

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

THOMAS' BELIEF

With Jesus' resurrection, He defeated death. Even though He returned to the disciples in person, many people still did not believe. Jesus helped them to believe by showing them signs, including the wounds from His death. He tells them, and us, that it is a blessing to believe in Him without seeing Him. Faith is saying "yes" to the truth God reveals.

PRIMARY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The Resurrection means that Jesus defeated death and rose to eternal life.

Scripture Resources: [Luke 24:5-7](#); [1 Peter 1:3](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 638-640](#)

Jesus worked signs to show He was alive and He was God.

Scripture Resources: [John 20:19-31](#); [Acts 1:1-3](#)

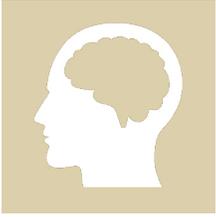
Catechism Resources: [CCC 641-644](#)

Faith is saying "yes" to the truth God reveals.

Scripture Resources: [Hebrews 11:1](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 154-155](#); [CCC 176](#)





PONDER: EXPLORE KEY THEMES FOR THE WEEK

Look for opportunities throughout the week to ponder with and communicate these truths to your child(ren). Use the questions and explanation for each objective as a guide. The “Younger” and “Older” Children sections are loosely divided by the “age of reason.” You know your child(ren) best (what questions will resonate better with them, if they need a simpler or a more complex version of a particular objective, etc.), so use the section that works best for your family. Refer to the Parent Guide for more recommendations on pondering with your child(ren). Remember that our faith is a mystery that we can always ponder, but sometimes we do not always fully understand and that is ok!

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

Learning Objectives

01 The Resurrection means that Jesus defeated death and rose to eternal life.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- Can you think of anything that you know of that died? (characters in movies, pets, plants, etc.)
- Do you know anyone who has died? What happens when people die?
- What happened when Jesus died?
- Do you think Jesus will ever die again?

02 Jesus worked signs to show He was alive and He was God.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- Have you ever asked someone to “prove it” when they told you something that you didn’t believe?
- Were they able to prove it?
- Why does seeing something ourselves help make it easier to believe?

**BLESSED ARE THOSE
who have not seen and have believed.**

03 Faith is saying “yes” to the truth God reveals.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- Can you think of some people whom you always believe? Who?
- Why do you always believe them?
- Why do you think you can always trust God?
- What does it look like to say “yes” to God’s revealed truth?



FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Learning Objectives

01 The Resurrection means that Jesus defeated death and rose to eternal life.

During His ministry, Jesus brought other people back to life, like Lazarus. Jesus’ resurrection is different than what happened to Lazarus. Lazarus did not rise of his own power and would eventually die again. As God Himself, Jesus rose of His own power, and will never die again. In doing so, Jesus completely defeated death and has opened the door to eternal life for us.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- How do we know that Jesus died?
- If Jesus died, how was it possible that He was able to appear to His disciples?
- How did Jesus rise?
- We will rise too. What do you think it means to have eternal life?

02 Jesus worked signs to show He was alive and He was God.

Jesus returned to His disciples to continue to teach them, reassure them, and give them their mission. By appearing to His disciples, He showed that He was alive again. His resurrection and other signs also prove He is God.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- What do you think it was like for the disciples to see their friend and teacher again after they knew He died?
- If you, like Thomas, had been absent when Jesus came back, do you think you would have believed the other disciples? Why or why not?

03 Faith is saying “yes” to the truth God reveals.

God reveals Himself to us through the world He created, scripture, the teachings of the Church, and Jesus Himself – who is the greatest possible revelation. Sometimes, God’s revelation is hard to believe or goes against what we think is correct. True faith is trusting in what God has told us.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- If someone tells us something that is hard to believe, what are some ways we can decide whether or not it is true?
- Are there any sources that you always trust? Who or what are they?
- If someone who always tells you the truth tells you something that you have a hard time believing, what should you do?
- How does God reveal His truth to us?



LISTEN: FAMILY LECTIO DIVINA

Read the passage listed below for this week’s family Lectio Divina time. Ask what your child’s favorite part is or what stood out to them. Ask what God may be trying to show your child through the chosen scripture. Please refer to the Parent Guide for further recommendations on doing Lectio Divina with children.

[John 20:19-31](#) - Thomas’ Belief



PRAY: SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN:

God, sometimes faith is easy, but other times it is hard. Help me to always believe, especially in the hard times. Amen.

FOR OLDER CHILDREN:

 Pray the **Catholic Act of Faith**

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three Divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; I believe that your Divine Son became man, and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths the Holy Catholic Church teaches because You have revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.



ACT: CONCRETE WAYS TO LIVE OUT THIS WEEK'S THEME

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN: When Jesus returned to His disciples, they were excited and happy. Pretend that you were there and plan a "Welcome Back" party for Jesus. Make decorations and snacks and plan activities to celebrate.

FOR OLDER CHILDREN: Paint or draw a picture of Thomas encountering Jesus in the locked room. (Refer to [John 20:19-31](#))