

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

We have been making these resources available since the beginning of the pandemic but have no way of telling if they are being used! As things begin to open up again and we start to have children's groups meeting in person we are considering whether we need to continue posting these resources each week, so

If you are using them please can you let me know?

helen@standrewsandallsaints.org or 07775735668

We are happy to continue providing them if they are useful!

Jesus is Alive!

How many things can you think of that people say they've seen or believe in but can't prove? What about unicorns, a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow or unidentified flying objects (UFOs)?

In today's story we hear about one of Jesus' friends who wouldn't believe that Jesus was alive until he had seen it for himself! And we consider 'faith', what does that mean for us?



Read the story in John 20:19-29 or a children's Bible story book.

Watch this animated version of the story: https://youtu.be/A_QcGnwilXI

I wonder what surprises you most about this story?

I wonder if you sometimes feel like Thomas and find it hard to believe?

I wonder what God might be saying to you today through this story?

I wonder how we have faith in Jesus even though we can't see him like Thomas did?

We never see lots of important things. We don't see the wind, we don't see love, but we feel them; we know they are there. We can have faith and believe in God because we experience God's love and God's power.

Jesus said "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:29)

Pray together: Build a hand tower. Sit in a circle together and take it in turns to add a hand. The first person puts a hand out, the next person adds a hand on top and so on, building a tower of hands, when all hands are used take the hand from the bottom of the tower and place it on top and keep going - as you do this take it in turns to say a one or two word prayer and work your way through the ideas here:

- Something to praise God for
- Something you would like to say sorry for
- Something you would like to ask God's help with
- Something to thank God for

Finish by asking God to build and strengthen your faith and end with a big AMEN!

Make together: find some paper and scissors. Fold the paper in half and draw around your hand - place your hand on the paper so that the tip of your thumb and first finger touch the fold of the paper and then draw around your hand. Cut out the hand and open up the paper and you should have a bit of a surprise!

You might like to stick your hands onto another sheet of paper and decorate them. Maybe you could add some hearts to the palms of your hands to represent God's love for us? Maybe you could add a verse such as:

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and being sure of the things we cannot see.' Hebrews 11:1

Activity: Find some toy blocks which can be stacked on top of each other to make a tower.

Think about all the things you know about Jesus and start stacking the blocks as you name each thing - it might be a miracle he did or a story he told. All these things help to build our faith as we learn more about Jesus, and our faith



grows just like our tower of blocks. Sometimes though we can have a bit of a 'wobble' (you might like to wobble your tower a bit!) and like Thomas we can feel unsure. Even though we can't see Jesus like Thomas did we can still know that Jesus loves us and cares for us. he is alive and with us! Start to rebuild/add more blocks to your tower as you think about how much Jesus loves you, how much your faith is made stronger by people praying for you and with you, and by spending time with Jesus, talking to him and learning more about him.

Look at your tall tower and thank Jesus for being you friend!

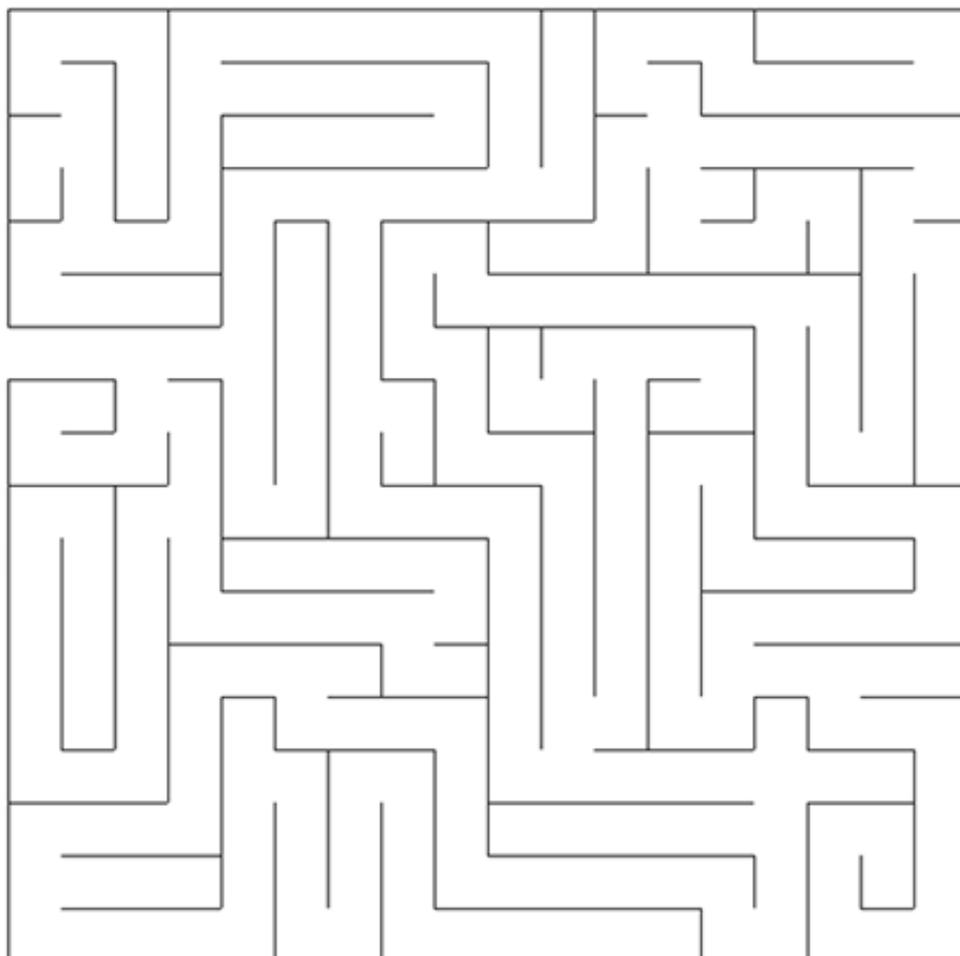
Now have fun seeing how tall a tower you can build!

Be creative: why not spend some time drawing or painting a picture to show your faith or your love for God or write a poem?

Maybe write in your journal how you feel about Jesus as your friend?

Maybe listen to what God might be saying to you and then draw or paint a picture of that?

Try this 'a-maze-ing' puzzle!



Doubting Thomas

S	S	J	O	D	H	C	U	O	T	N	I	O	D
T	E	U	O	V	E	R	J	O	Y	E	D	H	H
O	L	G	N	O	M	A	D	O	O	T	S	C	E
P	P	P	D	B	D	I	C	O	S	F	S	S	G
D	I	H	E	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	H	E	O
O	C	O	S	A	K	E	F	O	R	G	I	V	E
U	S	L	S	O	C	E	L	E	P	E	S	I	J
B	I	Y	E	G	O	T	S	O	D	O	H	S	E
T	D	S	L	E	L	V	H	E	R	K	E	D	S
I	G	P	B	V	S	H	I	O	I	D	C	N	U
N	U	I	W	L	R	S	O	C	M	O	L	A	S
G	E	R	E	E	O	E	I	V	C	A	R	H	O
E	J	I	S	W	O	E	G	G	V	C	S	O	O
T	S	T	E	T	D	I	T	V	P	E	A	C	E

DOORS LOCKED
 SEE
 DISCIPLES
 HANDS
 TWELVE
 LORD
 FORGIVE
 HOLY SPIRIT
 THOMAS
 STOP DOUBTING
 TOUCH
 OVERJOYED
 STOOD AMONG
 PEACE
 BLESSED
 JESUS
 BELIEVE