

Year C - Second Sunday of Easter

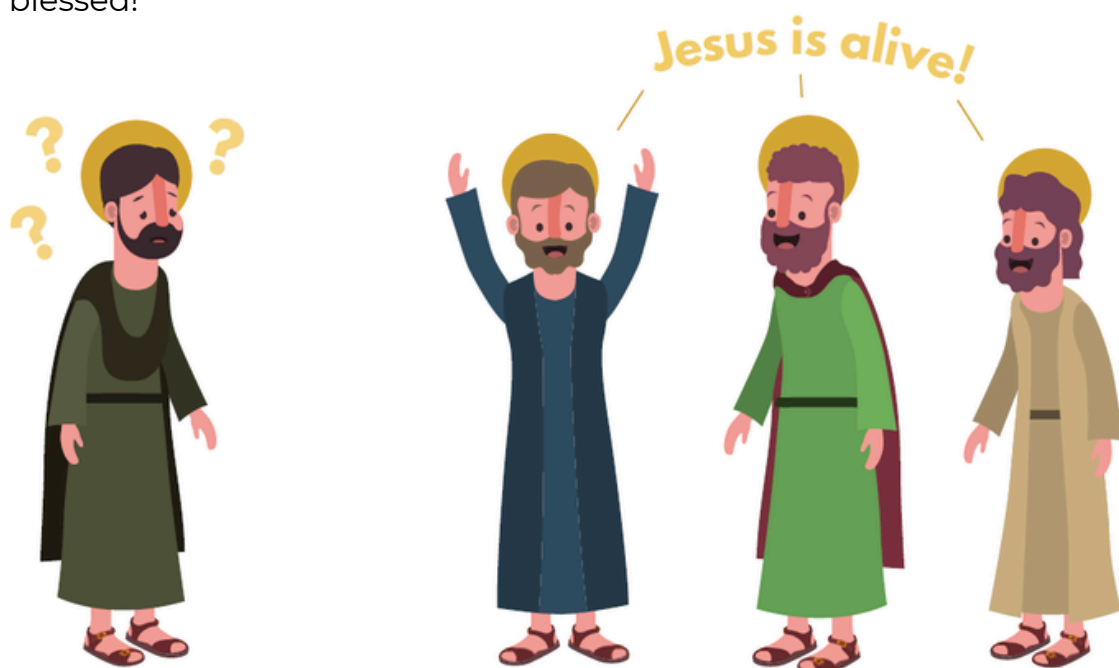
John 20:19-29

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them



The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders, and on the evening of that same Sunday they locked themselves in a room. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group. He greeted them and showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they became very happy. After Jesus had greeted them again, he said, "I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven."

Although Thomas the Twin was one of the twelve disciples, he was not with the others when Jesus appeared to them. So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But Thomas said, "First, I must see the nail scars in his hands and touch them with my finger. I must put my hand where the spear went into his side. I won't believe unless I do this!" A week later the disciples were together again. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came in while the doors were still locked and stood in the middle of the group. He greeted his disciples and said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands! Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and have faith!" Thomas replied, "You are my Lord and my God!" Jesus said, "Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me? The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed!"



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John 20:19-29

When the disciples were scared and when Thomas didn't believe, Jesus was there.



Introduction

- At the very start of the Gospel it talked about the disciples being scared and hiding in a locked room.
- Why do you think they were scared?
- Ask the children and respond with their answers.
- What happened when Jesus appeared? How did the disciples feel after that.
- They were happy, they weren't scared anymore etc
- But Thomas, one of the disciples was not there when Jesus appeared. So he never saw what the other disciples had seen and did not believe them when they told him Jesus had returned.
- It wasn't until Thomas saw Jesus for himself and could touch him did he believe that Jesus was alive.

Message

- Sometimes we can feel like the disciples did. We might feel scared or worried and like Thomas we might start to doubt that Jesus is really there for us.
- What we can do in those moments?
- Instead of turning away from Jesus and listening to our doubts, we can turn to Jesus instead, pray to Jesus and ask him to be with you.
- And when we pray - we listen. We listen to what Jesus has to say to us.
- When we listen to Jesus is different to when we listen to each other, you can hear me through your ears, but you will hear Jesus in your heart. That's how we can feel the great love Jesus has for us.

Discussion

- Can you think of a time when you have felt scared like the disciples, or found it hard to believe like Thomas?
- What would you say to Thomas if you could speak to him before he saw Jesus?
- What do you think it means to listen to Jesus with your heart instead of your ears?

