



EVIDENCE

Life & Ministry of Jesus • U9#3 1st-3rd Grade • April 14, 2024

Concept

Jesus gives evidence that He is the risen Christ and will continue His work.

Goal

Students will learn that Jesus gives evidence that he rose from the dead.

Passage

Luke 24:36-46; John 21:1-14

Key Verse: "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." John 20:31

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
Learning Activity #2: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 cards w/names of people	Activity Station: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eggs, 2/CT class* (teachers bring)• Identical 12-16 oz. clear plastic cups, 2/room• Marker• Salt, 1 box/room• 6" plastic bowl• Several small paper clips• Piece of toilet paper from bathroom• 3" x 5" index cards, 1/student• Scissors

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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“Luke tells us that while the Emmaus travelers were finishing their report to the assembled believers, the Lord Himself entered through the locked doors and appeared in their midst (Luke 24:36), much to the amazement of all those who had not previously seen Him risen from the dead. Graciously He greeted them with His customary 'Peace be with you'... [John 20:19]. Then He hastened to allay their fears by showing them physical evidence of His bodily resurrection and restoration to life. 'Why are you troubled and why do doubts arise in your heart?' He asked (Luke 24:38), as He held out His pierced hands for them to see and removed His sandals to show the nail holes through His feet (vv. 39-40). He even uncovered the scar of the gash that the Roman spear had made in His side as He hung lifeless on the cross (John 20:20). 'Look at My hands and feet,' He said to them, 'for it is really I. Feel Me and see, for a mere spirit does not have flesh and bones such as you behold Me to have' (Luke 24:39)

“How many took advantage of Christ's offer to touch Him we cannot be sure. But numbers of those in the room found even this evidence too amazing to be believed; so He offered a yet more dramatic proof. 'Do you have anything to eat?' He asked them. They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He proceeded to eat it as they looked on with wonder and delight (Luke 24:42-43).

“Having thus demonstrated that He was none other than their beloved Master risen from the dead, Jesus proceeded to explain to them, as He had explained to the two on the road to Emmaus, that all the amazing occurrences of Passion Week were fully predicted in the Hebrew Scriptures... [1]

“Although it was at great cost and often against their personal interest, they bore courageous testimony to the resurrection, simply because their experience and observation compelled them to do so. He presented them with the signs of bodily identity in the scars in hands and feet and side—an evidence of identity that would be accepted in any court of law (John 20:27).”[2]

[1] Gleason L. Archer, *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties*, ©1982, Zondervan Corp., pp. 352, 353, 354, 355, 358.

[2] J. Oswald Sanders, "The Ministry of the Forty Days," *The Incomparable Christ*, ©1971, Moody Press, pp. 219-220.

Activity Stations:

- **Experiments – Give Me Evidence! [1]**
- **Goal:** To demonstrate the concept of evidence for the truth of the claim.
- **"Obedient Eggs"**
 - **Instructions:** Before the students arrive, put 4 tablespoons of salt into a glass of warm water. Stir well to dissolve. Fill the other glass with water and set the two side by side, remembering which glass has the salt in it. When the students arrive, have them choose on which egg to write FLOAT and on which egg to write SINK. Tell the students you can make the egg follow the command written on it. Drop the SINK egg in the plain water, the FLOAT egg in the salt water.
- **"Floating Metal"**
 - **Instructions:** Tell the students you can make a paper clip float. Let them try and then tell them you can give them evidence that you can make a paper clip float. Gently lay one sheet of toilet paper on the water's surface in the bowl. Then place the paper clip carefully on top of the paper. The toilet paper will eventually sink, but the paper clip will remain floating.
- **"Paper Necklace"**
 - **Instructions:** Tell a student you can make an index card fit over his head. Ask if he believes you and say that you will give evidence that you can do it. Fold the card in half lengthwise as show in illustration #1. Make 4 vertical cuts from the folded edge very close to but not all the way through to the opposite edge and 3 vertical cuts from the open edge but not all the way through to the folded edge (as shown by the dotted lines in illustration #2). Next, cut horizontally from the first cut to the last cut on the folded edge (as shown by the dotted line in illustration #3). Carefully open it up and stretch it to slip over the student's head (illustrations #4 & #5).

[1] Adapted from "52 Cool Tricks for Kids" cards, ©1996, Lynn Gordon.

You just had the opportunity to witness a teacher give you evidence to demonstrate that he/she could do an improbable task. What is evidence? (an outward sign; something that furnishes proof.) Once you actually saw the experiment work and were convinced by the evidence, you believed the teacher. Today we are going to learn about evidence for a seemingly impossible event, Jesus' resurrection. The disciples believed he was the Messiah and hoped that he would rescue them from the cruelty of the Romans. They didn't expect him to be killed and, crucified as a criminal. But Jesus was crucified and he died. However, he rose from the dead the third day after he was buried. We are going to learn about a couple of times that Jesus appeared to the disciples and the evidence he gave them that he really was the risen Jesus and the Messiah they had waited for.

Lesson Lg. Group

Listen as I read **Luke 24:36-46**. Jesus was on the cross the last time many of the disciples saw Him. He was buried in a tomb and on that Sunday evening three days later, Jesus stood in the middle of them and said, "Peace be with you." The disciples were startled and frightened when they saw Him. Jesus then showed them his wounded hands and pierced side as evidence that it was really Him, raised from the dead and not a ghost. In the book of John, it tells us that when the disciples saw and heard Him they rejoiced.

To learn of another time that Jesus appeared to the disciples turn to John 20. Follow along as I read verses 24-29. This time Thomas was with them. After Jesus first appeared to the disciples, they told Thomas they had seen Jesus. Thomas couldn't believe what they were saying and doubted them. What did Thomas actually say? Look again at verse 25. He said, I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in His hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in His side." How would you have responded if you had been Thomas? What would you have thought of Thomas if you had been a disciple who had seen Jesus? Do you think it was okay that Thomas wanted evidence? (Take some time to allow students to respond. In the midst of the discussion, interrupt the class with the following brief, surprise skit.)

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Object Lesson

Instructions:

Teacher #1 will run in from the outside and yell excitedly, "You won't believe this, I just saw the President in the parking lot!"

Teacher #2 will get up and say, "I'm going to get his autograph" and leave the room.

Teacher #3 will say, "Why would the President come here? How do you know it's really him? What did he look like? How many Secret Service are out there? Why didn't I hear on the news that he was coming to Columbus? To the students: Did any of you hear that the President was coming to Columbus?"

As **Teacher #1** starts to respond to the questions, **teacher #2** comes back in and says, "The President isn't out there!"

Who believed <<Teacher #1>> when he/she said that the President was here? Who doubted and had the same questions as <<Teacher #3>>? Some of us very easily believe the things that we're told. But others of us find it hard to believe without evidence. We doubt and need more evidence. Let's look in our Bibles again and reread Thomas' reaction in verses 25-29.

Thomas did not see Jesus the first time He appeared. When he heard that Jesus was alive, he said he needed to see as well as touch His wounds to believe that it was really Jesus.

Learning Activity#1 Continued

Transition

Learning Activity#2 Lg. Group

Transition

Lesson Continued

What did Jesus say to Thomas? Did He say, "You weak in faith, no good apostle?" No! He said, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Jesus provided the evidence Thomas needed in order to believe!

Let's do an activity in which you will have to gather evidence by asking questions to determine the identity of someone.

Game - Who Am I?

Goal: To demonstrate that evidence helps us to determine the identity of someone.

Instructions: Divide the class into pairs. Give a card with the name of a famous person or character to one student in each pair. The student will say something about who the person/character is without revealing the identity. The other student will ask yes/no questions to try to determine the person/character identity.

Character Ideas: Barbie (doll), Easter Bunny, Santa Claus, Mickey Mouse, Peter Pan, Shrek, Spiderman, Cinderella, Harry Potter, Little Mermaid, Batman, Belle

Let's talk about what evidence we need to believe in someone or something.

Some of you needed more evidence than others to identify the person described by your partner. It is good to gather evidence to be sure that what you believe is really true. Even though the other disciples claimed to see Jesus, it was too unbelievable for Thomas to even consider that Jesus could be raised from the dead. But apparently, once Thomas saw Jesus, he did not need to touch Him. He knew it was really Jesus and cried out, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus responded, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Our key verse today is, "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" (John 20:31).

Some people believe what they want to believe is true, sometimes even when the evidence goes against their belief. For example, what if a friend of yours went to the doctor and the doctor told her that she had a broken arm that needed a cast? And say that your friend decided she didn't believe she had a broken arm so she didn't need a cast. The bone sticking out of her skin and the x-rays gave evidence that her arm really was broken. Does her belief change the truth that her arm really was broken? (No, it doesn't.)

Good News

If, like the friend, we are unwilling to believe, no amount of evidence will convince us. But after examining the evidence, we can choose to believe. Remember our key verse, "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" (John 20:31). We have all the evidence we need to believe that Jesus is who He says He is and what the entire Bible says about Him is true.

Some people don't believe in God or that Jesus paid for our sins on the cross. We have the eyewitness of the disciples and the whole Bible. In addition we have the witness of those who have believed that Jesus is the Son of God, their Savior. The evidence is very clear. If we choose to trust and believe in Christ's death on the cross we are forgiven and have the promise of eternal life. I encourage you to consider the evidence of Jesus' resurrection and what it means!

Let's get into small groups and talk about what this looks like in our lives.

Discussion Groups

- What did Thomas need in order to believe? Did Jesus provide the evidence Thomas needed? Jesus not only provided the evidence to the disciples and Thomas, but He also gives each of us the exact evidence we need to believe that He is alive and He has paid for our sins.
- What kind of evidence do you need to believe something or someone?
- As Christians, there are times in our lives when it feels as if Jesus isn't alive and doesn't hear us. When you feel doubtful, what can you do? What did disciples do?
- Is there something you are having trouble believing? Have you asked God to show you? How has He answered? Have you ever considered that sometimes He is silent because He knows you have all the evidence you need?
- What do you do when you doubt whether He is really alive or whether His word is true? (suggestions: think about ways that God has worked in your life and the lives of other people you know, talk to other believers, read what the Bible says)

Mission Prayer: Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign.

Let's pray now. Let's thank God that He wants to have a relationship with us. Let's ask Him to help us consider the ways He has worked in our lives and the lives of other people we know so our faith in Him will be strengthened.

Transition

Learning Activity#4 Lg. Group

Now we're going to play a review game called Truth or Consequences.

Game - Truth or Consequences

Instructions: One teacher is Thomas and another is John. Arrange a table and chairs for a panel discussion or a game show. Have the remaining teacher or a student ask the attached "Truth or Consequences" questions of these disciples. Have the "disciples" answer the questions according to the script. After they answer, ask the "audience" if their answer is true. Have them stand up if they think the answer is correct. Before asking the question, determine a silly stunt the students with the incorrect answer have to do. For example: touch their tongue to their knee, etc.