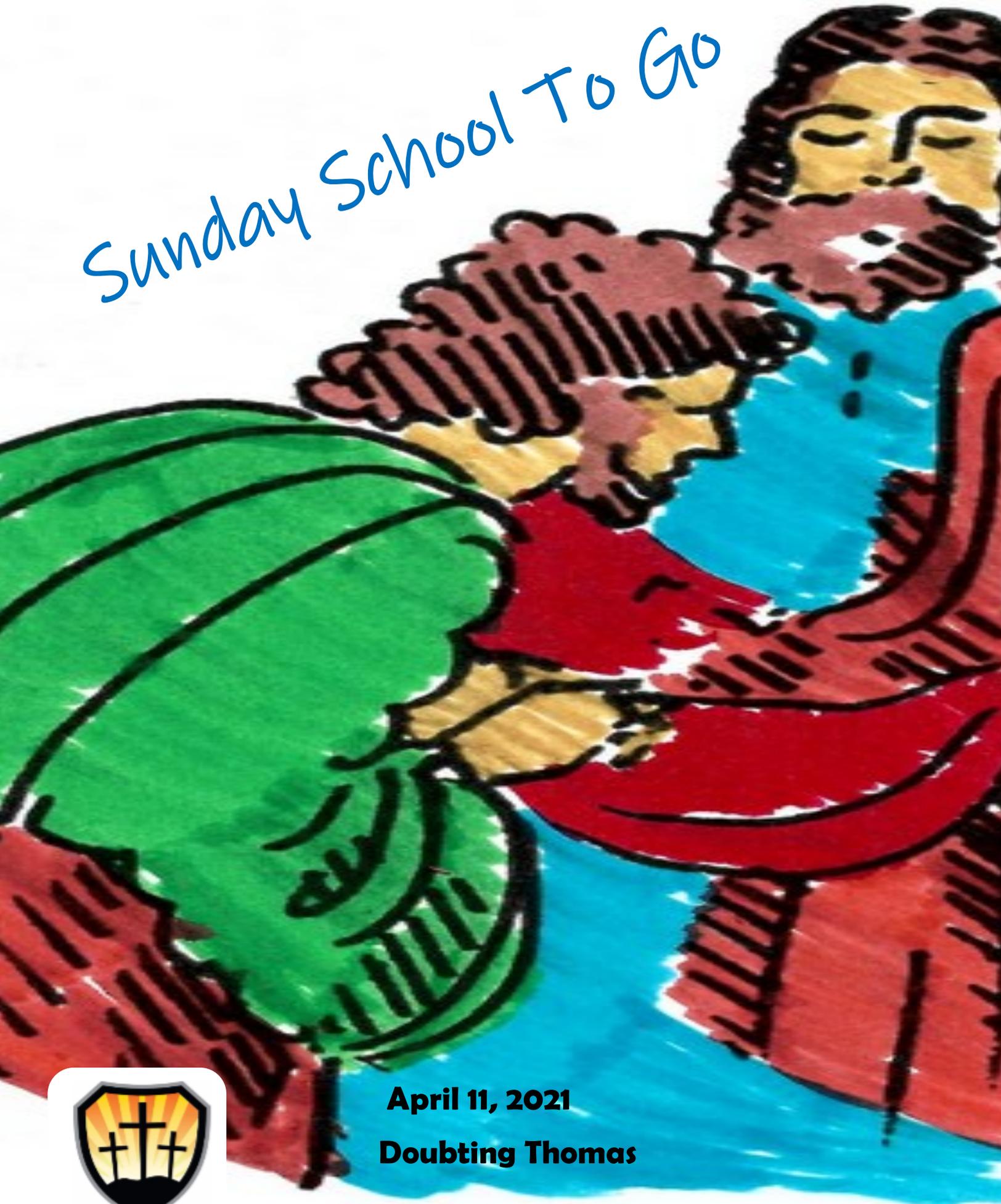


Sunday School To Go



April 11, 2021

Doubting Thomas

PICK YOUR FAVORITE VERSION OF THE BIBLE OR A REALLY GOOD CHILDREN'S BIBLE

OR READ THIS:

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.



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Doubting Thomas

PLAY

Draw Your Own Conclusion

Take 2 or 3 objects, place them one at a time in the box without letting others see what they are. Have them guess what the object is without any clue. After 3 or 4 guesses have them ask you questions to narrow it down (like the game Twenty Questions.) After a few questions let them feel the object and tell if it is smooth or rough, hard or soft, firm or squishy, etc. Then they can guess. Finally, let others see the object.

After you have played this 5 to 10 minutes ask the following:

Which items were the easiest to guess?

Which items did you have to guess about without having any idea whether you were right?

End the game by saying: Some questions were easy because we knew more about the item or had experience that made us sure of our answers.

Some of us need more clues to trust in our answers. That is okay. Thomas needed to see and feel Jesus to know it was him.

TALK ABOUT IT

- What did Thomas say when he was told that Jesus was alive?
- Where were the disciples the week after Jesus' resurrection?
- What did he say to Thomas?
- How did Thomas react to seeing Jesus?
- What did Jesus say about people who believe and have not seen that Jesus was alive?
- Are you a doubter? What helps you believe something?
- Did Jesus scold Thomas? How did he help Thomas believe?

COLOR

Below you will find a coloring page that shows Thomas and his reaction to Jesus.

Do you think you would need to see Jesus to believe that he is alive? Do we see Jesus in the world?

PRAY

Pray your own prayer or pray this prayer together:

Dear God, help us to believe even though we have not seen you. Help us to use our questions to learn more about you and strengthen our belief. Amen.

GET CRAFTY

This craft provides a simple reminders of God's love. Take construction paper or card stock and trace your hands. Cut them out. Draw and color a heart in the middle of each hand shape. The hearts represents the marks of God's love in our lives. Just as Thomas needed to see the marks of Jesus' hands, sometimes we need something to look at to remind us of God's love. Hang your hands on a door, on a mirror, or in a window, to remind you of God's love for you.



