



## *Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way*

April 19, 2020

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31



### *Second Sunday in Easter*

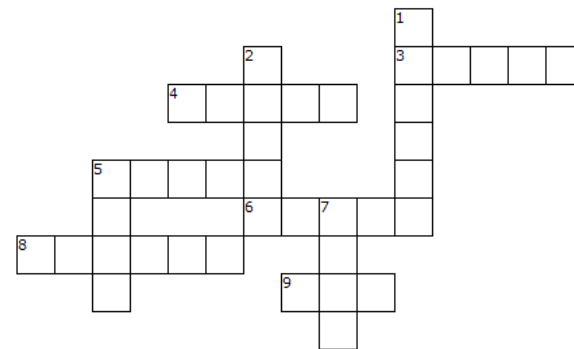
Good morning friends! Does anyone ever ask you for identification? It happens to me all the time. When I go into a store to buy something and I want to pay for it with a credit card, the cashier takes my card and then asks, "May I see your ID please?" Why does the cashier need to see my ID? The answer is quite simple. The cashier wants to see if I own my credit card. Am I really who I claim to be? There may be other times when you will be asked for identification. You may need a picture ID to get a library card. You might even need a picture ID to sign up for youth soccer. You might even wear a picture ID at school. Almost every day we are asked to prove that we are who we say we are.

On the Sunday that Jesus rose from the grave, he appeared to a group of his disciples. One of the disciples, whose name was Thomas, was not with them. When the disciples told Thomas that they had seen Jesus and that he was alive, Thomas said, "I won't believe it until I see it with my own eyes. I want to see where the nails were placed in his hands and put my hand in the place where the spear was thrust into his side." A week later, Jesus appeared to his disciples again. This time Thomas was there. Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Then Thomas believed!

A lot of people today won't believe that Jesus really rose from the grave because they haven't seen him with their own two eyes. They want "proof of identity" before they will believe. Jesus said, "Blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed." I believe that our Lord is alive. Do you?

Loving God, we thank you for sending your Son to die on the cross to take away the sin of the world and so that we may have eternal life. Help us to accept by faith that Jesus has risen from the grave and that He is truly alive. Amen.

## *Crossword Puzzle*



### ACROSS

3. To be in a state of pleasure, satisfaction, joy or delight
4. Free from conflict; getting along with others; opposite of war
5. To be undecided or unbelieving that something is true
6. The body parts at the end of the arms
8. Not open
9. To break God's law

### DOWN

1. The disciple who would not believe without seeing
2. To believe in something for which there is no proof
5. An entrance into a building or room
7. A thin piece of metal with one pointed end and one flat end which you hit with a hammer

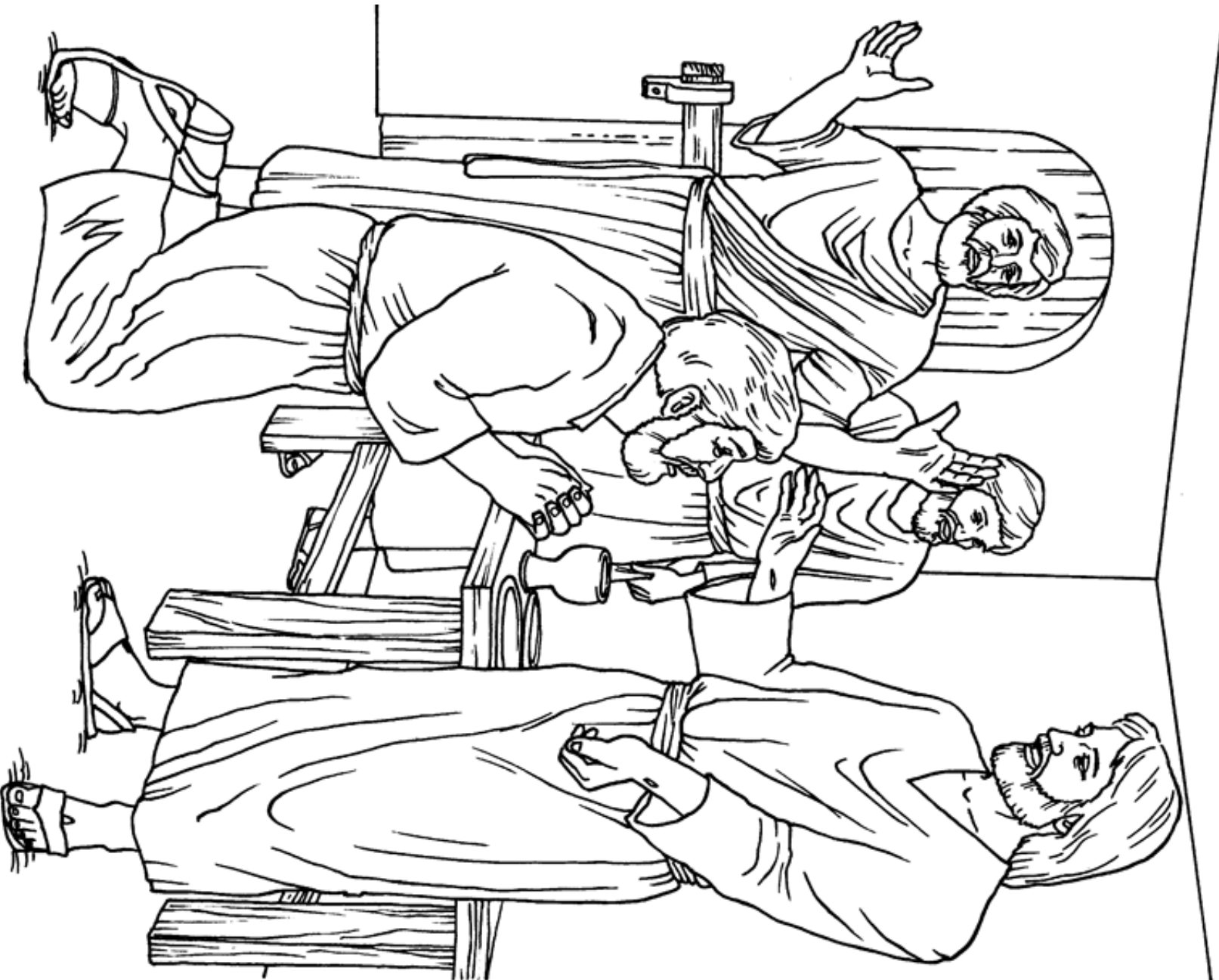
PEACE	DOOR	HANDS	FAITH	HAPPY
NAIL	THOMAS	CLOSED	SIN	DOUBT

**Activity:** Have an adult put different items in small paper bags (a ball, a hard-boiled egg, a piece of sandpaper, etc). Take turns reaching inside the bag to feel each item and guess what it might be. How do you know for sure what it is if you can't see it???

**Discussion Question:** There are many things that we take on faith alone simply because we believe them to be true. We know the sun and moon will rise and set every day. But how do we know that for sure? You know your age and when your birthday is...but do you remember being born? Jesus died and rose again on the third day...but, we weren't there. We believe because he told us. We can always trust in Jesus' promises. Talk about this with your family.

**Family Table Prayer for April:** God of Spring and all things new Thank you for the morning dew For streams and rivers and the earth, Water of new life, baptism, our rebirth. Amen

**April Memory Verse:** 2 Corinthians 5:17 Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new.



## Jesus Appears!

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