

MommyDISCIPLEMe

MAKING CHRIST KNOWN AND GOD'S WORD HOME 

"Yes, I Believe!" *Special Event Series for Easter*

Part Three of Three Lessons: Easter Sunday

WORD: What does the Bible say?

This week's verse: **John 20:29** – "Jesus said, 'Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.'" (CSB)

This week's verse for Preschoolers: **John 20:29** – "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

WHISPERS: What Truth is God speaking to us through His Word?

"I will bless you for believing in Me even though you have never personally seen Me." - God

WISDOM: How can we seek God's perspective about this Truth?

I've never seen You, Lord. How am I supposed to know if You are who You say You are? How can I know You can do what You say You can do? Give me wisdom to understand believing in You.

WELCOMES: What can we learn about this Truth? This Truth matters because...

Have you ever awakened wondering what a particular day would bring? That's how the disciples felt the very first Easter. It didn't begin as a celebration; it began with wondering whether Jesus really is who He said He is and can He do what He says He can do. **What the disciples experienced Easter morning changed the world - and us! - forever!**

WEAVINGS: What does the Bible teach about this Truth?

As the sun rose on the first Easter Sunday, the disciples were very sad. They had watched Jesus' arrest and crucifixion. They saw Him die then be buried in Joseph of Arimathea's tomb. They awakened that first Easter assuming that was where His body still was.

Just days prior, it had been Lazarus' body in the grave until Jesus resurrected him. Now, Lazarus was out of the grave, and Jesus was in one. Jesus' followers were devastated because they had believed Jesus is the Messiah, the One who came from God to save us all and give resurrection

life. Now what would happen? Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead, but could He raise Himself from the dead? Or was this the end of the story?

Did Martha still think about her answer to Jesus' question: **"I am the resurrection and the life...Do you believe this?"** (John 11:25-26). What did Lazarus feel about Jesus being in the grave when he'd just been there himself? What about all those children who'd echoed their parents' praises to Jesus, singing **"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"** Did they still say "Yes, I believe!" after Jesus was crucified? And what about the disciples who heard Jesus say, **"Don't let your heart be troubled...believe in Me"** (John 14:1)? What was happening in their hearts?

Jesus had promised He'd rise again on the third day. Before going to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, He prophesied, **"See, we are going up to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be...mocked, flogged, and crucified, and on the third day he will be raised"** (Matthew 20:17-19).

On that third day, who awakened believing what Jesus said is true? That first Easter Sunday, some women went to Jesus' tomb to find out. And, wow, did they get a surprise! Jesus' tomb was as empty as Lazarus' tomb – only He never entered it again!

Jesus arose from the dead just like He had said He would! He appeared to many, many of His followers. How incredible that must have been!

His followers told everybody about this, but one person named Thomas had a hard heart. Thomas was with Jesus throughout His teaching and miracles, but he still would not believe by faith. Thomas had to have proof. Thomas said, "If I don't see the mark of the nail in His hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will never believe!" (John 20:25).

Jesus understands it is sometimes hard for us to believe. So, one day, as the disciples and Thomas were secretly gathered behind locked doors, Jesus miraculously entered the room without even opening the doors. He came to Thomas and let him touch His pierced hands and side. Thomas immediately believed, and then Jesus said, **"Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe"** (John 20:29).

When Jesus spoke these words, He was talking about us! We did not get to see Him rise from the dead. We did not get to experience the celebration of Palm Sunday, the sorrowful events of Good Friday or the glory of that first Easter morning. But God promises a special blessing for us as we choose to believe in Him even though we cannot see Him.

When we celebrate Jesus' resurrection at Easter, we are saying to God, "Yes, I believe! I believe You are who You say you are and will do what You say You will do!"

WALKING: How can we live out this Truth?

Many people celebrate Easter because of the fun of new spring clothes, Easter egg hunts and baskets full of candy and presents. Other people celebrate Easter because it welcomes spring and is a wonderful time to enjoy a beautiful meal with friends and family. These are great reasons to celebrate this holiday, but they are not the main reason – not at all!

We celebrate Easter because we believe in Jesus! We believe that He is God, that He came into the world to save us, that He died and resurrected, and that He is coming back again. We believe Jesus is who He says He is and that He will do what He says He will do.

We say, “Yes, I believe!” to Jesus. And because we believe in Him, we are going to live for Him on Easter and every day! How is God leading you to live for Him today?

WONDERS: What questions do we have about this?

For Preschoolers: What does God want us to do? (believe in Him even though we can't see Him!) What was Thomas' heart like? What did he have to do to believe in Jesus? Do you get to see Jesus? Does your heart believe in Jesus?

How did that first Easter Sunday begin? What did those who went to Jesus' tomb find? What did Thomas say about believing in Jesus? (*he said he would not believe unless he had proof!*) What was Thomas' reaction to seeing Jesus? In what ways are we sometimes like Thomas? What does God have for those of us who believe in Him without getting to see Him? (*He says that we are blessed*) What type(s) of blessing do you think God has for those of us who believe in Him?

Worship: How shall we respond to the Lord for this Truth?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we celebrate that You are risen indeed! Thank You for being the resurrection and the life; thank You for being true to Your Word and doing what You say You will do! We worship You and believe in You. Even though we have never seen You with our eyes, we have experienced You with our hearts, and we want to live for You. Thank You for defeating death and rising from the grave! In Jesus' Name, Amen!

Praise:

This I Believe (The Creed) – Hillsong Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FtUNQpu2b7Q>

Family Disciple Me: A blessing from this lesson to speak over your children...

Many times throughout your life, Satan will whisper in your ear the same thing he said to Adam and Eve: “Did God really say...?” He will tempt you to doubt God and His Word. He will tempt you to be like Thomas, who wouldn't believe unless he physically Jesus. Our prayer as a family is that you will grow up trusting what God says through His Word, believing in Jesus even though you've never seen Him. Someday, you will see Jesus! When He returns, the Bible promises that “every eye will see Him” (Revelation 1:7). Until then, may you live for Jesus all the days of your life! Amen!