

Catechism Lesson for Adults and Teens

Sunday of Thomas

Jesus Appears to Thomas

Read the Gospel Passage AND the verses before it of this Sunday:

John 20:19-31

Contextual Background:

-Before this, we hear how the Disciples were together, held up in a home, afraid that they might be harmed next after Jesus' crucifixion. They perhaps didn't know how to make sense of what had happened to Jesus, but it seems that ten of them understood they needed each other.

-The Disciples locked the door of this home and held up there...that's how afraid they were! We read how Jesus still got into the house. We also read how Thomas saw the nail wounds and Jesus' pierced side. Jesus still has the markings from His Crucifixion, BUT He has a transformed body as well, being able to get into a completely locked house. Jesus is really alive, able to be touched and able to eat, but His Resurrected Body has some new qualities too, such as being able to move through such obstacles like the shut door.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Thomas wasn't with the rest of the disciples when Jesus appeared to them the first time?
 - a. He was still grieving and had to go off and do some thinking after hearing
 - b. He had lost hope and didn't want to be around the Disciples
 - c. He just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time
 - d. Other possibilities _____

2. What do you think Thomas went when he said, "until I see the nail marks..."
 - a. You guys are crazy!
 - b. I am a man of science
 - c. I want to believe, but...
 - d. Don't break my heart again
 - e. Other possibilities _____

3. Who does Thomas remind you of in this story?
 - a. A science teacher
 - b. A lawyer or police officer
 - c. An agnostic/atheist
 - d. A person with honest doubts
 - e. A friend/family member
 - f. Myself
 - g. Other _____

4. How do you imagine Jesus' tone as He speaks to Thomas?
 - a. Chastising & harsh
 - b. Honest & matter-of-fact
 - c. Empathetic & understanding
 - d. Encouraging & warm
 - e. Other possibilities _____

5. What have you gone through that has made you feel like Thomas?
 - a. Grieved when someone close to me died
 - b. Felt excluded or apart from a fellowship/group/circle
 - c. Disappointed when I was expecting/hoping for a miracle
 - d. Other _____

6. What are some specific things you feel/have doubt about?

7. What does this story of Thomas teach you? What might be the message on the theme of doubt?