

Daily Bible Readings:

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.
Try to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Thomas sees and believes
Monday	Genesis 32:22-32	Jacob wrestles with God
Tuesday	Judges 6:36-40	Gideon and the fleece
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 5:1-10	We live by faith, not by sight
Thursday	Hebrews 10:35 – 11:3	The nature of faith
Friday	1 Peter 2:21-25	Healed by his wounds
Saturday	Isaiah 33:5-6, 20-24	Look upon Zion
Sunday	Luke 24:13-35	On the road to Emmaus

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Scripture Verse for this Week:

"My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed. Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me." John 20:28-29

- Cut out & carry with you.
- Say at each mealtime.
- Read at bedtime.
- Commit to memory.

Prayers for this Week:

"Risen Lord Jesus, please give me the Holy Spirit so that I may share your grace with others. Amen." (John 20:22)

For Throughout the Day:

"Lord Jesus, I believe. Help my unbelief. Amen." (John 20:28-29)

Mealtime Refrain:

"Praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: By raising Jesus from death, he has given us new life and a living hope." (1 Peter 1:3)

A Blessing to Share:

"May the Risen Lord Jesus replace your doubts with faith, your fears with boldness and your sadness with joy. Amen." (John 20:19-29)

Easter Mealtime Prayer:

"Risen Lord Jesus, we praise you for the gifts of this table and the feast of Easter Joy. Fill us with your love and life. Amen."

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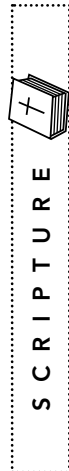
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Faith Talk:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is something you find hard to believe? Why?
- Thomas found it difficult to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead until he saw him with his own eyes. Are you a little or a lot like Thomas?
- Jesus said: "Blessed are those who believe without seeing me" (John 20:29). What helps you to believe in Jesus without seeing him in the flesh?

Devotional Practices:

In your family devotion times this week pray for people (by name if possible) who are struggling to believe in Jesus. Ask for God's help to share Jesus' love with them.

Rituals and Traditions:

While his disciples were hiding in a locked room on the first Easter Sunday, the risen Lord Jesus appeared with them and said "Peace be with you". When you gather as a family this week "pass the peace" to one another with handshakes, kisses or hugs. Say "The Lord's peace be with you" as you greet one another.

Service:

When Jesus first appeared to his disciples, Thomas was not with them. He must have felt like an "outsider", not having the same experience as his friends. Is there a person who is a newcomer to your community or church who may feel like an "outsider" at times? Invite them to your home to share a meal with you, or to a church function with you. Introduce them to others and help them feel more at home in their new environment.

Parent Toolbox:

Responding to the Faith Questions of Children

At times, our children may ask us questions about God or faith that challenge or unsettle us. How should we respond?

Here is some advice to consider:

- Always answer honestly, even if the answer is "I don't know." It never hurts for adults to admit there are things about God we don't understand – in fact, it helps to illustrate that faith is not about "knowing it all" but trusting Christ in spite of what we do not know.
- Take every child's question seriously. If it matters enough to them to ask, it should matter enough for us to answer thoughtfully.
- Help your children to think further by asking follow-up questions. It is better to encourage our children to think through things for themselves than to give them all the answers.
- Use their questions as a chance to learn together. Open your bibles and discover together!



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