

# Believe in Jesus!

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| T | H | O | M | A | S | E | A | L | S |
| F | G | K | Y | R | T | Y | L | P | A |



Can you find these words?

|           |        |        |      |
|-----------|--------|--------|------|
| JESUS     | PEACE  | THOMAS | GOD  |
| DISCIPLES | JOY    | LOVE   | LORD |
| BELIEVE   | GOSPEL | SUNDAY |      |



# can you Believe it?

A man named Ripley published lots of books called *Believe It or Not!* The stories in these books are strange but true. Here are some stories found in one of Ripley's books.

## THE UNSOCIABLE BIRD

There is a bird in Africa called the Grey Louis. When this tiny bird sees a human being, it distinctly screeches, "Go Away!"



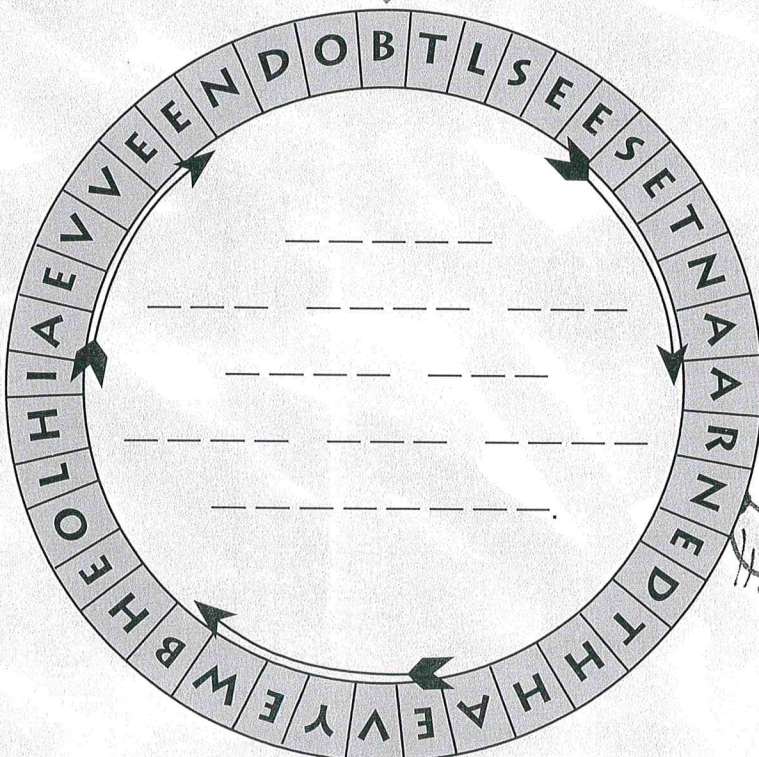
## A feathered hat

A farm girl in Spain often walks twenty miles to market while balancing twenty-two live chickens on her head.



## CIRCLE OF FAITH

Starting at the arrow, read every other letter around the circle to find a message from Jesus about faith.



## Sea Dog

A Boxer mascot on a French naval vessel was accidentally left behind at a port in Egypt. When the ship reached Saigon, six thousand miles away, the dog was waiting on the pier. He had stowed away on a faster vessel heading for the same port.



## Laying It Out

In Baden, Germany, a farmer rescued a hen who was being strangled by a fox. Minutes later, the hen laid an egg bearing the outline of a fox strangling a hen.

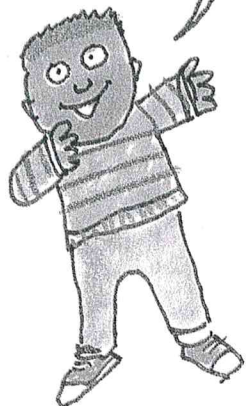
Now here's a story that is not in any of Ripley's books. Jesus Christ was crucified on a cross at Calvary. Three days later he appeared to his friends and disciples as alive and fully human as ever.

Do you believe the stories in the Ripley books? Do you believe the story of Jesus' Resurrection from the dead? What is the difference in those two beliefs?



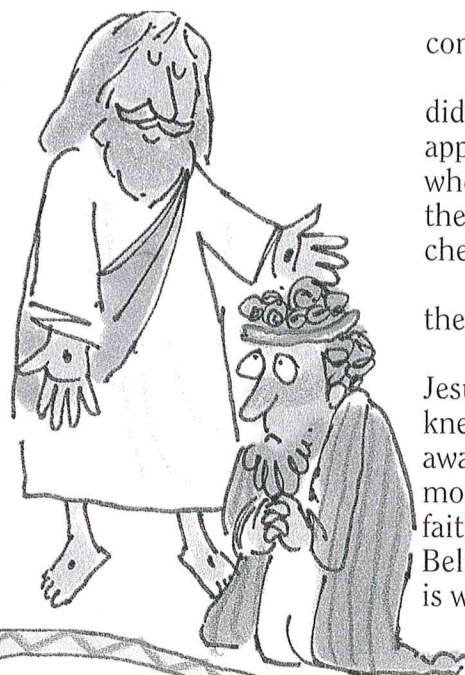
# THE DOUBTING DISCIPLE

What does it take to make you believe? In today's gospel story we read of Thomas, the disciple who found the story of Jesus' Resurrection just too hard to believe.



Last week we heard the Good News about how Jesus died on the cross and then rose from the dead. Several people, including most of the disciples, saw the risen Jesus. But there was one disciple who would not believe these reports. His name was Thomas.

"That Thomas, what a doubter," one of the disciples said. "We all told him we had seen the Lord, but he wouldn't listen to us. He told us, 'I will never believe it without probing the nailprints in his hands, without putting my finger in the nailmarks and my hand into his side.'"



How did they finally convince Thomas?

Well, actually, they didn't. Instead, Jesus appeared to the disciples when Thomas was among them. He told Thomas to check out his wounds.

Did Thomas do what the Lord asked?

No way! Once he saw Jesus standing there, he knew the truth right away. He didn't need any more proof. People of faith don't need proof. Believing without seeing is what faith is all about.

## SHARING the GOOD NEWS

Activity for Class  
or Family

### Let's Play "I Doubt It"

This is a fun game that will help the class or family see how much they know about Jesus' life. Here's how it goes:

One person needs to be the scorekeeper as well as a player. When keeping score, the scorekeeper should have one column that reads "correct" and another that reads "incorrect." The object of the game is for the group to get as many marks in the "correct" column as possible.

Each person playing should have a little fact, tidbit, or story about the life, death, or resurrection of Jesus. The information can be true or false. If it's true, the person should be able to point out the Bible chapter and verse where the information can be found.

To begin the game, each person should make their statement about Jesus one at a time. After the statement is made, the rest of the people playing should vote on whether they think the fact is true or if they "doubt it."

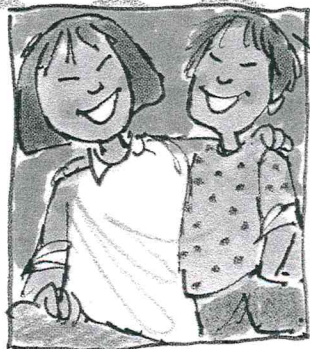
For example, Gena says: "Caiphas was a man who rescued Jesus from serpents when Jesus was little." Those who think that's true should vote "yes" while those who doubt it should vote "no." After the vote is taken, Gena says, "It's false. That never happened." If most people were wrong, a mark goes in the "incorrect" column. If most people were right, the mark goes in the "correct" column.

In this game, everyone works on being a winner together!





# Family Page



The happiness of the apostles upon seeing Jesus again can be seen as a reflection of the joy we all feel when we are reunited with people we love. Too often we forget how important people are to us until they are no longer near us. This week, make it a special point to let those who are part of your daily lives know how much you love their company.

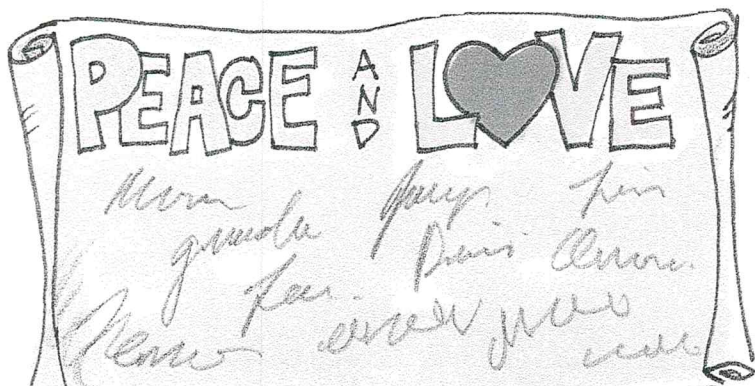
**1** Gather the family to talk about the important people in your lives. Make two lists: one of people you see every day but forget to appreciate (especially the members of the family) and one of people who are important to you but live far away.

**2** Plan a "reunion" celebration including all those people on the first list. Write a special tribute to all those people on the list, telling them how wonderful you feel that you can be together with them, how much you love them, and mention their special gifts to you. These tributes can be read at your celebration.

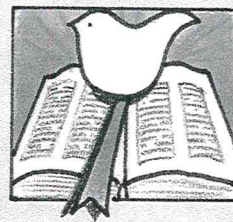
**3** Conduct a family "letter-writing reunion" with those people on the second list. Write each person a letter, with small notes from each family member (or pictures drawn by the youngest members of the family). Be sure to tell these people that you love them and wish you could be with them.

**4** Make a PEACE and LOVE banner. Write the words PEACE and LOVE in large colorful letters on your banner, then add the names of the people from both your lists.

Answer to A Gift From Jesus:  
PANTS-ANTS+EAR+INK-RINK+ICE-I=PEACE

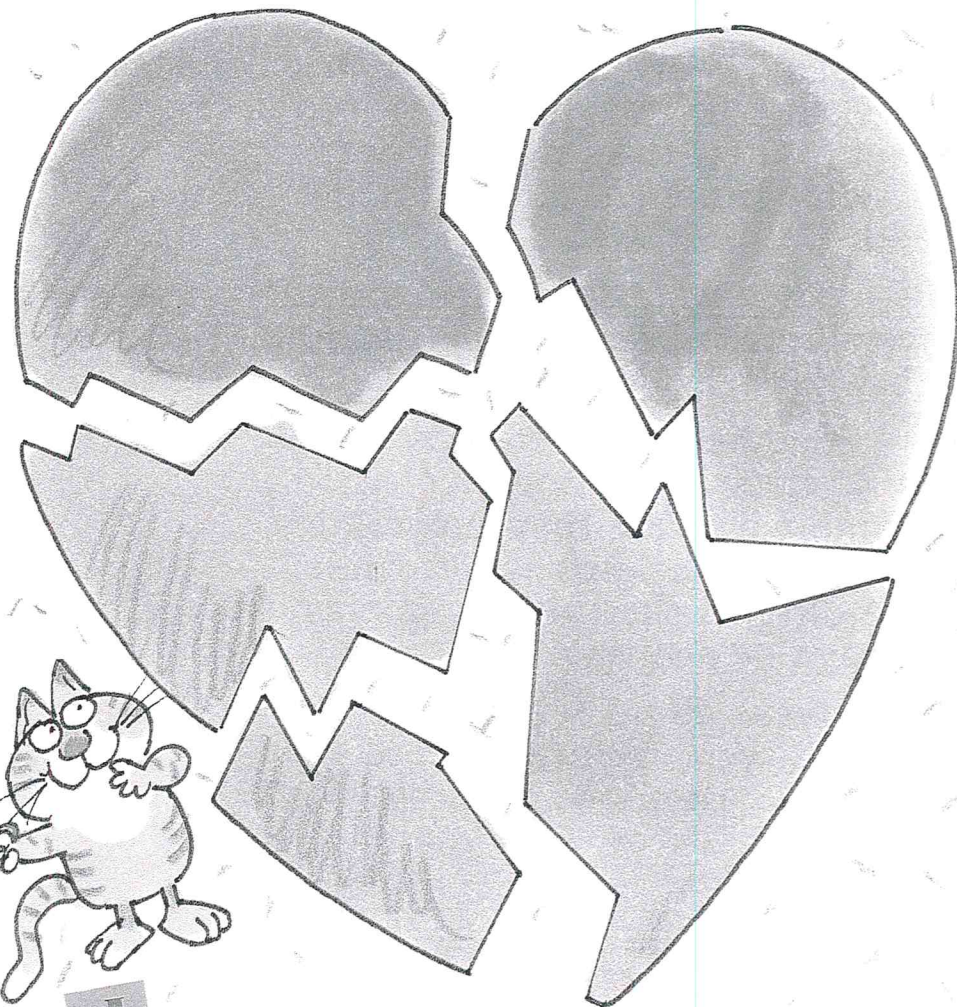


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# explaining GOD'S WORD

Second Sunday of Easter / Sunday of Divine Mercy (A) • John 20:19-31 • April 19, 2020



## JESUS MENDS A BROKEN HEART

As you read the gospel story today, you will see how Jesus mended the broken hearts of his friends. You can mend this broken heart by cutting out the pieces and fitting them together.



# A Surprise Visit

In this week's gospel story, the apostles were all together in a locked room.

They were afraid. Maybe those who killed Jesus would come and get them now.

They were lonely. Jesus had been their friend. He had helped them when they needed help and taught them all about the Father.

They were sad. Their hearts were broken because they had lost their Master.

Suddenly — there was JESUS! Did they imagine it? they wondered. Were they dreaming? No — it was Jesus really there, standing in their midst, just as though he'd never died.

Jesus could see that his friends were frightened and confused. He spoke gently to them: "Peace be with you," he said.

Peace, he told them. Peace means, "Don't worry about anything, I will always be with you." Peace means, "Don't be sad, I love you with all my heart."

Jesus gave his peace for all time. He gave his peace to you and to me and to all who love him.

PEACE!



## A Gift From Jesus

Solve the rebus to see what special gift Jesus gives you in today's gospel story.

