

# THE ISLAND

<b>LEADER</b>	<b>DATE (am)</b> 19 April 2009
<b>HELPERS</b>	<b>TIME (mins)</b> 40 minutes
<b>PUPPETEER</b>	<b>No. of KIDS (m/f)</b>

- **SERIES / LESSON:** Jesus is King! / The disciples see Jesus
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-31
- **CONCEPT:** Jesus is alive!

## GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids realise that, even though we can't see Him, Jesus rose from the dead and is alive today.
- To invite kids to accept Jesus as their King and Saviour.
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Song DVD
- ✓ Treasure chest with length of cloth or linen inside (from last week's story)
- ✓ Prayer Net
- ✓ Prayer cards and pen
- ✓ Name tag box
- ✓ Evangelical literature

<b>A. Worship through Music (with puppets)</b> <b>10 minutes</b> 1. Welcome kids. 2. Sing 2 songs together ( <b><i>One Way / God you make me smile</i></b> ). 3. Open in prayer. 4. Ask kids to get their mats and sit down.	<b>You'll need ...</b>  DVD player / projector Song DVD ( <i>Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God</i> )
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<b>B. Message</b> <b>15 minutes</b>  <b>1. Recap</b> Ask a child to help you open the treasure chest and take out the length of cloth you placed there last week. Ask for someone to explain what the linen should remind us of and what place it had in last week's story. Ask a few follow-up questions to recap the Easter Sunday story of the empty tomb. Mary didn't realise that Jesus was standing with her until He said her name.  If you have time, you could also recap last week's Bible verse, or refer to it if you displayed it in your room: <i>If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!</i> 2 Corinthians 5:17  Finish by eliciting the concept: Jesus died to save us.  <b>2. Set the scene</b> <i>The blinds in your room should be drawn so that kids cannot see outside. Speak to one of your adult helpers before the session and have them learn the following short script. They should have left the room briefly during the recap stage, for example, to visit the bathroom. They should return to interrupt you with the following:</i>  <b>Helper:</b> <i>(interrupting the story teller) Emma! Sorry to interrupt you, but you'll never guess what I've just seen!</i>  <b>Emma:</b> <i>Calm down! Take a deep breath. Okay. Start at the beginning and tell me what's the matter.</i>  <b>Helper:</b> <i>I just slipped out to go to the bathroom. As I walked past the front door, I looked outside. And you'll never guess (more excitedly) ... it's snowing! It's like Christmas out there! The ground is covered in white! I don't know how we're going to get home because it's snowing so heavily! I can hardly believe it!</i>  <b>Emma:</b> <i>WHAT?! Are you joking? Snow in April? But yesterday was a beautiful spring day! I don't believe you.</i>  <b>Helper:</b> <i>I'm serious! It's snowing!</i>  <b>Emma:</b> <i>Boys and girls, do you believe it? There's only one way I can think of to check if this is the truth or not. Let's go and look out the windows! ... You were joking with us! There's no snow! It's too warm for snow, isn't it, boys and girls? We should have known better. That was a bad joke! I wanted to look out the window before I would believe you, and I was right! I had to see it first before I would believe it!</i>	<b>You'll need ...</b>  <i>Treasure chest / length of cloth or linen</i>
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Boys and girls, let me tell you about someone who needed to see with his eyes before he would believe. His name was Thomas.

### **3. Tell the story**

On Easter Sunday we heard about the greatest miracle in the world – Jesus came back to life on the third day after He was killed. We heard how God sent angels to roll back the heavy stone from the door of the tomb where Jesus' body lay and told the women not to be afraid because Jesus was alive! We heard too how Mary Magdalene, so sad and upset, was surprised and overjoyed when she realised that Jesus was standing right in front of her, saying her name.

That night, the disciples were together, except for Thomas. The doors were locked. They were talking about what had happened, about Mary's message that she had seen Jesus alive, wondering if it could be true, trying to make sense of it all ... when all of a sudden, they gasped in shock and fright. There was a ghost in the room! Standing in the middle of the disciples! The ghost spoke. "Peace be with you." (Luke 24:36) "Why are you frightened? Do you not believe what you see? Look! It's me! Look at my hands and my feet – do you see where the nails were? Touch me! A ghost doesn't have skin and bones. Shake my hand. I'm real! It's me!" (paraphrase Luke 24:38-39)

The disciples were so happy! This was no ghost, it was Jesus, their Jesus, their friend, their Lord. They looked at Jesus' hands and feet and were completely amazed. Jesus, who was dead, was alive! He got into their house through the locked doors and was standing there with them. They could hardly believe their eyes! Jesus asked them for something to eat. The disciples gave Him a piece of fish and He stayed and ate it with them. He *seemed* to be real all right! He was hungry!

The trouble was that Thomas wasn't with the other disciples that night. And when the others told him later what had happened, they didn't get the reaction they were expecting. "We have seen the Lord," they shouted altogether, still excited and amazed and wide-eyed. "We have seen the Lord!" (John 20:25) They were so eager to tell Thomas about what he had missed that night. They wanted to tell Thomas all the details – how Jesus looked, what He said to them, what He ate for supper, how frightened they were when they thought they were looking at a ghost! "We have seen the Lord!" the disciples told Thomas. But Thomas looked serious. He didn't get excited. He didn't jump for joy. He didn't praise the Lord and join in the celebrations. Thomas said to his friends, "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 it." (John 20:25) "I will *not* believe it!" said Thomas.

Well, boys and girls. A week later, the disciples were together in the house again, and this time Thomas was with them. Just like the week before, the doors were locked. And just like the week before, Jesus appeared in the room, walked to where the disciples were sitting and said, "Peace be with you!" The disciples looked at Him carefully. He looked just like He had looked the week before. They knew it wasn't a ghost; this was Jesus. Then their eyes shifted to Thomas. Thomas wasn't quite sure what to think at that moment, until Jesus said to

him, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas got up with wonder and awe and amazement in his eyes and said to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:26-28)

#### **4. Explain**

Jesus wasn't angry with Thomas for not believing that He had risen from the dead. You see, Thomas was still a follower of Jesus, he was still a disciple, a friend of Jesus. He *wanted* to believe, he *wanted* his friend Jesus back again. But Thomas was doubtful. He doubted the truth. He just couldn't believe what the disciples were telling him until he saw it with his own eyes. Jesus said to Thomas, "Because you have seen me, you have believed ..." (John 20:29) When Thomas touched Jesus' hands, and could see and feel the marks that were made by the nails that held Jesus onto the cross, Thomas believed that this was the risen Lord.

What about us, boys and girls? It's different for us, isn't it? We can't see Jesus. We can't touch Him and look at the marks in His hands like Thomas did, sure we can't? Sometimes it's difficult to believe in someone or something that we can't see, right? But Jesus said to Thomas, "... blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:29) Jesus says we are 'blessed' if we believe because we can't see Him. Not very many people got to meet Jesus when He lived on earth. Thousands of years have gone by when people have not been able to see or touch Jesus, but they have believed. Jesus loves believers especially because we can't see Him. He knows it can be difficult, but He helps us to believe through these stories that were written down for us in the Bible.

What about you? Do you believe in Jesus? Do you believe that He came to earth as a little baby, that He grew up to be a man, that He did many miracles, that He died on a cross to save all the people of the world from their sin ... and that He rose from the dead to make a way for us to be with Him in heaven? Jesus says the same thing to you as He did to Thomas that day – "Stop doubting and believe." (John 20:27) Just believe!

#### **C. Prayer Net**

**10 minutes**

1. Ask a child to explain what it means when we *pray* – We talk to God and He listens.
2. Explain that prayer / talking to God is very important because that's how we get to know Him.
3. Choose a child to retrieve the prayer net. Lift out the prayer cards you put there last week. Ask the kids for updates on those situations.
4. *Explain:* When we have something to be thankful for, or something we worry about we need to tell God about those things. Imagine if Jesus walked into our room today. What would you say to Him? Would you believe in His power? What would you ask Him to help you with? Remember, Jesus is right here, listening to our prayers. We can't see Him but He is here.
5. Tell kids that we are going to make a note of some special prayers today and put them in the prayer net. Next week they will

#### ***You'll need ...***

*Net (with last week's prayer cards)  
Small cards / postcards  
A pen*

<p>tell us what happened in those situations.</p> <p>6. Ask a few kids if they have a prayer to put into the net. As they tell you, write their name and the topic of their prayer on a small card. Ask the child to say a prayer aloud (help them to do so) before they place their card into the prayer net.</p> <p>7. <i>Ask:</i> Boys and girls, do you believe in Jesus? Do you believe that He died to take your sin away so that you could be free and have a way to get to heaven? If you have already told Jesus that you're sorry for your sin, and if you have decided to follow Jesus, then that's wonderful. If you haven't asked Jesus to forgive your sin, would you like to tell Him you're sorry and ask Him to forgive you? Do you believe that Jesus died for you? Would you like Him to be your friend, a friend who never leaves you until you go to be with Him in heaven? Jesus loves you so much that He went to die for your sin. Then He rose from the dead! He came back to life again because Jesus' power is stronger than anything, even death! Do you believe it? Boys and girls, if you would like to ask Jesus into your heart today, you can do it right now as I pray.</p> <p><i>Let's pray:</i> Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for loving me so much that You suffered pain and torture for my sin. I'm sorry for the bad and sinful things I've done, and I'm thankful that You made a way for me to be free. Lord Jesus, I believe that You died for me. I believe that You rose back to life again. I believe that You are still alive and that You love me. I ask You to come and live in my heart from now on. I want You to be my best friend. Amen.</p> <p>Boys and girls, if you prayed that prayer today and you really meant it, will you stay behind and talk to me today?</p>	
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<p><b>D. Conclusion (with puppets)</b></p> <p>1. Ask kids to put their mats away.</p> <p>2. <i>Explain:</i> Our song tells us that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Jesus loves us and wants us to believe in Him even though we can't see Him. I believe in Jesus! Do you?</p> <p>3. Sing a closing song. (<b>One Way</b>)</p> <p>4. Remind kids to come back this evening.</p> <p>5. Ask kids to put their name tags in the box before they leave.</p> <p>6. Ask any kids who prayed the prayer of acceptance to stay behind afterwards. If you have enough adult helpers, assign one child to each helper for counselling. Provide evangelical literature for kids to take home.</p>	<p><b>5 minutes</b></p> <p><b>You'll need ...</b></p> <p><i>DVD player / projector</i>  <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p> <p><i>Evangelical literature</i></p>
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# THE ISLAND cont'd

<b>LEADER</b>	<b>DATE (pm)</b> 19 April 2009
<b>HELPERS</b>	<b>TIME (mins)</b> 40 minutes
<b>PUPPETEER</b>	<b>No. of KIDS (m/f)</b>

## GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse.
- To consolidate today's Bible story by playing a series of 'faith-strengthening' sensory games.

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Memory Verse Activity:
  - Slide (Hebrews 11:1) in very small font
  - Slide (Hebrews 11:1) in larger font
  - Binoculars (cheap set of kids' binoculars)
- ✓ Activity: Large bag or holdall of items (e.g. cross, nail, cloth, rock, Bible, etc.)
  - Numbered sandwich bags with 'smells' inside, e.g.
    - Garlic* – crush a clove or two and put them into a sandwich bag;
    - Vanilla* – soak a cotton ball in vanilla essence and put it into a sandwich bag;
    - Lemon* – soak a cotton ball in lemon juice and put it into a sandwich bag;
    - Cloves* – put a few cloves into a sandwich bag;
    - Washing up liquid / fabric softener / household cleaner* – soak a cotton ball in the liquid and put it into a sandwich bag
  - Smell number reference list – so you know which 'smell' is in which numbered bag
  - Loaf of bread on a plate
  - Jug of red juice, plastic cups
- ✓ Name tag box



<p>the binoculars. <i>Pass the binoculars around for each child to try.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. <i>Explain:</i> Now we're going to learn the verse altogether. Let's make it bigger so we can read it easily. <i>Change to next slide where verse is in a larger font.</i> Let's read it together.</li> <li>5. Repeat verse a few times as a group and individually.</li> <li>6. <i>Explain:</i> 'Faith' is like believing. We believe in Jesus even though we can't see Him. We have faith in Jesus that He loves us and helps us.</li> <li>7. When you think kids know the verse, move to a blank slide and have kids repeat the verse a few times as a group and individually.</li> <li>8. Finish with a group repetition of the verse.</li> </ol> <p><b>Idea:</b> After the session, you could write the memory verse onto a sheet of card to make a poster for your room. This will add to your decoration as well as reminding kids of the Bible concept. Then you can also refer to it later in the series.</p>	<p><i>Memory verse slide in larger font</i></p>
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<p><b>G. Activity</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>15 minutes</b></span></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ask kids to lift a mat each and sit on the floor.</li> </ol> <p><b>~ 5 minutes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <i>Explain:</i> Thomas believed when he saw with his eyes the scars in Jesus' hands and feet, and when he heard Jesus speak to him he knew it was Jesus. Thomas said he wanted to put his finger in the marks on Jesus' hands – he wanted to touch Jesus to help him believe that Jesus was alive. In our memory verse game, we had to use our eyes, like Thomas, to help us see what the Bible was teaching us about Jesus. When we heard our story today and when we sang our songs, we were listening carefully to the words in the story and songs to help us learn more about Jesus, just like Thomas listened to Jesus. Now we're going to touch some things with our hands, like Thomas touched Jesus' scars, to help us remember to believe in Jesus.</li> <li>3. Sit down with the kids. Ask a child to come and choose something from your bag. Have the child stand with their back to your bag so that they are reaching backwards into the bag. Before they remove their item from the bag, ask them to guess what it is they are touching. Allow the child to lift the item from the bag, look at it, and hold it in their hands. Ask the child what it is and how it fits into the Easter story. Allow other kids to contribute to a discussion of how that item helped Thomas and the disciples believe in Jesus, and how it can help us strengthen our faith too. Repeat with other kids until the bag is empty.</li> </ol> <p>Example items in bag:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Cross</i> – Jesus loved us so much that He died on a cross to take away our sin and make a way for us to get to heaven when we die.</li> <li>- <i>Nail</i> – The Roman soldiers nailed Jesus' hands and feet to the cross. Thomas wanted to see the scars left by the nails in the risen Jesus' hands and feet.</li> <li>- <i>Cloth</i> – Jesus' body was wrapped in linen cloth before He was laid in the tomb. When the disciples ran to see the</li> </ul>	<p><b>You'll need ...</b></p> <p><i>Bag of items (e.g. cross, nail, cloth, rock, Bible, etc.)</i></p>
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- empty tomb, they found the cloth but Jesus' body was gone.
- *Rock* – The soldiers rolled a huge heavy stone over the door of Jesus' tomb so that no one could get in or out. On Easter Sunday morning, the women saw God's angels roll back the stone from the tomb to show them that Jesus was not there, He was alive!
  - *Bible* – The Bible stories were written down so that people like us, many years after Jesus lived on earth, would be able to believe. The Bible is like our binoculars – it helps us to learn about Jesus and see His power even though we can't see a person.

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**~ 5 minutes**

4. *Explain:* We have listened with our ears, we have seen with our eyes, we have touched with our hands. Now we're going to smell. Different smells remind me of different people and places. What about you? I like the smell of cut grass – it reminds me of summer. I like the smell of coffee in the morning – it helps to waken me up! What smells do you like? What smells do you not like?
5. Pass around a small numbered sandwich bag containing a 'smelly' item, or a cotton ball soaked in a liquid smell. Allow kids to guess what the smell might be. Ask them what the smell reminds them of. Tell them if their guess is correct by checking the number on the bag against your reference list. Pass around a few more 'smelly' bags, one at a time, for kids to guess the smells.

*Numbered sandwich bags  
with 'smells' inside*

*Smell number reference list*

**Example smells:**

- *Garlic* – crush a clove or two and put them into a sandwich bag.
- *Vanilla* – soak a cotton ball in vanilla essence and put it into a sandwich bag
- *Lemon* – soak a cotton ball in lemon juice and put it into a sandwich bag
- *Cloves* – put a few cloves into a sandwich bag
- *Washing up liquid / fabric softener / household cleaner* – soak a cotton ball in the liquid and put it into a sandwich bag

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**~ 5 minutes**

6. *Explain:* We have listened with our ears, we have seen with our eyes, we have touched with our hands, and we have smelt with our noses. Now we're going to taste. Do different foods remind you of different times or places? Does eating cake remind you of your birthday? Does eating turkey make you think of Christmas? What tastes do you like? What tastes do you not like?
7. *Explain:* Jesus often spent time talking with His disciples over food. Remember the time He fed over 5000 people with a little boy's lunch? Remember how He asked for something to eat the night He appeared to the disciples after He had risen, and they gave Him a piece of fish? Do you remember the night before Jesus was crucified on the cross? – He was having a special meal with the disciples. He talked to them about God's love even

<p>though they didn't really understand what was happening. He took some bread, thanked God for it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples. <i>Take bread and break it as you talk.</i> He said to them, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup of wine, thanked God for it, and offered it to the disciples. <i>Pour out a jug of red juice into cups for the kids.</i> He said to them, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood ... which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:26-28) <i>Allow kids to take bread and juice from a side table and eat and drink.</i></p> <p>8. <i>Explain as kids eat and drink:</i> You see, boys and girls, this is exactly what we do in church when we have Communion. That's a big word that means coming together; getting close to God and each other. Some people call it 'The Lord's Supper'. Jesus told the disciples to keep doing this to remember Him and everything He did for us to be free from our sin. The bread is not <i>really</i> Jesus' body, it just reminds us of how Jesus' body was beaten and broken up. And the wine, or juice, is not <i>really</i> Jesus' blood, it just reminds us of how Jesus bled and died for us on the cross. When we eat the bread and drink the wine, or juice, we taste what God has done for us, and our faith, our belief, grows stronger.</p> <p>9. Throw kids' empty cups into the bin. Ask kids to put their mats away.</p>	<p><i>Loaf of bread on a plate</i></p> <p><i>Jug of red juice</i></p> <p><i>Plastic cups</i></p>
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<b>H. Conclusion (with puppets)</b>	<b>7 minutes</b>	<b>You'll need ...</b>
<p>1. <i>Remind kids:</i> Thomas wouldn't believe that Jesus was alive until he saw Jesus face to face and touched the scars on Jesus' hands and feet. For us, it's very different. We don't see Jesus face to face. But Jesus told Thomas, "... blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:29) Jesus says we are 'blessed' if we believe because we can't see Him. There are lots of ways we can work to make our belief and our faith stronger – we can use our eyes to read the Bible; we can listen to stories about God at church and we can sing songs about God's love; we can touch and smell and taste things that remind us of Jesus and how much He loves us, like the Communion bread and wine.</p> <p>2. Ask kids to recite the memory verse once more.</p> <p>3. <i>Explain:</i> Our song tells us that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Jesus loves us and wants us to believe in Him even though we can't see Him. I believe in Jesus! Do you?</p> <p>4. Invite kids to praise God's goodness to us by singing. <b>(One Way)</b></p> <p>5. Close in prayer.</p> <p>6. Remind kids to come back next week! Ask kids to leave their name tags in the box before they leave.</p>		<p><i>DVD player / projector</i></p> <p><i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>