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| Date: 29/04/20 |  |  |
| Theme: | Doubting Thomas |
| Preparation: | Read the lesson plan below.The story is written as a play so identify who will play the characters or whether one person will read it all.Print the activity and get colouring pencils, felt-tips and crayons. |
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| Opening prayer: | Lord, please help us to listen and learn so we know more about your love for us so we can grow in faith.Amen |
| Introduction | We’re going to talk today about when and how we believe something or doubt it.Here are some interesting statements. We’re going to see which are true and which are false…1. No piece of square, dry paper can be folded in half more than 7 times?

Do you believe it or do you doubt it?(True)1. You are more likely to be stung by a bee in windy weather?

Do you believe it or do you doubt it?(False)1. Camels have 3 eyelids to protect themselves from blowing sand.

Do you believe it or do you doubt it?(True)1. A handy household tip: the elastic in your underwear will last twice as long if you freeze it after washing?

Do you believe it or do you doubt it?(False)1. The Welsh like Thomas the Tank Engine so much, they have painted faces on all their trains.

Do you believe it or do you doubt it?(False)*Note: you can replace these and/or add your own* |
| Story: | Today’s story is about someone who was a friend of Jesus’ – but he doubted that he rose again after his death on the cross.*(Reference John 20 v19-25)***Doubting Thomas***(The story is written as a dialogue for people to ACT IT OUT. This could be done by 2 adults, 2 children who can read well or 1 adult and one child for part 1 – and there are 3 characters in part 2. Alternatively, one adult could play all the parts).*Part 1 (2 characters)Girl:    Thomas, Thomas you aren’t going to believe this!Thomas:     What won’t I believe?Girl:            Thomas, you know how Jesus died?Thomas:        Yes, I could never forget that.Girl:               You know how he was buried in a tomb?Thomas:         Yes, I could never forget that either.Girl:                Well, Jesus is no longer dead.Thomas:         What are you talking about?Girl:               Jesus is no longer dead…he is aliveThomas:         No, he’s notGirl:               Yes, he isThomas:         No, he’s notGirl:               Yes, he isThomas:         No…Girl:               Thomas!  Jesus is alive, I am telling you the truth. Some of his other friends have seen him!Thomas:         I saw him die on the crossGirl:               I knowThomas:         I saw him buriedGirl:               I know that tooThomas:        So, end of storyGirl:              No, not the end. Jesus is alive. Everyone is talking about it.Thomas:        Talking. Talking. That doesn’t mean anything. That doesn’t mean Jesus is really alive.Girl:            Well, I hear that he is alive.Thomas:        Hm. Well, I will believe it when I see it.Girl:            What do you mean?Thomas:         I would believe it if Jesus was standing right here, talking to me. I would believe it if he showed me the actual wounds in his hands and the hole in his side from where the sword pierced him. But what you are telling me right now leaves me with serious questions. I am not just going to believe something if I have a lot of questions.Discuss with the children to ensure they understand the story.**Part 2**3 charactersNow for the second part **of the story.** About a week later, Thomas and some of the disciples were together in a room, when suddenly Jesus just appeared. The disciples are all surprisedJesus:          Relax, peace…Narrator:     Then he looked at Thomas and saidJesus:           I know you have questions.  Why don’t you come over here and look at my hands.Narrator:       Jesus held out his hands for Thomas to see…Thomas:       I can see the holes in your hands, JesusJesus:            And look, here is the hole in my side where the soldiers stuck me with a spearThomas:          I can see the scar from where you were stuck with a spearJesus:            You can touch them if that makes any difference to youNarrator:        Thomas fell to his knees and saidThomas:         Jesus, you are my Lord and my God!!Jesus:            You have seen me and believed. I am glad about that. But even better are those who haven’t seen me, but still believe.Discuss the story. Ask questions about who it’s about, the key points etc. E.g. I wonder why Thomas didn’t believe other people who said Jesus was alive. What do you think?* Maybe he was angry because his friend had been killed
* Maybe he was sad because he missed Jesus
* Maybe he was confused
* He had doubts – he had to see for himself

Explain that it’s OK to have questions and doubts that God is there or that Jesus died to save us, because we can’t see them. Even though we haven’t seen Jesus, we can believe in him. Refer to the Bible which tells about Jesus. We weren’t there but we can read about what happened. We should trust in God and believe even though we didn’t meet Jesus. We can pray to God to help us have faith. |
| Activity: | Make and colour the story book ‘Thomas needed to see’.The embedded file below contains 2 copies of the story.Double click on the icon to open the file. Print the file and cut each page in half, to split the duplicate pages.Let the children put the booklets together – you could stick or staple the pages in the right order.Then colour in. Read the booklet to reinforce the story. If you child(ren) are old enough, ask them to read it to you. |
| Closing prayer: | Lord,Thank you for sending your son, Jesus Christ, to save us. When we have doubts, remind us of the story of Thomas and help us to have faith in you.Amen |