



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Signs on Believers' Hwy  
Spring Year 4, Lesson 49

# Jesus Shows Himself to His Followers

**Take Home Point:** \*You can believe with your heart even if you can't see with your eyes.

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** John 19:38-20:31

**Key Verse:** John 20:29b, "Blessed are those who haven't seen me but believe."

**We will help kids know:**

- The Bible Event of Jesus' resurrection and appearance to his followers on resurrection morning and the following Sunday.
- Even if we don't see Jesus with our eyes, we can believe with our hearts that he is certainly alive and is the Lord.
- Because Jesus is alive, he has proven that he is the Messiah who has redeemed the world.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Confidence in the truth of Jesus' resurrection and presence with them.
- Peace because Jesus is alive.

**We will help kids do:**

- Identify amazing things that would be hard to believe if they had not seen them.
- Encounter a seemingly impossible task (*walking through a piece of paper*) and seeing that it can be done. Remember that Jesus asked them to believe without seeing.
- Learn and practice a trick they can demonstrate to their family and friends about seeing and believing.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Children talk about events they wouldn't have believed without seeing with their own eyes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Seeing is believing but better yet...” sheet (<i>p. 12 copied front to back with p. 13</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  7  9  9  9	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> “Doubting Gordy”—Gordy needs to see before he will believe.  <b>Video:</b> <i>The Gospel of John</i> --- John 19:38-20:31  <b>Signs on Believers’ Highway:</b> Jesus’ signs and miracles through the Book of John.  <b>Puppet Conclusion:</b> “Doubting Gordy”—Gordy has seen the signs (in the video) and knows he can read them in the Bible, too. He knows what it means to believe with your heart.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordy with his arm stuck through a piece of paper</li> <li>• orange construction vest</li> <li>• construction hat</li> <li>• work boots</li> <li>• two or four chairs</li> <li>• cardboard car front</li> <li>• video DVD <i>Gospel of John</i>, produced by Visual Bible International—order from <a href="http://www.visualbible.com">www.visualbible.com</a></li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4	Children cut and walk through paper. They learn they are blessed to believe without seeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• two “Seeing is believing but better yet...” sheets (<i>p. 12 copied front to back with p. 13</i>) per child</li> <li>• scissors</li> <li>• transparent tape (just in case a paper tears)</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

**Supplies:** *"Seeing is believing..." page*

Ask kids:

**What is one of the most amazing things that you have ever seen? Think about the circus or something you have seen on TV. Have you ever heard or read about something from "Believe It Or Not?"**

Let kids talk about some amazing things.

**If you had not seen it, would you have believed it? Can you think of anything else you wouldn't believe unless you saw it?**

**Have you ever seen something and tried to convince another person that it really happened, but they didn't believe you because they didn't see it?**

Hold up the "Seeing is believing but better yet..." paper, showing the worded side.

**How many of you believe that I can walk right through the middle of this paper? If you don't believe me now, I'll show you later.**

**Today we will see how Jesus walked through something more serious than a piece of paper. It was death. Jesus died on the cross but he did not stay dead. He came back to life to prove that he truly is the Promised One and the Savior of the world. Today you will learn that *\*you can believe with your heart even if you can't see with your eyes.***

# Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

**Puppet Presentation:** “Doubting Gordy”—Gordy needs to see before he will believe.

**Video:** *The Gospel of John*---John 19:38-20:31

**Signs on Believers’ Highway:** We investigate Jesus’ signs and miracles through the Book of John.

**Puppet Conclusion:** “Doubting Gordy”—Gordy has seen the signs (in the video) and knows he can read them in the Bible too. He knows what it means to believe with your heart.

# Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible Event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

## Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to John 19:38-20:31 in their Bibles. Have kids list the signs that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead and point out the verses where they are found.

1. The stone was rolled away. (*John 20:1.*)
2. The tomb was empty. (*John 20:2,5.*)
3. The linen cloth was folded. (*John 20: 6-7.*)
4. Angels sitting where Jesus’ body had been lying. (*John 20:11-13.*)
5. Jesus appeared to Mary. (*John 20:14-18.*)
6. Jesus appeared to the disciples behind locked doors. (*John 20:19-23.*)
7. Jesus appeared a second time. (*John 20:26-28. Both times Jesus appeared, people could see his wounds and even touch him.*)

## **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

Read John 20:24-29 out loud.

**Why do you think Jesus told Thomas to put his finger on the nail marks of his hands and where the spear pierced his side?** *(Thomas had not been with the others when Jesus appeared the first time and said he would believe only if he could see and feel Jesus' hands and side.)*

**How do you think Jesus knew Thomas had said this?** *(Jesus is God and knows all things.)*

## **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

Application Activity:

*Supplies: two sheets of "Seeing is believing but better yet..." for each kid, the same piece of paper from Small Group Warm-Up, scissors, transparent tape if needed for rips in the paper*

Hold up the "Seeing is believing..." paper from warm-up and say:

**Seeing is believing, but better yet is believing without seeing. During large group, we showed you how you can walk right through the middle of this paper. What do you think now that you saw it with your own eyes? Discuss.**

**Notice what is printed on this paper. "*Blessed are those who haven't seen me but believe. John 20:29b*" What does Jesus mean by this?**

**We were not able to be there when the actual resurrection of Jesus took place. We can only read it in the Bible or watch a re-enactment based on the Bible. Jesus knew there would be many people like us who would not see with their own eyes but would believe just the same.**

**That is why Jesus says we are blessed with faith to believe even though we didn't see his resurrection. As a matter of fact, Jesus says we are more blessed than the disciples who knew him and saw him face to face. It takes more faith to believe without seeing Jesus than it did for those who did see him. *\*You can believe with your heart even if you can't see with your eyes.***

**On the back of this paper are the lines to follow for cutting. Let me show you how to cut it and how to step through it.**

Fold the paper in half and cut along the short lines first. Then cut through the line along the fold being sure NOT to cut the end sections. Use the tape if necessary.

Then have kids practice with one copy and take the other copy home. Encourage kids to demonstrate how it works and share the Bible event with family or friends.

**You can demonstrate for family and friends. Ask them if seeing will help them to believe and then you can demonstrate for them.**

**Remember, *\*you can believe with your heart even if you can't see with your eyes.* We don't want to be doubting Thomas' but believing Thomas'.**

Closing Prayer:

Have kids pray for others who may not believe that Jesus is the Messiah or the Promised One because they have not seen him. Thank God for the gift of Jesus we receive through faith.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

## Signs on Believers' Highway Series

*The Book of John points to miracles as signs and proof that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. The imagery of road construction signs will be used to exemplify the signs that Jesus did as told in the book of John. The road worked on is referred to as "Believers' Highway" to show we are all on a journey in our faith.*

*The presenter is dressed in an orange construction vest, hat and work boots and holds a different road sign each week that is fitting with the Bible event. Another important prop is the simulated car set-up with two or four chairs facing the audience and a cardboard car front (See lesson 34). Shepherds and children are both involved as observers on the highway. They are called up to drive the car and answer questions, give feedback and interact with or about the event.*

*This series will continue using "The Gospel of John" DVD series as a visual to show the events of the Bible.*

## Doubting Gordy Puppet Presentation

The presenter enters wearing an orange construction vest, hat and work boots. Gordy comes out with his arm through a piece of paper.

**Presenter:** Let's call Gordy.

*Kids call Gordy. Gordy... Gordy... Gordy.*

**Presenter:** Hi, Gordy. What's that on your arm?

Gordy: It's the piece of paper I was trying to walk through.

**Presenter:** Is that the same one your shepherd said she could walk through?

Gordy: Yeah. She said she could but I don't think I quite believe her. So I wanted to check it for myself. Guess what?

**Presenter:** What?

Gordy: It can't be done.

**Presenter:** Because you tried to walk through it?

Gordy: And this is as far as I got. (*Gordy shows tattered paper.*)

**Presenter:** But Gordy, I'm telling you that it can be done.

Gordy: You can't walk through this paper. It's not possible. What are you going to do, shrink down to the size of G.I. Joe and cut your way through?

**Presenter:** No.

Gordy: I'm telling you it's not possible.

**Presenter:** If you saw it happen, would you believe?

Gordy: Well, seeing is believing.

**Presenter:** Okay then, since you don't believe me, I'll let you see it after the video from the Gospel of John.

Gordy: Good. I love those video clips from the *Gospel of John*. What will we see today?

**Presenter:** It's all about seeing and believing.

Gordy: I'm for that.

**Presenter:** And so was his disciple, Thomas. He said, "Unless I see for myself, I *won't* believe."

Gordy: You mean he wouldn't believe if he didn't see?

**Presenter:** That was his problem, but I think he had a change of heart. Let's watch and see what happened when Jesus rose from the dead. We will have a quiz afterwards.

Gordy: About what?

**Presenter:** I'll ask you how many different signs were there that proved Jesus had been raised from the dead.

Gordy: Like what do you mean—signs on a highway?

**Presenter:** No, signs like the rock sealing the tomb was rolled away. That's a sign that he wasn't there anymore. There are others. Maybe some of the kids can tell what they are after the video.

Gordy: All right.

**Presenter:** Then we will talk about seeing is believing.



## Video

Show *The Gospel of John* DVD, produced by Visual Bible International, 2003. Show the clip covering John 19:38-20:31. Begin just after narrator says “And there is another scripture that says, *“People will look at him whom they pierced.”* End it just after narrator says, *“But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God and that through your faith in him you may have life.”* The length of the clip is approximately 8:00.

## Signs Along Believers’ Highway

**Presenter:** I need some volunteers to come up and get into our car. I need three volunteers to come up and get in our car. This includes a Shepherd.

Pick volunteers and have them sit in the car, the Shepherd in the back.

**On “Believers’ Highway” kids can drive just as well as adults because we are all growing in our spiritual journey, learning to trust Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. So buckle your seat belts, and let’s go for a ride!**

**I want you to list some things we saw in the Gospel of John video that help prove that Jesus had risen from the dead. Let’s see if you can name them.**

Let the volunteers name items. Give them hints or clues if necessary.

- 1. The stone was rolled away.**
  - 2. The tomb was empty.**
  - 3. The linen cloth was folded.**
  - 4. Angels were there.**
  - 5. Jesus appeared to Mary.**
  - 6. Peter and John told others the body of Jesus was missing.**
  - 7. Jesus appeared in person.**
  - 8. Jesus appeared a second time.**
- (Both times Jesus appeared, people could see his wounds and even touch him.)*

## Doubting Gordy

### Puppet Conclusion

**Gordy:** Hey, aren’t you going to give us a rhyming sign to figure out?

**Presenter:** Oh, you mean like I do every week with the Signs on Believers’ Highway?

Gordy: Yeah.

**Presenter: No. Instead I'm going to show you how I can walk through the middle of this paper that has printed "Seeing is believing but better yet is believing without seeing."**

Gordy: What does that mean?

**Presenter: Let me explain it to you while this paper is cut.**

Have an adult assistant come up and cut the Appendix paper on the lines indicated.

*(You may want to practice on a copy of this sheet before class. NOTE: Add some transparent tape at both ends to give support to the structure so it won't tear.)*

**Presenter: There are many signs that Jesus rose from the dead.**

Gordy: Yeah.

**Presenter: Many people saw those signs and it was easier for them to believe.**

Gordy: Yes, especially like being able to touch Jesus' side and hands.

**Presenter: But there was one guy who said unless I see I won't believe.**

Gordy: Yeah. That Thomas guy.

**Presenter: That's why we call him doubting Thomas, but he actually became believing Thomas. After he saw, he believed. But what about you Gordy, have you ever seen the risen Jesus?**

Gordy: No, of course not.

**Presenter: Do you believe?**

Gordy: Yeah, of course.

**Presenter: Why?**

Gordy: Well, because I believe what the Bible says about Jesus. It was written by the guys who were with him and saw him.

**Presenter: You are correct.**

Gordy: And when you pray to God, you can say, "I want to know it is true that Jesus is your Son, that he gave his life for me on the cross and rose from the dead." God gives you the power to believe it, even without seeing.

**Presenter:** So, Gordy, let me show you something with this paper.

Gordy: The paper that your helper cut?

**Presenter:** Yes. Now, I'm going to walk through it.

Gordy: But, it's all cut up.

**Presenter:** Let me show you.

Carefully pull paper apart at the edges to make a large circle.

Gordy: Wow! It's a big circle.

**Presenter:** Yes, Gordy, and now I can step right through the middle of this paper.

Step through.

Gordy: Yeah. I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it.

**Presenter:** But it would be true even if you didn't see it.

Gordy: Sure.

**Presenter:** It's true that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God whether people see it or not. It is also true that by believing in Jesus, we will have life in his name. The Bible even says in John 20:29b, "*Blessed are those who haven't seen me but believe.*"

Gordy: That is special.

**Presenter:** Let's pray about it, Gordy, and remember *\*you can believe with your heart even if you can't see with your eyes.*

Gordy: Dear Jesus, thank you for dying for us and coming back to life again. You showed lots of signs to everyone back then that you had become alive again. But today we can't see you with our eyes. Help us believe, anyway. Help us believe and we'll look forward to someday seeing you face-to-face when we live with you forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Blessed are those who haven't seen me...**

**Seeing is believing  
but  
better yet  
is believing without  
seeing!**

**...but believe. John 20:29b**

Do Not Cut  
Dashed Line  
↓

Fold & Cut Line

Do Not Cut  
Dashed Line  
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