

Welcome to Sunday School at St. Tim's
March 30, 2008

Thank you for coming !

We are glad you joined us for our Gathering Service today.

During our Gathering Service,
you will learn about God, Jesus, and our church.
You will learn about why grown-ups do the things they do
each week during worship, and you will learn about
being a part of the congregation.
You will learn how you can share your gifts and talents,
and what your responsibilities are as a
full member of the St Tims church family.

Each week, we will try to follow this format:

**Sing-along with Linda
Welcome**

Opening Song "This is Where Children Belong"

Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading—John 20:19-31

Message—Believing without Seeing

Offering (Song is Linda's choice)

Offering Prayer

Announcements

Blessing prayer

Closing Song "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

You might be asked to choose the songs, help collect the
offering, read the Scriptures, lead a prayer, or light candles.
We want you to feel like an important part of our Service!

Please share this bulletin with your family so
everyone can find out what you learned about today!

The lesson for today is:
"Believing without Seeing"

Last Sunday, the new and joyous season of Easter
began. We celebrated Jesus' resurrection and the
presence of his spirit in our lives today.

Our scripture reading, talks about how very sad and
scared Jesus' friends were. Jesus had been killed by
the Romans in a most terrible way. They thought
Jesus was a trouble-maker, so once they had gotten rid
of him, they started looking for his followers. Jesus'
friends and followers decided to hide away in a room
for a while until the danger was over.

One day, while they were there talking, Jesus appeared
to them, saying "Peace be with you!" and then he showed
them his wounds. Spending time with Jesus helped his
friends to feel a little better. One friend named Thomas
was gone that day, though, and so he just could not believe
it when his friends said that Jesus had been with them.
Thomas said that he'd only believe it when he saw Jesus
himself. Because of Thomas's reaction, we call anyone who
won't believe without proof a "Doubting Thomas."

Jesus came again a week later, and Thomas was
there that time. He saw Jesus with his own eyes,
touched Jesus' wounds, and believed. Jesus was glad
that Thomas believed, but he also said "Blessed are
they who believe without having to see!"

I think this is a really important point! Part of faith is
questioning, doubting, and needing to see for ourselves,
but another part of faith is believing without seeing
or having proof! We can't see Jesus, but we can have faith
that his spirit is with us in our lives every day!