

Change script as appropriate to your context.

ROCKY – PLEASE STAY INSIDE THE PUPPET BOX. YOU ARE NOT ACTUALLY WITH US AT CHURCH UNTIL THE VERY END OF THE SERVICE. AT THAT POINT YOU CAN COME OUT.

Leader: blah blah blah What about us? 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? So how come Thomas and the disciples saw Jesus but we don't? Where did He disappear to?

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Boys and girls, I've just realised that Rocky isn't here! He should have been here well before now. I wonder if he has slept in. Before I go on with today's story, would you mind if I gave him a call to find out where he is? Just a minute ... *(Pretend to call Rocky on your mobile phone. Then follow the script.)*

Rocky: *(answer your phone)* Hello?

Leader: Hi Rocky, it's me. I'm just wondering where you are? Today The Island is in church and the grown-ups were so excited about seeing you today! Did you sleep in again?

Rocky: Sleep in?! No! I've been up and awake since 8 o'clock this morning! I took Ringo to see [that big castle down in Carrickfergus].

Leader: Ah I see! Well I'm glad you had a nice morning, but you were supposed to be here at 11:30. Did you not check the time?

Rocky: Uhh, yeah, I know what time it is ... it's just that ... uhh ... I'm a bit lost.

Leader: You're lost? Where are you now?

Rocky: I'm still at [Carrickfergus Castle]. I've been asking a scary-looking knight on a big horse for directions to church, but he won't talk to me. In fact, he won't even look at me! Even the horse doesn't move a muscle!

Leader: Well, that would be right, Rocky. That knight and horse in the castle aren't real. They are just there for decoration! ... Anyway, listen, what you need is directions to help you find your way from the castle to our church, right?

Rocky: Yes, please.

Leader: Okay kids, you heard what Rocky needs. He's at [Carrickfergus Castle] and he needs directions to get to our church. Who can help him? Who can tell him the right way to go? *(Allow kids to contribute until you have the right directions. Repeat kids' directions to Rocky.)* ... Did you get that Rocky? Hope you can make it before we finish!

Leader: Okay, I'll swing through the trees as fast as I can! Bye!

Leader: See you soon! *(Pretend to end the call on your phone.)*

I hope he gets here before we leave church today!

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Now, let's get back to what we were talking about before. What happened after Thomas saw Jesus?

Story blah blah blah

Leader's closing prayer –

Let's all pray: Dear Lord Jesus, we thank You for being with us today on The Island ... Blah blah blah ... I pray that You would help us to see You through Your Word, and that you would bring to each one of us the joy of Your salvation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Rocky should appear in the puppet box after the prayer)

Rocky: Hi!

Leader: Rocky! You made it in time for our song! You must have followed our directions!

Rocky: Yes I did! I was lost, you told me the way, and I made it!

Leader: I'm so glad you followed the directions and found your way home Rocky. Now you can help us sing.

Invite the band to lead the kids and the congregation in singing.

End of service