

Gospel for April 11, 2021- lesson for 4th-6th grade Read the below Gospel slowly listening for words or phrases that catch your attention. Read it again. Do you think you get a deeper understanding by re-reading the story multiple times? Do you find yourself focusing on different parts? What word(s) or phrase(s) stood out to you? Answer questions below.

John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

After reading, discuss:

- ◆ When does this story take place?
- ◆ Why are the doors locked?
- ◆ How do you think the disciples feel now that Jesus is dead?
- ◆ Who appears to the disciples?
- ◆ Why does Jesus show the disciples his hands and his side?
- ◆ How do the disciples feel now that Jesus has appeared to them?
- ◆ Why do you think Jesus says to them, "Peace be with you"?
- ◆ What does Jesus say in verses 22 and 23 when he breathes on his disciples?

What do you think this means?

- ◆ Which disciple is not there?
- ◆ The following week, when Jesus meets Thomas, what does Jesus want Thomas to do?
- ◆ How does Thomas show that he now believes?
- ◆ What worries or doubts did the people in this story feel?
- ◆ What happened to their worries or doubts?
- ◆ How might remembering this story help us when we are afraid or worried?

Activity:

Talk about how you would react if you saw Jesus today. Would you know it was him? How? Would you believe? What would you need to see to believe it was Jesus? Close your eyes and picture yourself in the room with Jesus's disciples.