

SEEING IS BELIEVING?



WORD OF THE WEEK

JOHN 20: 19-31

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

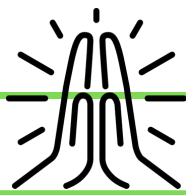
One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!"

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Do you believe because you see me? How blessed are those who believe without seeing me!"

In his disciples' presence Jesus performed many other miracles which are not written down in this book. But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.



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PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Dear Lord, I ask that You continue to make Yourself real to me in the ways You choose. Give me eyes to see You, not just in the unusual and amazing ways You make Yourself known, but also in the small and easily overlooked ways. As I see Your presence in my life, strengthen my faith, I pray. Help me to trust You with all that I am.

Amen.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

Can you think of a time when you have been like Thomas?

Has there been a time when you have refused to believe your friends when they have told you about something amazing they have experienced? Is it because you don't believe them or because you are jealous?

Have there been times when you have doubted God, and doubted because you haven't seen Him or feel that He isn't there for you?

SOMETHING TO DO...

Years after the resurrection, it's not as if Jesus had left us and is hanging out in heaven not caring. No, the whole point of the cross was to say, God is with us, and never leaves us.

We might not see him in the same way the disciples did in this story but we long to see God's work in the world today.

After all: "Blessed are those who do not see but believe."

Throughout this week ask Jesus to make Himself known in your life.

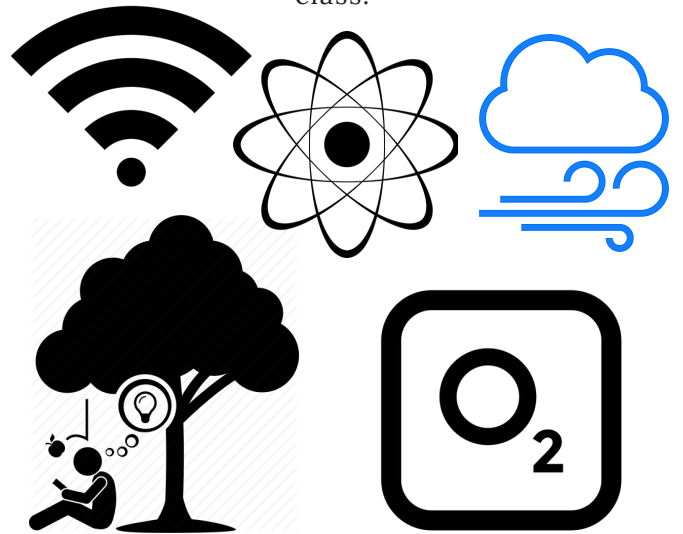
Through the week make an extra effort to look for God in the world around you, in something amazing in nature, in the kind or forgiving word of a friend or stranger, in an unbelievable and inspiring action of others, or in clarity about a difficult situation you are in or decision you have to make.



SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT...

Talk to the person next to you and list as many things as you can that you can't see but believe in and know are there.

If you have time share the ideas with the class.



WHAT'S ON?

Monday is the Feast of St Catherine of Siena. Chocolates will be given to all Catherine forms.