

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY
CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON (Pre-K&K)

Lesson #84

DATE:

SUBJECT: Doubting Thomas

SCRIPTURE: John 20:19-29

AIM: To show the children how important it is to be with those who believe in the Lord and love Him.

MEMORY VERSES:

John 20:29 Jesus said to him, Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.

REVIEW: Do you remember the two friends of the Lord Jesus who were walking to the village of Emmaus? Remember, they were talking about all the sad and terrible things that had happened to the Lord that dark day in Jerusalem. Something wonderful happened. What happened? Yes! The Lord Jesus appeared to them. Did they recognize Him? No, they thought He was a stranger. What did the Lord Jesus talk to them about? (The Bible). He talked to them about Himself from God's Holy Word. All the time their hearts felt warm and happy, but they did not know why. So they begged that special stranger to stay with them a little while longer. When they sat down to eat, the Lord took the bread and blessed it and broke it and gave it to them to eat. It was at this time that they recognized that it was the Lord who had been with them the entire time. They also knew that their hearts felt warm and happy because they were talking to their resurrected and loving Lord and Savior. Did the Lord Jesus stay with them? No, He disappeared from their sight.

CONTENT: On the Lord's day (the first day of the week), in the evening when the Lord's friends or disciples were together in a room with the doors closed for fear of the bad people who had crucified the Lord Jesus, they had a wonderful and special visitor. Who do you think visited them? This One did not open the doors to come in. He just appeared in the closed room. The Lord said to them, "Peace be to you." Having said this He showed them the marks of the nail in His hands and the wound in His side. Remember when the bad people crucified the Lord they nailed His hands and pierced His side. The Bible tells us that when the disciples saw the Lord, they were very happy. Perhaps, they thought that since He was killed on the cross that they would never see Him again. Imagine their happiness when they saw their loving Jesus alive again.

That was a wonderful and very special day because they saw the Lord Jesus alive again, but there is also a sad part to this story. Have you ever heard the expression "Doubting Thomas?" To doubt means not believing. A doubting person is someone who does not believe. In that special meeting with the resurrected Lord there was someone missing. Thomas, one of the Lord's disciples, was not there. How sad, he missed the Lord. The Bible does not tell us where Thomas was. It only tells us that he was not there on that Lord's Day with those who loved the Lord.

When the disciples saw Thomas and happily told him that they had seen the risen Lord, Thomas said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails and put my finger into the mark of the nails and put my hand into His side, I WILL NOT BELIEVE!" That was very sad! Thomas doubted that the Lord had risen from the dead. He was not there when the Lord visited the disciple in that closed room. He was truly the first "Doubting Thomas."

Eight days later on the Lord's day again (just like today), the disciples were together in the room with the door closed. This time Thomas was there. The Lord Jesus came again and said, "Peace be to you." Then He said to Thomas, "Bring your finger here and see my hands and bring your hand and put it into My side and be not unbelieving (or doubting), but believing." Thomas said to Him, "My Lord and My God." The Lord Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are they who have not seen and have believed." How do you think Thomas felt? I am sure he felt so sad because he did not believe at first. He must have felt very sorry because he was not with the other disciples when the Lord Jesus had first appeared to them in that closed room.

It is important that we are always with those who love the Lord because when we are together it is special. The Lord Jesus is with us and He talks to us through the Bible and we learn about Him.