

April 19,2020

Hello Everyone.

I pray that all of you found some peace in last week's Easter message and enjoyed the activities you found in this letter for you and your children.

Good News, over 50 people viewed this page in the four days of Easter, Thursday to Monday. I'd like to welcome all new families. I will continue to send these notes to all the email addresses that I have, but you may now also find this included on St. Thomas Stittsville web site. Please let me know your email if you are new and would like to receive these messages directly from me. godsgardenstt@gmail.com

Since we are not meeting for our God's Garden classes, I am sending you some ideas for the lesson of the week, including the Children's Talk, which you can do at home. Perhaps you can choose one activity per day or more than one if you have the energy and time. You don't need to do them all, just choose the activities that intrigue you and adapt them to suit your circumstances.

Here are the week's suggestions for activities for this coming Sunday.

I encourage you to read the following Children's Talk before you engage in the activities.

Above all enjoy your children and their responses and have fun with Jesus.

Blessings to all. Merilee Clarke 613-831-7704

If you do not want to receive these emails, please reply with No Thanks in the subject line.

Doubting Thomas Believes

Theme: Jesus has risen. Believe it or not!

Object: A copy of Robert Ripley's "Believe It or Not." You should be able to find a copy in some form at the public library or a bookstore. If not, you can use the examples in the sermon without a copy of the book.

Scripture: John 20:19-31

There is a very interesting book called "Believe It or Not" by Robert Ripley. Mr. Ripley enjoyed collecting strange and amazing bits of information which, although they seem unbelievable, were true. Let me read some examples of some of the amazing things you will find in his book.

A man by the name of James Cook once had a chicken that laid a perfectly square egg. Now, I've seen white eggs, brown eggs, even spotted eggs, but I have never seen a square egg. Have you? I think I'd have to see it to believe it!

Joann Barnes was a 15-year-old from California, and she once swung a lot of hula-hoops on her body at the same time! How many do you think she swung on her body? (Take guesses until kids say 68.) Can you believe that? I can't even keep one hula-hoop going. I think I would have to see that to believe it!

Here's one I'll bet you didn't know. How long do you think the world's largest hot dog was? (Take guesses until kids say 3,000 feet.) The world's largest hot dog was over 3,000 feet long, weighed 885 pounds, and took 103 butchers to carry it! Now that's a lot of baloney! I would have to see that to believe it!

This book is filled with things that are very hard for me to believe. But do

you know what? If it's true, it's true--whether I believe it or not!

In today's Bible lesson we learn that on the Sunday that Jesus rose from the grave, He appeared to a group of His disciples. One of the disciples, whose name was Thomas, was not with them. When the disciples told Thomas that they had seen Jesus and that He was alive, Thomas said, "I won't believe it until I see it with my own eyes. I want to put my finger in the nail-prints in His hands—and place my hand where the spear was thrust into His side.

A week later, Thomas saw Jesus. Jesus invited Thomas to touch His hands where the nails had been. He told Thomas to put his hand in the wound in His side. Then Thomas believed! Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

A lot of people today won't believe that Jesus really rose from the grave because they haven't seen Him with their own two eyes. Do you know what? It is true whether they believe it or not! You and I have never seen Jesus, but we believe. We accept Him by faith. We feel His love and peace in our hearts, and we just know. We don't have to see it to believe it!

Dear Jesus, thank You that You help us accept by faith that You have risen from the grave and that You are alive. In Jesus' name, amen.

Believe It Or Not Group Group Activities

Interactive Group Activities
by Carol Williams & Charles Kirkpatrick

Sermon Title: ["Believe It or Not!"](#)

Scripture Reading: John 20:19-31

FAITH MARCH: Give the children some cardboard crosses to write FAITH in large letters with bright markers. Have the children march around the room or back yard with their crosses held up high, chanting a cadence: I TRUST JESUS, YES I DO! I TRUST JESUS HOW ABOUT YOU! I BELIEVE GOD'S WORD IS TRUE, I BELIEVE IT, HOW ABOUT YOU? I BELIEVE GOD'S PROMISE IS TRUE, HE WILL DO WHAT HE SAID HE'D DO. I BELIEVE THAT JESUS DIED, ROSE AGAIN AND LIVES ON HIGH! I

HAVE JESUS IN MY HEART, HE GAVE ME A BRAND NEW START. (It works also when you say one line and the child/ren repeat it.)

I BELIEVE Poster: Glitter glue I BELIEVE on a poster and let children add happy faces and cross stickers, etc. while discussing the lesson with children! Will we be a doubter or a believer? FAITH is believing in things NOT SEEN!! Hang the poster in your front window so others who are passing by will be inspired.

FAITH CROSSES: Give children construction paper, stickers and markers to make a cross and write and decorate the word FAITH on the cross, to be hung around their neck.

BELIEVE MOBILE: Let the class as a group, or each child separately, color the letters for B-E-L-I-E-V-E, using glitter and gel pens, etc. After the glue and glitter have dried, hang the letters from a hanger and hang in the room or on your front door.

HAND PRINTS: Let the children trace each of their hands onto construction paper. Let children trace or write I BELIEVE above the hands picture. You may also want to draw a dark cave or tomb below the handprints and a bright sun or rainbow above them. Ask children if they believe that Jesus rose from the grave and entered heaven to make a place for all believers. This may also be hung in window or drawn with chalk on the driveway.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT GAME: Have the children write three statements about themselves. Two of the statements should be true, and one of the statements will be false. Read the statements to the family and see if they can guess which of the statements is not true.

SURPRISE TREATS: Make "pocket" cupcakes for the children to find a little pudding or another type of cake in the middle of their cupcake (or even a jelly bean, etc) and then frosted with white frosting. Ask children if they have faith to believe that there is something special inside each cupcake before they begin to enjoy their snack.

**Song: Jesus loves me, this I know. For the bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong. They are weak but He is strong. Yes
Jesus loves me, yes Jesus loves me, yes Jesus loves me. The bible
tells me so.**

[An activity for the older children;](#)

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in

his hands and put my finger where the nails were,
and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."
John 20:25

Complete the activity by filling in the blanks.

**Enter the letter found beside the word that
best matches the clue.**

1. Free from conflict; getting along with others;
opposite of war _____
2. To be in a state of pleasure, satisfaction, joy,
delight
3. To be undecided or unbelieving that
something is true _____
4. An entrance into a building or room _____
5. To believe in something for which there is no
proof
6. Not open _____
7. A thin piece of metal with one pointed end
and one flat end which you hit with a
hammer _____
8. The disciple who would not believe without
seeing
9. To break God's law _____
10. The body parts at the end of the
arms _____

A. THOMAS	B. PEACE	C. DOUBT	D.
HANDS	E. SIN	F. CLOSED	G.
HAPPY	H. FAITH	I. NAIL	J.
DOOR			

