



# UNBELIEVABLE

JESUS' RESURRECTION APPEARANCES

IPHC CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

# JESUS COMES TO THOMAS

## BIBLE PASSAGE

John 20:24-27, 29 (ICB)

## BIG IDEA

Jesus does the unbelievable.

## FOCUS VERSE

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

## LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Blindfolds (Optional) | Red Dot Stickers | Jesus’ Hand Sheet | 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* ([www.seedsfamilyworship.com](http://www.seedsfamilyworship.com)) has some fantastic songs that quote Scripture! 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 20 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 in 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. Remember, unbelievable means that something is so incredible and so surprising that it’s hard, almost impossible, to believe! We learned about an unbelievable story last week. Can someone remind us what that story was? Right! Jesus appeared out of nowhere to the disciples. That sounds pretty unbelievable, right? Well, I have some exciting news! **Jesus does the unbelievable** again in the story we are learning today! Let’s put up our second puzzle piece this month.”

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

## ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | Blindfolds (Optional) |

Say, “We’re going to play a game all about trusting and believing in your partner. Who thinks they can trust their friends here?”

**GAME GOAL:** To trust your partner to lead you around the room without running into anything.

### HOW TO PLAY:

- Partner everyone up and instruct them to hold hands.
- Partner 1 will be blindfolded or close their eyes while Partner 2 will be the guide.
- Instruct the guides to walk their blindfolded partner around the activity area (still holding hands).
- Switch roles after Partner 2 brings Partner 1 to the designated area.
- Play for 5-10 minutes, depending on how engaged your kids stay in the game.
- Note: The teacher may need to partner with particular children who struggle with interpersonal skills or if there is an odd number of children.

**CHALLENGE:** If this activity is too easy, add obstacles for children to navigate their partner around or over.

**TRANSITION:** Say, “Great job believing in your partner! It’s harder to trust and believe your partner when you can’t see, isn’t it? This is what our story is about: trusting even when we don’t see. Let’s read it together.”

## LEARN — 15 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | Red Dot Stickers |

Say, “Just like the game we played, Thomas, one of Jesus’ followers, found it hard to trust in Jesus when he couldn’t see Him! Has anyone ever felt like this? Yeah, I have too. Let’s see what Jesus taught about believing in Him.” Read John 20:24-27, 29 (ICB).



TO ADD EMPHASIS, STICK A RED DOT STICKER ON YOUR HAND AND HAVE THE CHILDREN FEEL IT WHILE YOU’RE TELLING THE PART ABOUT THOMAS TOUCHING THE HOLE IN JESUS’ HANDS.

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." 29 Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you see me. Those who believe without seeing me will be truly happy."

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

- Ask, "Thomas said he wouldn't believe in Jesus until He saw Him in person. Was that the right thing to say? No, it wasn't. Thomas was upset that He missed seeing Jesus the first time. I would've probably been frustrated too."

"This story reminds me of our game about trusting when we can't see! Jesus knows it can be hard to believe in something we can't see with our eyes. But Jesus was teaching Thomas that he doesn't need to see Him to believe in Him. This is called faith. Jesus wants us to believe in Him in our hearts, even when we can't see and feel Him! **Jesus does the unbelievable** in our lives, and He can help us believe too."

**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 unbelievable thing happened in this story?

Response: Jesus appeared in the room while the doors were locked. Jesus went to find Thomas to show him He was alive. He did this because He loved Thomas.

### 3. Why wasn't Jesus mad at Thomas for not believing in Him?

Response: Jesus is patient with us. He doesn't get mad at us when we tell him the truth about how we are feeling. He loves to show Himself to us.

### 4. When did Thomas believe that Jesus had risen from the dead?

Response: He believed when he saw Him and was able to touch Jesus with his own hands.

### 5. What do we learn about God in this story?

Response: God is patient, God helps us believe, God is slow to anger, God loves us, God does unbelievable things, 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:** | Jesus’ Hand Sheet (1 per child) | Red Dot Stickers (1 per child) | 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 that He is alive!”

- Give each child a Jesus’ Hand sheet.
- Allow the children to color the hand.
- Place a sticker in the middle of the hand on the craft sheet to represent the nail hole in Jesus’ hand.

**TRANSITION:** Say, “Wow. What a great reminder that Thomas needed to touch Jesus’ hands to believe, but we don’t have to touch Jesus to believe! **Jesus does the unbelievable!** With Jesus’ help, we can believe without seeing and touching Jesus.”

## MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, “Did anyone notice this month’s verse was in the story we read today? 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 that we can believe in Jesus without having to see Him. If you are having a hard time believing in Jesus, let’s ask God to help you trust right now. Does anyone want us to pray for them?”

**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.



