

Thomas' Doubt Turns to Faith

Thomas' Doubt Turns to Faith.....	1
Scene Summary	1
Scripture	1
Players	2
Special Props	2
Script – Thomas' Doubt Turns to Faith	3
Extra Time.....	5

Scene Summary

This short play carries a powerful message. The first scene changes from fear to joy...the disciples are gathered in fear...Jesus appears there is immediate joy...Thomas was absent and would not believe unless he touched the nail marks and put his hand in His side...one week later Jesus answered Thomas doubt...when Jesus comes, faith triumphs...Thomas responds: "My Lord and my God!"

Scripture

(John 20:19-31 NIV) On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, 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 his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." {24} Now Thomas (called Didymus), 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 it." {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 did many other miraculous 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 Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Players

- **Narrator** – The play's "catechist" or teacher should be a good reader with a clear voice.
- **Jesus** – God's One and Only Son.
- **Disciples** – More disciples can be used as necessary.
- **Thomas** – Skeptical until he sees Jesus.

Special Props

- Normal items from the prop box such as cloaks, veils, robes and headdresses.
- White cloth for Jesus.

Script – Thomas' Doubt Turns to Faith

Narrator: On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them.

Jesus: Peace be with you! [Jesus shows them his hands and side]

Narrator: Jesus showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Jesus: Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.

Narrator: Jesus breathed on them.

Jesus: [gestures with hands from mouth] Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven. [greet each disciple then exit stage left]

Narrator: Now Thomas, called the twin, one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him.

Thomas: [enter stage right]

Disciples: [excited] Thomas! We have seen the Lord!

Thomas: [doubtful] 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 it.

Everyone on stage: [freeze as the Narrator speaks]

Narrator: 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.

Jesus: [enter stage left] Peace be with you! [then to Thomas] Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.

Thomas: [kneeling before Jesus] My Lord and my God!

Jesus: Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

Narrator: Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The End

Supplemental Information

Thomas, we are told, was not really a name but an epithet, meaning, like its Greek equivalent Didymus, “the twin.” David Smith suggests that the apostle’s name was Judas, but that he was named “the twin” to distinguish him from Judas, the son of James, and Judas Iscariot. Tradition credits him with the authorship of a gospel that is included in apocryphal literature.

Zealous, inquisitive and incredulous, he earned the title of “Thomas the Doubter.” Because of his hesitancy in accepting the disciples’ story of the Resurrection of Christ, Thomas has come down through the centuries as a typical pessimist and skeptic. But was he an habitual doubter? Some authorities supposed that the name Didymus alluded to his doubting propensities, since some versions render it as “double-minded.”

Had we only the record of the first three gospels, Thomas would be to us simply a name, but John rescued him from oblivion, made him a reality to us and surrounded him with an undying interest. Tradition has it that we died a martyr.

Three traits seem to stand out in John’s cameo of Thomas:

1. When he saw what he ought to do, nothing kept him back. When Jesus expressed his intention of going into Judea again, Thomas urged the disciples to accompany Christ even though it might mean death (John 11:16).
2. When he saw what he ought to do, he only wanted to see how he was to do it. At the Last Supper he acknowledged his ignorance on the place the Lord was going to and asked how he could know the way (John 14:5).
3. When he saw what it was he had to believe, he only wanted to see that it was right, and then to him there was no help for it. After our Lord’s resurrection Thomas refused to believe in its reality except upon conditions that he believed laid down. How stirring was his confession of faith once convinced of the Resurrection (John 20:28, 21:2).

(From: All the Men in the Bible, by Herbert Lockyer, p. 327)

Extra Time

After the play, to connect with each student, try this exercise continuing with the character that played Jesus. Have this person (as Jesus) go to every child, calling each by name, holding out their hands and saying “[child’s name], put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”