



Prayer: Lord help us to be believers

'Doubting Thomas'

This Sunday is the second Sunday in Easter. We are in Year A. Even though there are 4 Gospels they are sorted into a 3 years cycle. (A, B & C) This being the Second Sunday in Easter, we hear one of the more common stories retold.

We possibly have heard the phrase of people being referred to as '**a doubting Thomas.**'

This phrase has Gospel connections and refers to the story in the Gospel where the disciple Thomas was absent on the occasion Jesus first appeared to the disciples.

Try as the disciples might, explain they had seen the risen Lord,

Thomas would not concede it possible unless he had proof.

His reply to the disciples passing on the story was of disbelief.

He wanted concrete proof.

He suggested unless he was to actually see the wounds of the crucifixion,
he would not believe.

We are challenged in our society today, in the same way, to believe without seeing.

We live in a world that likes proof, but sometimes proof isn't an option.

Sometimes we are asked to believe things that are unbelievable.

What is our reaction?

Children what are some of the things in your lives that you find hard to believe?

Certainly, at the moment we are living an unbelievable journey with the worries of Coronavirus.

We can't see coronavirus as such, but we certainly believe it to be true.

How do you overcome disbelief?

In the Mass we are asked to believe amazing things.

Understanding the meaning of Eucharist is difficult but we still try
to understand and hence believe what has been passed onto us.

Perhaps with time we can better understand things that we might find difficult today.

Some things that are passed down through history,
we are asked to believe but again they are a little hard to understand,
how it could possibly have happened.

What are some things that have happened in history that the children might find it hard to understand?

As an example It is hard to believe how with no technology,
the pyramids were constructed!

Perhaps we need to ask God for a little guidance in what to believe and what not.

Second Sunday of Easter

Gospel

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders,
and on the evening of that same Sunday

they locked themselves in a room.

Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group.

He greeted them and showed them his hands and his side.

When the disciples saw the Lord, they became incredibly happy.

After Jesus had greeted them again, he said,

"I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me."

Then he breathed on them and said, *"Receive the Holy Spirit.*

If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven.

But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven."

Keep reading over the page.



Although Thomas the Twin was one of the twelve disciples,
he was not with the others when Jesus appeared to them.
So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But Thomas said,

*"First, I must see the nail scars in his hands
and touch them with my finger.*

*I must put my hand where the spear went into his side.
I won't believe unless I do this!"*

A week later the disciples were together again.

This time Thomas was with them.

Jesus came in while the doors were still locked and stood in the middle of the group.

He greeted his disciples and said to Thomas,

"Put your finger here and look at my hands!

Put your hand into my side.

Stop doubting and have faith!"

Thomas replied, *"You are my Lord and my God!"*

Jesus said, *"Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me?"*

*The people who have faith in me without seeing me
are the ones who are really blessed!"*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Activities:

This week we will make a heart from our hands reminding of the love Jesus showed for us on the cross.

1. Fold paper in half

Draw around hands

Cut out shape making sure fold of thumb and pointer are still connected at the seam

Open up, add a heart where the nails

would have been in Jesus 'hand.

2. There are also other activities below

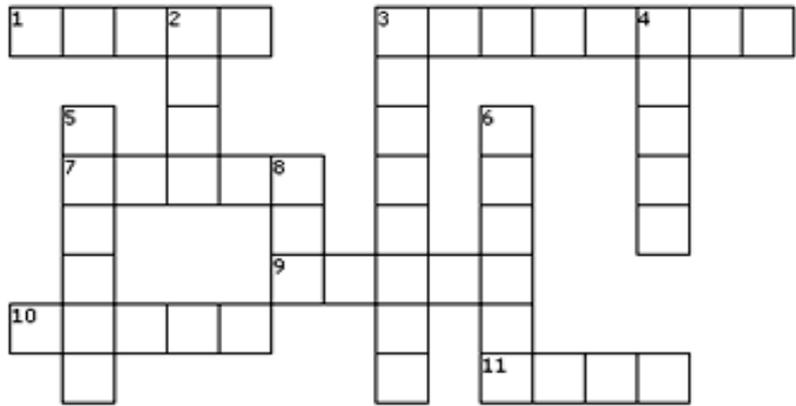


"Stop doubting and believe!"

John 20:19-31 (NIV)



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ACROSS

1. To believe in something for which there is no proof
3. A follower of Jesus
7. The body parts at the end of the arms
9. A pointed and headed fastener designed to be pounded into wood
10. To be in a state of pleasure or delight
11. An entrance into a building or room

DOWN

2. One of two babies born at the same time
3. Unwilling to believe that something is true
4. Free from conflict; getting along with others; opposite of war
5. The disciple who would not believe without seeing
6. Not open
8. Breaking a religious or moral law

Words Used

door	sin	Thomas	nails
closed	hands	happy	disciple
peace	doubting	faith	twin

Bible Memory Verse

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

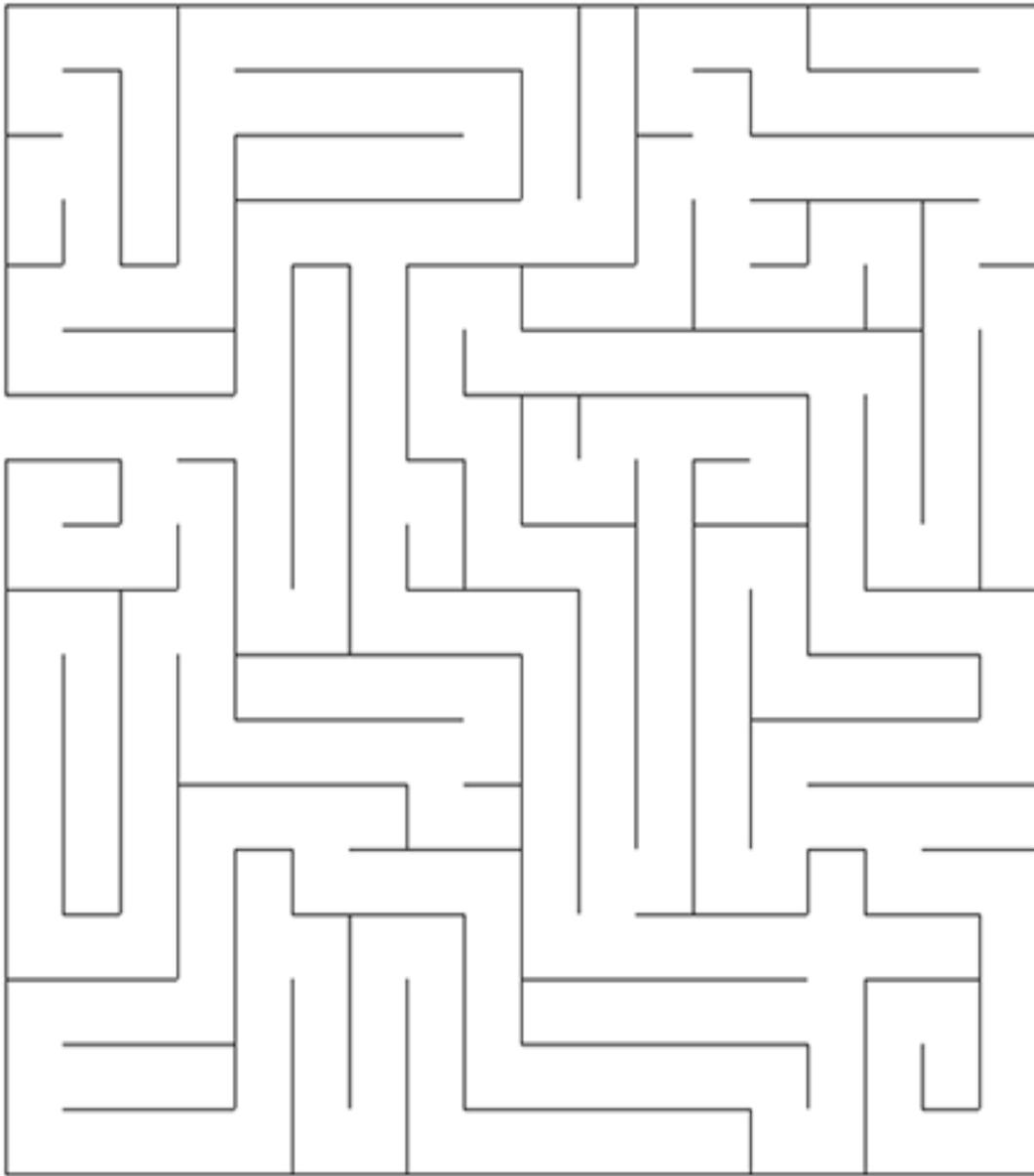
John 20:29 (NIV)

Stop Doubting and Believe

Can you find the path from doubting to believing?
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." John 20:27 (NIV)



**From
Doubting**



**To
Believing**

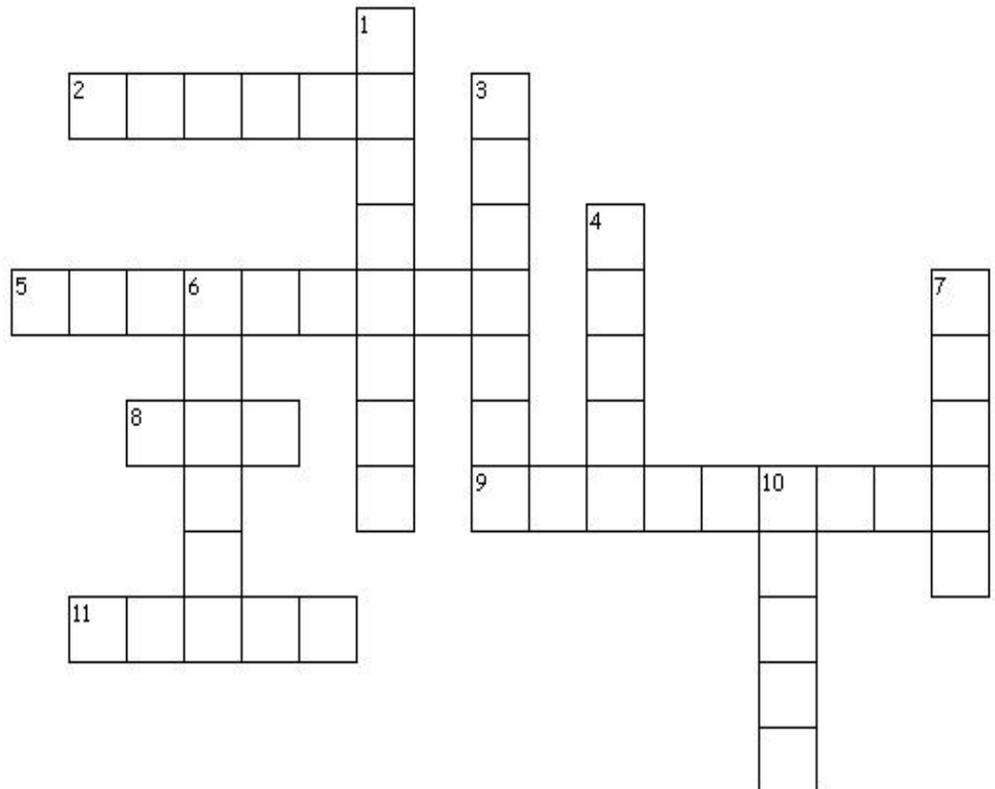
Crossword

Across

- 2. number of disciples
- 5. full of doubt 8. Father ____.
- 9. followers of Jesus
- 11. Son of God

Down

- 1. trusted, had faith in
- 3. Highly favoured
- 4. pierced Jesus' hands and feet
- 6. Doubting _____.
- 7. among 10. blessed assurance



John 20:27 (NIV)



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Thomas

John 20:19-29