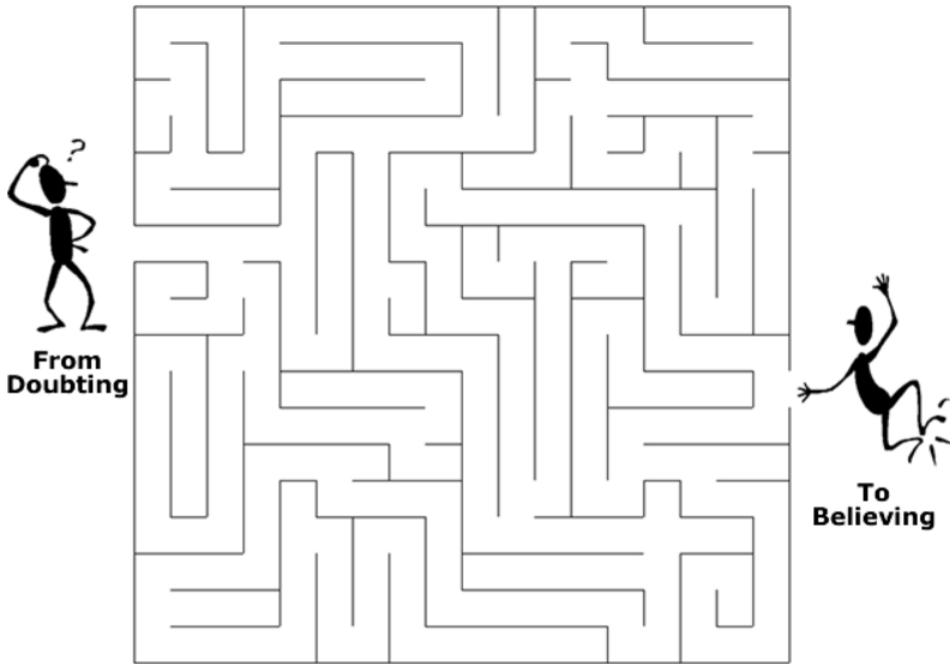


Stop doubting and believe!

Maze



Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

John 20:27 (NIV)

My Prayer for this week

Dear Father, help us to believe in our heart those truths we find in Your Holy Word, even though we have not seen them with our eyes. Amen.

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WELCOME

Theme: He Is Risen - Believe It!
(John 20:19-31)

Can you believe it?



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Doubting Thomas

If you put a paperclip in water, do you think it will sink or float? Let's try it. Ask someone to help you get a glass of water and a paperclip and drop it into the glass. Did it sink or float?

Now, what if I told you that you could make a paperclip float? Would you believe me? Or would it feel so impossible you would have to see it to believe it?

Let's try it now. (Put a small paper towel about the size of a Post-It Note on the surface of the water and then carefully place the paper clip on the piece of paper towel. When the paper towel becomes saturated, it will sink, leaving the paper clip floating on the surface of the water.) Wow! That's amazing! The paper clip is floating! I wouldn't believe it if I hadn't seen it with my own two eyes.

Our Bible lesson today is about believing what we cannot see.

On the evening of the first Sunday after Jesus was crucified, His disciples were together in a locked room. They were afraid that those who had crucified Jesus would also want to put them to death. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the locked room with the disciples. It was hard for the disciples to believe, but they saw Him with their eyes. Jesus showed them the wounds in His hands and His side, so they knew it was Him.

One of the disciples, whose name was Thomas, was not with the others when Jesus appeared to them. When they told Thomas they had seen Jesus, he did not believe them. He had seen Jesus crucified and buried; how could He be alive? Thomas said, "Unless I see the wound in His side and put my finger in the holes where the nails were in His hands, I will not believe it!"

A week later, the disciples were in the locked room again and this time Thomas was with them. Again, Jesus came and stood among the disciples. Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas fell on his knees and answered Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

You and I have never seen Jesus with our own eyes. The question is, will we be a doubter like Thomas? Or will we be blessed because we believe, even though we have not seen?



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Thomas

John 20:19-29

"He is not here, he is risen!"