

U18 FAMILY PACKET

Introduction

Thank you so much for using our family curriculum. We are in wildly strange times. Therefore, we are going to need to work together to help teach, invite, and form our children into the people of God. We want you to know that we are praying for you. We are staying up super late trying to figure out creative ways to help support you all. This family packet is our first idea. We are not professional video designers or podcast hosts, therefore we are going to need your feedback on what works and what doesn't. Consider this an open invitation to help us craft our Redemption Church U18 family curriculum.

Before you go any further. Please go [here](#) and read our overview on how to use this curriculum.

- **Youth Ministry:** We would encourage you to share this document with your student, and ask them to carve out some time to read over it on their own. Please follow up and ask how it went. It will also be important that they sit and watch the Sunday worship service with the family. The text will be the same.
- **Club 56:** You will only need this document to use the Club 56 material. We encourage you to use this at a meal. You can read the text, ask the questions, and share the personal note from their Club 56 table at the table.
- **Elementary:** You will need a laptop, tablet, or phone to watch the video story on YouTube. Try watching this story in the morning or before bed. Watch the video with your child. Feel free to talk about the story.
- **Preschool:** You will need a laptop, tablet, or phone to watch the video story on YouTube. Try watching this story before nap time so your preschooler can settle into a space. Watch the video with your child and feel free to talk about the story.

Youth Ministry

Story | Find a quiet place to read. [Here is our Lent music on Spotify.](#)

Read: John 20:19–31: 19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

21 Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though 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; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

28 Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

29 Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Wondering Question

For you to think about first, and then to ask your family: Why would this story be so important that generations of Christians passed it on and eventually wrote it down? What was it about this story that spoke to them? How does the story of Thomas speak to you? Where might you connect in the story?

A Note From Cole:

Doubt. Easter happens, and then the lectionary throws us into a story about Thomas, and not just some story... a story about Thomas not believing any of this resurrection nonsense was real. I wonder if the organizers of the lectionary are saying to you and me, if you don't think that this sounds ridiculous... you haven't really taken time to think about what the resurrection is and means. May we come to sit for a second and think about what kind of world we are living in and what the resurrection says about that world.

Club 56

Story | Read the text out loud with a Bible and then read the summary together.

READ: Acts 9:1-6 Saul was an important Pharisee intent on crushing the growing movement of Jesus' followers. But after his conversion on the road to Damascus, he became one of the most important figures in the early church. It was a radical change, but the message is as clear to us as it was to Saul: no one is outside God's reach

Connection Questions

- How would you have felt about Paul if you had previously been tormented by him?
- Do you think anyone is outside God's reach? Why or why not?
- Without naming names, is there a "Saul" in your life? How might God change that person? What possibilities might God see in him or her?

Practice

Check out these other Bible passages that connect with the theme of changing our hearts and minds toward God!

- › Mark 1:16-20 Are we supposed to drop everything to follow Jesus?
- › Romans 12:1-2 What happens when we give ourselves over to God?
- › Acts 2:42-47 How does change build community?

A Thought From Your Club 56 Teacher: Beth Davis

Hey Club 56 Kids! First let me start by saying I miss you guys and having our time together in the club 56 room. I miss getting you guys way too rowdy with games and having parents come tell us we are being too loud... but since we are social distancing we can take joy in knowing that we can be together online and be as loud and crazy as you want! This lesson I'm sharing with you all today really hit home for me knowing that no one is outside God's reach and the love that God has for us will never change is just what I needed to hear in these times of unknown. I just want to take a minute and pray this over each of you: God, we sure aren't perfect. We are thankful that you are a God of transformation and change! Amen.

Love you all,

Beth

Elementary Ministry

Story | Read the story below, or [watch our story video](#).

Read:

Surprise Visitor

(based on John 20:19–31)

On the morning of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus. She was surprised to find the stone rolled away from the entrance and the tomb empty! She reported this wonder to other followers of Jesus.

Later that day, in the evening, the disciples were gathered in a house behind locked doors. They were afraid that the religious leaders would come after them, now that Jesus had been killed. Suddenly Jesus was standing in the middle of the room, yet the doors had not been unlocked.

“Peace be with you,” said Jesus. Then Jesus showed them the scars on his hands and feet from the crucifixion. The disciples were overjoyed to see Jesus. They blinked their eyes to make sure Jesus was really there. Again, Jesus said, “Peace be with you. As God sent me, so I send you.”

As the disciples stood there, hardly able to believe what they were seeing, Jesus breathed on them. “Receive the Holy Spirit,” Jesus said to them, “it will help you follow in my way and do my work.”

Now when this happened, Thomas, who was also called the Twin and who was one of the twelve, was not with them. When he returned, they told him what had happened. In a jumble of excited voices, they announced, “We have seen Jesus.”

Thomas wasn’t sure what had happened. Their stories simply didn’t make sense. “Unless I see the scars on his hands and feet myself, I will not believe,” said Thomas.

One week went by. The disciples who had seen Jesus were still excited. Thomas still couldn’t believe what they were telling him. Then, again when the doors were shut and locked, Jesus appeared before them. Jesus said, “Peace be with you.” Turning to Thomas, Jesus said, “Look at my hands. Put your finger in this scar. Don’t doubt what you have heard, believe.”

Stunned, Thomas said, “My Lord and my God.”

Jesus looked at Thomas, perhaps with a smile, and said, "You believed because you saw me. Imagine the joy of those who have not seen me and still believe."

After this day, Jesus appeared many times to the disciples, but they are not written down here. These are written down so that you can believe that Jesus is the Messiah and have life in Jesus' name.

Wondering Questions

Imagine that you were hiding in that room with the disciples when Jesus suddenly appeared.

- How would you feel? What would you want to do?

Jesus breathed a special breath and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

- What do you think that means?

Thomas missed seeing Jesus that first time.

- What questions do you think he asked about that?

We are still reading this story thousands of years after it was written.

- What would you like to tell someone today about this story?

A Note From Valerie:

Happy Easter! We made it through our Lenten Journey. Alleluia! He is Risen!

Preschool Ministry

Story | Your story will be found on [YouTube Kids](#)

Set up a space for your preschool child to sit and watch Sonja Way tell the story.

Wondering Questions

- I wonder what part of the story was your favorite?
- I wonder where you are in the story?
- I wonder if there is a part of the story we can take out and still have everything that we need?
- I wonder what you will add to the story...

A Note From Nicole:

I hope you enjoyed this week's story about the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Welcome to the season of Easter! Easter is such a great mystery that you can't keep it in one week, it keeps going on for six weeks and is a season for getting ready for Pentecost. For every ending there is a beginning and for every beginning there is an ending. May you see and embrace the mystery.