

Easter (Part 5) Thomas the Doubter

Aim

To explain to Primary School Pupils the Bible story of Thomas' attitude to the first account of the Resurrection.

Background Information.

The story of Thomas is in John's Gospel 20 vv 24-30.

Children's Bible Story: Thomas the Doubter

After Easter Sunday Morning, Jesus later appeared to the disciples during the evening, when they met together in the upstairs room. For some reason, Thomas was not present. Later, the disciples told Thomas that Jesus had risen from the dead. He did not believe them! He said, "Except I see the marks of the nails in his hands, and unless I put my hand on the wound in his side, I will not believe."

The following Sunday evening, Jesus again appeared to the group of disciples. Jesus said to them, "Peace be unto you!" He then spoke to Thomas. "Look at my hands. Put your hand on the wound in my side." Thomas could only say, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus replied, "Thomas, because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet have believed." At last Thomas was convinced that Jesus was alive from the dead.

Tradition tells us that Thomas became a travelling preacher, and that he went to India to tell the people there that Jesus was alive from the dead.

Children's Story: Nancy's Change

We use faith and hope every day and usually we do not notice it. Peter Positive and Nancy Negative were both ten years old. They went to the same school. When Peter Positive would say, "I hope it will be a sunny day today," Nancy Negative would say, "I think it might rain."

When Peter said, "The bottle of Coke is half-full," Nancy Negative would look at the bottle and she would say, "The bottle is half-empty."

When Peter Positive would say, "I cannot prove it, but I know that the sun will rise tomorrow morning." Nancy Negative would say, "The big black clouds might hide the sun in the morning."

The other children in the school, began to understand that the answers which Peter Positive and Nancy Negative gave to questions they were asked, were usually a sign of how both children felt inside themselves.

One day in a maths lesson, instead of Nancy saying "I hate doing sums," or, "It's impossible to answer these questions," she smiled and said, "At the Wild Life Centre on holiday, I counted one hundred and twenty-four wild white geese which had just flown three thousand miles from Russia to England. I think they must have flown over Canada."

Peter Positive looked at Nancy and he said, "Nancy, I believe you! It must have been very exciting to watch!" Nancy smiled a big smile.

The other children gathered around Nancy, and they said to her, "Nancy, you are such a beautiful person when you smile, and when you believe what you are told in school!"

Nancy looked at the other children and she said, "Do you know how many teeth you have in your mouth? Thirty two." The other children were amazed! Nancy had become interested in numbers. She could even hold someone else's wrist, like a real nurse does, and count their pulse rate.

Peter Positive noticed that for some reason, Nancy had changed within herself. She no longer doubted everyone and everything. In fact, she had become a much happier person.

Children's Story 2: Exaggeration

Tommy was always exaggerating (which means making things bigger than they really were) when he described anything that had

happened. One morning, he said to his mother in the kitchen. "Mother, there are a hundred cats on our yard wall." His mother smiled and said to him, "Tommy, there are not a hundred cats on the yard wall."

Tommy replied, "Well Mother, there are twenty cats on our yard wall." Mother said, "Now, Tommy, there are not twenty cats on our yard wall either."

Tommy realised he was talking too big again! (He was exaggerating.) "Well, Mother," Tommy said, "There is our cat and the one belonging to the people next door, sitting on the wall." Mother answered, "That sounds better! To exaggerate is to tell lies. Always try to tell the truth, Tommy!" From that day onwards, Tommy never exaggerated any more. He always told the truth.

Suggested Classroom Activities:

- *Write the speech bubbles and complete the pictures on the sheet on the opposite page.*
- *Talk about things that have happened to you that you really could not believe at first.*
- *Discuss how we know the sun will rise in the morning?*
- *Talk about positive and negative attitudes. Use the example of the half full bottle of coke. Is the fact that the bottle is half full a good thing or a bad thing?*
- *Discuss why Thomas did not believe his friends at first. Do you think he was right to doubt what they said?*
- *Why do you think the mother doubted the little boy in the last story?*

