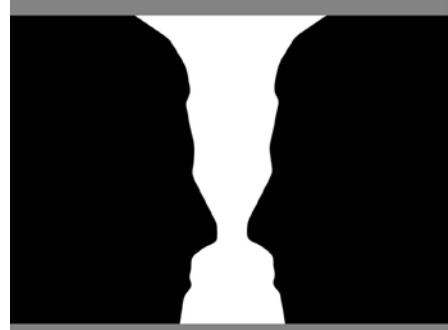


Theme: We, like Thomas, sometimes have to see to believe.

Scripture: Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen me and yet have believed." John 20:29

Kid's Talk Object: 2 blue construction papers, A wine glass, a coin. Glue and scissors.



I can make this coin disappear!! *Trick:* A wine glass with a circle of the paper glued to the top. Place it upside down in the blue paper. Place 1 coin on the blue paper. To make the coin disappear, slide the glass over it so the coin is under the wine glass which is covered with the same coloured paper. Be sure to hold your hand in front of the glass as you move it so it will not be seen as you tip it slightly to go over the coin. Keep talking or saying magic words to distract the audience.

Wow! That is really cool, isn't it? The coin has disappeared! Now that you have seen it, do you believe it? Sometimes we must see something before we believe it, don't we? But this is a trick.

On the evening of the first Sunday after Jesus had been crucified, his disciples were together in a locked room. They were afraid that those who had crucified Jesus would also want to put them to death too. Suddenly, Jesus appeared there in the locked room with the disciples. It was hard to believe, but they saw him and then Jesus showed them his wounds in his hands and his side, so they knew it was him.

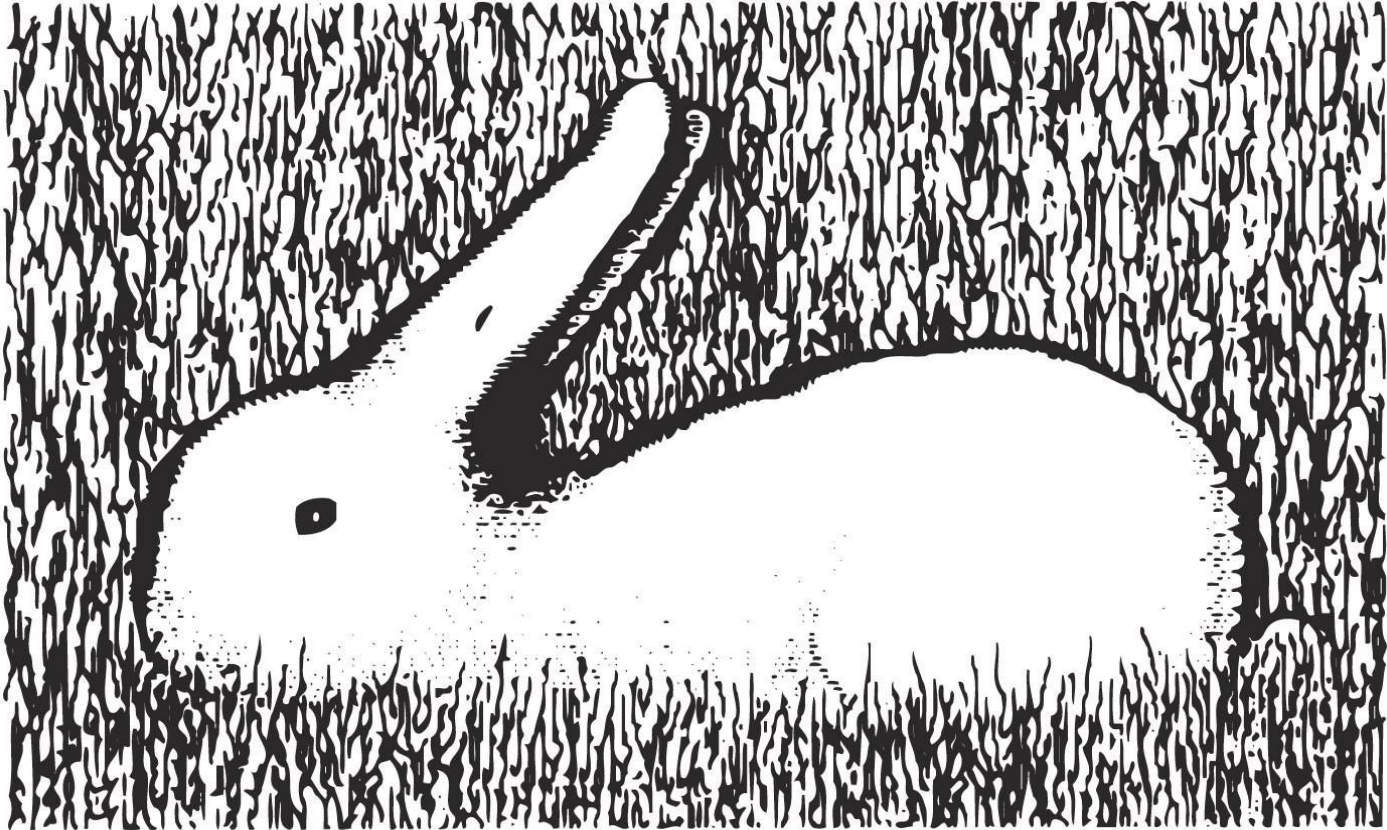
One of the disciples, whose name was Thomas, was not with the others when Jesus appeared to them. When they told Thomas that they had seen Jesus, he did not believe them. He had seen him crucified and buried. How could he be alive? Thomas said, "Unless I see the wound in his side and put my finger in the holes where the nails were in his hands, I will not believe it!"

A week later, the disciples were in the locked room again and this time Thomas was with them. Again, Jesus came and stood among the disciples. Jesus, said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas fell on his knees and answered Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

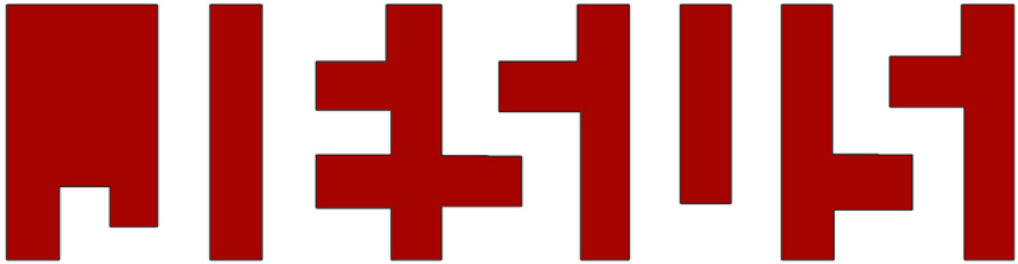
You and I have never seen Jesus with our own eyes. The question is, will we be a doubter, or will we be one of those who Jesus said were blessed because they believe, even though they have not seen?

Dear Father, help us to believe in our heart the truths we find in your Holy Word, even though we have not seen them with our eyes. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

What you think you see..... may not be what you are really seeing.



Try to look at this same picture on its side.



What does this say?

Seeing Is Believing
Group Activities



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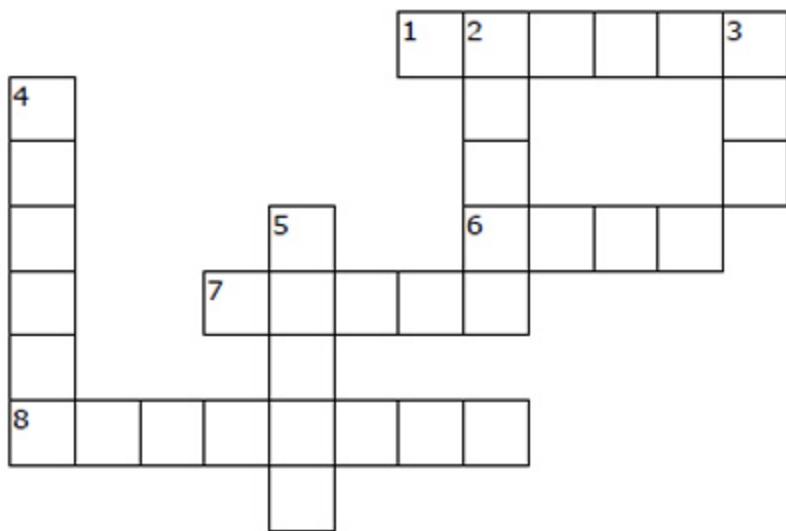
Thomas

John 20:19-29

Seeing Is Believing

So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" 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 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on John 20:19-31.



ACROSS

1. The disciple who would not believe without seeing
6. An entrance into a building or room
7. A pointed and headed fastener designed to be pounded into wood
8. Unwilling to believe that something is true

DOWN

2. The body parts at the end of the arms
3. To observe with your eyes
4. Not open
5. To believe in something for which there is no proof

FAITH	THOMAS	CLOSED	NAILS
HANDS	SEE	DOUBTING	DOOR

Craft # 1



Craft #1 Easter Display or Card of the Hand prints of Jesus;

Trace an adult's handprint leaving a part of the paper intact for the bottom of the display. Use two small hearts to show where His hands were wounded on the cross. Jesus loves us so much He was willing to die for us. Thomas did not believe that Jesus had come back to life until he could put his own fingers in the holes. Jesus said **"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."** He means YOU.



Craft #2



This is called a 'God's Eye' You will need; two sticks, one longer than the other. Eg popsicle sticks with two glued together or sticks found outside. The sticks represent the cross. Wool, two or three colours. Tie the sticks in the middle and wrap the wool around both ways until the sticks stay together. **Now, take the wool and wrap it over the first stick, then under the first stick and over it again, then go the next stick, Over, under and over again, next stick, etc.** If you want to change wool colours, tie the knot on the back of the god's eye so it won't show.

Sing a Song' Faith is Just Believing

**Faith is just believing What God says He will do.
No matter what the circumstance His promises are true.
So when your life is hard and you're not sure what to do.
It's best to take God at His word, His promises are true.**

**Faith is just believing what God says He will do.
He will never fail us His promises are true.
If we just believe in Him His children be become.
Faith is just believing, this wonderous thing He's done.**

**Faith is just believing what God says He will do.
He will always love me and He will love you too.
So, if your ever feeling sad, you'll know just what to do.
Use your faith and pray to God and He'll look after you.**



**Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed;
blessed are those who have not seen me and yet have believed." John 20:29**