



## 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: Mystery Touch Boxes

**SUPPLIES:** empty tissue boxes or opaque boxes (5), sandpaper, fabric, play dough, uncooked noodles, tissue paper, scissors (prep only)

**Allergy Caution:** This activity includes possible food allergens!

Before kids arrive, cut sandpaper, fabric, and tissue paper into squares small enough to fit into the boxes. Put sandpaper, fabric, play dough, uncooked noodles, and tissue paper each into their own boxes.

**Hi! I am so excited about our activity today! I have five boxes, and we're going to take turns putting our hand inside each one and feeling what's in it. We'll guess what's inside each box.**

Pass around the boxes one at a time, allowing the kids to feel what's inside. Encourage them to whisper their guess to a leader about what they think is in each box. After all the kids have felt the objects, pull the items out to show what was in each box.

**We used our sense of touch to discover what was inside the boxes. We're going to do learn today about someone who had to use his sense of touch to discover an important truth about Jesus.**



## Belief

*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 NiRV

Encourage the kids to say the verse with you.



## Faith

### LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

*Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.*

#### Craft: Five-Finger Prayer Hands

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (leader only), various colors of paper (1 sheet per kid), labels (1" x 2 5/8" size with 30 labels per sheet; 5 labels per kid), coloring utensils, white disposable gloves (optional, 1 per kid)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Five-Finger Prayer Labels](#)

Ahead of time, print [Five-Finger Prayer Labels](#) onto label sheets, making sure that each kid has one complete set.

Give each kid a sheet of colored paper. Help the kids trace their hand on the their papers and write their names on their papers.



**When we pray to God, it helps us believe that God cares for us and hears our prayers. Today, we are making something that will help us pray and believe that God hears our prayers.**

**We are going to practice how to pray using our hands! Show me your hand. Have kids raise their hands. This is your thumb.** Point to your thumb. **We can start our prayers with “Dear God.”** Hold up your pointer finger. **Then we can say, “Thank You for ...”** and thank God for something **He gave you.** Allow the kids to say something they are thankful for. Then hold up your thumb, pointer finger, and middle finger. **Then we can say, “I’m sorry for ...”** and tell God something that you are sorry for doing. **Now hold up four fingers. Now we ask God, “Help me ...”** and ask God to help you with something. All kids say this out loud. Then hold up five fingers. **Lastly, we can ask God, “Help others ...”** and pray for our family or friends. Allow the kids to say this out loud. **We end our prayer with “Amen.”** All kids say, “Amen.”

**I am going to give you the hands that we made earlier, and you can color them! We’ll also put stickers on the fingers of your praying hands to help remind you how we can pray.**

Pass out the praying hands and encourage the kids to put the labels on the fingers in order, to help them remember the steps to help them pray.



10:45 Service

## 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: I Spy

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples and they all saw Him with their eyes. We are going to use our eyes to play a game called I Spy. I will go first and look for something around the room. When I pick an object, I will say, "I spy something ..." and share the color of the object. Then you can guess my object! If you guess correctly, you get to be the next person to spy something. I will go first!

Choose an item that is easy for the kids to identify, then the phrase "I spy something ..." and share the color. Once a child guesses the right item, allow him to choose another object and give a clue with the "I spy something ..." phrase.