



## Will You Believe? By Deborah Wassenberg

*We've all had times of doubt. It's unbelief that can be the problem. Jesus commanded Thomas to stop his unbelief and start believing! This lesson challenges children to do the same.*

### You Tube Song Suggestions:

- I Believe (Child Evangelism Fellowship International Headquarters)
- I Believe (Go Fish)
- For All My Days (gateway worship)
- Not Gonna Stop With Me (Hillsong Kids)

### Bible Lesson: Seeing and Believing

Bible Reference: John 20:1-31

*You'll find illustrations for this lesson, 'Jesus appears to the disciples then Thomas' at Free Bible Images under the heading Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus under the Gospel heading.*

#### **Visuals:**

1. Empty tomb
2. Jesus
3. Thomas
4. Thomas declaring his unbelief
5. Scripture: Mark 9:23
6. Jesus appears to Thomas
7. Thomas' reaction
8. Child reading Bible

#### **Words:**

1. Jesus is alive!  
John and Peter had seen the tomb was empty.  
Mary Magdalen had met Jesus in the garden.  
Now, the disciples were meeting together behind locked doors,  
because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders.

2. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them!  
'Peace be with you,' He said.  
A locked door was no problem for Jesus.  
As He spoke He showed the disciples the wounds in His hands  
and in His side.  
Jesus was assuring the disciples.  
'See, it's me!'  
The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord Jesus!
3. There was someone missing from the room.  
Someone who was not there when Jesus came.  
It was the disciple whose name was Thomas.  
When he arrived at the house the disciples told him,  
'We have seen the Lord!'
4. Thomas said, 'Unless I see the wounds of the nails in His hands,  
and put my fingers in them, and place my hand into the wound in  
His side, I will not believe.'  
Jesus heard every word.
5. Thomas refused to believe his friends that Jesus was raised from the dead.  
He refused to believe unless he saw Jesus with his *own* eyes,  
and touched His wounds with his *own* hands.  
Thomas needed to see for himself!  
It's important to believe in Jesus because Jesus said  
'If you believe, all things are possible.' (*Mark 9.23*)
6. Eight days later, the disciples were in the same room behind locked doors...again.  
Suddenly, Jesus was standing among them...again.  
'Peace be with you,' He said...again.  
This time Thomas was with them.  
Jesus said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, and look at my hands.  
Put your hand into the wound in my side.'  
Because Jesus is kind and loving He was giving  
Thomas the evidence he had demanded.  
Then Jesus said to Thomas, 'Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!'  
Jesus commanded Thomas to stop his unbelief and start believing.
7. Thomas cried out, 'My Lord and my God!'  
He went from unbelief to total belief in Jesus and who He was.  
Jesus said to him, 'You believe because you have seen me.  
Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.'  
That is a special promise for us.

8. Some people wish they had met Jesus face to face and walked with Him like the disciples did.  
But it doesn't matter we didn't live all those years ago.  
Most believers have not seen Jesus with their own eyes but still believe in Him.  
That's because the evidence about Jesus is in the Bible for us to read and is recorded in history.
9. Do you have trouble with unbelief?  
Do you find some things talked about in Kid's Church hard to believe?  
You might say, 'This is not what I am taught at school.'  
Jesus hears every word.  
He will show Himself to you by speaking to you using the Bible.  
That's why it's important to read it and learn Memory Verses.  
Jesus will also speak to your heart when you pray.  
Don't forget to listen for His voice.  
The Holy Spirit will lead you.  
Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be your guide through life.  
All these things will help you build your faith so you will be able to stop unbelief and start believing!  
'And we'll continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.  
Then, by believing, you can have life through His name.'  
(John 20:31)

## Ministry to the Children:

Everyone has to decide if they are going to believe in Jesus. Believe that God sent His Son into the world. Believe that the Son of God loves them and gave Himself for them. Believe God raised Him from the dead and that Jesus ascended into heaven and is Lord of all. We will see Jesus for ourselves one day. Revelation 1:7 says, 'Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. **And everyone will see Him...** even those who pierced him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for Him. Yes! Amen!' It won't be a secret! The whole world will know. Jesus is calling you to give your life to Him and live for Him now. Will you believe?

## Memory Verse: John 20:31

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Break into teams. Pre-write the Memory Verse on lengths of paper using no capitals, spaces or punctuation - one for each team. In their teams the children have to work out the verse. The first team to do so wins. Recite it aloud together. Assign team leaders to help younger children.

## Games: Stop and Start!

### **Musical Chairs:**

Set up chairs in two rows back to back or in a circle facing outward. Have every child stand in front of a chair. Start the music. Children walk around the chairs. Remove a chair. Stop the music and have everyone take a seat. The child without a seat has to sit out and another chair is removed. The game continues like this until the final round with two kids going around one chair. The winner is the one that gets the final seat when the music stops.

### **Freeze Dancing:**

Children dance when the music plays. When the music stops the children must freeze and hold their position until the music resumes. Any child who moves or doesn't freeze in time must do 10 star jumps during the start of the next round and then they can begin dancing like all the other children.

## Craft: Jesus is Alive!

*You'll find a variety of 'empty tomb' or resurrection crafts using cardboard or paper plates on the internet.*