some fantastic songs that just sing Scripture! Psalm 119:11 tells us to put God's word in our hearts, so we don't sin against Him. There's no better time to start this than today! I think you'll enjoy these verse-by-verse songs to sing with your class—and they're catchy too!

## PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Gather all the children for prayer.



IF NO ONE FEELS COMFORTABLE PRAYING OUT LOUD, HAVE YOUR KIDS TALK SILENTLY WITH GOD. TELL THEM TO THANK HIM FOR BRINGING EVERYONE TO CHURCH. SET ASIDE ABOUT 30 SECONDS FOR SILENT PRAYER.

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** “God, You have been so good to us. You take care of us better than anyone else. We praise you for being a powerful God who can do anything! Help us learn more about You today. Speak to us in a new way through Your Word. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

## REVIEW – 5 MINUTES

Review previous units using the weekly puzzle pieces.

**BACKGROUND:** Say, “Today, we get to keep learning about the unbelievable things Jesus has done. Who remembers what ‘unbelievable’ means? Unbelievable means something that is so incredible and so surprising that it’s hard, almost impossible, to believe! Can someone tell me what unbelievable story we heard last week? Right! Jesus just appeared out of nowhere to the disciples! That sounds pretty unbelievable. Well, **Jesus does the unbelievable!** This week we have another unbelievable story. Let’s put our second puzzle piece of the month on the wall.”

**TRANSITION:** Say, “Let’s play a game to get our brains ready to hear our story!”

## ENGAGE – 10 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | White Paper (5-6 sheets per pair of students) | Clipboards (Optional) | Crayons |

Say, “It’s time to play a game! This game is all about trusting and believing in your partner. Let’s play!”

**GAME GOAL:** To draw your partner’s descriptions and correctly guess what it is.

### HOW TO PLAY:

- Partner everyone up by two’s and tell them to sit on the ground facing away from each other (back-to-back).
- One person from each pair will get a piece of paper, a clipboard (optional), and a crayon.
- Let the children choose who will be Partner 1 and Partner 2.
- Partner 1 will choose an object and describe it to their partner without saying what the item actually is.
- Partner 2 should draw whatever Partner 1 describes.
  - For example: If I was describing a pool, it might sound something like this: “First, draw a rectangle with the longer sides on the bottom and top. Then, put wavy lines all over the inside of the rectangle. Next, make a bigger rectangle around the first rectangle you drew. Finally, draw a large “O” in the rectangle with wavy lines.
- Partner 2 will guess what Partner 1 was trying to describe to them based on their drawing. If they can’t figure it out, Partner 1 will reveal the answer.
- Switch roles after Partner 2 draws—play for as long as there is time.
- If the children get stuck and can’t think of an object to describe to their partner, use this list: apple, purse, book, computer, crayon, jacket, door, pot/pan, tree, grapes.

**CHALLENGE:** Try setting a timer for the groups. For example, each pair could get 45 seconds to draw what their partner is describing.

**TRANSITION:** Say, “Great job believing in your partner! It’s sometimes hard to believe what we can’t see, isn’t it? Well, the people in our Bible story felt the same way! Let’s read our story together!”

## LEARN – 15 MINUTES

Say, "Like the game we played, one of Jesus' disciples named Thomas found it hard to believe in what he couldn't see! The passage for today happens right after Jesus showed Himself to some of the disciples in last week's lesson. Let's read to find out what I mean!" Read John 20:24-29 (ICB).



ALLOW CHILDREN TO USE THEIR BIBLES AND FOLLOW ALONG. IF YOU HAVE A STRONG READER IN THE CLASS, YOU COULD HAVE THEM READ THE STORY ALOUD, OR YOU COULD ALSO ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO READ ONE VERSE AT A TIME.

**24 Thomas was not with the followers when Jesus came. Thomas was 1 of the 12 (followers of Jesus). 25 The other followers told Thomas, "We saw the Lord." But Thomas said, "I will not believe it until I see the nail marks in his hands (from being crucified). And I will not believe until I put my finger where the nails were and put my hand into his side." 26 A week later the followers were in the house again. Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand here in my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"**

Say, "What an unbelievable story! Thomas needed to see Jesus for himself before he believed in Him. Hmm..."

- Ask, "Do you think Thomas was right in saying he wouldn't believe Jesus was alive until He saw Him in person? No, he wasn't right. Thomas was frustrated that He missed seeing Jesus the first time. I would've probably been frustrated too."

"Jesus knows that it's sometimes hard to believe in what we can't see. But Jesus was trying to teach Thomas that he doesn't need to see Jesus to believe in Him. Jesus wants us to believe even when we can't see Him! That's what it means to have faith. **Jesus does the unbelievable** in our lives, and He can help us believe!"

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Let's move onto our discussion time!"

## DISCUSS – 10 MINUTES

Discuss the story: Say, "Alright, let's talk about the Bible story, *Jesus Comes to Thomas*."

### 1. Who does the unbelievable?

Response: Jesus.

### 2. What was the unbelievable act Jesus did in this story?

Response: Jesus appeared in the room while the doors were locked. Jesus sought Thomas out (like He does us) to show him that He was alive.

### 3. How is this story similar to the story we learned last week: **Jesus Appears to the Disciples**

**(John 20:19; Luke 24:37-42)?**

Response: Jesus appeared in a room that was locked. Jesus let Thomas touch Him to feel the nail holes in his hands.

**4. Do you think Jesus was mad at Thomas for not believing He was alive?**

Response: No. Jesus was patient with Thomas, and He is patient with us. He doesn't get mad when we doubt, and He loves to show Himself to us (spiritually). However, Jesus also tells us to have faith in Him even though we can't see Him. If you are struggling to believe, ask Jesus to help you, and He will!

**5. When did Thomas finally believe that Jesus had risen from the dead?**

Response: He believed when he touched Jesus with his own hands.

**6. Jesus told Thomas, 'stop doubting and believe.' What do you think that means?**

Response: Answers will vary.

**7. How do you know that Jesus is alive?**

Response: The Bible tells me He is alive. The Holy Spirit speaks to me and tells me it is so, etc.

**8. Who did Jesus say will be "truly happy?"**

Response: The ones who do not see Jesus, but still believe in Him are the truly happy ones. I am one of those people! I haven't seen Jesus, but I believe in Him by faith. What about you?

**9. What do we learn about God in this story?**

Response: God is patient, God seeks us out, God helps us believe, God loves us, God does unbelievable acts, God answers our prayers, etc.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "**Jesus does the unbelievable.** Great job discussing the story. I loved your answers. Let's do an activity now."

**RESPOND — 15 MINUTES**

**MATERIALS:** | Construction Paper (1 per child) | Pencils (1 per child) | Scissors | Crayons |

Say, "We are going to make a craft to help us remember that we do not need to see and touch Jesus to believe in Him. We can trust God's Word and know that Jesus is alive!"

- Give a piece of construction paper to each child.
- Instruct them to trace their hand on the paper.
- Have the children cut their handprints out.
- Allow them to color the hand any way they want.
- Use the pencil to poke a hole in the middle of the handprint (representing the hole in Jesus' hand from crucifixion).
- Finally, help the children write, "Stop doubting and believe" on their handprint.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Wow. Let this handprint remind you that Thomas needed to touch Jesus' hands to believe. But we don't have to see Jesus or feel His wounds to know that He is alive! We can be 'truly happy' when we believe without seeing or touching Jesus. **Jesus does the unbelievable!**"

## MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, “Did anyone notice that this month’s verse was in the story we read? Jesus looked at Thomas and said, ‘stop doubting and believe!’ Wow! Let’s practice that verse together.” Practice the actions with the kids and get everyone to do it along with you.

*“**Stop doubting** (Extend your left hand, palm upward. Sharply bring the side of your right hand down to your left palm in a “chopping” motion) **and believe** (point to both of your temples).” **John 20:27 (NIV)** (hold your hands like a book)*



OUR ACTION FOR “STOP DOUBTING” IS THE SAME AS THE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE MOTION FOR “STOP.” LOOK ONLINE FOR THE MOTION FOR “STOP” FOR A SIMPLE VISUAL.

**CHALLENGE:** Try coming up with actions for every word in the verse. You don’t have to use the motions we’ve included. Ask for volunteers who will show their hand motions to the rest of the group.

## REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, “Can you believe how amazing Jesus is? **Jesus does the unbelievable!** Remember this week that we can believe in Jesus and that He will make us ‘truly happy.’ Does anyone need prayer before we pray to end our time together?”

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** *“Jesus, you do the unbelievable! Create a believing heart inside of us. Help us believe in You and Your Word without seeing you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

## RELEASE —

If there is extra time before parents arrive, replay the ENGAGE game, review the story, or recite the memory verse again.

