

Gospel Story – Thomas Believes

When you gather for this story, burn a candle and have a small cross, covered with a napkin.

The women ran to where the friends of Jesus were gathered together. Again they called out, “Alleluia! Jesus is risen! We have seen him ourselves. He spoke to us!” The friends of Jesus did not know what to think.

That night, when the friends were together, Jesus came. “Peace be with you,” said Jesus. He hugged his friends.

Now one friend who was not there was Thomas. He came later, when Jesus had already gone.

“Thomas,” said the friends. “We have seen Jesus. He’s alive!”

“Jesus!” said Thomas. “That can’t be! I don’t believe you.” *(Blow out the candle.)* I must see him myself,” said Thomas. “I must touch his scars and see where they nailed him and pierced him.” *(Uncover the cross.)* Then I will believe that Jesus lives.”

That very night Jesus came again to his friends. “Peace be with you,” said Jesus. Then Jesus walked right over to Thomas. “See me, Thomas,” said Jesus. “Touch me. Feel the marks of the cross on me.” *(Take the cross into your hands. Hold it for a moment, then silently pass it around the family circle. Do not continue the story until everyone has handled the cross.)*

“I see you,” said Thomas. “I can feel you myself. Jesus, you’re really alive!” *(Strike a match and light the candle.)* Then Thomas fell to his knees and said, “Jesus. You are my God.”

Jesus held Thomas as he said, “Now that you have seen me, you can believe, Thomas. Others will not need to see me to believe. But whether they see me or not, I will always be with the people who ask me.”

Let the candle burn in silence for a moment. Softly repeat the Easter greeting—Alleluia! Christ is risen!—before blowing out the candle.