

Easter 2, 2021, Children's Message

Last Sunday was Easter! Did you do anything special? (Maybe an egg hunt? family time, special family dinner?)

Do you remember why the church celebrates Easter?

- Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

What does that mean, "He is risen"? Why is that important? (he'd been dead)

How did he die?

Do you think that way of dying left any marks or scars on his body?
(look at crucifix)

Today's Bible story about Jesus is about what happened on Easter night. Everyone had heard the story that even though he had been dead, now he was alive again. But ten of his closest friends, the disciples, weren't sure they believed it. They were sitting in the same room where they had eaten supper with Jesus the night he was arrested, and the doors were locked.

But all of a sudden, Jesus was there in the room with them. He didn't stay long—just long enough to tell them that he had a job for them to do: Jesus said he was sending them out to forgive sins! [What's a sin? Definition? Example?] When someone did something sinful, the disciples were supposed to let them know that their sins were forgiven.

Is that hard to do? If someone takes your toy or sits in your seat or hits you or yells at you, is it hard to forgive them? That's what Jesus wanted his friends to do.

Jesus left that Upper (upstairs) Room, and soon after that, Thomas came in. Thomas was one of the disciples, but he hadn't been there when Jesus came. And when his friends told him they had talked to Jesus and he really was alive again, well, Thomas didn't believe them. He said, "I have to see this to believe it." They couldn't convince him that they were telling the truth.

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A week went by. The disciples were still in that same room upstairs, and the doors were still locked. They were afraid that *they* would be arrested just as Jesus had been.

Again, Jesus stood right there in the room with them, and Thomas was there. Jesus didn't scold him for not believing, but he *did* hold out his hands. "Look, Thomas, here are the marks the nails made in my hands. And see here, this hole in my side? That's where they stuck me with a spear. Because you have seen me, now you can believe that I'm really alive again. But think of all the people who have never seen me and still believe!"

Do you know the word "faith"? Faith is what we have when we believe something without proof. I (Pastor Gail) have faith that when I flip a light switch, a light will come on.) Thomas wanted proof that Jesus was alive.

What sort of "proof" do we have about Jesus?

- The Bible
- The Church
- Seeing the faith of other people

Can you be "living proof" of the love of Jesus? Talk it over with your family and see how you might do that.