



WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

Jesus helps me believe.

THE BIBLE

Doubting Thomas: John 20:19-20, 24-29;
(2 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 11:1)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids to sing along to ["Who You Say I Am"](#) by Hillsong Kids.

ACTIVITY | Peek-tionary

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Split the kids into two teams. One person from each team wears a blindfold so they can't see what they are drawing. Quietly tell the blindfolded players what to draw a picture of on a poster board. The first team to guess the word correctly wins the round. A new person from each team will draw in the next round and repeat the process. Best two out of three wins (Suggested words: basketball, smart phone, sword, llama, coins, star, bird, and other words loosely related to gaming).
- **In what ways did the blindfold make this activity difficult?**
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Get students involved in guessing what the picture is. Have communication devices ready, if applicable, to say their guesses. Model your student to say what you think it might be, using their device. Say something silly while guessing so students don't feel pressured to say the right answer. When you see your student expressing using the device, yell their answer out (e.g., "Joshua says it is a dog!").
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** For a digital twist, you will need an iPad, Pictionary Air app, and the [Pictionary Air game](#). This will capture the objective of this activity because the person drawing doesn't have to—and can't easily—see what they



LEVEL UP | WEEK 3 ELEMENTARY LESSON

are drawing in the air using AR technology. The audience can see on the screen as the app captures and displays the lines they are drawing ([check it out!](#)).

ACTIVITY | Rabid Raceway

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create a simple (or multiple smaller) obstacle course(s) in your environment. You can use chairs (to walk around), tables (to crawl under), hula hoops (to hop through), or whatever you have. Make it fun! Pair up the kids. One will be the "leader" and the other will be the "follower." Put blindfolds on the followers. The leader has to lead their follower through the obstacle course by telling them what to do using only words. Once they are through the course, ask the kids to switch roles. This way, everyone gets a turn at leading and following.
- **When you were the follower, why did you have to listen carefully to the leader?**
- **When you were the leader, was it easy or difficult to guide them using only your words?**
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** Ask preteens to design and set up the obstacle course(s)! Also enlist their help cleaning up and resetting the room after the lesson. And during the race, allow them to serve as referees since they are the masters of the course!

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

VIDEO | Level Up, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#).

BIBLE STORY | John 20:19-20, 24-29

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Conduct a quick review of what we've been going over in this series. This serves as a great overview for anyone who missed previous weeks.
- **Who can tell me who Jesus is?** Jesus is God's son, and Jesus lived here on Earth teaching people about God, healing people, and even performing miracles. Lots of people loved Jesus.
- But there were people who didn't like Jesus at all and they had Him arrested. **Can anyone tell me what happened when they arrested Jesus?** Yes, they nailed Jesus to a cross and Jesus died on the cross. It was an incredibly sad moment. All of Jesus' friends couldn't believe Jesus was gone.
- But Jesus wasn't really gone, right? **What happened when they went to see Jesus' body in the tomb?** That's right! They discovered Jesus beat death! Jesus was alive! Jesus' disciples couldn't believe it — especially one guy in particular. Let's open our Bibles and read what happened.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read John 20:24-29.
- Thomas only believed when he saw the marks where Jesus had been nailed to the cross, and when he touched them. It would have been easy for Jesus to get

disappointed when one of His disciples doubted him. But Jesus didn't get upset. Instead, Jesus helped Thomas believe!

- **Have you ever had any trouble fully understanding the things you learn about God?** We all do. When we don't understand something, we can pray and ask for help to understand. Jesus loves us and wants us to know more about God. **That's why Jesus helps you and me to believe.**
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** *Challenge a few preteens to create posters on poster board or simply slides on a presentation software that utilizes a little bit of text and emoji to summarize the lesson and provide visual answers to the questions presented in this part of the lesson. They should display the visuals after everyone has had a chance to answer. As a bonus, have them create visuals to go with this week's lesson and next week's...to be shown next week, of course. If you have the ability, share these on your church's social media channel.*

QUESTION | All About Doubt

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Allow for open discussion on these questions.*
- **What is doubt?** *(To be uncertain, unsure, skeptical, afraid.)*
- **Is it okay to doubt?** *(Reassure the kids it is okay to doubt at times, we all doubt sometimes and have questions.)*
- **Does Jesus still love us even when we doubt?** *(Jesus loves us even when we doubt or don't understand something.)*
- Doubt is a natural reaction to things that are hard to believe. When we have doubt, we can pray, we can talk to our parents, relatives, church leaders, and other people we trust.

IMAGE | How Many Animals?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print or project [this image](#). Find as many animals as an entire group or split into smaller groups and see who can find the most animals in one minute (Scroll down on the above link to find the answers).*
- Even when something is right in front of us we don't always see it!

SCRIPTURE | 2 Corinthians 5:7

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *If possible, have everyone open up their Bibles to 2 Corinthians 5:7. Have one of the kids read the verse out loud to the group.*
- **Who can tell me in your own words what you think this verse means?**
- Being able to see is very important. But the thing is, we don't need to see to believe in Jesus! We don't physically see Jesus today. But we believe in Jesus because we have faith. Faith is believing in something even though we can't physically see it.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

ACTIVITY | List It Out

- Sometimes, it can be hard to think of all the people we can talk to when we have doubt or even just questions. Let's think of some people together!



LEVEL UP | WEEK 3 ELEMENTARY LESSON

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use a large poster board or dry erase board for the kids and/or leaders to write the lists on. Ask, "Who can tell me the name of someone they can go to when they have doubt?"
- There are a lot of people we can all go to when we need encouragement, have questions, or experience doubt. Jesus helps us to believe by surrounding each of us with other people we can turn to.

PRAYER

- Jesus, thank You for reminding us that even when we doubt or have questions, that doesn't change how much You love each of us. Thank You for surrounding us with others who pray for us and encourage us. Help us to grow our faith and believe in You.

MEMORY VERSE | Hebrews 12:2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Say the memory verse for the kids, but intentionally get some of the words wrong. Tell the kids to make a buzzer noise when they hear the wrong word. If they don't catch it, you get to say, "Gotcha!"

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- When Jesus appeared to the disciples after being in the tomb, who was missing?
- How did this disciple react when the other disciples told him about Jesus?
- Who helped him believe? How?
- Read Hebrews 11:1. What do we need to believe the things we cannot see?
- How do you think you would have reacted if you were Thomas?
- Are there things about God or the Bible you don't really understand? What are they?
- What can you do when you have questions or you're unsure of something?

MEMORY VERSE | Hebrews 12:2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Introduce kids to this month's memory verse, teaching them the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.