

LESSON PLAN

DOUBTING THOMAS

John 20:19-31

Lesson Memory Verse: John 20:29 - "...Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

Lesson Aim: Teach children that Jesus keeps His promises and they should depend on them.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Can you think of anyone who made you a promise and then did not keep that promise? (Let the children answer.) Peter made a promise to the Lord in one of our recent lessons, but he did not keep his promise. Can you tell me the promise that he made? (Peter promised that he would never deny the Lord and that he would even die for the Lord rather than deny Him – Mark 14:27-31).

In today's lesson we are going to learn about Someone who always keeps His promises. He even keeps the promises that most people doubt. Can you tell me who it is that always keeps His promises? (The Lord Jesus Christ)

HE (for Authority): It is wonderful to know that the Lord always keeps His promises, but it is too bad that we do not always believe Him. When we do not believe Him, it means we do not believe His promises. God is not pleased with those that do not believe His promises (Heb 11:6), but He is happy with those who do believe. Our memory verse (John 20:29) tells us that Jesus, who is God, is especially pleased with those that believe even though they did not have the privilege of seeing Him after He arose from the dead. Let's please Jesus by believing His promises.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Listen carefully to today's lesson and find out what promises the Lord made to His disciples and which of them were made to us.

I. Jesus promised to die and rise from the dead - Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34

Jesus kept His promise to die and rise again as we learned in an earlier lesson. His disciples did not believe Jesus would die, but He did. When Jesus died, His disciples did not believe He would rise from the dead, but He did. Who was the first person to see Jesus and talk with Him after He rose from the dead? (John 20:11-18)

WE: We need to believe that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive today. It will make a big difference in our lives. For instance, do you believe He can see all that you do, hear all you say, and know all you think? He is alive and He knows everything we do and someday we will meet Him to be judged by Him. If you are not a true Christian, you will be judged and sent to the Lake of Fire (Rev 20:11-15). If you are a true Christian, you will be judged to find out what rewards, if any, you will receive (1 Cor 3:10-15; 2 Cor 5:10). We need to remember that Jesus is alive and sees both the good and bad that we do.

II. Jesus promised to meet with His disciples after He arose from the dead - Jn 16:16-22; 20:19-29

Jesus kept His promise and miraculously appeared with His disciples in a room with locked doors. Even locked doors could not stop Jesus from meeting with His disciples. The first time when Jesus met with His disciples, Thomas was not present (John 20:19-23). The second time when Jesus met with them, Thomas was there (John 20:24-29). Jesus kept His promise to meet with all eleven of His chosen disciples by making two appearances so He could meet with Thomas.

WE: We need to believe that Jesus will meet with us: He wants to meet with us every day. He wants to talk to you from the Bible. Read the verses that are printed in the worksheets that I give to you. It will help you to review the lesson and it will let Jesus talk to you. You also can ask Jesus to speak to you from the verse you are given to memorize. Listen to what He is saying to you every time you repeat it. He wants to talk to you every day and you can talk to Him through prayer any time during the day (Jn 14:14-15; 15:7, 16; 16:24).

III. Jesus promised His disciples that He would send them the Holy Spirit - John 15:26

LESSON PLAN

Jesus promised His disciples that He would send them the Holy Spirit (Comforter, Helper) when He went back to Heaven (Jn 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7). When the Spirit would come, He would live in them, so He would be with them wherever they went in the world (Jn 14:17). He would give them the power to be effective workers for Him (Act 1:8). Jesus kept His promise and sent the Holy Spirit to live in them ten days after He went to Heaven. This happened as planned by God on the Day of Pentecost (Act 2:32-33). The Holy Spirit helped the Apostles preach the Gospel with great power (Acts 2:41; 4:4, 31).

WE: If we have received Jesus as our Savior, we also have God the Holy Spirit living in us (1 Cor 6:19-20). Now it is up to us to let the Holy Spirit control us (Eph 5:18). We must depend on Him to give us the power to witness effectively to sinners about Jesus' death and resurrection (Phil 2:13).

IV. Jesus promised to bless those who have not seen Him, but still believe Him - John 20:29

When Jesus met with His disciples the second time in their locked room, He wanted to talk to Thomas most of all. Thomas had doubted that Jesus was really alive because he had not seen the Lord with his eyes. He said he would not believe until he could see the scars of the nails in His hands and feel them with his fingers. He also wanted to feel the scar where the Roman soldier's spear had gone through Jesus' side. When Jesus appeared in the room, He went to Thomas and urged him to put his fingers in His hands where the nails went through them, and to put his hand in His side where the spear pierced His body. Then He told Thomas to stop doubting and start believing. That was enough for Thomas and he believed by saying to Jesus, "My Lord and my God."

Then Jesus made a wonderful promise to all those who would not be able to see Him and yet would believe that He arose from the dead. He said that they would be more blessed than those who have seen Him with their eyes because they had greater faith.

WE: If we believe that Jesus arose from the dead and is alive, even though we have not seen Him with our eyes, we will be blessed more than the disciples that did see Him. That is a wonderful promise that Jesus gives to us. Do you believe Jesus was raised from the dead and now is alive in Heaven? If so, have you asked Jesus to be your Savior? If not, you need to do it, so you can receive the promise of this blessing.

BE (for Action): Jesus kept all of His promises to His disciples; He will keep His promises to you, too. He promises to meet with us. He will talk to us as we read and memorize His Words (Col 3:16). We are invited to talk to Him when we pray and He promises to answer our prayers, if we love Him and keep His commandments. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to dwell in all who receive Him as their Savior and He has kept His promise. He promises to richly bless those who believe that He arose from the dead with a body, even though they have not seen Him, and now is alive in Heaven. That promise has been kept in part, but it will be fulfilled to a greater measure when we see Him (1 Jn 3:2). Do you believe that Jesus will keep all His promises to you? He will do it, because He is worthy of our trust. He is faithful.

He also promised to give eternal life to all that would call upon Him in prayer for salvation. Have you called on Him for salvation? If not, you should do it today. Do not miss this great promise that Jesus is offering to you. (Lead the children to salvation or to the assurance of salvation by having them put their faith in Jesus' promise.)