



Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation
Weekly worship song, reflection and small group questions

THIS WEEK AND UPCOMING WEEKS:

Lectionary year B – Easter to Pentecost – 4 April to 29 May

- Week 2:** Sunday 11 April - See and believe – Rev Kamogelo Monoametsi
- Week 3: Sunday 18 April - Witnesses
- Week 4: Sunday 25 April - The Good Shepherd
- Week 5: Sunday 2 May - The vine and the branches
- Week 6: Sunday 9 May – Love each other
- May 13 – ASCENSION DAY
- Week 7: Sunday 16 May – Jesus prays for His disciples.
- Week 8: Sunday 23 May – PENTECOST – The work of the Holy Spirit
- Week 9: Sunday 30 May - Trinity Sunday – Jesus teaches Nicodemus



WEEK 2: SUNDAY 11 APRIL
 See and Believe



DAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
Second Sunday of Easter April 11, 2021	Acts 4:32-35	Psalms 133	1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31

John 20:19-31 New International Version

Jesus appears to his disciples ¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'

Jesus appears to Thomas ²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord!' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.' ²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' ²⁷ 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.' ²⁸ Thomas said to him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

The purpose of John's gospel ³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

WORSHIP

"My eyes have seen the glory of the Lord" <https://youtu.be/WDuVApacL7Q>

FOR REFLECTION:

Reflections, Small Group Questions and Daily Devotions written by Rev Kamogelo Monoametsi

Seeing and believing is one allegorical concept of the gospel of John, seeing appears 24 times in the gospel. The gospel is dominated by this spiritually rich imagery. It is worth noting that seeing is linked to bearing witness to the revelation of the unknowable God. John's theology is characterized by the coming to faith through seeing. It is not surprising that Thomas could not believe the testimony of other disciples until he himself has seen the Lord and nail marks in his hands. Note verse 25 "We have seen the Lord", John emphasizes the experience of the disciples on how seeing the Lord has liberated them from their fear of the Jews. It is through the appearance and their 'seeing' experience that their fear which has led them to be behind locked doors disappeared. Fear was replaced by inner peace and assurance, certainty, and hope.



25b "Unless I see *the nail marks* in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe". This stanza demonstrates the significance of seeing, and that it has tremendous impact on coming to faith and testifying about Christ. The condition for Thomas to come to faith or believe that Christ is risen is to see his nail marks. This emphasizes how important it is to have personal encounter with Jesus. Seeing is one key factor to spiritual awakening, coming to realization of the existence of the cosmic Christ and his indispensable role in our salvation. Jesus allowed Thomas to put his fingers in the marks for him to believe, but he then challenges his spiritual blindness when he says, "blessed are those who believe even if they did not see". It sounds more like saying outgrow the stage of unbelief and start believing in my existence.

Reading through the discourse one realizes that its primary objective is to bring spiritual awakening, renewal of life and coming to faith in Christ. This was Thomas's experience. Through his experience of seeing the risen Christ we come to understand that no one can see Christ and remain the same person, possessing the same behavior, conduct and character. Seeing and believing changes our worldview, the lenses through which we see the world changes.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. Thinking of John's concept of Seeing and Believing. What does it mean for you and your faith journey?
2. Is it possible to believe in Christ without seeing him? And how?
3. How can we identify someone who has seen and believed in Christ?
4. What does the following statement mean for you? "Blessed are those who believe without seeing".





It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR
jennyb@bmc.org.za

Sunday 11th April

Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: John 20:19-31 Allow children/teens to read out loud for the family.

Activity/Family Moment: Each member of the family makes a statement about themselves. The statement can either be true or false. After each statement, the family votes on whether the statement is true or not. Besides helping your family to get to know each other a little better, this activity enables you to point out that it is not always easy to know if someone is telling the truth or not.

Today's scripture is all about faith. What does faith mean? (*In Hebrews 11:1, scripture teaches that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*)

Talk about what faith is for everyone and if they think they have faith. Just like Thomas, we can doubt sometimes, talk about doubt in your own faith is it good or bad? Is it okay to have doubts? (*Absolutely! Our doubts allow us to ask the questions and enter a deeper faith. This may take time. It is not always a quick process. We should ask the uncomfortable questions and lay our doubts and worries before God. This may allow God to work in our lives and open our eyes to God's presence in the world.*)

START YOUR DAY WITH *Devotionals Daily*

- **Monday, April 12, 2021:** [Psalm 135](#); [Daniel 3:1-30](#); [1 John 2:3-11](#)
Memory Verse: Psalm 135 vs 16 "They have mouths but cannot speak, eyes but they cannot see."
Prayer: Merciful Christ you conquered death and rose on the third day. Give us the courage to testify your deeds and power.
- **Tuesday, April 13, 2021:** [Psalm 135](#); [Daniel 6:1-28](#); [1 John 2:12-17](#)
Memory Verse: 1 John 2 vs 4 "The man who says I know him but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him".
Prayer: Jesus giver of new life, you create in us new hearts and teach us to live our lives the way you would live them if you were present. Teach us to be bearers of your Truth in the world where lies and truth are inseparable. Amen.
- **Wednesday, April 14, 2021:** [Psalm 135](#); [Isaiah 26:1-15](#); [Mark 12:18-27](#)
Memory Verse: Isaiah 26 vs 9 "My soul yearns for you in the night, in the morning my spirit longs for you...."
Prayer: God of many generations whose love covers the entire universe, your love Lord draws us closer to you. We pray for everlasting yearning to be in your presence. Amen
- **Thursday, April 15, 2021:** [Psalm 4](#); [Daniel 9:1-19](#); [1 John 2:18-25](#)
Memory Verse: Psalm 4 vs 5 "Offer right sacrifices and trust in the Lord"
Prayer: God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, creator, sustainer and comforter I offer myself to you as a living sacrifice. I place my trust in you Lord, for in you Lord I wont encounter disappointments, for you fulfill heart desires of those who trust in you. Amen
- **Friday, April 16, 2021:** [Psalm 4](#); [Daniel 10:2-19](#); [1 John 2:26-28](#)
Memory Verse: 1 John vs 29 "If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him"
Prayer: God of justice and righteousness you continue to call men and women to be agents of righteousness in the ever-changing world. I pray that you will bless me with the abundance of your grace to enable me to advocate and demonstrate justice and righteousness. Amen.
- **Saturday, April 17, 2021:** [Psalm 4](#); [Acts 3:1-10](#); [Luke 22:24-30](#)
Memory Verse: Luke 22 vs 27 "For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves"
Prayer: Lord of All, Lord who is in All give us the ability to serve without expecting anything in return. Bless us with the spirit of servanthood, care and love for those who are outcasts. Bless our desire to serve. Amen.