

STOWMARKET BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY BIBLE CLUB

19 APRIL 2020



Hello and welcome to this week's Sunday Bible Club. It is James writing this week.

I hope that you have had good week

Take care of yourselves and we are all praying that you and your family will be kept safe and well.

With love from everyone at Sunday Bible Club

This week's story can be found in the Bible in John chapter 20 verses 19 - 31, which says:

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 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."

28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

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

30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

There are a lot of questions in today's story, so I hope you have your thinking caps on! The first ones are about you...



Who would you like to meet who is really famous?

How could you get to meet them?

Wouldn't be great if they came to see you?

It had been a terrible week, not one that any of Jesus' disciples would want to go through again.

Jesus had been being arrested and had been tried and put to death on the cross.

But it then had a happier ending when Jesus rose



again on the 3rd day.

A week had now passed since all that had happened, and the disciples were beginning to feel afraid.



Why do you think that was?

They were frightened that the Jews who had killed Jesus might be looking to do the same to them.

Jesus disciples were meeting after Jesus had died on the cross. As they met, they kept the doors locked because they were frightened of what the Jews would do to them.



They couldn't understand what had happened...

First Jesus being put to **death on the cross...**
and then the **empty tomb...**
and now Mary saying that she'd actually seen **Jesus alive!** What was going on?

Yet despite the locked door, someone joined them. Who do you think that was?

It was Jesus!

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"



How did they feel?

I reckon they must have been happy but also wondered what was going to happen next!

Jesus had a special message for them. He told them that they were going to receive a special gift, he said to them "Receive the Holy Spirit".



What does it mean to receive the Holy Spirit?

It means we are given God's power and we are trusted by him with a special task of telling others about what Jesus did.

Only a week ago they had run away when Jesus has been arrested, but he wasn't angry with them. He spoke gently and gave them this special job to do. It must have been thrilling!

But not all of Jesus' disciples were there to share the joy. One was missing, his name was Thomas.

Thomas missed out on something special!

When the other disciples saw Thomas, they told him, "We have seen Jesus!"

But Thomas didn't believe them. He said, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Thomas doubted that Jesus was really alive. It didn't make him happy!

Perhaps he was cross with himself for having stayed away from the others, and disappointed that he had missed out.

If he had been there, he would have known for sure that Jesus really was alive and would not have been left wondering if his friends had imagined it.

Thomas made sure that he was with the other disciples the next Sunday.

And the same thing happened, even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

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."

He actually invited Thomas to do what he had said he wanted to!

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

All his doubts disappeared! He became a changed man. Jesus didn't tell him off for doubting but said words to encourage all believers who have lived since then. It was a special experience for Thomas.

The Bible tells us that Jesus really is alive and that he should be worshipped.

You can't see Jesus as Thomas did, but hearing how he doubted, then saw and believed can help you to understand that Jesus is alive.

If you want to know about him, you can; in the Bible, at Thursday or Sunday Bible Club, or talking to people who already know him. He is ready to show himself to you.

