

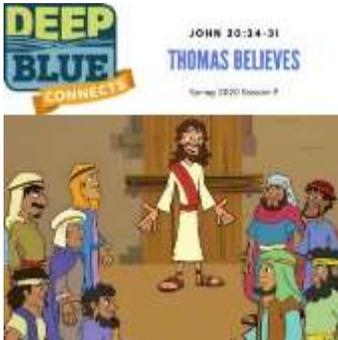
Sunday School Home Activities - Week of April 26, 2020

Check out some of the activities you and your families can do at home this week!



Watch this week's Deep Blue Sunday School Video: Click the link below to watch the Deep Blue Connects Spring 2020 videos. This week is Episode 9 (E9: Thomas Believes).

<https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify/series/unitedmethodistpublishinghouse/33162-deep-blue-connects-adventure-spring-2020>



Try this Family Devotion with your family!

Read: Thomas Believes (John 20:24-31)

Bible Story Focus: We can ask questions about God and Jesus, and still believe.

Wonder Together: Do you need to see something to believe it?

Memory Verse: "Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 11:9b)

Pray Together: Share joys and concerns, and then pray, Dear God, thank you for Jesus. We are so grateful that Jesus is alive and always with us. Amen.

Ages 5–Grade 2

Hear and See the Bible Story

SAY: Today our Bible story is about a disciple named Thomas. He wanted to know for sure that Jesus was alive.

- Tell the children the story, "Thomas Believes" (Read John 20:24-31). Refer to the Background for this Week's Bible Story at the end of the Sunday School activities. **ASK:** Do you need to see something to believe it?
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 9 on amplifymedia.com.
- Act out the story. Take turns playing different roles.

Family Time: Wonder Together

Write across the top of a large piece of paper, "We believe..."

Make a list of what your family believes about God, Jesus, and one another. Hang the poster as a reminder.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for showing us that you are with us. Thank you for being with us even when we can't see you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

How Do I Know?

SAY: Thomas had heard that Jesus was alive, but he had not been there to see Jesus in person the way that the other disciples had. He wanted to see and touch Jesus for himself. How do you know when something is true? Sometimes it's hard to know what is true, and sometimes it is pretty easy to know. Here are some steps that might help us know when we are unsure. What is your question:

1. What do I observe? What do I think?
2. What does the Bible say? Look it up.
3. What do the people I trust say? Ask your parents and other people you trust.
4. What do scientists, historians, and mathematicians say?
5. What do I observe? What do I think? What have I learned?
6. Tell people about what you have learned.

White Crayon Art (Art)

- Supplies: white paper, a black (or other dark color) paper, and a white crayon.
- Draw with the white crayon on both the white and black papers.

ASK: How are your two pieces of artwork the same? How are they different?

How do you know what you drew on your white paper, even though you can't see it?

Adapted from Deep Blue Connects Loving God, Loving God, Loving Neighbor, Spring 2020 Early Elementary Session 9



Grades 3-5

Hear and See the Bible Story

SAY: In our Bible story, a man named Thomas has trouble believing that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

- Read the Bible story together (John 20:24-31).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 9 on amplifymedia.com.

Ask: Do you think the other disciples were frustrated with Thomas for not believing what they told him? When Thomas finally saw Jesus, was he concerned that Jesus would be upset with him for not believing? When have you seen something that you did not believe?

Write Your Belief Statement

SAY: In our Bible story, Thomas struggles with what to believe about Jesus. **ASK:** What do you believe?

- Write your own belief statement. This can include beliefs about your faith, but it can also be beliefs about values you feel are important.

Planting in Faith

When we plant a seed in soil, we have faith that it is growing beneath the surface and will one day become a flower or vegetable, even though we can't see it growing. Gather some seeds and planting tools, and plant either flower seeds or your favorite vegetables with your family. Discuss the story, *Thomas Believes*, as you plant. Take care of the seeds over the next few weeks and watch their growth together as a family.

Blessing

SAY: In our Bible story, Thomas, one of Jesus' twelve closest disciples, experienced doubt. We all experience doubt sometimes during our faith journey. Let's each take a moment to write down something that we feel doubt about or something we question about our faith.

- Give each person a slip of paper and a pencil. When done writing, fold the paper so that the writing cannot be seen.
- Place a bowl in a special place in your home, maybe an adult can light a candle. Have each person place his or her slip of paper in the bowl without reading it. Then pray the following prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, we pray that you will send your Holy Spirit to comfort and reassure us during moments of doubt in our lives. Assure us that you are with us always. Amen.

Talk about how it feels to turn a question over to God?

Adapted from Deep Blue Connects Loving God, Loving God, Loving Neighbor, Spring 2020 Older Elementary Session 9



Nursery, Toddlers and Preschool



Jesus Lives! John 20:1, 11-18

Hear the Bible Story *Tell the Bible story to the children. Act out the story.*

Tape-Resist Cross

Use masking tape to make a cross on a piece of cardstock or cardboard.

- Color all over the cardstock.
- When finished, remove the masking tape to reveal a cross.

SAY: Jesus is not dead! Jesus has risen! Jesus is alive! Happy Easter!

BLESS: *(Child's name)*, God loves you. God blesses you. God is always with you. Amen.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for sending Jesus to show us your love. Amen.

Adapted from Deep Blue Nursery, Spring 2020 Session 9



Background for this Week's Elementary Ages Bible Story:

In the Gospel of John, Mary Magdalene is described as the first person to see Jesus after his resurrection. In the Bible story today, we read that Thomas had not yet seen the risen Lord so the other disciples told him about their experience of when Jesus appeared to them in a locked room. Thomas, who witnessed Jesus' arrest and death on the cross, was not sure he could believe what the other disciples were saying. Thomas wanted to see Jesus for himself.

Thomas has since earned the nickname "Doubting Thomas" because of his desire to see the nail marks in Jesus' hands before believing that Jesus was alive. But perhaps the nickname does a disservice to Thomas. It implies that Thomas's faith was not as strong as it should be, or as strong as the faith of the other disciples. How quickly we forget that the other disciples were not willing to take Mary Magdalene's word as proof that Jesus was alive. The other disciples wanted to see the empty tomb for themselves and wanted to see Jesus for themselves. In wanting to see Jesus for himself, Thomas was no different than the other disciples.

When Jesus did appear to Thomas, he offered to let Thomas touch the wounds in his hands and side and told Thomas to believe. Jesus did not admonish Thomas, but instead gave Thomas what he needed to be able to have faith. Jesus met Thomas where he was and offered him what he needed in order to believe. Thomas immediately recognized Jesus and without needing to touch him, proclaimed Jesus was Lord. The story of Thomas reminds us that it is okay to have a questioning faith. Jesus will meet us where we are and provide us with what we need so that we may believe.

From Deep Blue Connects Loving God, Loving God, Loving Neighbor, Spring 2020 Early Elementary Session 9

Family Activities for All Ages:

Note: Prior to starting any activity, be sure to sanitize hands and all supplies. Be sure to practice safe physical distancing.

- **Chalk your walk!** Use sidewalk chalk to write or draw pictures and messages of encouragement and hope on your sidewalk and driveway. Be a voice of encouragement to those who pass by your home!
- Read about **Baptism** as a family. Baptism marks the beginning of our lifelong journey as disciples of Jesus Christ. If you have been baptized and have pictures, share pictures and stories. Talk about who was there and any special memories. Wonder together about how God has always been with us. Give thanks to God that we are God's beloved children. Talk about how our congregation makes a vow at a someone's baptism to nurture them and surround them with love, forgiveness and prayer so that they may grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Talk about ways your congregation has supported and nurtured you. If you or someone in your family hasn't yet been baptized and would like to do so, contact Pastors Steve and Cara for more information. <https://www.umc.org/en/content/renewing-waters-how-united-methodists-understand-baptism>
- Learn about the **Wesleyan Quadrilateral** and talk about how this can be a tool to explore challenging questions. Brainstorms questions about faith and God that are hard to understand. Then use the Wesleyan Quadrilateral to discern your questions. Learn more about the Wesleyan Quadrilateral here - <https://faithumchurch.wordpress.com/2020/04/25/living-the-resurrection-resurrection-identity-wesleyan-quadrilateral/>
- Make **cards for Hartville Migrant Ministry migrant workers**. Because we will not be meeting in person for our Wednesday Night Faith Connection spring mission project to pack Welcome Bags for Hartville Migrant Ministry, make cards to welcome the migrant workers. Mail your card to the church and we will deliver them with the monetary donations to help provide 12 Welcome Bags!
- **Look for Easter**, look for signs of new life and resurrection! We also call these **God Sightings**, looking for our good God in the world! Share the God Sightings you find with us. <https://www.myfaithunited.org/god-sightings-looking-for-hope-during-the-pandemic/>
- **Plant Something!** Inspired by an article written by John S. that you can find on our Worship by Wire website, go plant something in celebration of Christ's Resurrection. John encourages us all to *"...plant something, if only one seed, wherever you call home! Perhaps your seed will grow into something good to eat, a beautiful Flower to feed the pollinators of our food, or a tree. What better way to Celebrate Resurrection?"*
- Sunday School Teacher, Libby Blake's Card Sending Idea, the **Quarantine Correspondence Challenge**: I often get packets of cards from various charities and rarely use them. I'd like to challenge those who have any kind of greeting or note cards to open their address books and start sending one a day. When I was undergoing cancer treatment, Terry, my college roomie and life-long friend sent me a card-a-day for over two months! She used up all the miscellaneous cards she had bought over the years and had never sent. It was hilarious to receive cards with messages that had nothing to do with my situation! I am a card maker in my spare time. My goal is to end this quarantine time, no matter how long, with NO CARDS LEFT! I'd love to know if you'll give this a try and also if you hear back!
- **Pray the LORD'S PRAYER** each day at noon. Create a video of your family praying the Lord's Prayer that we could share as encouragement for others. Let me know if you are interested!
- Use, individually or as a family, the worship resources connected with Sunday and Wednesdays Worship by Wire. Visit our website for updated resources: <https://www.myfaithunited.org/worship-by-wire/>
- Share pictures or videos of some of the activities you and your family are doing while practicing physical distancing with church staff. What you share may inspire someone else!