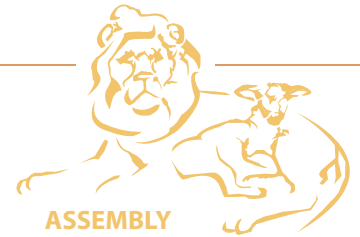


DOUBTING THOMAS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOHN 20:19-29



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

I DOUBT IT

Supplies

- a bag of marshmallows
- scarf
- plastic fork

Lay the scarf on the table and place one marshmallow on the center of the scarf. Pick up a fork and tell the class it is a magic fork. Ask the class, by a show of hands, how many believe and then how many doubt it is true. Use the word doubt because this exercise is meant to help them understand what the word doubt really means.

Tell them you can use the fork to make the marshmallow disappear. Again, ask them who believes and who doubts. Play the exercise up a bit by pretending you forget how to do it or that the words you are using are wrong.

Finally, say a few mumbo jumbo words which you make up. Then stab the marshmallow with the fork. Put it in your mouth, chew it up and swallow it. Announce to the class with a loud "ta-dah" that the marshmallow has disappeared!

The class will, of course, object. Use the exercise to teach them what it means to doubt. Another word for doubt is disbelief. Connect the exercise to the lesson and remind them of Jesus' words in John 20:29.

DOUBTING THOMAS

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YOU CAN'T CONVINC ME

Act out the scene with the children from John 20:25. The disciples have seen Jesus and are trying to convince Thomas it is true. All we have is one line but the disciples must have tried to convince him. Have one person play Thomas and quietly tell him not to agree no matter what the class says. Then read John 20:19-23 to the class again. Tell the children that when they see Thomas they need to tell him what happened and what Jesus said to try and convince him that He is risen.

Ask the children at the end of the exercise, "Why do some people not believe in Jesus today?" Help them to see that we believe by faith since we can't see Jesus who is in heaven. Tell them we believe because of the Bible, which is written by God through men.

MEMORY VERSE

Teach the children and rehearse 2 Corinthians 5:7: "for we walk by faith, not by sight." Explain this verse and relate it to our story. This is not a part of the Sword Memory program but it is a very easy verse to learn and goes well with the story.

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

After His resurrection, Jesus opened the minds of His disciples to understand the Scriptures (Luke 24:45). Jesus explained that He Himself was the central theme of Scriptures. Jesus very kindly introduced the disciples to the truth. He did not rebuke them for their former doubts; He called them to faith.

Thomas did not believe. Thomas was in need of Gospel truth. Jesus knew what Thomas needed and showed him His nail scarred hands. Jesus called Thomas to faith and opened His mind. Thomas immediately responded by addressing Jesus as God.

Thomas doubted but when confronted with the risen Lord who was slain for our sins, Thomas believed. Like Thomas we need to be reminded of Jesus' death that we too might believe. Though we have not seen, we have heard the Word and we can believe.