



Divine Mercy Sunday (2nd Sunday of Easter)

John 20: 19–31

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Some things to think about...

- When we listen to this story, we learn that it's okay to have questions, just like Thomas did, because Jesus understands and is patient with us. Jesus came back especially for Thomas, showing that He cares about each of us and meets us where we are. He also brings peace when we feel worried or unsure.

There are some things we can't see, but we know they are there:

- You can't see the wind, but you know it's there when you feel it on your face or see the leaves moving on the trees
- You can't see germs, but you know they exist, so you wash your hands to stay healthy.
- You can't see your friends when they're at home, but you know they still care about you.
- Even though we cannot see Jesus, we can still believe and trust in His love. As Mini Vinnies, we can share this love and hope with others through our kindness and actions—that's when we can see Jesus in others!

How can you show Jesus' love to others, even if they can't see Him?

Activity

Give each child a heart template (p39). On it, write or draw one way you can show kindness today to bring Jesus' love to someone who needs Him the most. Add this to your poster (p38).

Teacher's Notes

The Gospel of John explains Christ's divinity. Throughout the Gospel we learn of many signs and wonders he performed.

In this Gospel reading, despite hearing from his friends that Jesus has risen, Thomas is still in doubt as he has not seen Jesus for himself. Jesus reveals himself a second time so that Thomas might believe.

Sometimes because of injustice we see, such as people struggling and in pain, we might begin to doubt our faith. We can turn to Jesus to help us overcome our doubt. There are a few times where the disciples doubt their faith in Jesus (e.g. Mark 4:35-41 - Jesus calms the storm), but Jesus shows that he is always there for them.



Hearts of Jesus' Love

Even though we can't see Jesus, we can believe in His love and share it with others through our kind words and actions.



