

Sunday School Live Lesson

August 2, 2026

Thomas, the Hesitant Believer

**John 11:14-16; 14:5-8; 20:24-29;
21:1-2**

1

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Previous Sunday School Live Lesson

July 26, 2026

Mary, the Loyal Mother

2

Luke 2:15-19; John 2:1-5; 19:25-27

Instructor: Rev. Annette Peoples

Next Week's Sunday School Live Lesson

August 9, 2026

Stephen, the Unwavering Martyr

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Acts 6:7-10; 7:54-60

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

TODAY'S Sunday School Live Lesson

August 2, 2026

Thomas, the Hesitant Believer

**John 11:14-16; 14:5-8; 20:24-29;
21:1-2**

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Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Question To Consider

August 2, 2026

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What are your doubts about your faith?

Sunday School Lesson Objective

August 2, 2026

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To understand and internalize God's messages for us today through these passages of Scripture in the Gospel According to John.

Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1

August 2, 2026

1. Bibliography

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2. Points of Information: John, Thomas

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

August 2, 2026

3. Lesson Context

4. Lesson Text

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5. Remember These Things

Bibliography - 1

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Points of Information – John

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With his older brother James, John was called from his occupation as a fisherman by Jesus to be a Disciple.

John's parents were Zebedee and Salome.

Points of Information – John

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John referred to himself as “the one whom Jesus loved” [the most].

The original meaning of the name “John” is “whom Jehovah loves.”

Points of Information – John

Along with Simon Peter and his brother James, John became part of an inner circle of three Disciples – whom Jesus took with him on three specific occasions.

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The Gospel according to John is not one of the synoptic Gospels. Numerous theologians refer to it as the “Fourth Gospel” – “FG.”

Points of Information – Thomas

Thomas was selected by Jesus to be one of His Twelve Disciples.

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Thomas was also known as “Didymus” – a name meaning “the twin.”

Points of Information – Thomas

Although mainly known through time as “Doubting Thomas,” this Disciple was courageously committed to Christ Jesus.

Thomas, the Hesitant Believer

Lesson Context

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Today's lesson features multiple passages (pericopes) where Jesus is engaged with His Disciples.

Usually, we see Peter stepping up as the spokesperson for the Twelve Disciples. Today, we see Thomas and Philip doing so.

Thomas, the Hesitant Believer

Lesson Context

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Today's featured Disciple is commonly known as "Doubting Thomas."

Today, we see more than one aspect regarding this "hesitant believer."

John 11:14 [NIV]

So then He told them plainly

“Lazarus is dead,

John 11:15 [NIV]

and for your sake I am glad I was not there so you may believe. But let us go to him.”

John 11:16 [NIV]

Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the Disciples,

“Let us also go, that we may die with Him.”

John 14:5 [NIV]

Thomas said to Him,

“Lord, we don’t know where You are going, so how can we know the way?”

John 14:6 [NIV]

Jesus answered,

“I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

John 14:7 [NIV]

If you really know Me, you will know My Father as well. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him.”

John 14:8 [NIV]

Philip said,

“Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.”

John 14:9 [NIV; not in today's text]

Jesus answered,

“Don’t you know Me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father.

How can you say, “Show us the Father’?”

John 20:24 [NIV]

Now Thomas (also know as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the Disciples when Jesus came.

John 20:25 [NIV]

So the other Disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “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.”

John 20:26 [NIV]

A week later His Disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them.

Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said,

“Peace be with you!”

John 20:27 [NIV]

Then He said to Thomas,

“Put your finger here; see My hands.
Reach out your hand and put it into My
side. Stop doubting and believe.”

John 20:28 [NIV]

Thomas said to Him,

“My Lord and my God!”

John 20:29 [NIV]

Then Jesus told him,

“Because you have seen Me, you have believed;

blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

John 21:1 [NIV]

Afterward Jesus appeared again to His Disciples, by the Sea of Galilee.

It happened this way:

John 21:2 [NIV]

Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other Disciples were together.

Remember These Things:

There may / will always be someone and/or some thing to cause you to have doubts in your faith.

Ask the Lord to help you resist the temptation to have, stick with and follow your doubts.

Sunday School Live

August 2, 2026

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