

JOHN | EXTRAVAGANT | WEEK 4 OF 4

Appearance

GOD STORY

Jesus Appears
John 20:19–29

KEY VERSE

Lead a life of love, just as Christ did. He loved us. He gave himself up for us.
Ephesians 5:2a (NIRV)

LEADER TIPS

- The teaching videos are usually 12 to 15 minutes long. Map out your time and plan accordingly! Make sure you can complete the full activity after the video at the very least.
- This week, emphasize that even those closest to Jesus had doubts—and doubts are okay! Like Thomas, we can take our doubts to Jesus.

My Story

1 | CONVERSATION STARTER (7 minutes)

To lead into the lesson, chat about times when the students felt as if they missed out on something as well as the last time they changed their minds.

2 | INTRO ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Guide everyone to do trust falls in small groups, then discuss their experiences. Introduce today's Big Idea.

God Story | Life Story

3 | WEEKLY VIDEO (12 minutes)

Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss the teaching.

My Story

4 | APPLICATION ACTIVITY (12 minutes*)

Read and discuss Hebrews 11:1. Brainstorm and tie together activities that require trust, things that help us place our faith in Jesus, and ways to grow our faith.

5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

Talk about doubt, then read and discuss Matthew 28:16–20. Pray together.

Our Story

6 | DISMISSAL (2 minutes)

*Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities.



BIG IDEA

We can believe without seeing.

JOHN | EXTRAVAGANT | WEEK 4 OF 4

My Story

1 | Conversation Starter

SUPPLIES

- None

LEADER TIP

- As the students arrive, welcome them and find out how their weeks have gone.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Gather everyone together.
- To lead into today's lesson, ask:
 - Have you ever missed out on something that it seemed like everyone else got to be a part of?
 - When was the last time you changed your mind about something?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the students share their stories with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.

My Story

2 | Intro Activity

SUPPLIES

- None

LEADER TIPS

- Monitor the students closely during this activity to ensure everyone's safety.
- Do not force or pressure anyone to do a trust fall!

INSTRUCTIONS

- Guide the students to divide into groups of at least three people.
- Invite one student in each group to close their eyes.
- Instruct a second group member to stand behind them and the third person to stand close by.
- Ask the first student to show trust by falling backwards into the arms of their partner.
- Direct the third person in each group to be a spotter/helper.
- Encourage the group members to switch their roles and repeat the activity until everyone who wants a turn doing a trust fall has gotten one.
- Discuss:
 - How did it feel to choose to fall when you couldn't see what was going on around you?
 - Why did you choose to fall?
 - Was it difficult to trust your partner?
 - If you chose not to take part, why was that? (e.g., trust is earned and relational)
- Introduce the Big Idea: **We can believe without seeing** (especially when it comes to Jesus!).



BIG IDEA

We can believe without seeing.

JOHN | EXTRAVAGANT | WEEK 4 OF 4

God Story | Life Story

3 | Weekly Video

SUPPLIES

- Video file

INSTRUCTIONS

- Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (Jesus Appears, John 20:19–29)
 - Life Story (When Sean left university to pursue acting, he trusted that God had a plan for him.)
- Invite the students to give a quick recap of what happened in the God and Life Stories.
- Discuss:
 - What stood out to you in today's Life Story?
 - What was the God Story about?
 - How do these stories connect with the Big Idea (**We can believe without seeing**)?
 - What's the Key Verse for this series? (The first part of Ephesians 5:2)

My Story

4 | Application Activity

SUPPLIES

- Chart paper
- Wall-safe tape
- Bibles
- Marker

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

- Hang the chart paper where everyone can see it.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Make sure everyone has access to a Bible.
- Guide the students to look up Hebrews 11:1.
- Ask: How can we be sure of what we don't see?
- Lead the group to brainstorm a list of activities that require trust (e.g., driving in a car, going to a new place, trying a new food, sharing a secret).
- Write the students' ideas on the chart paper.
- Ask: When you do these things, can you ever be 100% sure they're trustworthy? For example, can you be sure that a car won't break down?
- Point out that we often have knowledge that helps us build trust.
- Discuss: What are some of the things that help us place our faith in Jesus? (e.g., history of the church, Christian friends, testimony of the Bible, spiritual experiences, etc.)
- List everyone's ideas on the paper.
- Note that when we act on faith and our experience is good, it builds up our belief. As we continue to put our trust in Jesus, our faith grows.
- Discuss: What could we do to grow our faith? (e.g., pray, trust God instead of worrying, be generous, etc.)
- Write the students' ideas on the paper.
- Challenge everyone to pick something to do in the week ahead to help build up their faith!



My Story

5 | Wrap-Up Activity

SUPPLIES

- Bibles

INSTRUCTIONS

- Point out that sometimes it's difficult to have faith. A lot of us can identify with Thomas!
- Discuss: What could we do when we feel as if we're full of doubt instead of faith?
- Encourage the students to suggest things that might be difficult to believe (e.g., Did Jesus really rise from the dead? Does God really exist? Does God really care about me?).
- Emphasize that doubt can be good and healthy because it means we're taking our faith seriously. Remind everyone that we can never prove our faith fully...otherwise, it wouldn't be called faith!
- Guide the students to look up Matthew 28:16-17.
- Read the passage together.
- Discuss:
 - What's the context of these verses?
 - Who are the people doubting?
 - What might they have done about it? (e.g., worshipped Jesus or kept spending time with him)
- Read Matthew 28:18-20.
- Discuss:
 - Who's talking in these verses?
 - Who is he talking to?
 - What does Jesus say to these doubting disciples?
 - What does this mean about our own doubts?
- Challenge the students to identify an area in which they want to grow their faith and practise falling into God's hands.
- Pray together and ask God to help us have faith!

Our Story

6 | Dismissal

SUPPLIES

- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards

INSTRUCTIONS

- Take a few moments to pray for the students if you have not already done so.
- Remind everyone about any upcoming events or relevant announcements.
- Make sure the students have all their take-home materials.
- Ensure the adult teaching is over before dismissing the students.