Jesus is alive! After the Resurrection...

Jesus appears to the Disciples:

Painting by Caravaggio (1602)

Background:

Although Mary Magdalen had met Jesus after he had risen from the dead, some of the other disciples were not convinced that she could be telling the truth. Cleopas and his companion had walked along the road to Emmaus with Jesus and had even sat down with him to eat. As soon as Jesus left them again, they rushed back through the dark to share their excitement and joy with their fellow believers. Not long after they had started to tell their story, Jesus himself appeared and stood among them. His first words to Mary had been “Do not be afraid”. His first words to the disciples were, “Peace be with you.”

One of the disciples, called Thomas remained doubtful and it was only after he had actually touched the wounds in Jesus’ side, received during his crucifixion on the cross that he genuinely felt convinced Jesus was indeed still alive.


‘While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’

37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. 38 He said to them, ‘Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.’
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, ‘Do you have anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.

He said to them, ‘This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.’ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, ‘This is what is written: the Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

Bible reading 2: John 20: 24-29

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 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.”

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!” 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.”

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Things to do at home - a few ideas:

- When could it be sensible to doubt someone or something? Think about the difference between believing and knowing something. What is the difference between belief and faith? Can you give any examples? Jesus said he was the Truth, the Way and the Life. How does Truth sit alongside belief and faith and trust? These are BIG questions to consider and discuss.

- Find out more about the disciple called Thomas, sometimes called Doubting Thomas. Why do you think he was so full of doubt?

- Imagine the conversations between Thomas and one of the other disciples, firstly, before he saw and believed, and afterwards.

- Make your own picture of the scene where Thomas suddenly realizes that Jesus is really alive after all....How do artists capture the expression of surprise?