



Family Craft & Activity Pack

Aimed at families with Children
but fun for all ages!

WEEK 5

EASTER 2 Year A
Doubting Thomas



Thomas
John 20:19-29

EASTER 2 — YEAR A

Jesus appears to his disciples and says to them, "Peace be with you." And they are glad when they see the Lord, Alleluia!

Doubting Thomas

Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples, has gained the nickname of 'Doubting Thomas' but really that is a bit unfair. Thomas wasn't present when Jesus first appeared to the disciples after his resurrection. Therefore Thomas is more of a sceptic than a doubter. After all, Thomas did not ask for a special revelation from Jesus. He simply asked for the same proof the other disciples had. Thomas was the kind of person, probably like us, who desired to know for himself, to see the truth because he would not let others do his thinking for him. Jesus came to Thomas on his level., just as Jesus longs to know each of us where we are with all our own doubts and fears, questions and hopes. Jesus didn't tell Thomas off for his doubts, He didn't humiliate him. He could see that deep down in Thomas's heart, he really wanted to know God. Jesus came to him and told him to reach out to touch his hands and put it his hand into the hole in his side, the proof that he was Jesus who had died and was now alive again. Jesus said to Thomas, do not be unbelieving, but believing.

Jesus and Thomas - John 20:24-29

Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with the other disciples when Jesus came. 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."

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." 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 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."

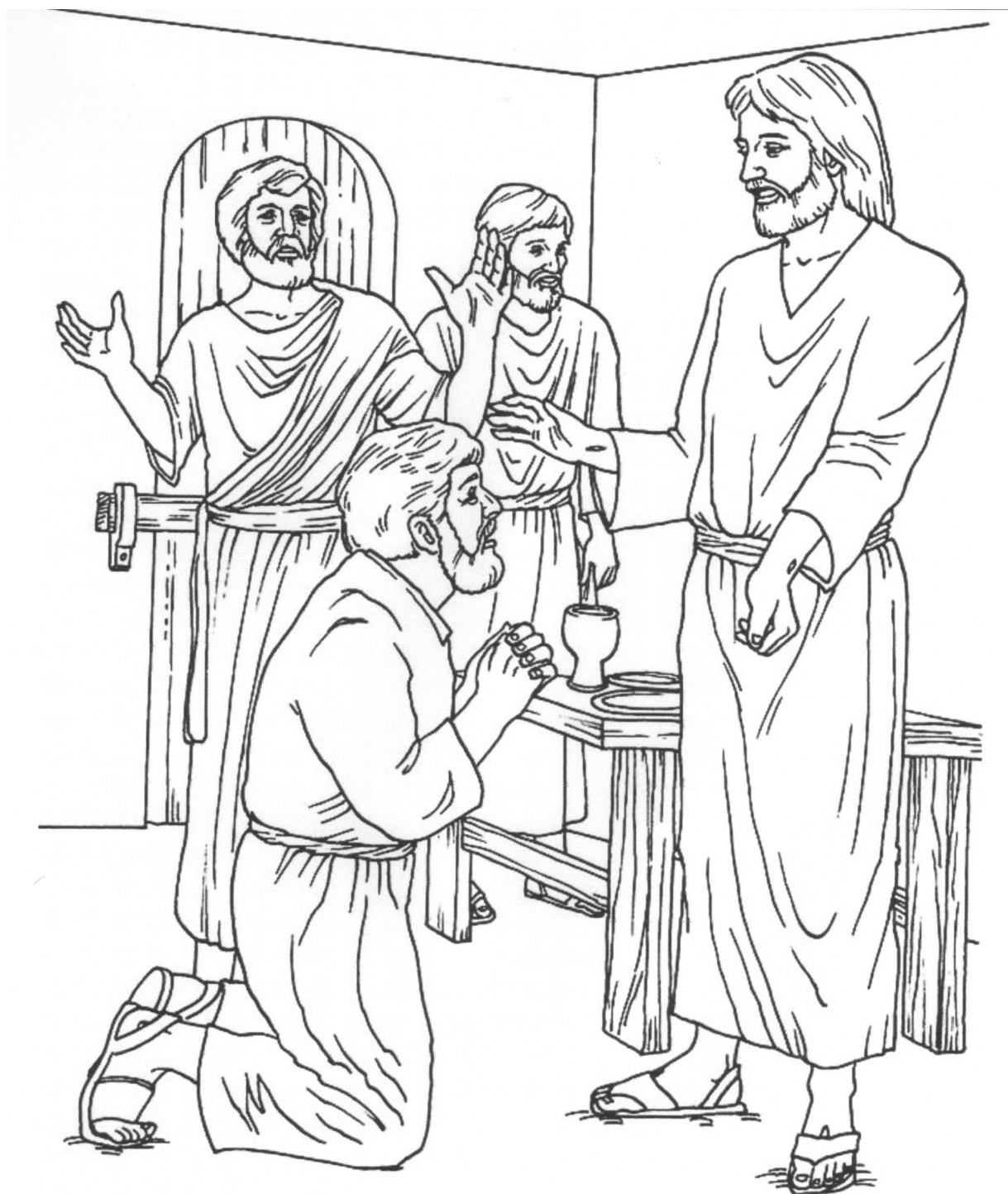
What can we learn from Thomas?

It is very easy to be sceptical, and asking questions is not in itself a bad thing. Looking for the truth is important and part of being a Christian, someone who walks by the truth. But it is hard to believe something just because someone says it is true.





You might be someone who is a bit sceptical. You could be a bit unsure of your faith and the truth is that we often have doubts. You may have a lot of questions. Deep down inside, you want to know God. You want to know for yourself. But the truth about Jesus is that he loves you and has something for you. He turns your scepticism into belief, your doubt into faith. So in prayer, come to Jesus with your questions. Come to Him with your doubts. Then like Thomas, you will be able to say, "My Lord and my God!"



Doubting Thomas





Jesus said, "Don't doubt, but believe."

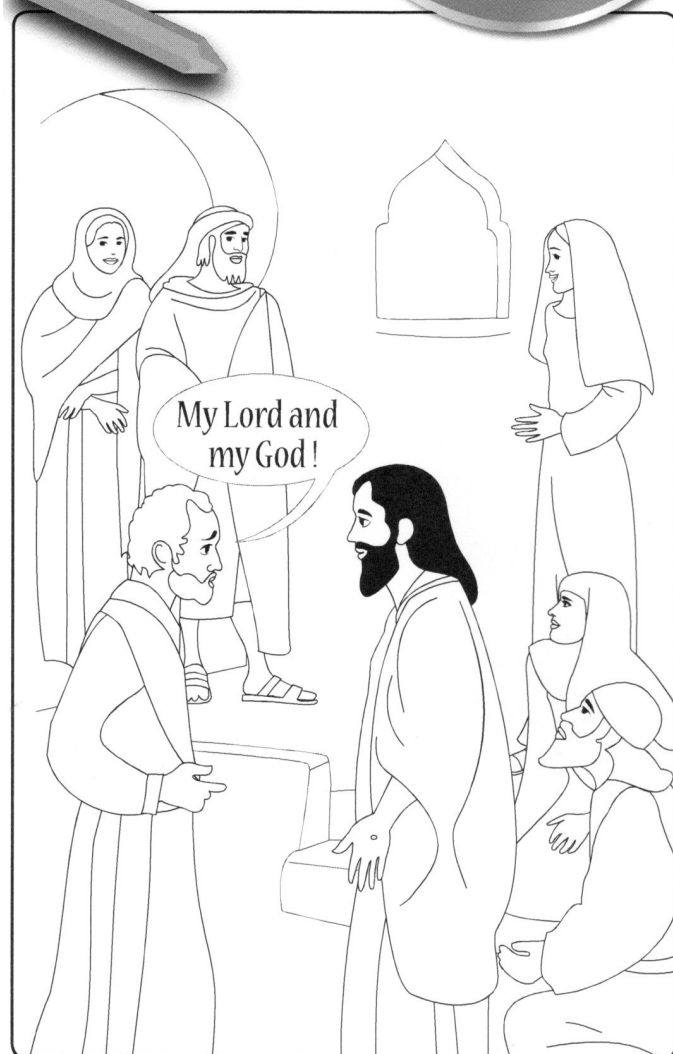
Thomas said, "My Lord and my God."

Today's Bible reading

John 20.19-31

Jesus appears to the disciples, and then to Thomas. Jesus tells the disciple that those who believe will be blessed.

Thomas couldn't believe Jesus was alive until he had seen him for himself. How do you know something has happened when you were not there to see it?



Live in faith

Write 'Believe and be blessed' on a sticky note. Put it on your mirror, or the fridge door, or somewhere where you will see it every day.

Activity 1

Find the path through the letters to spell out a message. You can go up, down, right, or left, but not diagonally.

Start →	B	E↓	D
E↓	I	L←	E
V	E→	S	S↑
E	L↑	B	E←
A→	N	D	B↑

Activity 2

Use two different colours to decorate this special prayer to say each day.



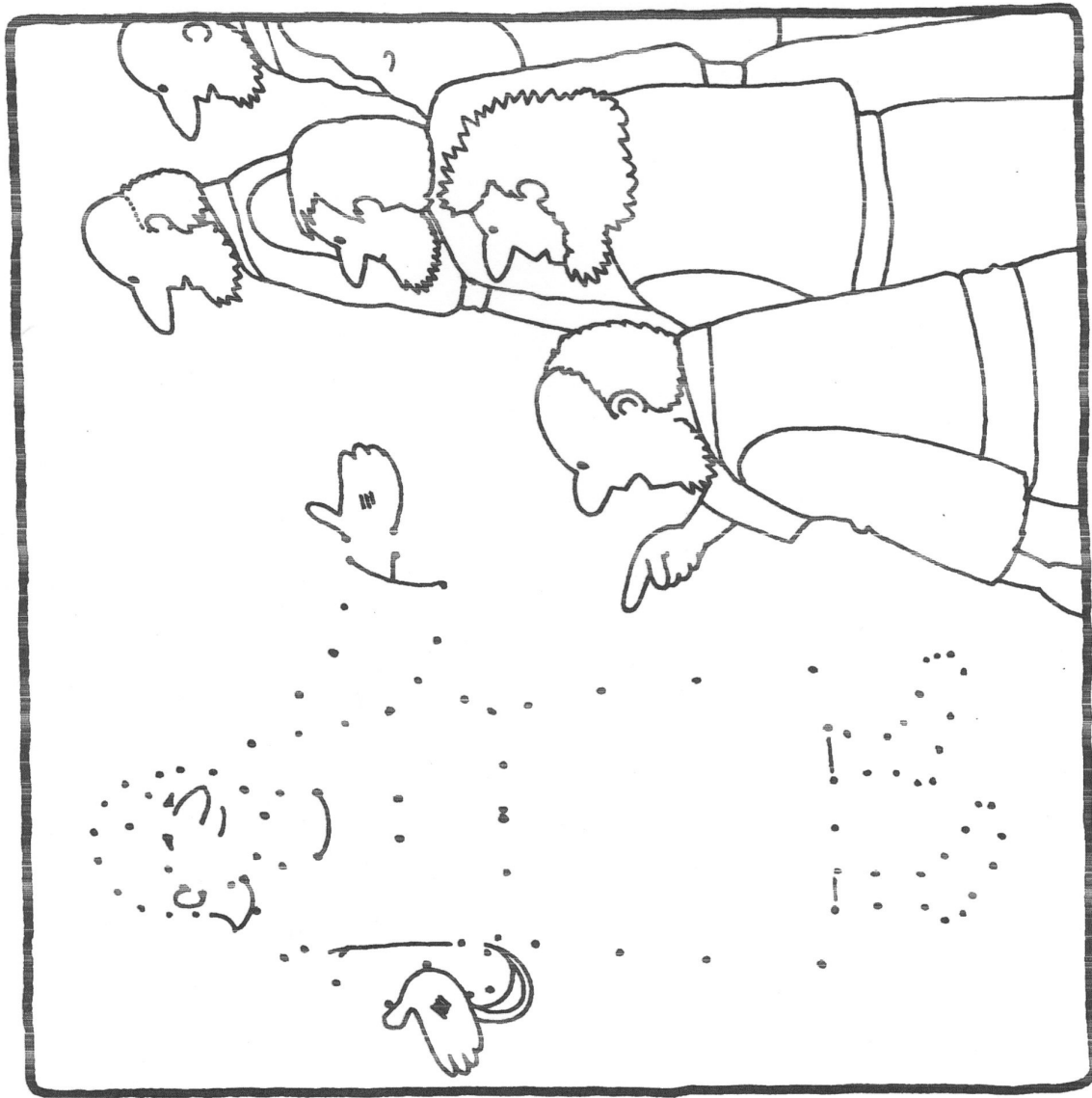
You've blessed me with friends
and laughter and fun,
with rain that's as soft as the
light from the sun.
You've blessed me with the
stars to brighten each night,
You've given me help to know
wrong from right.
You've given me so much, so
please Lord give me too,
a heart that is always grateful
to you.

Traditional Gaelic blessing

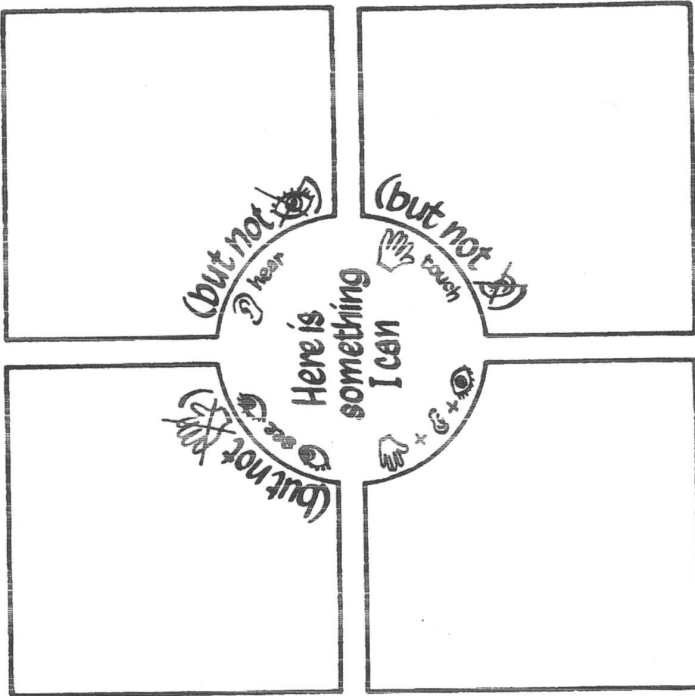


Check it out

Horton Hears a Who! by Dr. Seuss, HarperCollins Children's Books, ISBN: 978-0-00717-520-8: Horton hears a faint cry for help from a tiny dust speck and does his best to protect the small civilisation of Whoville, despite the disbelief of his fellow animals.



Join the dots to make Jesus appear.



For parents
To pray with your child

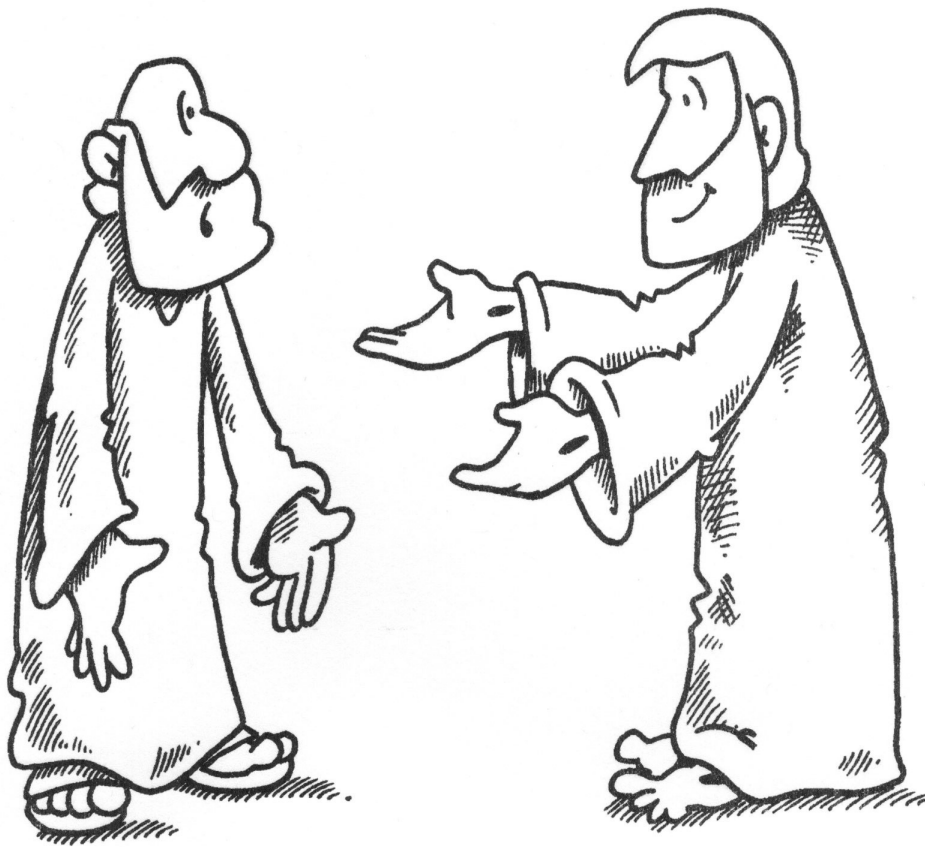
Dear Jesus,
I can't see you
but I know you are here.
I know you can hear me,
and I know you love me.
Thank you, Jesus! Amen.



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Thomas

John 20:19-29



What did Thomas say when he was asked to touch the wounds of Jesus?

YM DROL
DNA YM

(read each word
backwards)

D O G

Doubting Thomas

True or false game:

1. Did you know.....Penguins can smell toothpaste from several miles away?
 - Do you believe it? Or do you doubt it?
(false)
2. Did you know....In Tokyo, Japan a bicycle is faster than a car for trips of less than 50 minutes?
 - Do you believe it? Or do you doubt it?
(true)
3. Did you know...Every day, on average, 20 banks are robbed?
 - Do you believe it? Or do you doubt it?
(true)
4. Did you know...50 years ago, M & Ms were candy-coated peas during a chocolate shortage?
 - Do you believe it? Or do you doubt it?
(false)
5. Did you know...You are more likely to be stung by a bee in windy weather?
 - Do you believe it? Or do you doubt it?
(false)
6. Did you know...When glass breaks, the cracks move faster than 3,000 miles per hour. To photograph the event, a camera must shoot at a millionth of a second!
 - Do you believe it? Or do you doubt it?
(true)
7. Did you know...A violin contains about 70 pieces of wood?
 - Do you believe it? Or do you doubt it?
(true)
8. Did you know....The Irish like Thomas the Tank Engine so much that they have put faces on all their trains?
 - Do you believe it? Or do you doubt it?
(false)
9. Did you know...A handy household tip: The elastic in your underwear will last twice as long if you freeze it after washing it?
 - Do you believe it? Or do you doubt it?
(false)
10. Did you know...They have square watermelons in Japan because they stack better?
 - Do you believe it? Or do you doubt it?
(true)

Is it true:

- Would you believe me or would you need to see it if I said there is a snake that is over 20 feet long and as wide as you? (*show picture of the World's largest snake*)
- Would you believe me or would you need to see it if I said there was a spider that is over a foot long? (*show picture of a camel spider*)

- Would you believe me or would you need to see it if I said there is a person with fingernails over two feet long? (*show picture of World's longest fingernails*)
Would you believe me or would you need to see it if I said there is a man who is over 8 feet tall? (*show picture of world's tallest man*)

Bible Story: Read John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

19 It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. 20 After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." 22 Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus and Thomas

24 One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!"

28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Jesus said to him, "Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!"

The Purpose of This Book

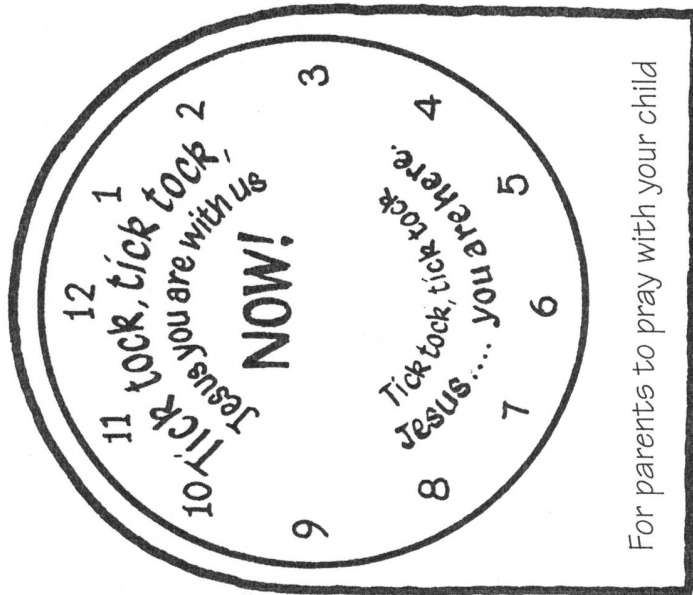
30 In his disciples' presence Jesus performed many other miracles which are not written down in this book. 31 But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.
(*Good News Testament*)

What do you think about the story?

Have a go at 'the Trust game' first – 1 person stands back to the others, the others stand really close behind. The first person lets themselves fall back and the others catch them. 2nd time, the others take a small step further away. Gradually build up to further away. How long before you can't trust people? (Do be careful and kind though!)

Consider:

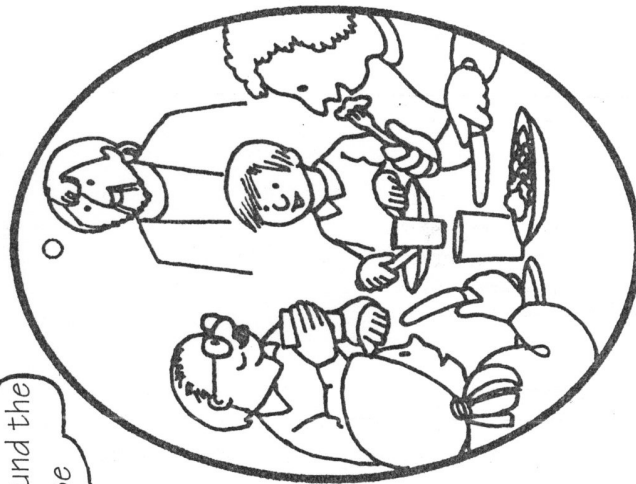
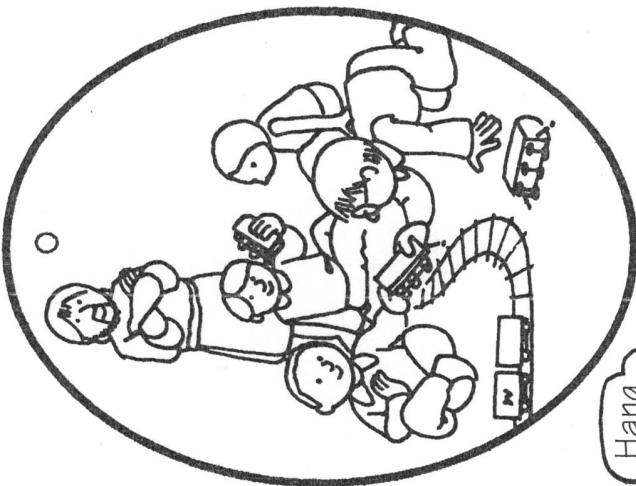
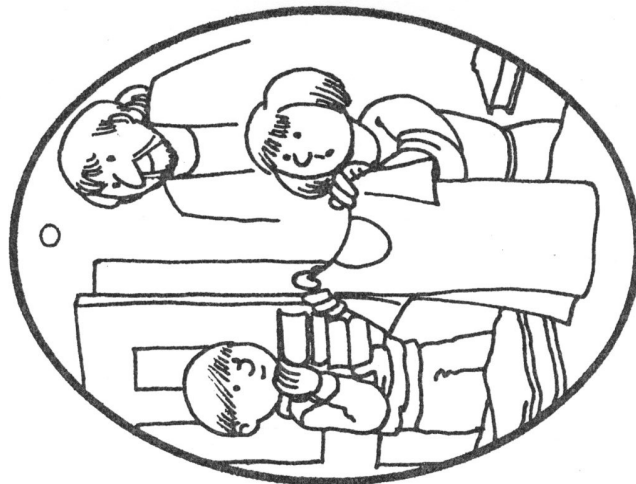
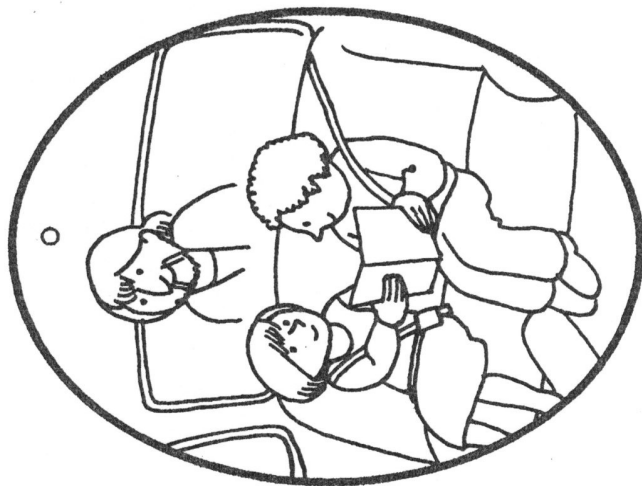
- ♦ Doubt – is not the opposite of – trust/faith
- ♦ But Knowledge – is opposite to – ignorance
- ♦ In what ways do you know Jesus? How do people know you have faith in God?



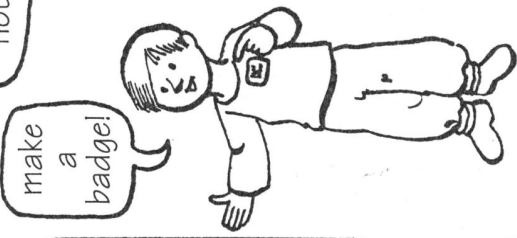
For parents to pray with your child



Stick to clothes with loop of sticky tape



Hang them around the house

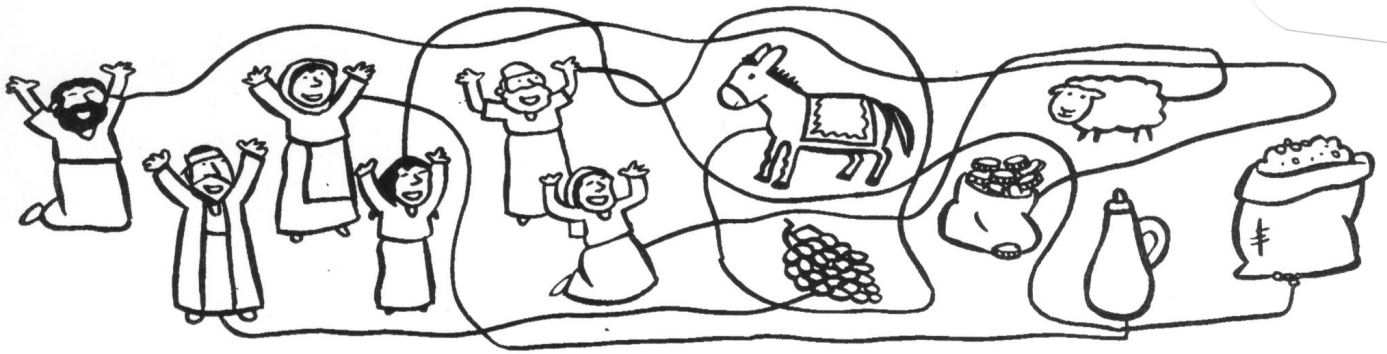


The disciples were glad to see Jesus



For parents and children to pray together
'Lord Jesus,
you are alive
and want to be friends.
We welcome you into our home.'

'With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.' Acts 4.33 (NRSV)



Colour in this picture of Jesus' followers. Untangle the ribbons to find out who used to own what.



Mary has ten bread rolls, Peter has two and Sami has none. They share the bread equally between them. Decide how many rolls each one has in the end and draw them in the baskets.

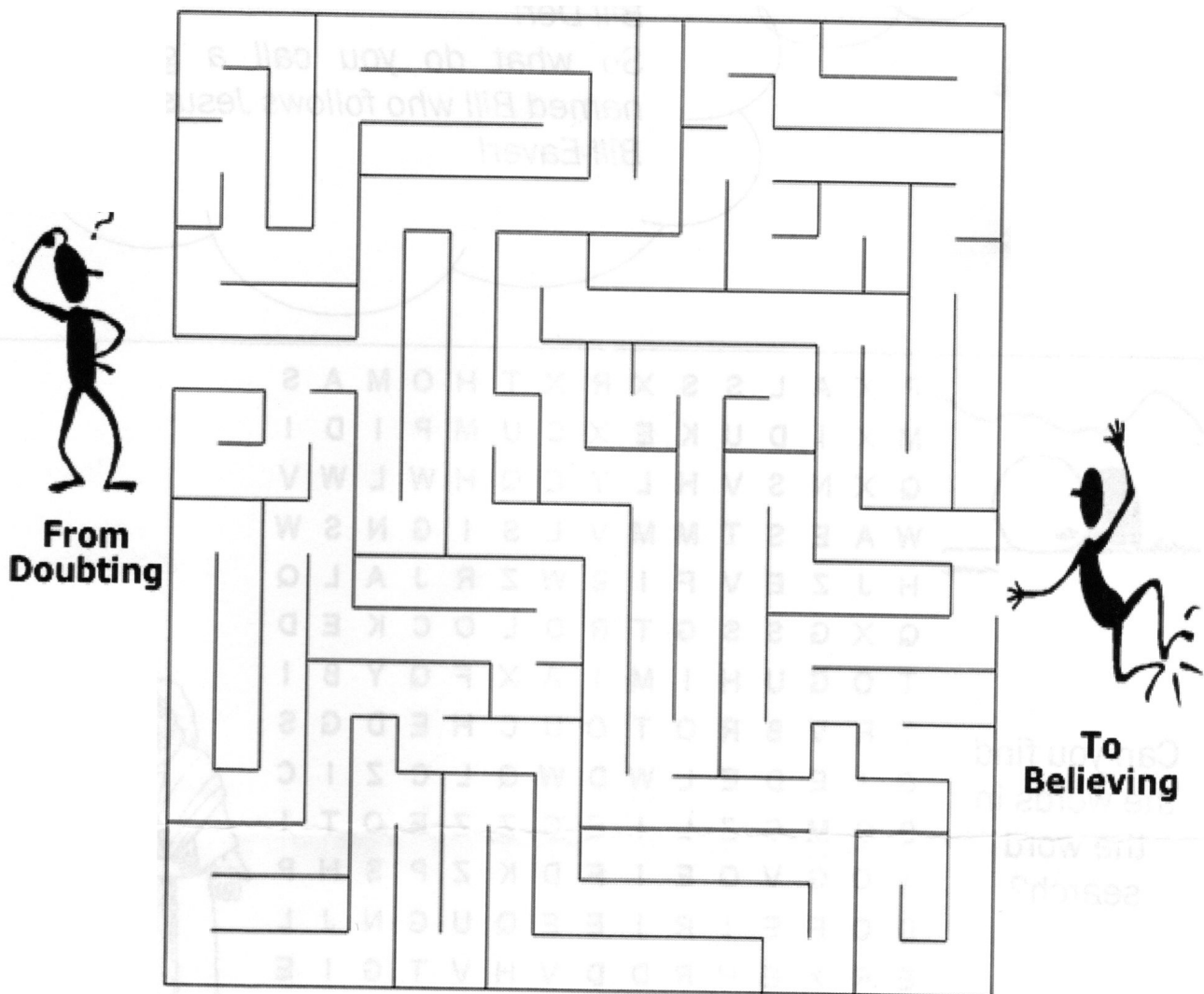
How many of these words can you find?

y a y k d s f v q l f o h y t
i k m j w s f p i o d m h v e
h e s l x m e z r p p h p k q
c u c f f u w g x y e n d u d
l b k a r a i w h p c s e j a
j r h h e v v y o a l p r n q
o o k m e p i h s d n e i r f
y f r n h s i x x b a a l b g
s o e s r h e w k a u z m u p
e s w l c m f o q e k o f w f
s w o j o j g l x k j p g c i
t v p m b v b t n v k v c y u
s o m s k f e m l i f e b x k
b a f m h i l f t z m o w t k
j x f r i e n d s h i p h v e

forgiveness,
friendship,
hope, joy,
life, love,
peace, power



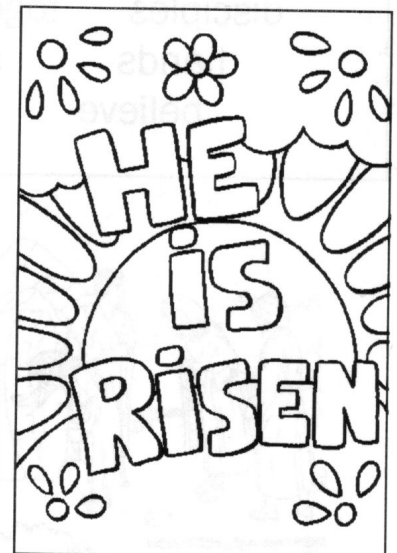
Stop Doubting and Believe – find your way through the maze

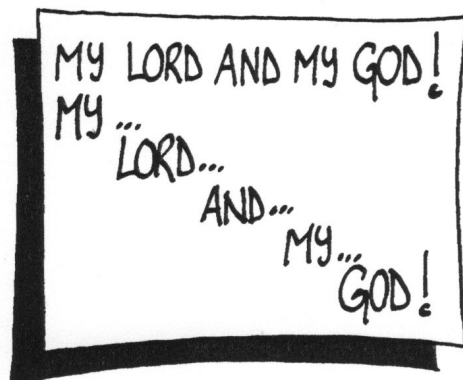
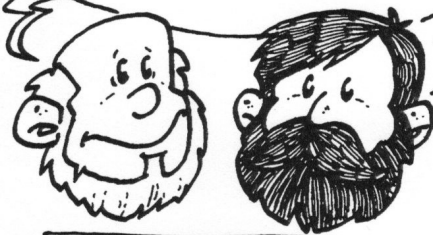
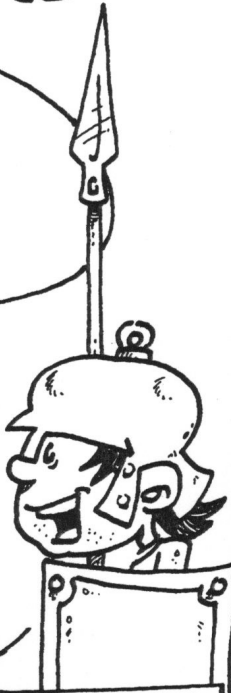
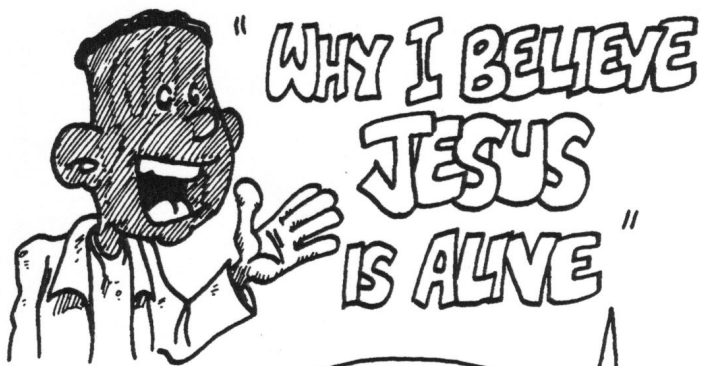


Wonderful news! Jesus is ... what??

Solve today's riddle-me-ree to find out what!

My first is in **glad** and **happy** and **praise**
My second's in **light** and **candle** and **blaze**
My third is in **swim** and **dive** river
My fourth is in **very** and **loving** and **giver**
My last is in **ears** and **eyes** and **voice**
My whole is the reason we all shout, "Rejoice!"





COMING TO FAITH

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO COME TO FAITH?

It means to come to know that God is real, that he loves us, and that, in Jesus, God has saved us from the consequences of evil.

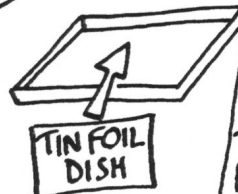
LOTS OF PEOPLE DON'T BELIEVE THAT, DO THEY? WHY DON'T THEY?

Because it seems too good to be true; because they don't see Christians acting any differently from them; because they demand visual proof (which we don't have) and because they have been given a wrong idea of what God is like. Lots of other reasons, too.

I WISH I COULD SHOW PEOPLE IT'S TRUE. GOD HAS MADE ME A NEW PERSON, AND I'D LIKE OTHERS TO KNOW HOW LOVELY HE IS.

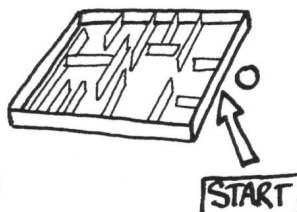
You can. Just live that new life he has given you, and love other people to faith. Pray for them, and show them.

SOMETIMES COMING TO FAITH IS A BIT LIKE GOING THROUGH A MAZE.



1. CUT STRIPS OF CARD TO MAKE WALLS ALL OVER THE DISH. STICK THEM TO THE SIDES AND BOTTOM WITH STICKY TAPE.

2. MAKE SEVERAL POSSIBLE WAYS TO GET FROM THE START TO THE FINISH.



3. ROLL THE MARBLE FROM ONE END OF THE DISH TO THE OTHER.

Easter II



Suggested Readings: 1 John 1:1-7 John 21:1-13

Teaching Aim: *To teach that Jesus' resurrection concerns us now, in the present, because he shares his risen life with his people.*

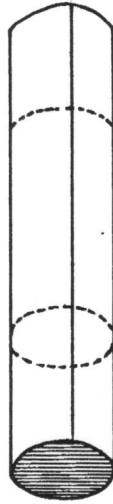
Suggested Teaching Outline

1. If you have something good and there is someone you like, what do you want to do? — even something like a bar of chocolate or a really good joke? Jesus has risen from the dead with wonderful new life that will never end. He loves us very much. So what does he want to do? — he wants to share his resurrection life with us. Love does not keep good things to itself.
2. Show the children the Paschal Candle (or at least a big drawing of it). Tell them how it was lit outside on Easter Night and carried into the dark church. What did the light in the darkness represent? — the light of the risen Christ shining in the darkness of death. Tell them how the congregation all had small candles which were lit from the big one. If possible, let them light hand-candles from it. Say how this symbolises our sharing in the risen life of Jesus, so that death will not be the end for us anymore than it was for him.
3. Point out the markings on the candle and explain them. The Cross: The Christ who is risen died for us upon the Cross. The Five Incense Grains: the wounds Jesus endured out of love for us. Alpha and Omega: He is alive for ever, the Beginning and the End. The Year: He is alive this year, as he was alive on the first Easter Day.
4. Jesus shares his new life with us. When did that new life flow into us? — where do we find the Paschal Candle in church for most of the year? It was at the Font, in Holy Baptism, that Jesus began to share his risen life with us.

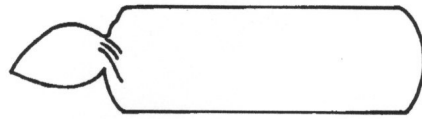
Something to make: A PASCHAL CANDLE

Required: Each child will need a toilet-roll centre, a piece of white paper, some coloured scraps for the flame and a circle of card for the base.

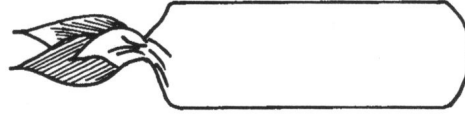
1. Wrap the piece of white paper around the toilet-roll centre, leaving paper over at both ends. Glue the paper so that it remains wrapped around the core.



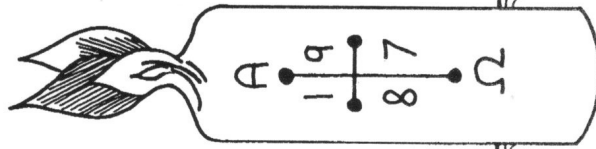
2. At what will be the base of the candle, tuck the spare paper inside the core to make a neat base. At the top, give the spare paper a twist so that it stands upright.



3. Make a flame for the candle by gluing on to the twist pieces of red and yellow crepe paper, foil, or coloured tissue paper.



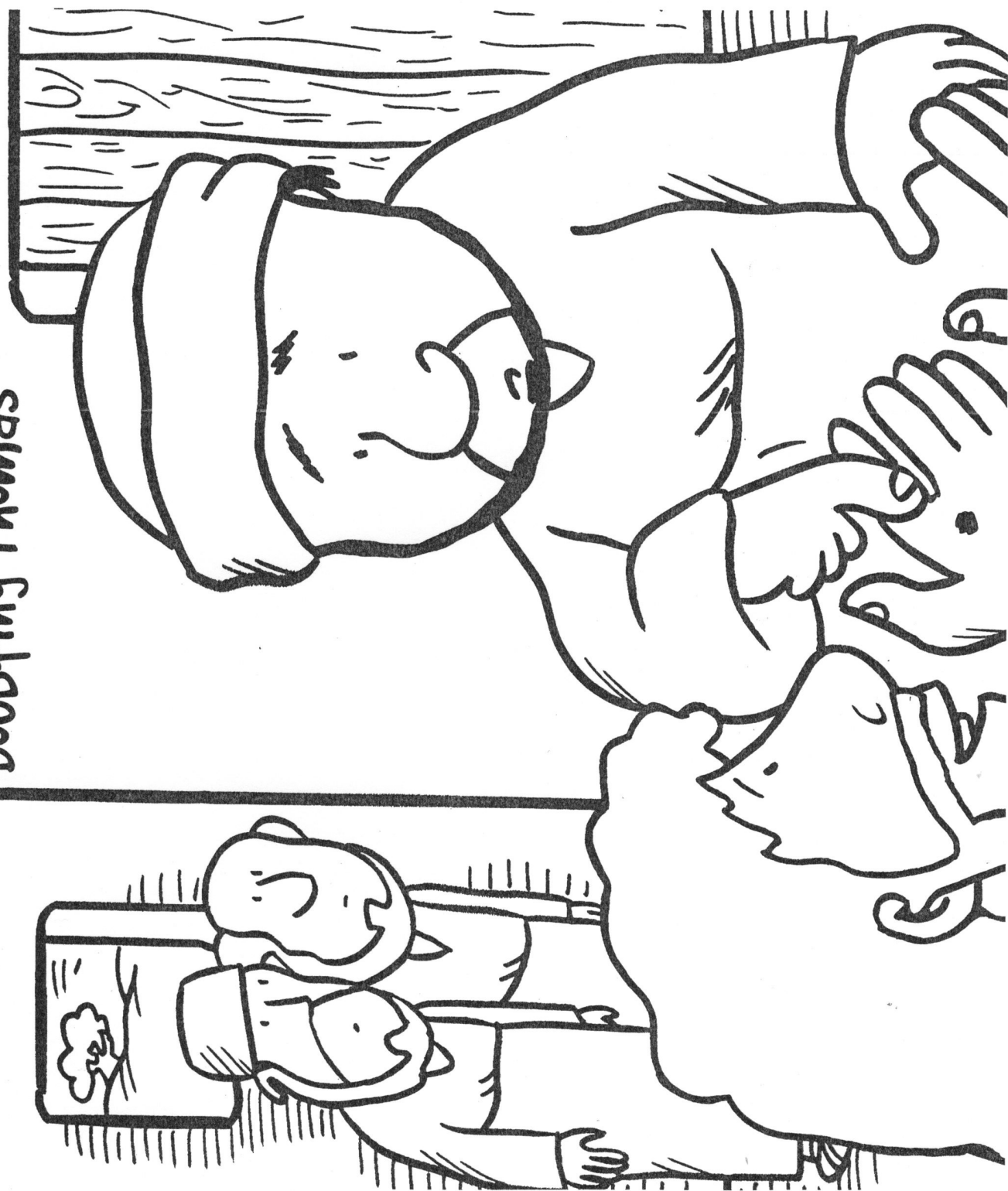
4. With felt-tipped pens make the traditional markings on the side of the candle, and then glue the bottom of it on to the circle of card which forms the base. The base can be decorated, and have such words as THE LIGHT OF CHRIST or CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT written on it.







Doubling Thomas



Thomas...said to
Him, "My Lord and
my God!"

John 20:28



Thomas was one of Jesus' apostles. He was faithful to Jesus during his ministry but was afraid during and after the crucifixion. Following his resurrection Jesus appeared before all his disciples but Thomas, who was not there. When the other men told Thomas what they had seen he refused to believe it unless he could touch Jesus' wounds. Eight days later Jesus appeared again, this time inside a locked room, before Thomas. After seeing the wounds in his hand and side Thomas believed. Jesus pronounced a blessing on all those who would believe without having proof.

