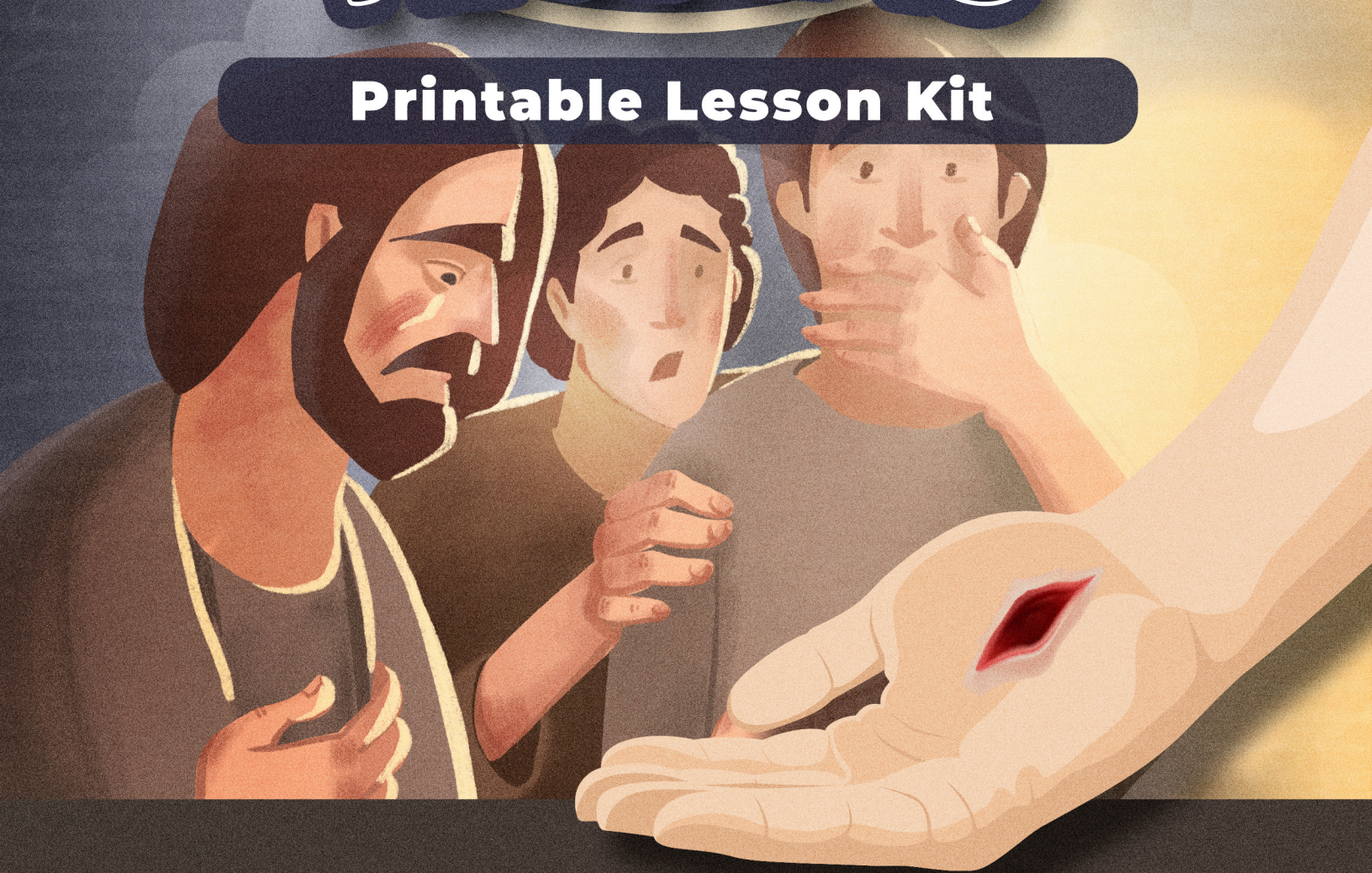


GRADES
K-6

DOUBTING THOMAS

Printable Lesson Kit



M **GHTY MESSAGES**

THANK YOU

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DOUBTING THOMAS

LESSON OVERVIEW



DOUBTING THOMAS MIGHTY MESSAGE

This Lesson on Doubting Thomas, Jesus' disciple who wanted to see his wounds after the Resurrection, will help kids understand why it's better to believe without having to see. Our world is full of those who "want evidence," which Christianity can provide, just like Jesus did. But life always provides those couple of things we have to take by faith. Are we going to be Doubting Thomases or Sons of Thunder, disciple brothers John and James?



How to Use the Lesson Kit:

This kit includes a variety of activities that you can select from to customize your perfect lesson. We suggest beginning with the Scripture Reading & Lesson followed by the Discussion Questions. From there, feel free to mix & match the activities to build your lesson plan based on the time you have allotted and the age level/interests of your kids.



WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Scripture Reading & Lesson
- Discussion Questions
- Craft
- Game
- Coloring Page
- Wordsearch
- Crossword Puzzle
- Learning Lookups Journaling
- Parent Handout
- Quiz
- Reference Sheet
- Certificate of Completion
- Answer Page



MATERIALS LIST:

- Crayons
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- A rug or a pile of pillows (game)
- White paper or cardstock
- Pencils or pens
- Bibles (electronic or hardcopy)

DOUBTING THOMAS

SCRIPTURE & LESSON

PASSAGE: JOHN 20:24-29

Read the following excerpts as shown (NIV translation), or read from your chosen Bible translation:



John 20:24-29

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Questions for Children about Doubting Thomas

1. This story takes place within two weeks following the Resurrection. Jesus had made a number of appearances to people, including Mary Magdalene, small groups of his disciples, and other followers. Why do you feel that Thomas doubted, even though other disciples had testified to having seen Jesus? **He wanted to see, touch, smell, and use all his senses before he would believe.** Do you know some people like that, people who don't believe in God because they don't "see" enough evidence?
2. In Matthew 12:39 says that some of the religious leaders who came to hear Jesus asked for a sign, or a miracle. Jesus told them, "A wicked and adulterous generation demands a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." Jonah was the Old Testament prophet who was swallowed by a giant fish and lived in its belly for three days. Why do you think Jesus says that it is "wicked and adulterous" to ask for a sign? **The earth, sky, seas, and mountains are filled with the wonders of God. People who say that our existence, or the existence of nature, is an accident are blind and doing God a huge disservice.**
3. There's one element of the story of Doubting Thomas that people frequently ignore. It is that when Thomas doubted, Jesus showed up to give him the answer. Have you ever doubted something about our faith, and the correct answer came to you within a week? What happened?



TEACHER'S MIGHTY MESSAGE

We haven't seen Jesus. In fact, most of us have never even heard Jesus's voice! And yet many thousands of people over the centuries have come to believe very strongly that he is the promised Messiah of the Old Testament. The disciples were there with Jesus for three years. They heard him, saw him, smelled him, laughed, and cried with him. They watched him perform many miracles. And yet one of them doubted his ability to come back to us after a brutal death.

There will always be Thomases in this world. We will have our own Thomas-like moments, when friends, classmates, and even teachers can stress us with pressure not to believe. We will have our own genuine questions.

The good news is that when we ask sincerely, Jesus comes along with the answers. They can be in a book like our Bible. They can come in the form of wisdom of friends. They can even be from a divine revelation.

Doubting Thomas had to see to believe. Jesus told him that blessed are we who believe without seeing. We don't have the opportunity Thomas had. We can't touch the wounds of Christ—or watch him perform miracles or have him over for a meal. But Jesus said we are blessed because our faith extends past what we can see, touch, hear, and smell. We see truth in biblical history, and that is enough for us. We don't need miracles in order to believe.



DOUBTING THOMAS

PRINTABLE CRAFT



MATERIALS:

- Doubling Thomas Printable Craft File (two pages)
- White Paper or Cardstock
- Coloring Utensils
- Scissors
- Glue



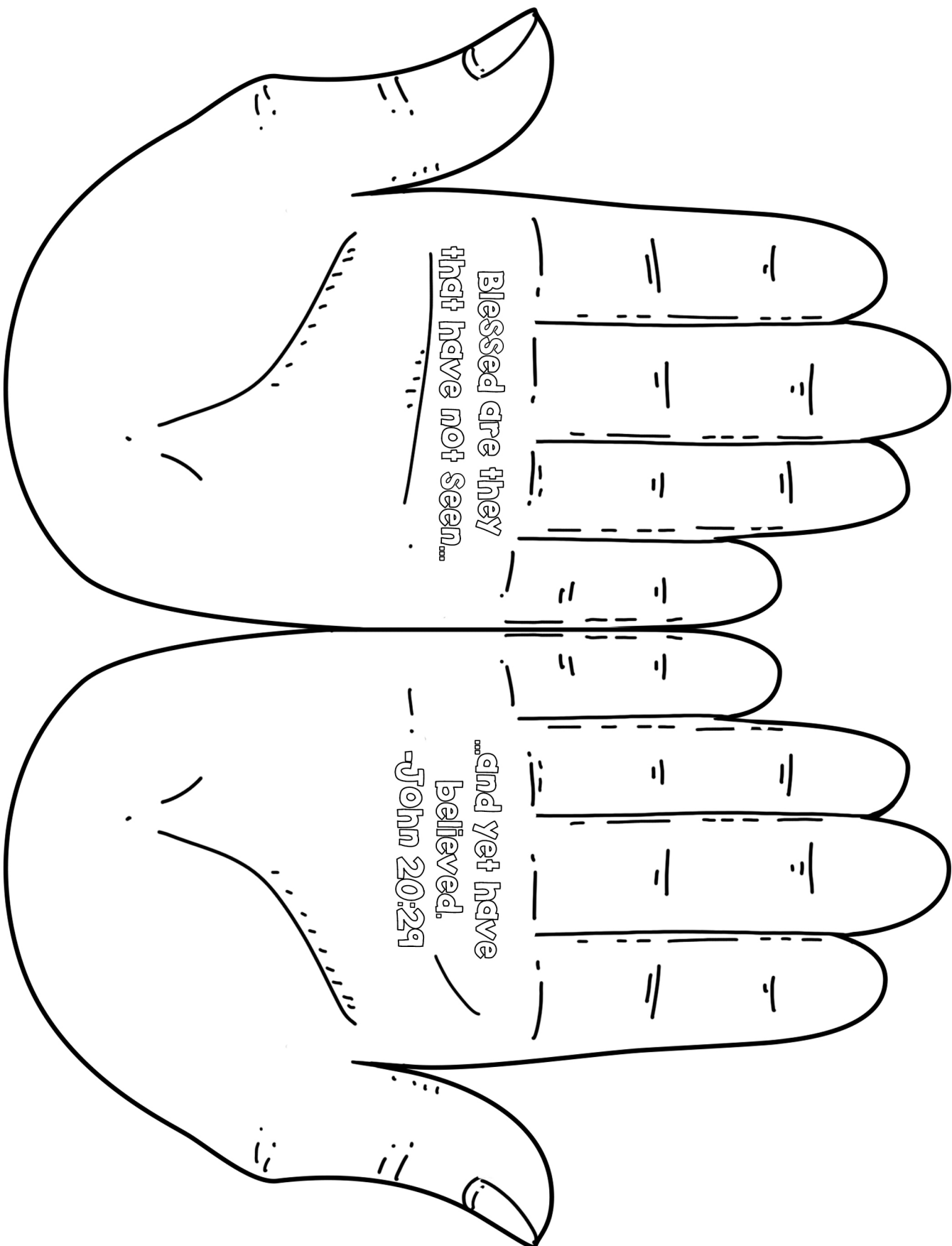
PREPARATION:

- Print one copy of hand file for each student (the second page has enough hearts for 8 students)
- Print out copies as needed for heart file; you may want to precut the page into separate sections with two hearts for each student

INSTRUCTIONS:

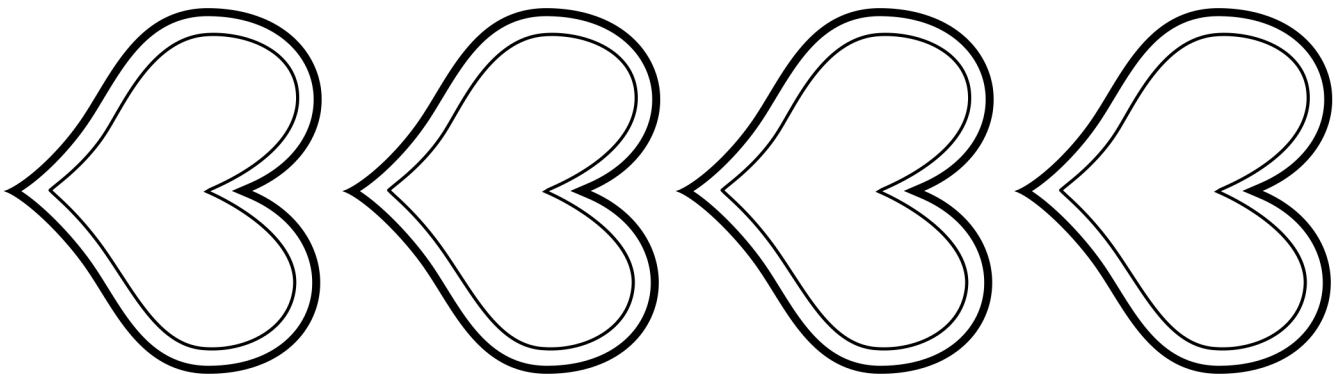
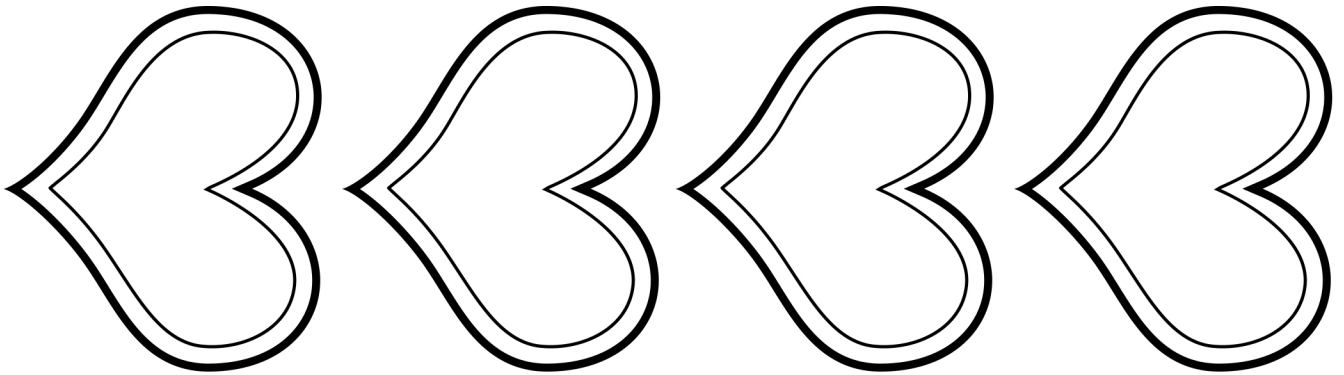
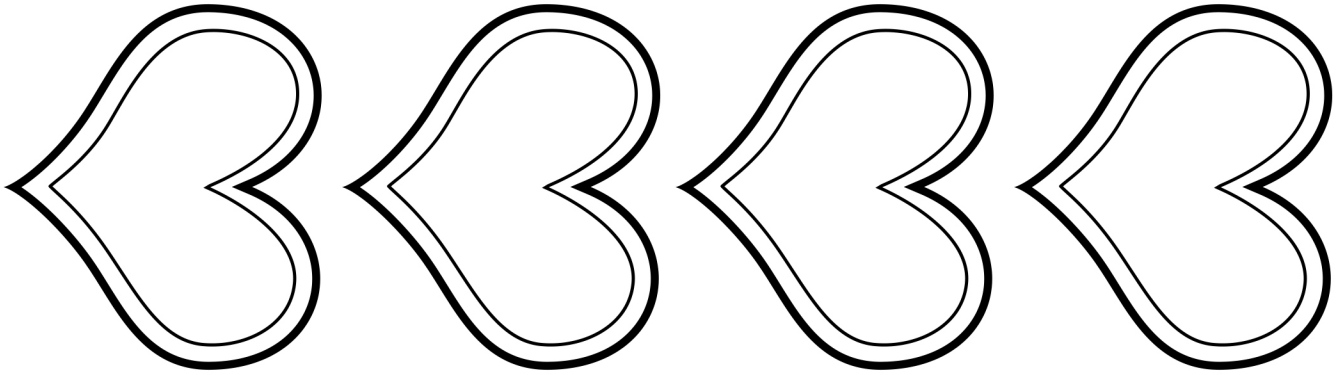
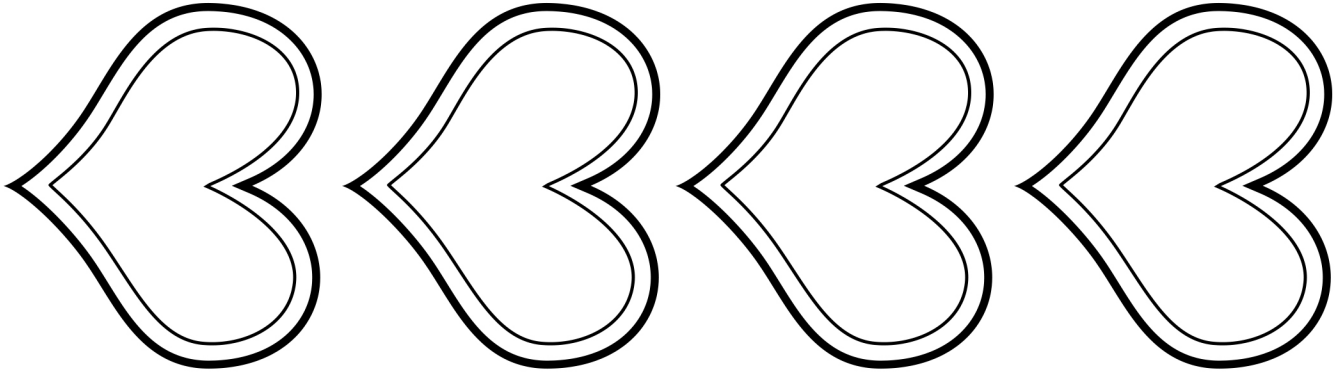
1. Color pages as desired
2. Carefully cut out hands and hearts
3. Paste the hearts on the center of each of the hand palms, to represent where Christ's hands were pierced.
4. Fold the card in half between the two palms

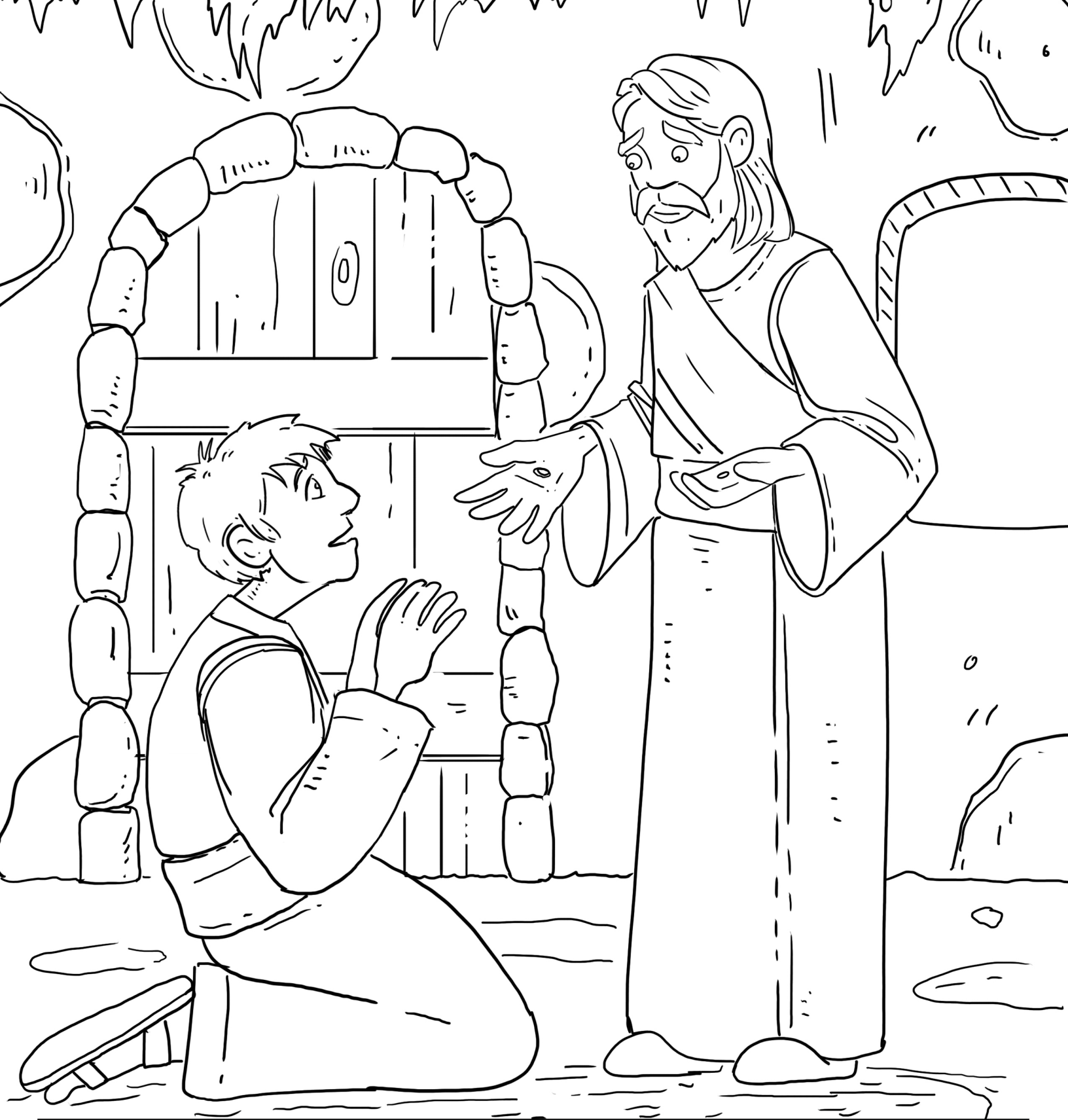




Blessed are they
that have not seen...

...and yet have
believed.
-John 20:29





Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." - **John 20:24-29**

THE GAME OF TRUST

Because kids can be less coordinated in their younger years, have them play this game on their knees. It's a knee version of falling into the arms of others to see how much you trust them to catch you. Trust in others is often related to trust in angels—and God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit.



MATERIALS:

- A playing rug or pile of pillows

Preparation:

Place the pillows in a circle

INTRODUCTION

Jesus loves faith. However, faith is closely related to trust. Let's first see how much we trust our classmates and then try and convert that to faith in Christ.



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Have one student get down on his knees. Have other students surround him on their knees. No one needs to be behind because it would be almost impossible to fall over backwards.
2. When you say, "Go," the student should lean to one side or the other or forward, believing his classmates can catch him without him collapsing on the floor.
3. Have students put out their arms to try to catch him and push him back upright again.
4. Keep repeating until he has had three or four tries to grow faith in his classmates.
5. Switch to a new student and repeat.

Conclusion

Some of you were better than others at trusting your classmates. Some classmates collapsed on the floor themselves rather than let a classmate fall. This game is a little like trusting Jesus to be faithful and tell us the truth. We may feel like we're falling, but his love comes through when we trust that it will.



WORD SEARCH

Half of the words below have to do with doubt. Half have to do with faith. Circle the faith words, then try to find them in the puzzle!

H	S	V	N	V	B	Y	A	M	O	U	X	M	N	E	X
E	F	C	L	N	Y	U	G	I	H	O	S	O	Y	A	C
S	H	D	I	S	T	R	U	S	T	I	I	T	A	S	O
I	R	T	A	Q	U	A	L	M	C	S	I	N	Y	S	N
T	E	S	U	R	E	T	Y	I	N	U	O	T	U	U	S
A	L	E	E	L	U	B	T	E	G	I	L	N	R	R	T
T	U	M	N	F	R	P	H	I	T	A	A	G	W	A	A
I	C	R	F	A	E	E	B	C	Y	X	E	C	J	N	N
O	T	L	E	K	R	M	I	O	Q	O	S	A	O	C	C
N	A	F	S	P	A	V	L	W	X	R	C	Z	B	E	Y
T	N	C	P	A	N	C	O	N	F	I	D	E	N	C	E
R	C	A	Z	O	R	E	L	I	A	N	C	E	C	G	Q
U	E	M	C	C	E	R	T	A	I	N	T	Y	F	J	X
S	H	E	D	N	J	A	C	O	N	F	U	S	I	O	N
T	C	J	S	B	P	A	C	C	E	P	T	A	N	C	E
F	B	A	D	I	S	B	E	L	I	E	F	E	S	N	P

Words to Find:

AMBIGUITY
 APPREHENSION
 CONFUSION
 DISBELIEF
 DISTRUST

FEAR
 HESITATION
 QUALM
 RELUCTANCE
 SKEPTICISM

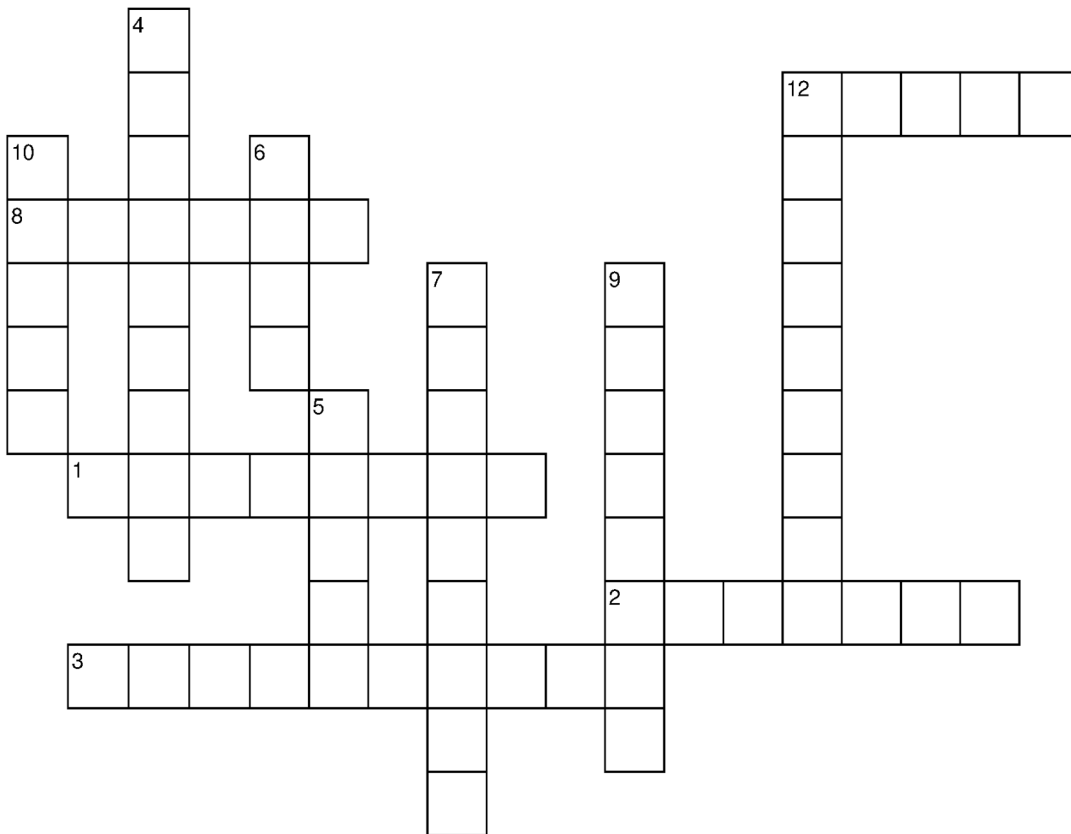
ACCEPTANCE
 CONFIDENCE
 CONVICTION
 LOYALTY
 ASSURANCE

CERTAINTY
 CONSTANCY
 RELIANCE
 SURETY
 TRUST

DOUBTING THOMAS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Use your At-A-Glance Sheet to learn the top 12 verses about faith and belief, which are the opposite of doubt. Then use the sheet to fill in the answers to the crossword.



Across

1. The one who _____ in me will live, even though they die
2. Faith comes by _____ the message
3. Without faith it is _____ to please God
8. Faith, if not accompanied by _____, is dead
12. Justified through faith, we have _____ with the Lord Jesus Christ

Down

4. Since we have been _____ through faith...
5. What if people claim to have faith but have no _____
6. Faith is being sure of what we _____ for
7. Know that a person is not justified by _____ the law
9. I have fought the good fight, I have _____ the race
10. Rise and go; your _____ has made you well
12. Fixing our eyes on Jesus the pioneer and _____ of faith

DOUBTING THOMAS

PARENT HANDOUT



Scriptures to Read: John 20:24-29



This Week We Learned About ...

...Doubting Thomas, Jesus' disciple who wanted to see his wounds after the Resurrection. It encourages kids understand why it's better to believe without having to see. Our world is full of those who "want evidence," which Christianity can provide, just like Jesus did. But life always provides those couple of things we have to take by faith. Are we going to be Doubting Thomases or Sons of Thunder, disciple brothers, John and James?



✓ Questions for Kids:

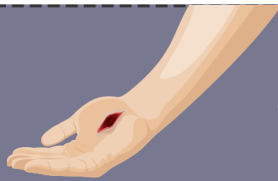
1. What did Thomas say he needed in order to believe?
A. To see and touch the nail marks in Jesus' hands and put his finger in the wound in his side.
2. Jesus said, "blessed are those who have not seen and yet have..."
A. Believed.
3. What did Jesus say to the disciples when he appeared in the room?
A. Peace be with you.

✓ Dinner Table Discussion:

Is there anything about your faith that you don't fully understand or feel like you need faith to believe? Discuss this thing together.

Have you ever had an experience where God did something that helped you believe? Maybe he answered a prayer, or kept you safe? Tell the story of what happened.

Scripture Notes (tuck in lunchboxes, tape to mirrors, etc.):



Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.
Hebrews 11:1



For we live by faith not by sight.
2 Corinthians 5:7



For no word from God will ever fail.
Luke 1:37

DOUBTING THOMAS

AT-A-GLANCE

The opposite of doubt is **BELIEF**. The way to belief is through **FAITH**. We should be working, and letting God work, to build our faith. A great way to start is by studying the most famous scriptures of the New Testament below having to do with the subject of **FAITH** and **BELIEF**:

JOHN 11:25

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;

ROMANS 10:17

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

HEBREWS 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

ROMANS 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

JAMES 2:14

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if people claim to have faith but have no deeds? Can such faith save them?

HEBREWS 11:1

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

HEBREWS 12:2

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

GALATIANS 2:16

Know that a person is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.

JAMES 2:17

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

2 TIMOTHY 4:7

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

LUKE 17:19

Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

MARK 9:23

"If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."



LEARNING LOOKUPS

DOUBTING THOMAS

Lookup: James 2:17 and write it down.


Lookup: John 3:16 and write it down.

Question: The first verse seems to imply that faith will include good works. The second seems to imply that faith does not need good works. Our spiritual growth is a journey that takes a lifetime. What are some works you would like to see in yourself before your journey ends?

Create a prayer below. Speak to God and write it. Ask God to show you each good work he wants you to do as it comes before you, and give you the strength to do his will:

DOUBTING THOMAS

QUIZ



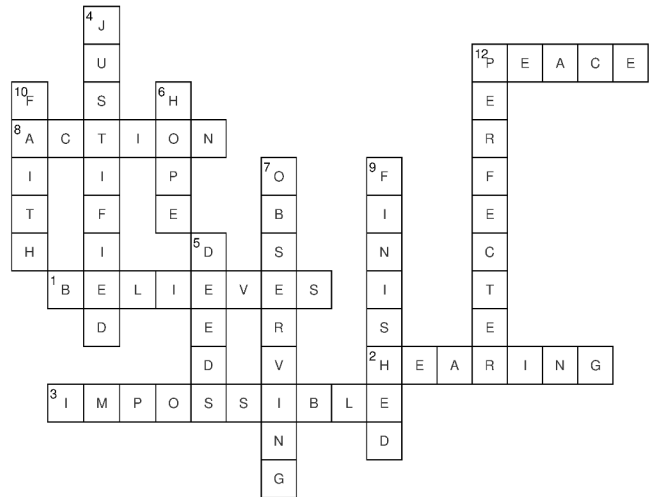
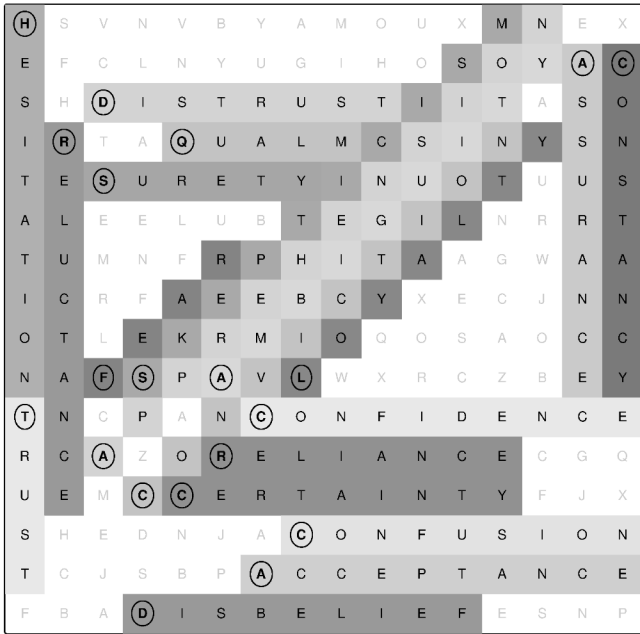
Instructions: Complete the 10 Bible lookups to fill in the scriptures with the right words and learn to overcome doubt with faith.

OVERCOMING DOUBT BIBLE LOOKUPS

1. But let him ask in _____, with no _____, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. **James 1:5**
2. Fear not, for I am with you; be not _____, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will _____ you with my righteous right hand. **Isaiah 41:10**
3. Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I _____; help my _____!" **Mark 9:24**
4. Let not your hearts be _____. Believe in God; _____ also in me. **John 14:1**
5. And _____ upon me in the day of trouble; I will _____ you, and you shall glorify me. **Psalms 50:15**
6. And I tell you, ask, and it will be _____ to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be _____ to you. **Luke 11:9**
7. Call to me and I will _____ you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not _____. **Jeremiah 33:3**
8. Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a _____ behind you, saying, "This is the way; _____ in it." **Isaiah 30:21**
9. For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not _____; I will _____ you. **Isaiah 41:13**
10. Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; _____ are those who have not _____ and yet have believed. **John 20:29**

DOUBTING THOMAS

ANSWER KEY



Quiz Answers:

- 1) faith/doubting
- 2) dismayed/uphold
- 3) believe/unbelief
- 4) troubled/believe
- 5) call/deliver
- 6) given/opened
- 7) answer/known
- 8) voice/walk
- 9) fear/help
- 10) blessed/seen

DOUBTING THOMAS

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

NAME:

DATE:

