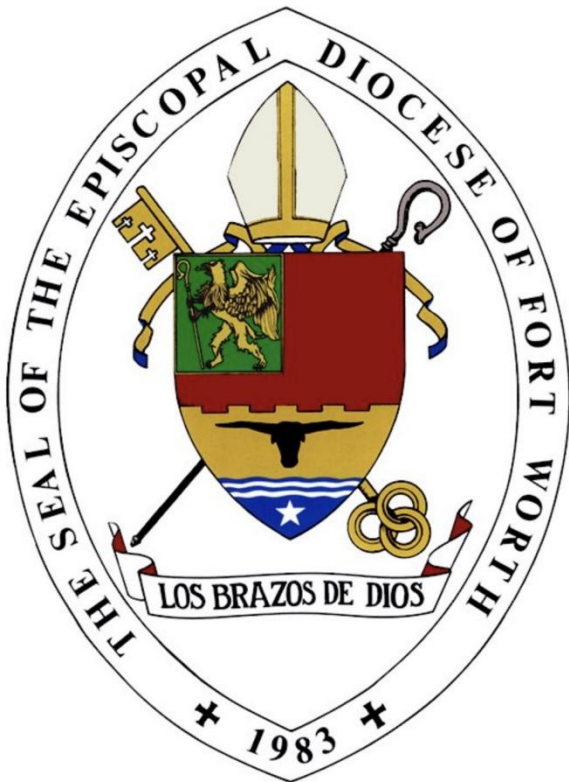


EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

A lectionary-based Sunday school curriculum for Pre-K through High School



**SECOND
SUNDAY OF
EASTER**

Year A

A free resource created by the Christian Education Commission
of the Anglican Diocese of Fort Worth

Sunday School Curriculum for the Second Sunday of Easter, Year A

Lectionary Texts:

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 *or* Genesis 8:6-16, 9:8-16

Psalm 111

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven. In a loud voice he spoke to the crowd. ²² “Men of Israel, listen to this! Jesus of Nazareth was a man who had God’s approval. God did miracles, wonders and signs among you through Jesus. You yourselves know this.

²³ Long ago God planned that Jesus would be handed over to you. With the help of evil people, you put Jesus to death. You nailed him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead. He set him free from the suffering of death. It wasn’t possible for death to keep its hold on Jesus. ²⁵ David spoke about him. He said,

“I know that the Lord is always with me.

He is at my right hand.

I will always be secure.

²⁶ So my heart is glad. Joy is on my tongue.

My body also will be full of hope.

²⁷ You will not leave me in the grave.

You will not let your Holy One rot away.

²⁸ You always show me the path that leads to life.

You will fill me with joy when I am with you.’ ([Psalm 16:8–11](#))

²⁹ “Brothers, you can be sure that King David died. He was buried. His tomb is still here today. ³⁰ But David was a prophet. He knew that God had made a promise to him. He had taken an oath that someone in David’s family line would be king after him. ³¹ David saw what was ahead. So he spoke about the Christ rising from the dead. He said that the Christ would not be left in the grave. His body wouldn’t rot in the ground. ³² God has raised this same Jesus back to life. We are all witnesses of this.

Genesis 8:6-16, 9:8-16

8 ⁶ After 40 days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark. ⁷ He sent out a raven. It kept flying back and forth until the water on the earth had dried up. ⁸ Then Noah sent out a dove. He wanted to see if the water on the surface of the ground had gone down. ⁹ But the dove couldn't find any place to rest. Water still covered the whole surface of the earth. So the dove returned to Noah in the ark. Noah reached out his hand and took the dove in. He brought it back to himself in the ark. ¹⁰ He waited seven more days. Then he sent out the dove again from the ark. ¹¹ In the evening the dove returned to him. There in its beak was a freshly picked olive leaf! So Noah knew that the water on the earth had gone down. ¹² He waited seven more days. Then he sent out the dove again. But this time it didn't return to him.

¹³ It was the first day of the first month of Noah's 601st year. The water on the earth had dried up. Then Noah removed the covering from the ark. He saw that the surface of the ground was dry. ¹⁴ By the 27th day of the second month the earth was completely dry. ¹⁵ Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶ "Come out of the ark. Bring your wife and your sons and their wives with you.

9 ⁸ Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons who were with him. He said, ⁹ "I am now making my covenant with you and with all your children who will be born after you. ¹⁰ I am making it also with every living creature that was with you in the ark. I am making my covenant with the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals. I am making it with all the creatures that came out of the ark with you. In fact, I am making it with every living thing on earth. ¹¹ Here is my covenant I am making with you. The waters of a flood will never again destroy all life. A flood will never again destroy the earth."

¹² God continued, "My covenant is between me and you and every living creature with you. It is a covenant for all time to come. Here is the sign of the covenant I am making. ¹³ I have put my rainbow in the clouds. It will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ Sometimes when I bring clouds over the earth, a rainbow will appear in them. ¹⁵ Then I will remember my covenant between me and you and every kind of living creature. The waters will never again become a flood to destroy all life. ¹⁶ When the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it. I will remember that my covenant will last forever. It is a covenant between me and every kind of living creature on earth."

Psalm 111

¹ Praise the LORD.

I will praise the LORD with all my heart.

I will praise him where honest people gather for worship.

² The LORD has done great things.

All who take delight in what he has done will spend time thinking about it.

³ What he does shows his glory and majesty.

He will always do what is right.

⁴ The LORD causes his miracles to be remembered.

He is kind and tender.

⁵ He provides food for those who have respect for him.

He remembers his covenant forever.

⁶ He has shown his people what his power can do.

He has given them the lands of other nations.

⁷ He is faithful and right in everything he does.

All his rules can be trusted.

⁸ They will stand firm for ever and ever.

They were given by the LORD.

He is faithful and honest.

⁹ He set his people free.

He made a covenant with them that will last forever.

His name is holy and wonderful.

¹⁰ If you really want to become wise,
you must begin by having respect for the LORD.

¹¹ All those who follow his rules have good understanding.

People should praise him forever.

1 Peter 1:3-9

³ Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In his great mercy he has given us a new birth and a hope that is alive. It is alive because Jesus Christ rose from the dead. ⁴ He has given us new birth so that we might share in what belongs to him. It is a gift that can never be destroyed. It can never spoil or even fade away. It is kept in heaven for you. ⁵ Through faith you are kept safe by God's power. Your salvation is going to be completed. It is ready to be shown to you in the last days.

⁶ Because you know this, you have great joy. You have joy even though you may have had to suffer for a little while. You may have had to suffer sadness in all kinds of trouble.

⁷ Your troubles have come in order to prove that your faith is real. It is worth more than gold. Gold can pass away even though fire has made it pure. Your faith is meant to bring praise, honor and glory to God. That will happen when Jesus Christ returns.

⁸ Even though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not see him now, you believe in him. You are filled with a glorious joy that can't be put into words. ⁹ You are receiving the salvation of your souls. It is the result of your faith.

John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the Jews. Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, "May peace be with you!" ²⁰ Then he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were very happy when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, "May peace be with you! The Father has sent me. So now I am sending you." ²² He then breathed on them. He said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus Appears to Thomas

²⁴ Thomas was one of the Twelve. He was called Didymus. He was not with the other disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "First I must see the nail marks in his hands. I must put my finger where the nails were. I must put my hand into his side. Only then will I believe what you say."

²⁶ A week later, Jesus' disciples were in the house again. Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, "May peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. See my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed." ³⁰ Jesus did many other miraculous signs in front of his disciples. They are not written down in this book. ³¹ But these are written down so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. If you believe this, you will have life because you belong to him.

Overview of the Texts:

All of today's readings concern believing. In the reading from Acts, Peter tells a crowd about the resurrection of Jesus. He emphasizes that the people listening can believe this because he and the other disciples witnessed it. In the reading from the first letter of Peter, Peter praises his readers for believing by faith in Jesus. They have not seen, but they love and believe in Jesus. In the last reading from John, we read the familiar story of "Doubting Thomas." Thomas is the flip side of the first two readings. He is part of the band of disciples, but refuses to believe the testimony they give about the risen Christ. He doesn't trust the word of witnesses nor does he choose to just believe it on faith. It is not until he is face to face with the risen Christ that he accepts the truth. Jesus sends both Peter and all us future believers a message about our faith. "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed." Those, like us, who believe by faith alone without the benefit of seeing the risen Christ, are blessed.

PreK-Kinder Lesson Plan:

Opening Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Supplies & Preparation:

Supplies: Brown watercolor paint, brushes, cups, water, heavy duty paper, white crayon.

Preparation: On each sheet of paper (one for each student), trace your hands with white crayon. At the palms of both hands, color a white crayon circle to mimic the wounds of Jesus.

Lesson:

- Ask your students about things that they can't see but know are there. *Air, germs and bacteria that are too small to be seen, sea creatures that are under the water, etc.*
- Ask them how they know these things are there. *Someone has told them about them, they see how it affects things around them, we can breathe air, see the wind blow things, germs make people sick, etc.*
- Explain that our faith in Jesus is a lot like these things. We know about him because people we trust have told us about him; we can see how he works in our lives and feel his presence; we see how he affects other people.

- Read the Gospel lesson beginning at verse 24.
- Talk about how Thomas couldn't believe that Christ was risen until he saw it for himself.
- Point out that Jesus is talking about us when he says "blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed."
- Explain that there are people in the world who, like Thomas, have a hard time believing in Jesus because they can't see him. When we show people how much we love them because we know that Jesus loves us, we help to show them that Jesus is very real, very much risen from the dead and alive in us.

Craft:

Set out small cups of water and brown watercolors. If it will help keep the kids from picking other colors, put some masking tape over all but the brown color. Pass out the paper and ask if the children see anything on the paper (sharp students may notice the white crayon but won't be able to tell exactly what they are looking at). Have the children begin painting the watercolor onto the paper to see what they can reveal. Once they paint enough to see the hand shapes and the holes in the palms, ask them if they knew that was hiding in their paper. Even if they could not see it, it was there. Even if we cannot see Jesus, he is here. You may wish to have the children write the scripture verse on the top of the paper: "Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed."

Closing Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Elementary Lesson Plan:

Opening Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Supplies & Preparation:

Supplies: Flesh colored construction paper, scissors, strips of paper with the printed scripture verse: "Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed."

Preparation: Print out the scripture verse page included at the end of the lesson. Precut individual strips for each student. The strip will need to be the correct length to fit between the inside edges of the handprints described below (4-5" wide).

Lesson:

- Ask your students about things that they can't see but know are there. *Air, germs and bacteria that are too small to be seen, sea creatures that are under the water, etc.*
- Ask them how they know these things are there. *Someone has told them about them, they see how it affects things around them, we can breathe air, see the wind blow things, germs make people sick, etc.*
- Explain that our faith in Jesus is a lot like these things. We know about him because people we trust have told us about him; we can see how he works in our lives and feel his presence; we see how he affects other people.
- Ask your students why they believe in Jesus.
- Read the Gospel lesson beginning at verse 24.
- Talk about how Thomas couldn't believe that Christ was risen until he saw it for himself.
- Point out that Jesus is talking about us when he says "blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed."
- Explain that there are people in the world who, like Thomas, have a hard time believing in Jesus because they can't see him.
- Ask if your students can think of some ways that we can help other people to believe in Jesus. *We can share what we know about Jesus with people who love and trust us. We can show people how much we love them because we know that Jesus loves us which helps to show them that Jesus is very real, very much risen from the dead and alive in us.*

Craft:

Have the children fold the construction paper in half (it doesn't matter how precise the fold is. In fact, you may be able to give them half sheets of paper to fold if their hands are pretty small). With the opening of the paper on the right side and the fold on the left have each child place their left hand with the left side of their hand right up against the folded side. The child can then trace their hand with pencil (or you can trace it for them). Left-handed students can follow the above instructions with opposite hands and the paper oriented in the opposite direction. Have them cut out the shape of the hand, making sure that they DO NOT cut on the fold. Once they have finished cutting, they should have a set of hands that open in the middle. It will look like they are making an open book with the palms of their paper hands. Mark the outside of the hands with their names or initials. Collect the hands so that you can cut a hole in each of the palms. The easiest way is close the hands and then fold them in half again. Cut a half circle at the fold that will unfold as a full circle. The hole doesn't need to be very big (1 cm at

most). Return the hands and pass out the scripture strips. The children can then glue the edge of the strip to one side of the open hands and then the other edge of the strip to the other side of the open hands. The hands will open more easily if they do not glue the strip all the way across. Show the children how to close the hands with the strip inside. They can open the hands to reveal the special message inside.

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the Day

Junior High Lesson Plan:

Opening Prayer: Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, Hail Mary

Supplies & Preparation:

Supplies: A copy of the reading from John, a copy of the Nicene Creed, paper and pen/pencil for each student.

Preparation: Make copies of the reading and Creed which are included at the end of the lesson.

Discussion:

This will be an exercise in what the words "I believe" mean. Have the students read the passage from John. Discuss how Thomas dealt with his own belief system and what kind of proof he needed. We don't have the opportunity to see Jesus face to face and examine his wounds. We must believe on faith alone. Every Sunday we make a profession of faith in the Nicene Creed. Give each student a copy of the Creed, a piece of paper, and a pen or pencil. Have them fold the paper in half lengthwise to create two columns. They can label one column "easy" and one column "hard." Have them read through the Creed and identify each idea that they are supposed to be consenting to believe each Sunday. Each piece of the Creed can then be written in one or the other column. The students will need to decide how they feel about each concept in the Creed. Encourage them to break it up into pieces that are as small as they need them to be for their own purposes (e.g. in the statement on God the Father "things seen" may be in the easy column while "things unseen" may be in the hard column). When they are done have a discussion of what they found easy or hard to believe and why.

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the Day

Senior High Lesson Plan:

Opening Prayer: Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, Hail Mary

Supplies & Preparation:

Supplies: Bibles, paper and pens/pencils, whiteboard and markers Preparation: None

Discussion:

Start by having one of the students read the Gospel lesson from a Bible.

- Ask the students if there are things that they believe to be true that they haven't seen personally or for which there is not total proof (something that requires some assumptions or at least a small leap of faith). *Some examples may be whether or not there are extra-terrestrial beings, who shot Kennedy, String Theory, supernatural/paranormal things, cryptids, etc. It is not important to analyze why they believe these things, but to point out that there are things that they do believe without having witnessed them firsthand.*
- Have the students compare this to things that they believe about their faith. Why do they believe in Jesus?
 - Is it because someone they love and/or respect told them about Jesus?
 - Is it because they feel they have sensed Jesus at work in their lives?
 - Is it because they have seen something that they felt gave a strong indication that God is really out there (or right there with them!)?
 - Is it a combination of these things?
- Ask if they would have been like Thomas when hearing about Jesus' resurrection for the first time. Would they have doubted what seemed impossible or would they have accepted it because their closest friends claimed to have seen it firsthand?
- What other parts of their faith are hard to believe, but that they take on faith?
- What things do they feel are easy to believe about Jesus?
- On the whiteboard make a list of things they believe about God, their faith, or the Church and separate them into an "easy" column and a "hard" column (use the Nicene Creed for a base). When there is disagreement about whether something is easy or difficult to believe, it may provide an excellent opportunity for some students to witness to others. Be sure to make room for healthy and respectful debate so that these conversations can develop.

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the Day

Blessed are those who have not seen me
but still have believed. – John 20:29

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John 20:19-31

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Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, "May peace be with you!" ²⁰ Then he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were very happy when they saw the Lord.

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The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father,
the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
he became incarnate
from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake
he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death

and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is
worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets
We believe in
one
holy
catholic
and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.