John 20:19-29

19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

20 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

21 So Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you.” As the Father has sent Me, I also send you. 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit; if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.”

25 He said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” 27 Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”

28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

29 Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”
Surf Survival

All of Jesus’ disciples struggled with belief. They had multiple eyewitnesses that saw Jesus, talked with Jesus, even touched Jesus. But they still struggled to believe that He was indeed alive. John singles out Thomas in particular. Thomas boldly stated, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.” When Jesus appeared among the disciples and encouraged Thomas to touch His wounds, Thomas just as boldly stated, “My Lord and my God!” Thomas didn’t just believe, he confessed that belief aloud.

Then Jesus said, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” In a world that teaches that seeing is believing, it is hard to believe in things we cannot see. But we can see God at work in the world around us. We can see His love for us, and more to know Him better through studying His Word. As we come to know Him, we know we can trust Him to protect us and take care of our needs. And when we obey Him, we are showing Him that we trust that He will for us will keep us safe and happy. When we believe in Jesus, that He died and was raised again to save us from our sins, a natural act that follows that belief is obeying His commands. “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned,” Mark 16:16.

How does the devil try to take away your belief?

What temptations will you face belief?

What are some of the needs that try to crowd out your belief?

What causes your belief to thrive?
Something to Think About

Romans 1:6
“For I am not ashamed of the gospel for Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.”

Jesus’ disciples understandably had a hard time believing that He was really alive even though He was standing right in front of them. Has there ever been a time you had trouble believing in something, despite the evidence? What finally helped you to believe?

What does Hebrew 11 say about faith? What acts of faith did those listed perform because they believed in God and had faith in Him?

What does Hebrew 12 say about what we should do in the face of evidence of such faith? What acts of faith should we be led to when we believe?

Mark 16:13-20 tells us how Jesus instructed His disciples after they believed He was alive. As part of a new generation with new ideas for the future, what are some creative ways you believe might be effective for sharing the gospel in the future?
Sharing God’s message can make you beautiful in ways you never imagined! Discover what the apostle Paul said about those who share the Gospel news by fitting the letters from each column into the boxes directly below them. The letters may not be in the correct order, and each letter will be used only once. The darkened boxes indicate the end of a word. Words do not continue from one line to the next. A few letters have already been placed in the correct boxes.

“GEHFERACHEEAAAAAAE
THOHOETOFFPGHCDRT
THOSOFIOODE
WWO”THE
WOS

BEAUTIFUL
TT
PP
BRING
IDSNG
THINGS