

Introduction

You can tell this story to your children any time you like. If you want to read it for yourself you can find it in John 20:19-31 . If you want to read it online just go to <https://www.biblegateway.com> and type the passage into the search engine.

Jesus and Thomas

After Jesus came back to life he went to see his friends. They were all hiding away because they were still frightened. But in the evening Jesus suddenly joined them in the room. They had never felt so happy! Jesus really was alive again! It was incredible! He'd come back to life just like he told them he would! It was a really special evening. Everyone had a great time seeing Jesus their special friend again.

But not everybody was there. One of Jesus' friends, a man called Thomas wasn't there that night. We don't know why he wasn't there or where else he was, but when Jesus visited his friends, Thomas wasn't around. When Thomas eventually came back, Jesus' friends said, "Thomas! We've seen Jesus! He's alive again!" This didn't make sense to Thomas. He knew what had happened to Jesus. His enemies had put him on the cross, so how could he possibly be alive? Thomas really wanted to believe his friends, but this didn't make any sense. So Thomas said, "I can't believe what you're telling me unless I see Jesus for myself. If I don't see him, then I can't believe it's true."

Thomas kept saying this for 8 days. His friends felt sad. They knew it was true and they wanted Thomas to believe it was true. Then after 8 days, all of Jesus' friends were together again, this time with Thomas. Suddenly, there was Jesus! He was standing right there with them again.

Jesus looked at Thomas and said, "You see Thomas? It's true. I'm alive again just like I told you all I would be. You can see for yourself." Thomas was so happy! It really was true! Jesus was alive again and his enemies hadn't won and they would never ever be able to hurt him again.

After all this, Thomas went around telling people all about Jesus. This meant other people were able to know Jesus too. The more Thomas trusted Jesus the more he got better at following him. And that's what it is like for all of us. The more we trust Jesus, the better we get at following him.

What to do next

- You could chat about your favourite part of the story.

You could pray together. Below are some suggestions for prayer:

- Thank Jesus that he always keeps his promises
- Ask Jesus to help you trust him when you feel scared

- Ask Jesus to help anyone who is feeling scared at this time

Possible activities to do

- You could make a card to decorate celebrating Jesus being alive again. Inside you could write something you want Jesus to help you trust him with.
- You could plant a seed for a new flower and watch it grow over time to help you remember that like Thomas, the more we trust Jesus the more our trust in him grows.
- You could re-create the story using lego or playdoh.

Recipe for home made playdough-

2 cups plain flour
1 cup salt
2 cups water 2 tbsp oil
4 tsp cream of tartar
food colouring

- Put all in a saucepan
 - stir over heat with wooden spoon until it becomes dough
 - keep it moving.
 - cool
 - use and keep in an air tight container or in plastic bag in fridge for as long as it stays 'good' (can last a long time)
- You could together as a family draw your version of the story.