

Thomas And The Cave

Key Word: **Believe**

Key Verse: So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." *John 20:25*

The three of them had been visiting the cave for years, but yesterday Peter and John had visited the cave without Thomas, because he had gone into the city. When Thomas returned, they were waiting on his doorstep, bursting with excitement. They told Thomas they'd found a tunnel, leading to another much larger cave. Thomas had laughed. He knew it was impossible, for he'd examined all the walls of the cave himself, and there'd been no gap anywhere.

Thomas had always loved going to the cave. It had become a very special place for him, where he could be alone with his thoughts even when the others were around.

Thomas wanted to keep the cave as somewhere special. Peter and John kept telling him it was even more special now, in a different sort of way, but he wasn't convinced.

When the three of them reached the cave, Thomas couldn't see anything except rock.

Then John cried out: "It's here! Here it is!" Thomas gasped, for a narrow gap had appeared in the wall from nowhere, just wide enough for a boy to squeeze through.

The three boys slid silently through the gap, and crawled along a low tunnel which soon widened into a huge cave, faintly lit by a shaft of sunlight.

The cave was astonishing. Stalagmites grew up from the floor, some of them meeting stalactites which were growing downwards from the roof. The sunlight was glistening on different minerals in the rocks, which sparkled and shone like jewels.

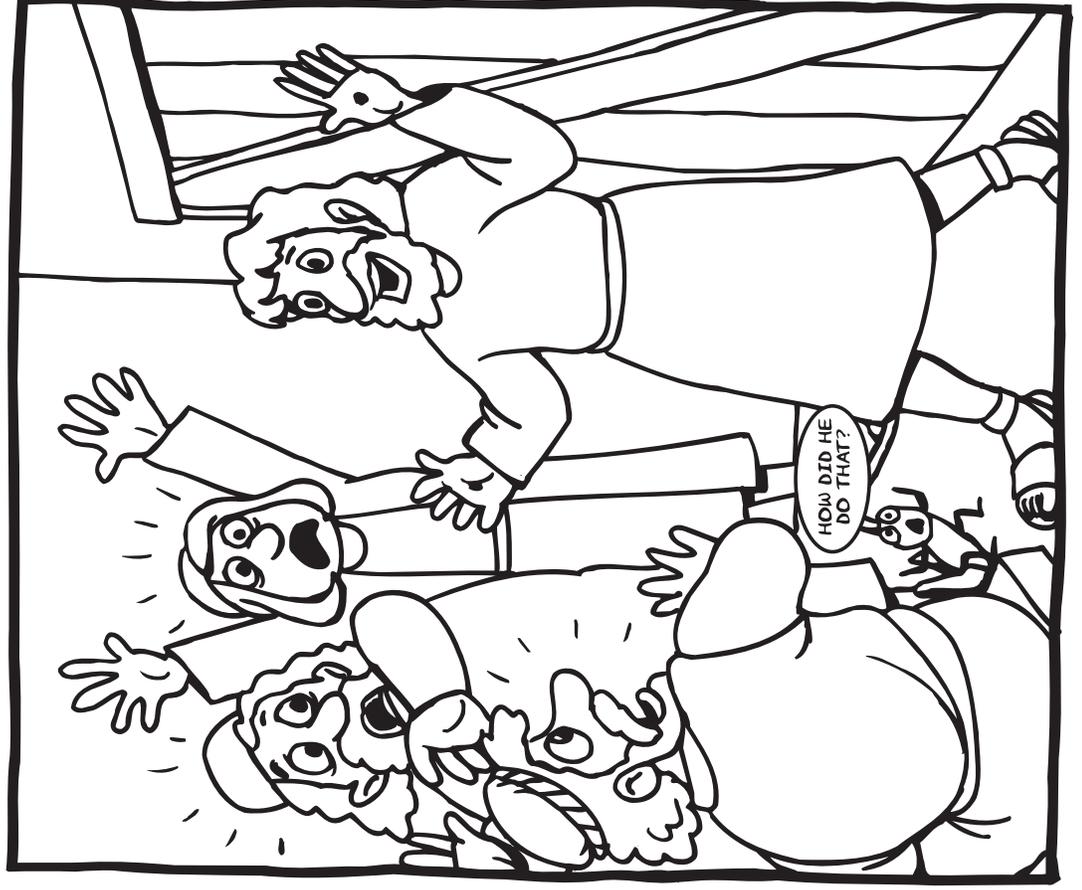
Thomas thought he'd never seen anything so exciting and so beautiful, but he also knew instinctively this was an important find, and couldn't be kept secret. The three boys would have to reveal their cave to the authorities, which would mean they'd never be able to use it again just for themselves. For just a fleeting moment, Thomas was sad about that. But he was glad that the whole world would be able to enjoy the cave too.

He had a glimpse of a wonderful future for the whole neighborhood, and he saw that it was very good.

Questions

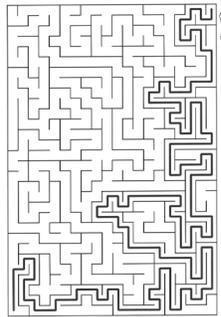
In the story, why didn't Thomas believe his friends when they told him about a tunnel in the cave?

Why doesn't Thomas keep secret the news about the cave?



Gospel Grams

Today's Gospel Story
is from
John 20:19-31



MAZE

Some possible words are:

Rein	Gene	Goose	Ones
Ruse	Here	Bees	One
See	Hue	Beg	Use
Seen	Hues	Begone	Use
She	Ion	Ego	Use
Sheen	Nog	Eon	Use
Sue	Noise	Gee	Use
Sure	Noise	Gee	Use
Use	Noise	Gee	Use
Sin	Noise	Gee	Use

Answers

LETTER TILE PUZZLE

Blessed are those who have not seen me and still believe.

BOGGLE

Rein
Ruse
See
Seen
She
Sheen
Sue
Sure
Use
Sin

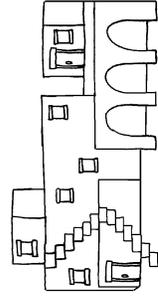
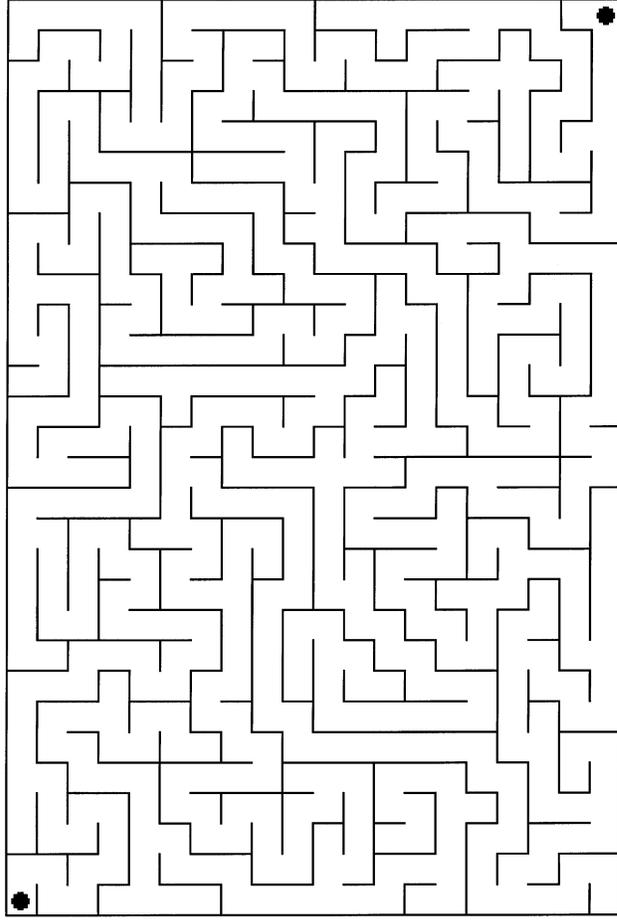
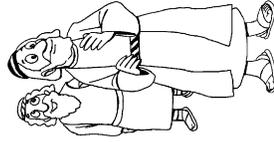
Letter Tile Puzzle

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message from today's Gospel story, John 20:19-31. Each tile has the same number of characters (letters, spaces, and punctuation). Spaces are shown as blanks on the letter tiles.

R	E	D	A	I	L	L	M	E	T	H	O	S	S	E	B	L	E	S	T
L	I	E	S	E	N	B	E	A	N	D	V	E	W	H	O	H	A		
V	E	S	E	N	O	T													

Maze

In today's Gospel story, Jesus came to see the disciples who were gathered together behind locked doors. They were afraid of the Jewish authorities. After Jesus showed them his hands and his side the disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. He sent them on their way as the Father had sent him. Help send the disciples on their way to witness the Living Christ.



Boggle

How many words can you make with this table of letters? Form words by using letters that touch. Words can go forward, backward, diagonal, up, or down. Each letter tile can only be used once per word.

S	H	U	E
E	E	R	S
C	E	E	I
B	G	O	N

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____