



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**

Kidmin Leader and Author

Contributor to Wonder Ink

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.

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: sunglasses, eyeglasses, binoculars, magnifying glasses, scissors (prep only), coloring utensils, blocks (optional), pom-poms (optional), craft sticks (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Use Your Senses Cards](#) (1 set), [Thomas Questions Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: What Do You See?

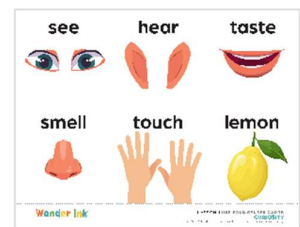
Set-up: Place sunglasses, eyeglasses, binoculars, and magnifying glasses on a table. You can also set out some things for the kids to look at, such as blocks, pom-poms, craft sticks, and crayons.

Play: Allow kids to explore various items that help us see better. Kids can use the different types of glasses to explore objects on the table.

Play Station: Use Your Senses

Set-up: Cut out the [Use Your Senses Cards](#) and lay them out on the table. Place the *smell*, *see*, *touch*, *taste*, and *hear* cards away from the object cards so they can be sorted.

Play: Allow kids to explore the cards and sort them into categories based on the senses they use for each object. They may use more than one sense for some of the cards. For example, a lemon can go in taste, smell, or touch.



Play Station: Thomas Questions Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the [Coloring Sheet](#). Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw someone being surprised.

9:00 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.



Faith

LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

Game: Hide and See

When Jesus came to His disciples the first time after He was risen, Thomas didn't get to see Him. Thomas believed when He finally saw Jesus. Let's play a game called Hide and See! We are going to make two teams. One team is going to hide and the other team is going to try and see the kids on the other team.

Create two teams. If you have a large space, the kids will take turns hiding as a team and the other team will try to "see" (or find) them. When they have been found, it will be the other team's turn to hide.

If you have a smaller space, allow one team to hide an object for the other team to find instead.



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.

Responding in Worship: Senses Prayer

SUPPLIES: flower (real or fake), sweet food (e.g., a chocolate chip, piece of fruit), soft fabric, cinnamon stick (or ground cinnamon spice)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: worship song from the [Transformed Early Childhood music flashdrive](#)

Allergy Caution: Be aware of any food allergies or sensitivities among your kids and volunteers before doing this activity!

What are our five senses? Allow the kids to respond. Through our senses, we can explore God's world. God gave us the senses of sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell. Thomas used his senses to believe that Jesus is alive! The Holy Spirit can help us believe too! Let's go to God in prayer and thank Him for giving us our senses that help us experience His wonder every day! **Point to your eyes.** Encourage the kids point to their eyes. **Thank You, God, for the gift of sight. It helps us see Your beauty in nature and in other people.** Show the flower. Invite the kids to say out loud other things they see that they are thankful for.

Touch your ears. Have the kids touch their ears. **Thank You, Lord, for giving us ears so we can hear music and the people around us.** Play part of a soft worship song from the [Transformed Early Childhood music flashdrive](#). Invite the kids to share other things they hear that remind them of God or help them praise God.

Point to your mouth. Have kids point to their mouth. **Thank You, God, for the gift of taste. It helps us enjoy the amazing food You have provided.** Invite kids to take a bite of a chocolate chip or piece of fruit. Ask the kids to share one thing they love to eat.

Wiggle your fingers. Encourage the kids to wiggle their fingers. **Thank You, God, for giving us hands to play, clean up, and help others.** Invite kids to give their neighbor a high five. Invite the kids to share one thing they like to touch.

Point to your nose. Have kids point to their nose. **Thank You, Jesus, for the gift of smell. It helps us enjoy the delicious and good things You have provided even more.** Invite kids to smell the cinnamon stick or ground cinnamon spice one at a time. Ask the kids to share one other smell they enjoy.

Thank You, God, for all our senses that help us know that You are everywhere!

Make It Inclusive!

If you have a child who is unable to use a sense mentioned in these prayers (such as sight), you may want to skip that portion of the prayer or include the child as a helper.

9:00 Service