

## Joy In the Morning

The earth was shaking as we walked toward the tomb, carrying the burial spices for Jesus' body. Our hearts had been heavy when we started out, and now we were frightened. We didn't know what was happening! "Oh, Mary, let's hurry!" I said.

When we arrived at the place where Jesus had been buried, we were very surprised by what we saw. The huge stone that had been placed in front of the opening had been rolled away. The tomb was open! What had happened?

We hurried to the entrance of the tomb, and fearfully looked inside. What would we see? "It's empty. The

tomb is empty! Oh, what has happened to Jesus? Where is His body?" Mary spoke these words in a shocked voice.

I could not answer her. I didn't know what to do. These past few days had been so very sad for all of us. It was just last Friday when an angry crowd of people had nailed our beloved Jesus to a cross on a hill outside Jerusalem. They had put a sign over His head that said, THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. The people had made fun of Him and laughed at Him.

It had made our hearts break to see Him there. How could those people

have been so cruel to One who had done only good? After Jesus died, the sky had become black as night and a great earthquake shook the land. Oh, it was an awful time. And now this! Jesus' body was gone from the tomb where we had laid Him. It must have been stolen.

Mary and I just stood there looking around. Then we saw someone—an angel! He must have seen the fear on our faces, for he told us not to be afraid. He knew we were looking for Jesus. He told us that Jesus was not there because He had risen from the dead just like He had said He would.

Yes, Jesus had said He would rise again! Joy filled our hearts as we

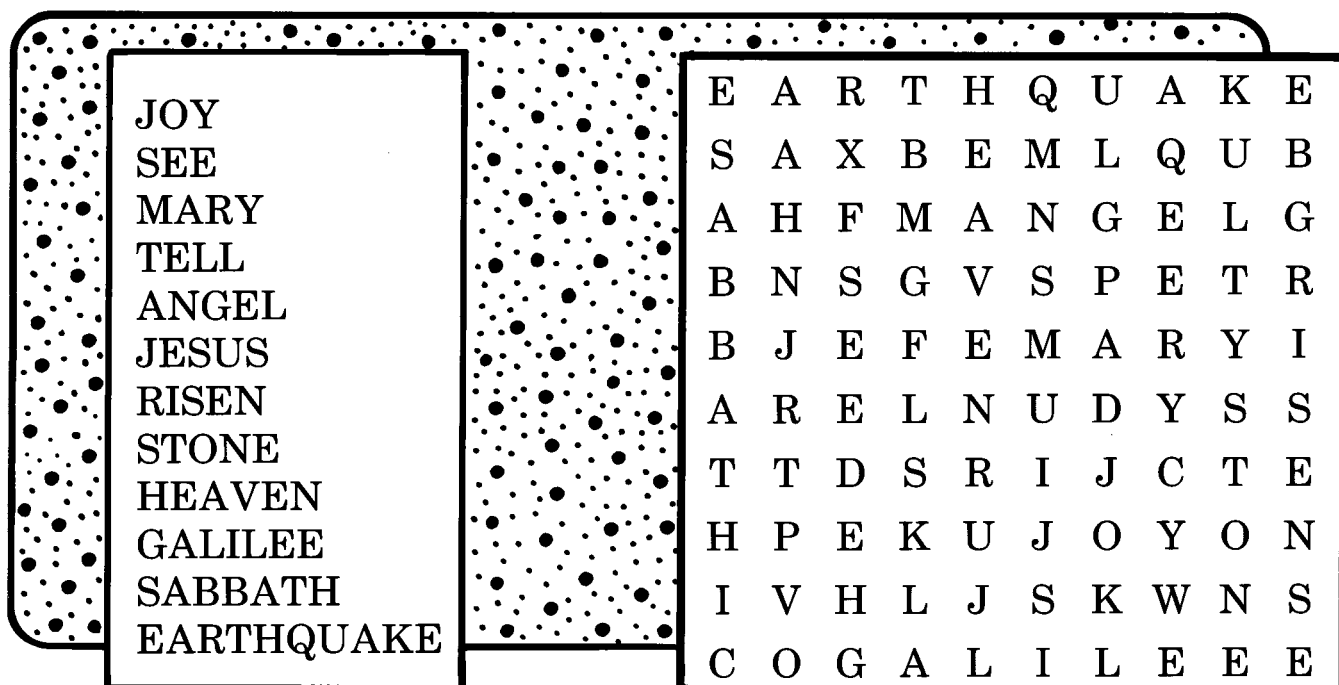
remembered. Our fears disappeared at the words of the angel. Suddenly we had the hope of seeing Jesus again.

The angel told us to go quickly and tell all of Jesus' disciples that He was risen from the dead. Jesus was going to see them again in Galilee. What a wonderful message!

Quickly we left the place where Jesus had been buried. We had been afraid, but now we were very happy. Jesus was alive and we wanted to tell everyone right away. We felt so much joy. We just knew that all the people who loved Jesus would be joyful also. We ran as fast as we could to find Jesus' disciples. We had to tell them, "Jesus is alive!"

## Hidden Words

Find and circle the words hidden in the puzzle below.



# Preparing for This Bible Lesson

## ***Parent's Corner***

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the dramatic event of the first Easter Sunday, is the focal point of our Christian beliefs. Make a special point of emphasizing that event this week with your family. One way would be for each of your family members to use the Easter greeting/response used by the Early Church: "Christ is risen!"/"He is risen indeed!"

Build reminders of Easter into your meal menus for this week. Prepare your family some foods that might stir thoughts about the first Easter week. Some possibilities: bread (Matthew 26:26); fish (John 21:12-14); hot cross buns (Luke 23:33); souffle (something that's risen) (Mark 16:6); angel food cake (Matthew 28:5,6). At meal time, let the family members try to guess which is the special food and explain why it is significant. If they get stuck, give them the Scripture text to look up as a clue.

## ***Time Together for Family Devotions***

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Luke 24:34

MONDAY: I Corinthians 15:20

TUESDAY: I Peter 1:3,4

WEDNESDAY: Matthew 28:5,6

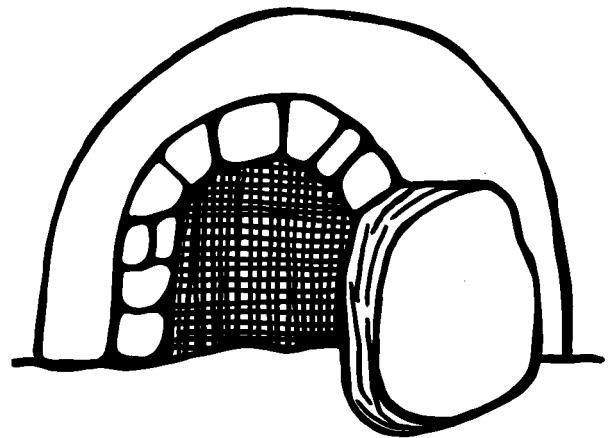
THURSDAY: Matthew 28:8

FRIDAY: Luke 24:6,7

SATURDAY: Acts 4:33

## ***Bible Text***

Matthew 28:1-10



## ***Memory Verse***

The Lord is risen indeed. — Luke 24:34

# He is Risen Indeed!

Use the words in the oval shapes to complete the sentences below.

Write each word on the correct line.

Two

earthquake

tell

alive

tomb

joy

risen

saw

afraid

stone

\_\_\_\_\_ Marys went to see Jesus' tomb.

There was a great \_\_\_\_\_.

An angel rolled the \_\_\_\_\_ away.

The men who guarded the \_\_\_\_\_  
fainted.

The angel told the women not to be \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_!

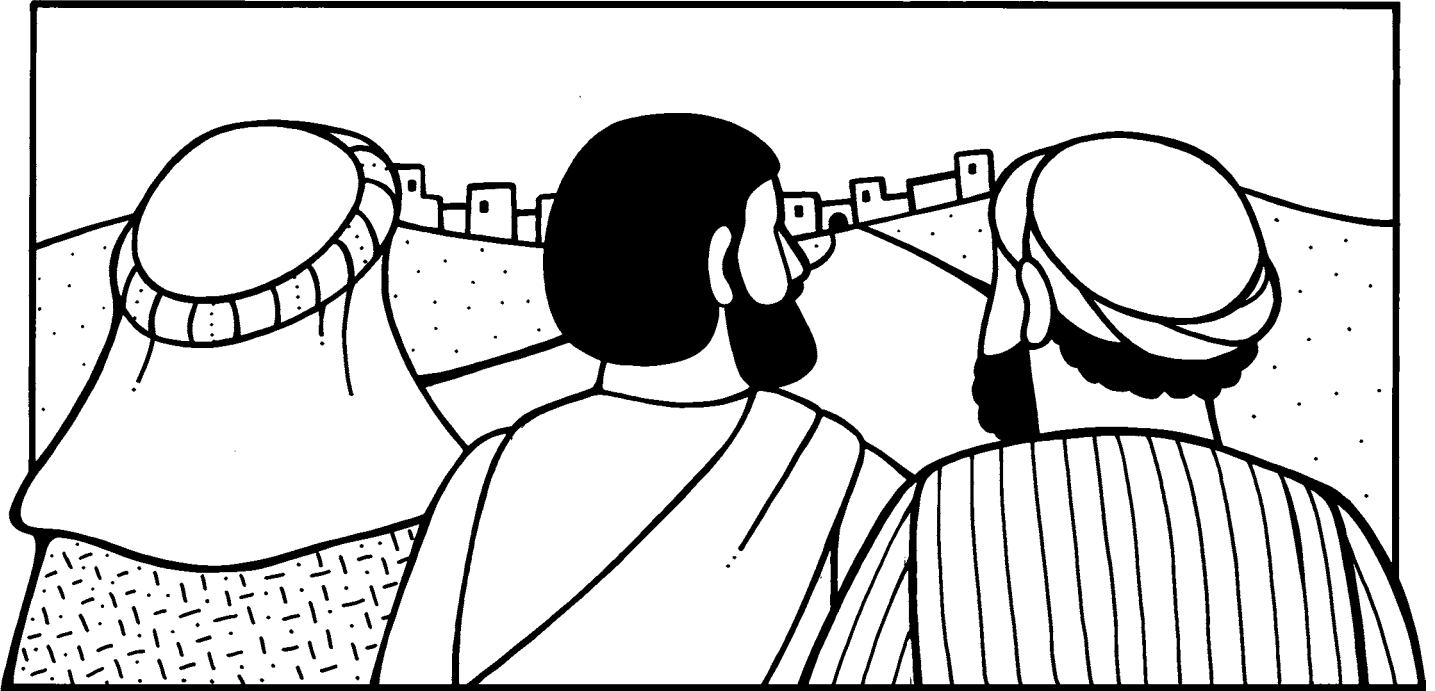
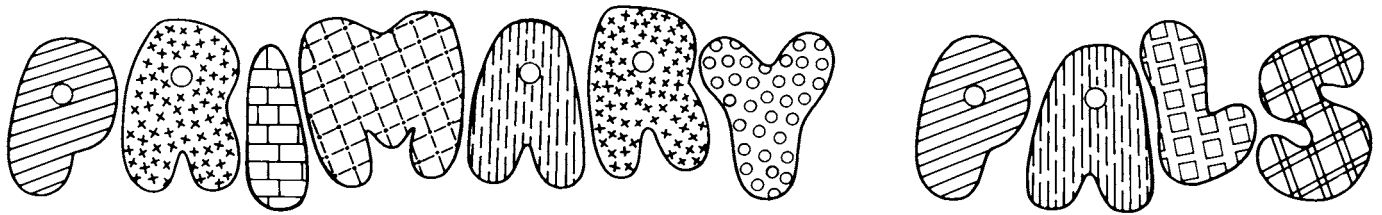
What great \_\_\_\_\_!

The women went to \_\_\_\_\_ all  
Jesus' friends.

As they went they \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ indeed!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## On the Road to Emmaus

The wind was still. All was quiet as the two men walked on the road to Emmaus.

“It’s so peaceful today,” said Cleopas. “I’m glad we are away from the crowds in Jerusalem.”

His friend agreed, “Yes, and we can talk now. Everything has been so mixed up. I’m still not sure I understand what’s been happening. But I do know that Jesus died on that cross and . . .”

Hearing footsteps behind them, the two men turned and watched as a Stranger approached. When He caught up with them, they began to

talk together. After a moment, He looked at the men’s faces. “You both seem so sad. What is troubling you?”

Cleopas and his friend looked at Him with surprise. “Don’t you know? You must be a stranger in Jerusalem if you haven’t heard of all the things that have been happening there.”

“What things?” the Stranger asked.

“Why, about Jesus of Nazareth!” Cleopas said. “He healed people and taught them with a power that could only come from God. But the chief priests and rulers had Him arrested. Then they crucified Him on a cross.”

“We thought He was the One who

would come and free Israel,” explained his friend. “And now it looks like the Romans will still rule.”

“Besides that,” exclaimed Cleopas, “now His body is gone! Some women went to take burial spices to His tomb this morning and found it open—and empty. They said they saw an angel who told them Jesus was alive.”

Then the Stranger began to speak. “Didn’t you understand that this was God’s plan for Jesus, the Savior, to suffer these things?” Then He began to explain what the Scriptures said about the Savior.

Cleopas and his friend listened carefully to the Stranger. They were filled with wonder at what He told them. It seemed like just a short time before the Stranger and the two men

arrived at Emmaus. They asked Him to stay and eat with them. At first, it seemed He would travel on, but at last He agreed to join them.

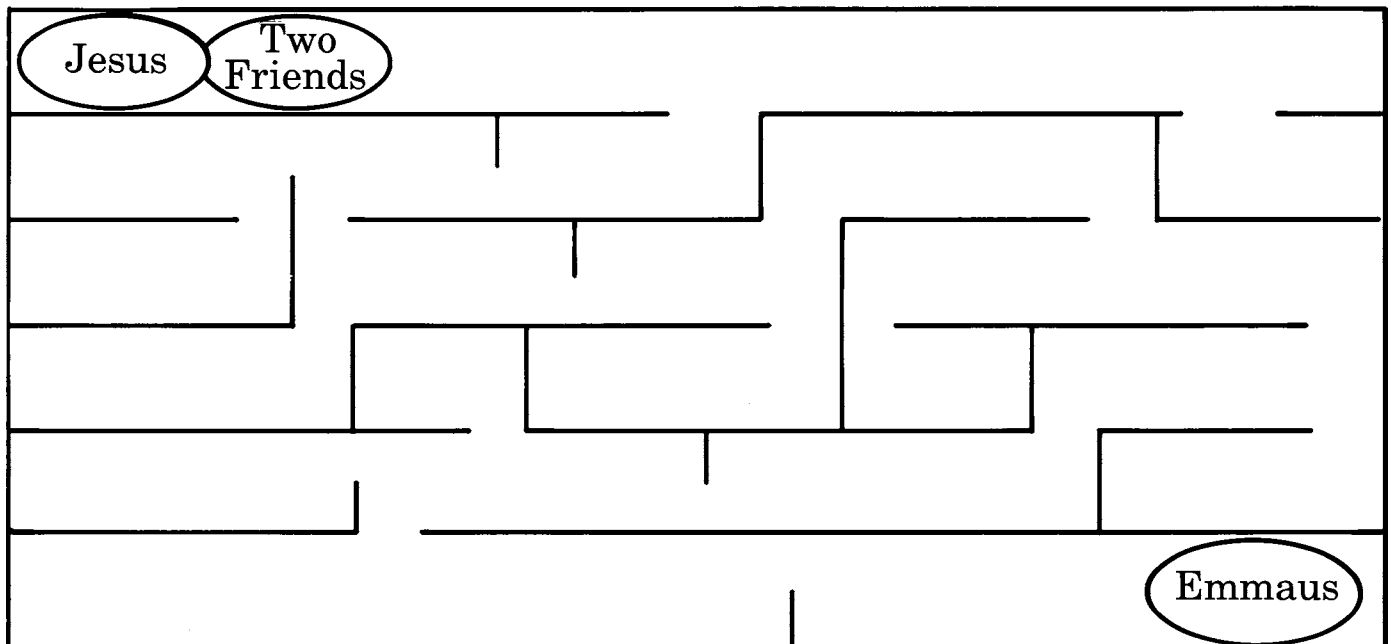
As the Stranger blessed and broke the bread for the evening meal, something wonderful happened. Suddenly the two men knew who He was. He was Jesus! As soon as they recognized Him, Jesus disappeared right before their eyes!

After He was gone, they looked at one another in amazement. “I felt like my heart was burning when He was speaking to us on the road!” exclaimed Cleopas. “He explained the Scriptures so we could really understand them.”

“Let’s hurry back to Jerusalem,” said his friend. “We must tell the others. Come on! Jesus is alive!”

## Road to Emmaus

Follow through the maze to help Jesus and His two friends get to the village of Emmaus.



# Preparing for This Bible Lesson

## ***Parent's Corner***

This lesson is about Jesus meeting two of His disciples on the road to Emmaus. At first they did not recognize Him, but later, after they had sat down to eat together, they realized that He was their Lord.

Use the memory verse as the focus of your time together with your child. Because it compares the Word of God to a lamp, there are many possibilities for visualizing this verse. Have your child count how many lamps (or sources of light) he can find in your house. Talk about why we need light. Use a light to make shadow pictures on the wall. Hide an object in a dark room and let your child look for it with a flashlight.

After spending some time on these activities, read the verse again together. Let your child explain to you why he thinks the Word of God is like a light.

## ***Time Together for Family Devotions***

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Psalm 119:105

MONDAY: John 5:24

TUESDAY: John 1:12

WEDNESDAY: Psalm 119:130

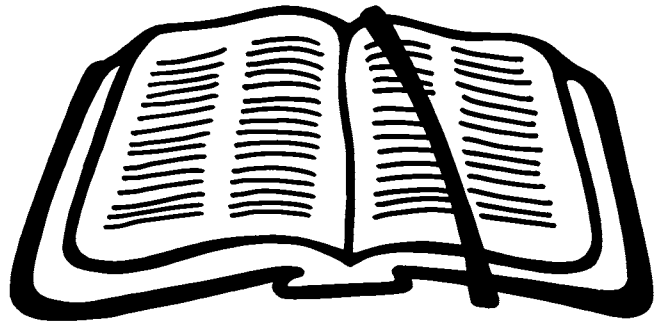
THURSDAY: John 6:40

FRIDAY: John 6:35

SATURDAY: John 12:46

## ***Bible Text***

Luke 24:13-35



## ***Memory Verse***

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.  
— Psalm 119:105

# On the Emmaus Road

Match the shapes below. Write the correct words on the lines in the empty shapes. Read the verse to see what happened while the two men were walking to the village of Emmaus.

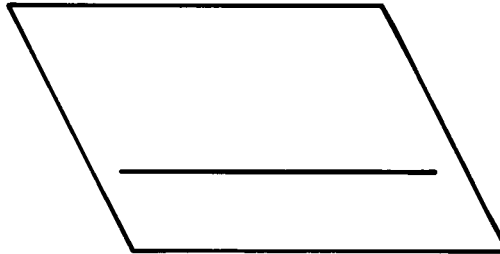
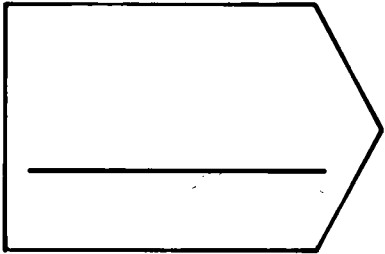
went

them

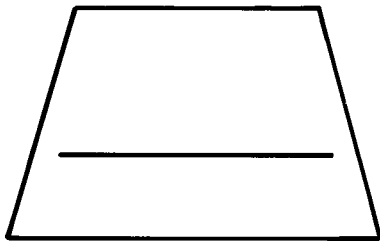
near

himself

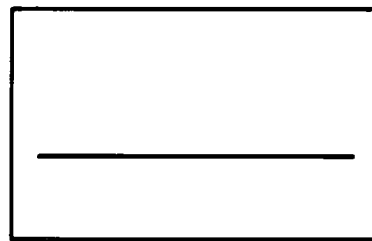
Jesus



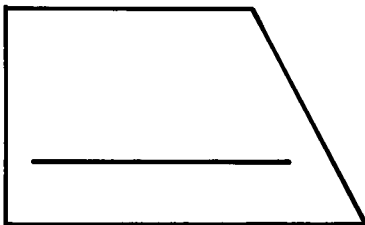
drew



, and



with

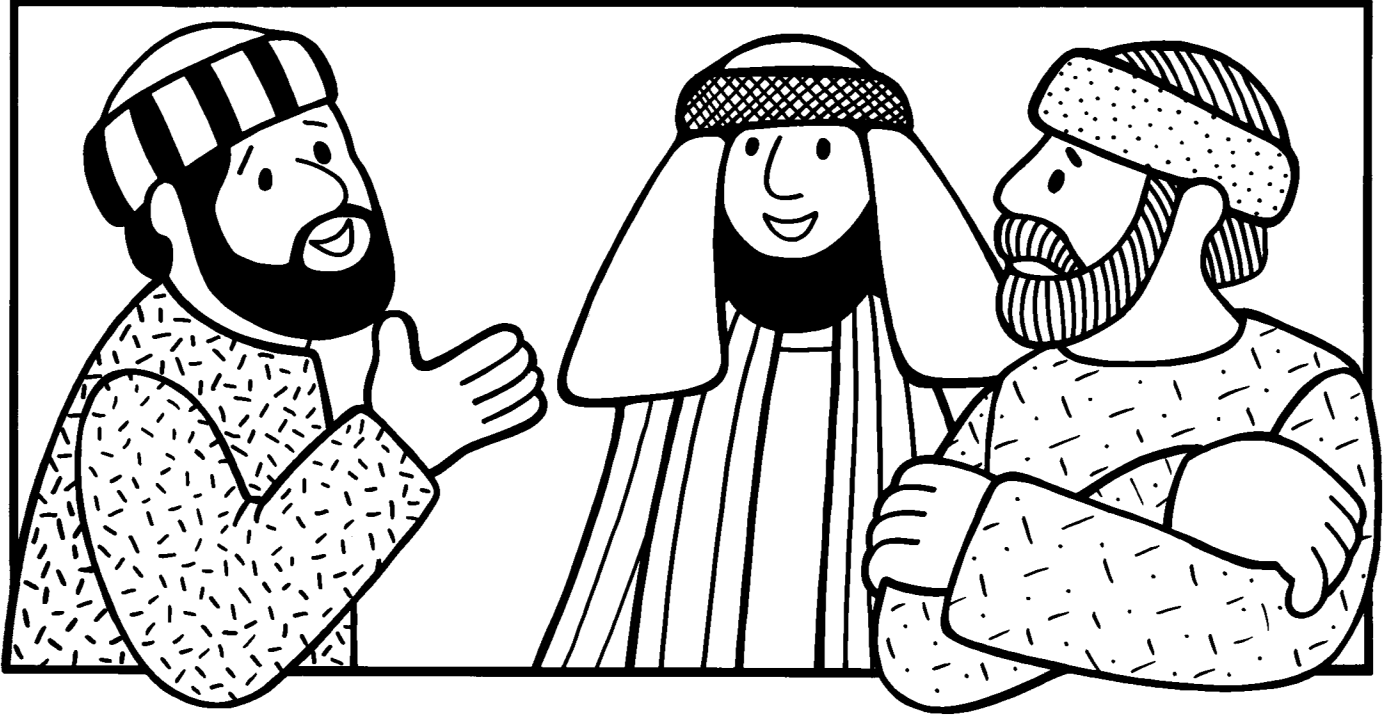


Luke 24:15

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# PRIMARY PAIRS



## Believe and Be Blessed

“Thomas! Thomas!” called some of Jesus’ disciples. “Come, listen. We have something wonderful to tell you!” They were hurrying toward him. How happy they looked!

“What is it?” asked Thomas sadly. He couldn’t think of anything to be happy about now. His best Friend, Jesus, had just died. He would never see his beloved Teacher again, and his heart ached with sadness.

“Thomas, you should have been with us last night,” the disciples said. “We were eating our evening meal when suddenly Jesus was standing in the middle of the room! We don’t know

how He entered because we had locked all the doors. He said to us, ‘Peace be unto you.’ Then He asked if we had any food for Him! We gave Him some and He ate with us! We saw Jesus! We heard Jesus! He’s alive!”

“I cannot believe that,” said Thomas, amazed at their words. “I know the women saw the empty tomb. I know His body is no longer there, but I won’t believe He is alive unless I see the marks of the nails in His hands. I won’t believe unless I touch the place in His side where the spear pierced Him.”

How sad Thomas was. Since Jesus had died, he had hardly been able to

think of anything else. Thomas just couldn't believe that Jesus was alive.

But he found out that what the disciples said was true. It was just about a week later that all of Jesus' helpers were together again. They were in the same room and all the doors were again locked. This time Thomas was with them.

Suddenly, Jesus was standing in the middle of the room. He said to everyone, "Peace be unto you." Then Jesus looked at Thomas. His face was kind as He gently said, "Thomas, come and feel the marks of the nails in My hands. Put your hand in My side. And, Thomas, believe that I am alive!"

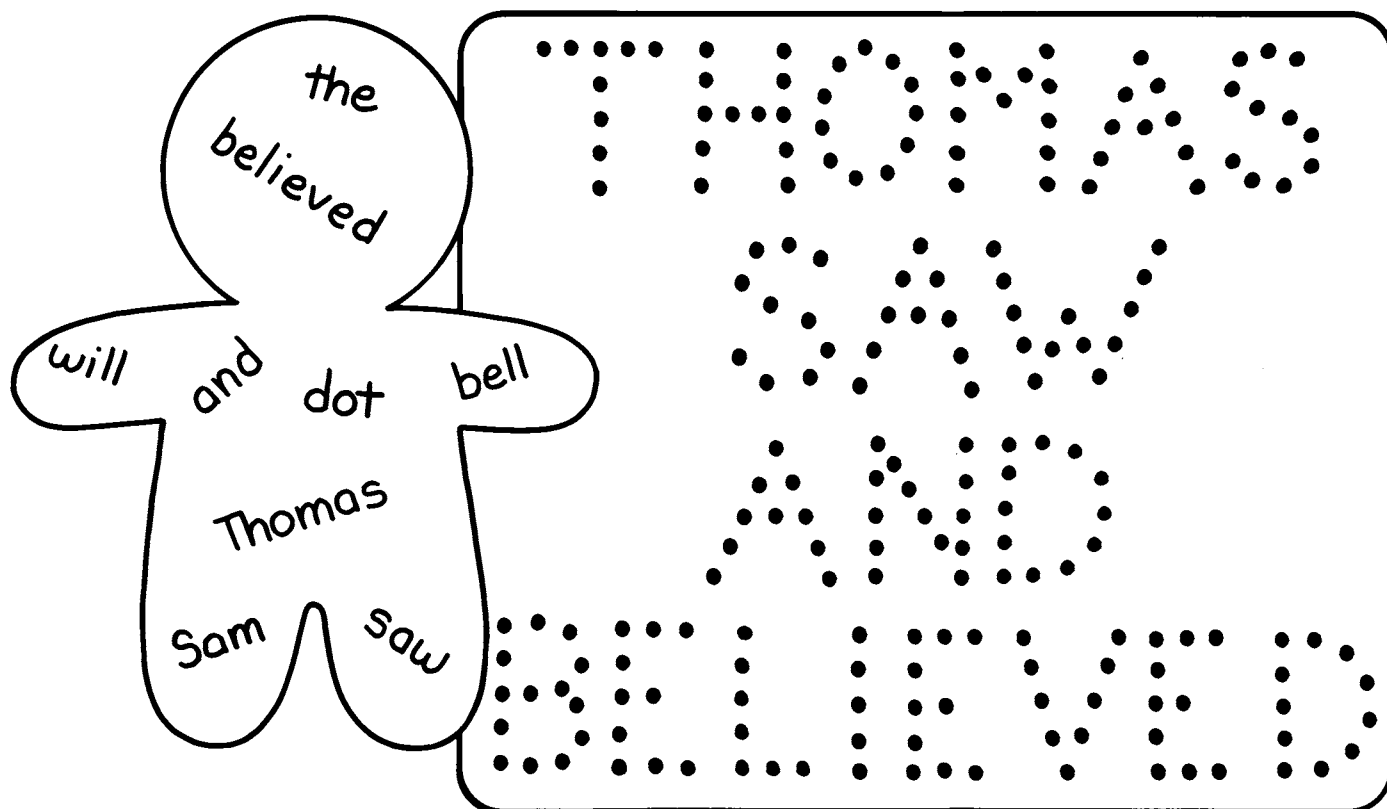
Thomas' heart leaped for joy. It was true! He cried, "My Lord and my God!" Oh, Thomas was so sorry he had not believed his friends.

Jesus said, "Thomas, because you see me, you believe, and you are happy. There will be many people who will believe I am alive even though they never see me. They will be very blessed."

Thomas believed Jesus because he saw Him. Have you ever seen Jesus? No. But Jesus is alive! You will be happy and blessed if you will believe that He lives today. He loves you and will always be with you. This is His promise to us.

## Finish the Words

Connect the dots to finish the letters. Then circle the words in the man that match the statement.



# Preparing for This Bible Lesson

## ***Parent's Corner***

This lesson stresses the necessity of believing. Our Bible text tells the story of Thomas, the disciple of Jesus who would not believe Jesus had risen from the dead until he saw Him.

To help your child understand what it means to believe, plan a special "Better Believe" day for your family. Have each family member write down on separate slips of paper two or three things they will do for someone else in the family. Fold the papers in half, and write "Better Believe" on the outside. For example, you might write on your child's slip, "I will make banana muffins for your breakfast."

When each slip is given to the appropriate person during the day, the recipient must say "I believe!" before the action can be performed.

## ***Time Together for Family Devotions***

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: John 20:29

MONDAY: Mark 9:23

TUESDAY: Mark 11:24

WEDNESDAY: Matthew 21:22

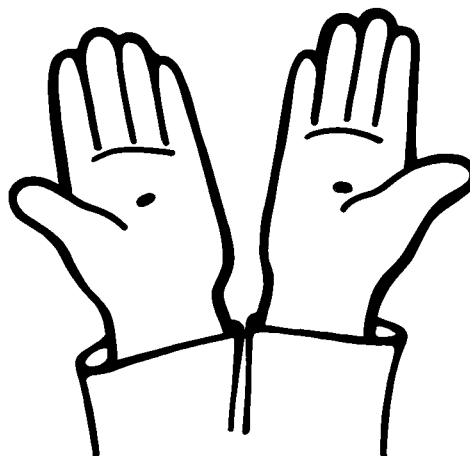
THURSDAY: I Peter 1:8

FRIDAY: Proverbs 3:5

SATURDAY: Matthew 7:7

## ***Bible Text***

John 20:24-31



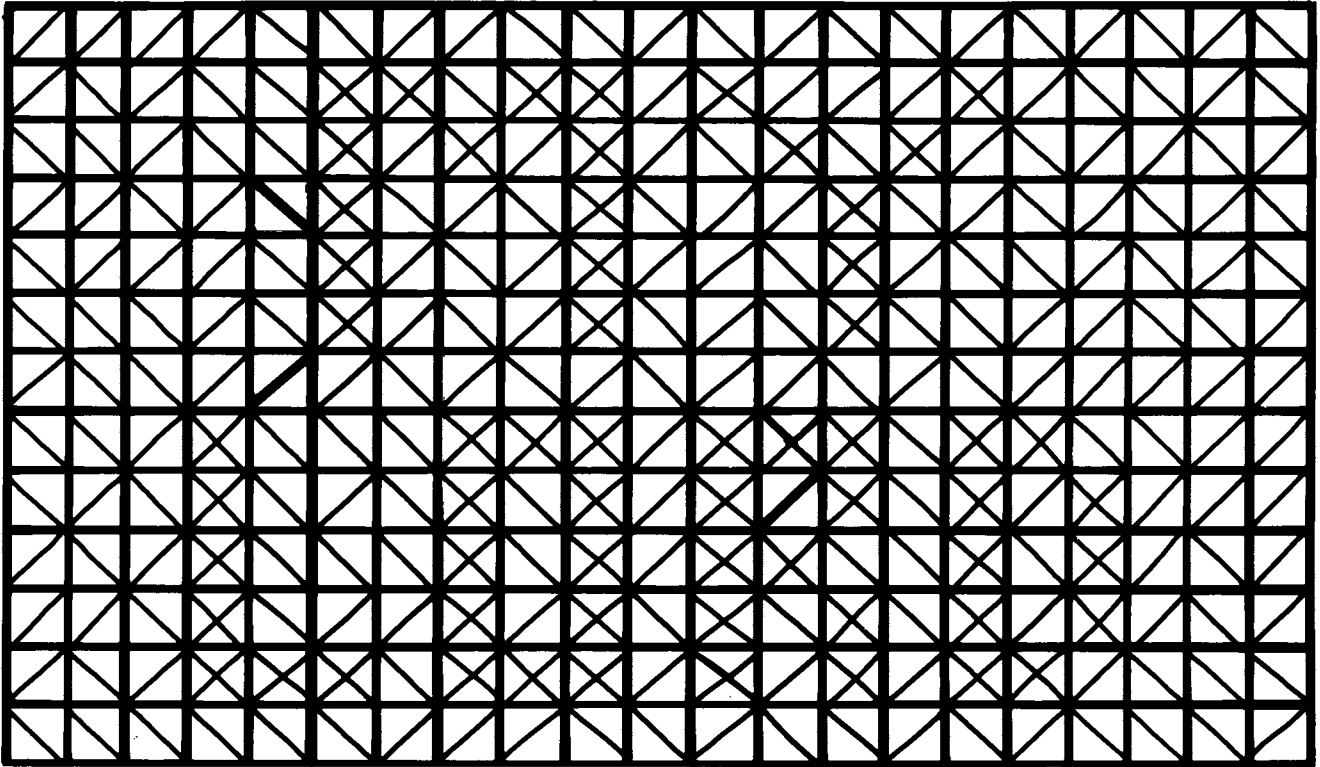
## ***Memory Verse***

Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.  
— John 20:29

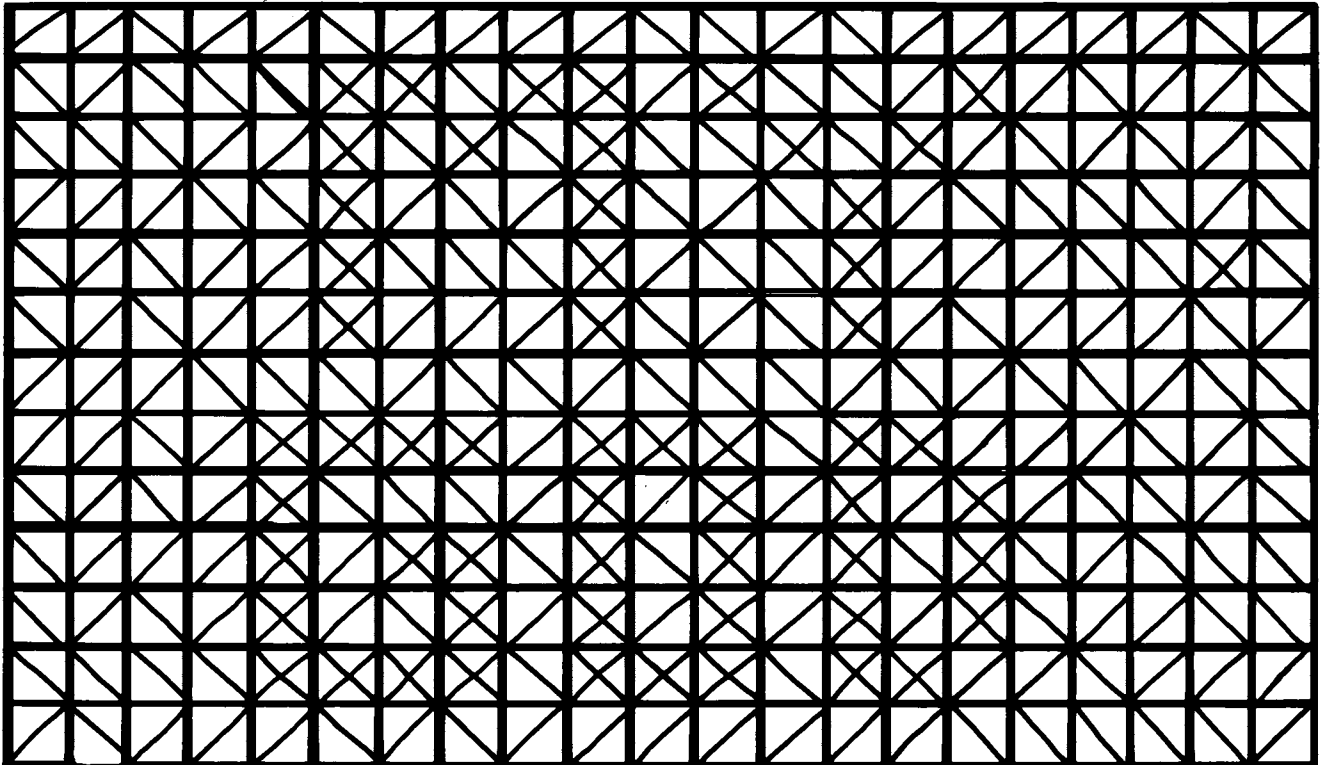
# Do You Believe?

Color each small box that has an X inside.

You will discover what Thomas said after he saw Jesus.



— and —



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# PRIMARY PAIRS



## He's Coming Back Again

How happy Jesus' friends and helpers were to see Him. Jesus was alive again! They were really excited.

Before He died, his friends had thought that He would set up His earthly kingdom. Now that He had risen again they probably hoped Jesus would stay on earth and be their King. But Jesus told them that He was going to return to Heaven. He had lived on earth for over thirty years. He had done all the things that God, His Father, had sent Him to do. Now He was going back to live with God.

Jesus had told them before He died that this would happen. He had

promised to prepare a special place for those who love Him. He said that someday He would come back to earth and take them there to live with Him.

One day He was talking to His disciples. When He was finished talking with them, He suddenly began to rise up into the air. He went higher and higher until He had disappeared completely into the clouds above. He was gone! He returned to Heaven just like He said He would.

Jesus had promised His followers that He would return someday. And He really will come again! Won't that be wonderful? The trumpet will

sound, and every Christian who has died will be raised from the grave. Every living person who loves and obeys Jesus will rise to meet Him in the clouds. This is the most important day.

Everyone who loves Jesus is waiting for His soon return. But how long do we have to wait? What should we do until then? Jesus tells us in the Bible to watch for Him. Does that mean everyone should stop playing? Should they stop working? Should you go to the top of a high mountain and watch the clouds? What does the Bible mean when it tells us to watch?

It means we should watch with our hearts, not our eyes. God does not want us to just sit and watch the sky,

because no one knows when that day will be.

Do you know what things Jesus would want us to do while we are waiting for Him to return? He wants us to read our Bible, pray, show kindness to others, and tell His Good News to everyone we know. We will be very busy if we do all we should. But that is OK, because there is so much joy in our hearts when we work for Jesus.

God wants us to look forward with hope to the day when Jesus will return. It should be the day that we are most excited about. It will be a day more wonderful than any other. It is important to believe in Jesus! He wants us to be ready to meet Him.

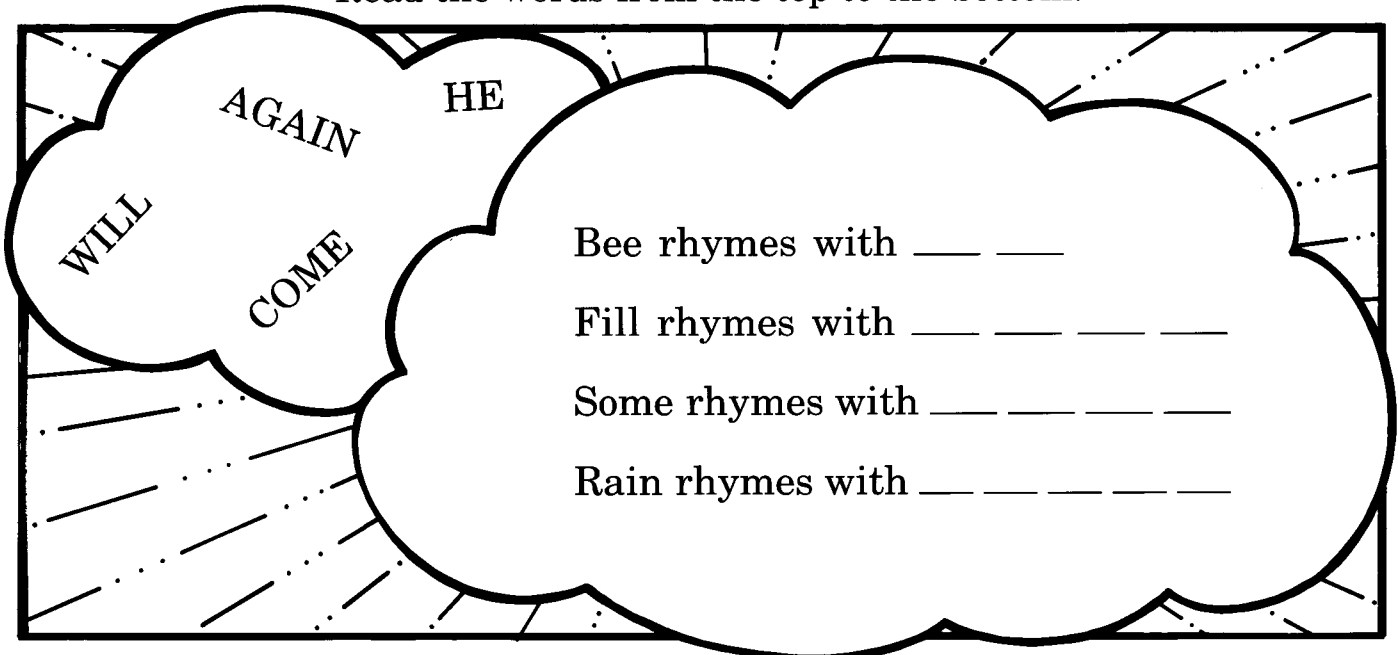
Are you ready?

## Rhymes

Jesus went to Heaven in a cloud. Finish the puzzle to find out what else He will do. The first word of each line will rhyme with the last word in the line.

Find the rhyming word in the cloud shape. Write the words on the lines.

Read the words from the top to the bottom.



# Preparing for This Bible Lesson

## ***Parent's Corner***

One of the very important themes of the Bible is the exciting fact that Jesus is coming back to earth again! Your child will learn that Jesus will come again in the same way that He went away—in a cloud.

Help your child make a cloud bookmark to reinforce this thought. Draw a simple cloud shape about 1½" high and 2" wide on a piece of paper. Let him use this as a pattern to cut two matching clouds from white felt. Cut an 8" length of rainbow-striped grosgrain ribbon. Glue the two cloud shapes together with one end of the length of ribbon in between them.

If you wish, a purchased sticker of Jesus could be applied to the cloud shape. Help your child locate the Bible text in his Bible and place his new cloud bookmark there.

## ***Time Together for Family Devotions***

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Matthew 16:27

MONDAY: Luke 12:40

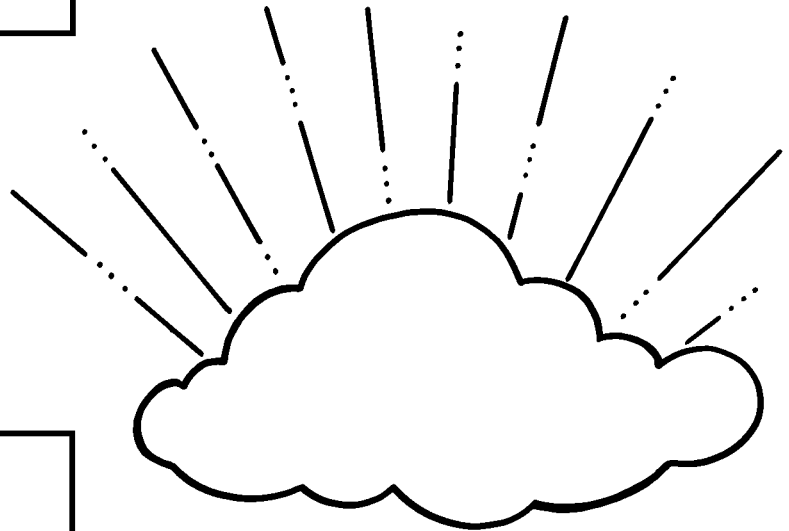
TUESDAY: Titus 2:13

WEDNESDAY: Matthew 24:44

THURSDAY: John 14:3

FRIDAY: Matthew 6:20

SATURDAY: Colossians 3:4



## ***Bible Text***

Acts 1:9-12; John 14:1-6

## ***Memory Verse***

For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father  
with his angels. — Matthew 16:27

# Jesus Will Come Again

Jesus promised He would come again. He went to Heaven in a cloud and will come back in a cloud. Draw a picture of Jesus in the cloud below. Are you watching for Jesus to return?



Name: \_\_\_\_\_