



## LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

*We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** The Holy Spirit Helps Us Believe

**SCRIPTURE:** [John 20](#)

**WORD OF WONDER:** [From Romans 12:2](#)

After Jesus' death and resurrection, the disciple Thomas had questions. He missed out the first time Jesus appeared to His disciples in the locked room where they were gathered. He missed seeing Jesus in the flesh, hearing His voice, touching His nail-scarred hands. And Thomas struggled to believe.

So a week later, Jesus came again to the locked room and gave Thomas a chance to see Him, to hear Him, to touch Him. And Thomas believed.

What do you need help believing today? Read Jesus' words to Thomas in [John 20:27](#): "Stop doubting and believe." Do you need help with your unbelief?

God promises to be with us always ... but in the midst of the storm, sometimes we question His presence.

God promises to lead us and guide us ... but at times we believe our plans and choices are the best ones to follow; we question God's leading.

You won't be able to physically touch Jesus' nail-scarred hands as Thomas did, but God wants to help you with your unbelief. Go to Him. He is not afraid of your questions. He invites them. Lay your unbelief at Jesus' feet. Let the Spirit speak to you and believe.

—**Amber Pike**

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

Thomas (also known as Didymus; this means “twin” in Greek) is mentioned as one of Jesus’ 12 disciples by all four Gospels. Only the Gospel of John gives him any speaking lines. In [John 11:16](#), Thomas claims to be willing to die with Jesus.

**WHAT?**

“To have faith” and “to believe” are translations of the same word in Greek. To believe means “to trust that something is true.” When Thomas did not believe the witness of the other disciples, Jesus transformed his unbelief to belief.

**WHERE?**

The disciples gathered together behind locked doors, but Jesus came to them anyway. By gathering in secret, they were hoping to avoid the attention of those who had arrested Jesus. But Jesus came to send them out into the world ([John 20:21](#)).

**WHEN?**

Jesus appeared to most of the disciples on the evening of His resurrection, the first Easter. More than a week went by before He appeared to the group including Thomas.

**CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY**

Faith or belief in Jesus is what gives a person new life. Even when the life of faith is hard and we don’t know what we should pray for, Jesus-followers are promised that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us “in accordance with the will of God” ([Romans 8:27, NIV](#)).



## Curiosity

### LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

*Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.*

#### Curiosity Activity: Sand Search

**SUPPLIES:** bin, sand, small toys (3), towel or tarp (optional)

Before the kids arrive, fill the bin with sand. Hide three small toys in the bin for the kids to find. You may want to set out a towel or tarp under the bin to contain spills. Watch closely to ensure toddlers don't throw the sand.

**Three toys are hidden in this bin. Can you help me find them?**

Allow kids to find toys. If they enjoy it and you have extra time, hide the toys again for some more fun!

**Great job! Did some of you think the toys weren't in there there at first?** Allow the kids to respond. **When we found them, did you believe they were really there?** Allow kids to respond. **You believed the toys were there because you saw them with your eyes and touched them with your hands. In God's big story today, we will see how one man didn't believe Jesus was really alive until he saw Jesus with his eyes and touched Jesus with his hands. We'll learn how the Holy Spirit helps us believe.**

**Our Wonder Truth today is: THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US BELIEVE.**

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT**—*Hands up in the air and wave them.*

**HELPS US**—*Hands out flat and pull in toward the body.*

**BELIEVE.**—*Point to your head with both hands.*



10:45 Service

## Belief

### LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

*Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.*

#### Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words:  
**God, thank You for giving us senses to help us see, hear, feel, taste, and touch. Help us experience You through our senses as we experience Your presence today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

#### God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible.

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

#### TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Big Picture Bible p260

Jesus Appeared To the Disciples

#### Word of Wonder: Word of Wonder Repeat

##### WORD OF WONDER

**His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.**

—from Romans 12:2b NIV

Encourage the kids to say the verse with you.



## Identity

### LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

*Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.*

#### Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them and thank God for the Holy Spirit.

**God, we thank You for the Holy Spirit who lives in us when we believe in Jesus. Send Your Holy Spirit to help us believe in You when it is hard. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

**Blessing:** May the Holy Spirit help you know this week that Jesus is alive and that He loves you. May your week be filled with sounds, sights, tastes, touches, and smells that remind you of God.

#### Closing Activity: In and Out

**SUPPLIES:** large plastic hoop

Have the kid gather around the large plastic hoop.

**In God's big story today, the disciples were together in a locked room when Jesus suddenly appeared! A locked room means no one could get in (step into the hoop) or out (step out of the hoop) of the room. It was amazing to see Jesus there!**

**We are going to play a game called In and Out! When I say "in," you can move inside the hoop like this.** Demonstrate moving into the hoop. **When I say "out," you can move out of the hoop.** Demonstrate moving out of the hoop. Play several rounds where the kids can move in and out of the hoop.

## 10:45 Service

**Leader Tip:** If you have a large amount of kids, you may need to use more than one hoop so everyone gets a turn.