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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for April 11, 2021  
Second Sunday of Easter  
Lectionary Year B

**Scripture:** [John 20:19-31](#) [Summary: *Why Doubting Thomas Doubted* ]

**Supplies Needed:** No supplies needed.

**ASK** (a.k.a. *The On-Ramp*)

- Good morning!
- I have a question for you: Have you ever missed out on something? (if there are answers skip next line)
- [*if no one gives any answers, say...*] For instance, maybe there was a birthday party you couldn't go to or a soccer game that you couldn't play in because you were out of town?
- You know, that question reminds me of something I would miss quite a lot when I was your age (and actually still do).
- I'd be with a bunch of people, but I'd be thinking about something while everyone else would be talking.
- And then...EVERYONE would laugh.
- But because I wasn't paying attention, I wouldn't know why everyone was laughing.
- So I'd ask someone, "What happened? Why's everyone laughing?"
- But they would be laughing too much to tell me.
- And then I'd get mad because they wouldn't tell me what was so funny.
- But really, it was my fault for not paying attention in the first place, wasn't it?

**TELL** (a.k.a. *The Freeway*)

- In today's scripture story, we hear that pretty much the same thing happened to the disciple, Thomas.

- Jesus had told the disciples to stay together after he was crucified. So that's what the disciples did.
- But Thomas did not do listen. He didn't stay together with the other disciples.
- And because Thomas was not there with the other disciples, Thomas missed out.
- He missed seeing Resurrected Jesus.
- Then, when he found out what he missed, he got upset and told the other disciples, "I don't believe you! I don't believe that you saw Resurrected Jesus!"
- Thomas in that moment was a lot like I was when I was younger -- he was upset with everyone else even though it was his own fault for not paying attention.

## **SHARE the Good News** (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- But guess what? Thomas learned from his mistake.
- After his mistake, he decided to pay better attention to what Jesus told him to do.
- Thomas re-joined the disciples.
- And, because he re-joined the disciples, we hear that Thomas then had a second chance and saw Resurrected Jesus!
- Pretty cool, right? And the same thing that was true for Thomas is also true for us.
- We too are invited to follow Jesus, *together*.
- We too are invited to learn what Jesus taught, *together*.
- We too are invited to pray like Jesus prayed, *together*.
- And, should we forget or lose attention, we are given second chances to rejoin and try again.
- When we do these things, *together*, we learn about and better understand who Jesus is.
- In other words, when we gather together to learn about Jesus and then do what Jesus teaches, we get second chances to see Resurrected Jesus.
- And that is the good news for today. Let's pray...

### **CLOSING Prayer**

**Dear God,  
Dear God,**

**Thank you for each other...  
Thank you for each other...**

**...and for how we can help each other...  
...and for how we can help each other...**

**...better see and know...  
...better see and know...**

**...Jesus and you.  
...Jesus and you.**

**Thank you and Amen**