

- d. When Thomas saw Jesus, what did Jesus tell him to do? How did Jesus respond when Thomas finally believed? How are we like Thomas?
- e. Jesus breathed on His disciples. What gift did He give to them? What power went along with this gift?
3. Because of our sin, we deserve eternal separation from God. How did Jesus take away the “sting” of eternal death? ~ *Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 15:54-56*
4. Salvation is a totally free gift. Grace is undeserved kindness. What does grace mean for your salvation? ~ *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9*
5. Salvation means we will spend eternity in heaven. What is the ultimate joy in heaven? ~ *“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also.” John 14:1-3*
6. Even before the birth of Jesus, His death and resurrection, Job praised God with this song. ~ *For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. 26 And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God. Job 19:25-26*

## Jesus is Alive

### Matthew 27:65-66, 28:1-10

#### *The Resurrection*

65 Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” 66 So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

28:1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.

5 But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him. See, I have told you.”

8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell His disciples. 9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!”



**I know that my Redeemer lives. Job 19:25**

And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

*(Read also: Mark 16:1-13, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-18)*

## **John 20:19-29**

### *Jesus Appears to the Disciples*

19 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.” 20 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you.” 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

### *Jesus and Thomas*

24 Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 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.”

26 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.” 27 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.” 28 Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

## **A Closer Look: Victory over Death**

There was no doubt. Jesus was dead. The soldiers at Calvary confirmed it. The tomb was sealed and guards were posted. Three days later, the women hurried to the tomb to anoint their beloved Savior. There before the empty tomb was an angel in glowing splendor proclaiming, “Jesus has risen!” Joy replaced despair as the women rushed to tell the news to the disciples. Jesus had defeated death forever.

1. The guards reported all that had happened at the tomb. Read Matthew 28:4 from this folder and note the guards reaction to the appearance of the angel. Now read Matthew 28:11-15. ~ *While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. 12 And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers 13 and said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.’ 14 And if this comes to the governor’s ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” 15 So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day. Matthew 28:11-15*
  - a. What was the story made up by the high priests?
  - b. How did the high priests make sure the guards would not tell what really happened?
  - c. How convincing was the made up story?
2. Read John 20:19-29
  - a. Why do you think the disciples were behind locked doors? Do you think they truly believed the women’s news from earlier that morning? Why were they afraid?
  - b. How did Jesus prove to the disciples that He was alive?
  - c. Thomas was not with the disciples that first night. What was his declaration in verse 25?