Type: Joy Through Reading

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**Duration:** 5 min
**Participants:** 2
**Memorization:** No

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## DISBELIEF

**PURPOSE:** As believers, we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet at times we still want to see things for ourselves. Jesus reminds us, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” *(John 20:19–29)*

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### Notes

- **Simply read the script sitting on stools** OR **Act out** the story as seen illustrated in parentheses below. (The residents will be able to see more clearly on a stool rather than a chair.)
- **Actions in parentheses** are not to be read, they are stage directions only.
- **Eye focus:** Unless otherwise noted, readers look outward to the audience.
- **Pacing:** Speak slowly, loudly, and clearly. Allow intentional pauses for reflection.
- The **Narrator**: Read with strong dramatic expression, varying tone and volume.

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## Readers

- **Narrator**
- **Thomas**

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## Props

- **Sign:** “Disbelief”

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### Narrator

On the evening of Jesus’ resurrection,
*(Pause.)*

the disciples were hiding behind locked doors—
*(Pause.)*

afraid.

*(Pause.)*

Suddenly—
*(Pause.)*

Jesus appeared among them and said,

*(Pause.)*

“Peace be with you.”

*(Pause.)*

He showed them His hands and His side.

*(Pause.)*

And they were filled with joy!

*(Pause.)*

But Thomas…
*(Pause.)*

wasn’t there.

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**Thomas**

*(Steps out from behind a divider wearing a sign that reads **DISBELIEF**. Arms crossed. Sits or stands slightly apart. Faces the audience.)*

“I won’t believe
*(Pause.)*

unless I see His wounds—

*(Pause.)*

and touch them for myself.”

*(Thomas turns slightly away, shaking head.)*

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**Narrator**

Eight days later,
*(Pause.)*

the disciples met again.

*(Pause.)*

This time,
*(Pause.)*

Thomas was with them.

*(Pause.)*

The doors were locked—

*(Pause.)*

—but suddenly,
*(Pause, looks left, then right, as if startled.)*

Jesus appeared.

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**Thomas**

*(Eyes widen. Catches Breath. Silent reaction.)*

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**Narrator**

Jesus said,
*(Pause.)*

“Peace be with you.”

*(Pause.)*

Then He turned to Thomas.

*(Pause.)*

*(Lifts one hand, palm outward, as if showing a wound.)*

“Put your finger here.
*(Pause.)*

See My hands.
*(Pause.)*

Reach out your hand,
*(Pause.)*

and put it into My side.

*(Pause.)*

Do not be unbelieving—
*(Pause.)*

believe!”

**Thomas**

*(Places hand over heart. Voice full of awe.)*

"My Lord
*(Pause.)*

and my God!"

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**Narrator**

Jesus said,
*(Pause.)*

"You believe because you have seen Me.

*(Pause.)*

Blessed are those who have not seen—
*(Pause.)*

and yet have believed."

*(Pause.)*

And Scripture reminds us:

*(Pause.)*

**"Be still,**
*(Pause.)*

**and know**
*(Pause.)*

**that I AM God."** *(Psalm 46:10.)*

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*(Both bow their heads. Long reflective pause. Exit.)*

## Guided Prayer

*(Narrator speaks slowly, pausing between phrases. Opportunity for Residents respond at conclusion.)*

Lord Jesus,

Like Thomas, we sometimes struggle to believe.
We want to see, and to touch before believing.

Thank You that You meet us even in our doubt.
Today, You have shown us Your love, Your mercy, and Your truth.

Help us to trust You, even when we cannot see.
Give us faith to believe that You are the One who forgives all our sins.

*(Pause.)*

You are the One who gives us peace to rest in Your presence,
and courage to follow You each day.

*(Pause.)*

If you agree with this prayer, and trust in Jesus with your heart,
say **“In Jesus name, Amen**.

*(Pause for response.)*

Amen.