Date: 4/27/19

Title: Doubting Thomas

Theme: Even though we have not seen Jesus, we can believe He is alive because the Bible is true.

Object: Large wine glass, dry paper clips, small square of dry paper towel (each edge longer than the paper clip), water to fill glass to about 1 in. from the top.

Text: John 20:29 (NKJV) 29 Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

This is the passage in the Bible from which we get the expression “Doubting Thomas.”

Someone might say, “O that person is a doubting Thomas. He won’t believe it unless he sees it.”

You remember that Jesus died for our sins on the cross on Friday, and God brought Him back to life on Sunday morning.

On that same Sunday evening, the disciples were gathered together in a room in a house with the doors shut and all of a sudden Jesus just appeared in the middle of the room.

He showed His disciples the nail prints in His hands and the hole where the spear went into His side and they all believed that Jesus had risen from the dead.

But one of the disciples named Thomas wasn’t there.

When the other disciples told Thomas that they had seen Jesus alive, Thomas 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 wouldn’t believe the word of the other disciples until he saw it for himself.

Are you like that sometimes? I know I am.

If someone tells me something that seems impossible, I might just say, “I won’t believe that until I see it.”

Well I brought something in my bag this morning that seems impossible to believe.

I’m going to ask you to believe that a paper clip can float on water. [Set up experiment.]

Now that seems impossible, doesn’t it? A paper clip is made out of metal, and metal is denser than water. So the paper clip should always sink in water, right?

So let’s do the experiment and see what happens.

[Have a volunteer carefully drop a paperclip into the glass of water; it sinks immediately. Repeat several times.]

So, do paperclips float on water or do they sink? (They sink.)

So, if I told you a paperclip could float on water would you believe me?

Most people would say “No! I don’t believe a paper clip can float. I won’t believe that until I see it!”

Most of us would be “Doubting Thomases.”

So give me another paperclip and I will try to make this one float.

[Put paperclip on paper towel and gently place paper tower on water surface. The paper towel sinks and the paper clip floats.]

NOW how many believe that a paperclip can float on water? (We all believe it because we have seen it.)

Let’s go back to the story of doubting Thomas.

One whole week went by and Thomas doubted the whole week long.

The next Sunday evening the disciples were together again and Thomas was with them this time.

Jesus appeared again in the middle of the room and He told Thomas: “Look at my hands, look at my side; touch the nail prints, stop doubting and believe!

Thomas saw and believed. He said, “My Lord and my God.”

Then Jesus said, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

We haven’t seen Jesus, we haven’t touched the nail prints in His hands, but we can believe that He is alive.

Why? Because the Bible is God’s word, and the Bible tells us that Jesus is alive.

How many believe that Jesus is alive even though we haven’t seen Him yet?

Let’s believe so that when He comes again He will save us in His Kingdom!