Preschool–Grade 5

Doubting Thomas Craft

The pop-up card with a shut door and a heart · John 20:19–31 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



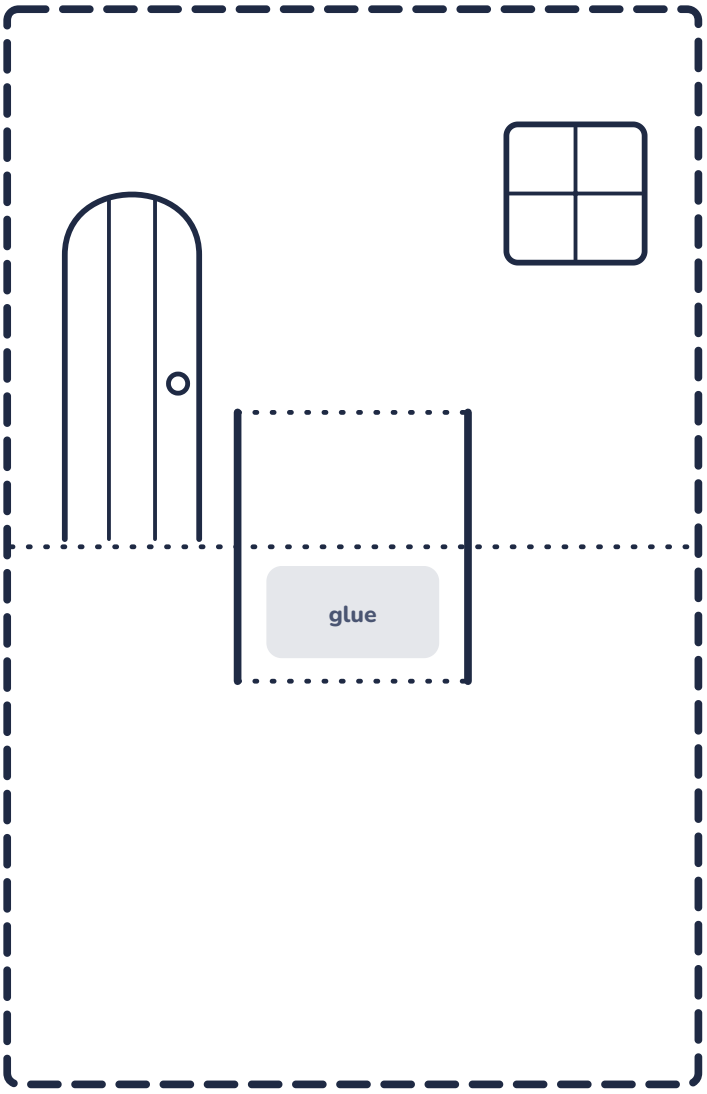
Harder

Both levels are a pop-up card standing open: a room with a shut brown door and a light blue window, and a red heart that pops up in front of the wall. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood in the midst, and Thomas said, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:26–28). Medium (left): the card with the heart. Harder (right): a little dark blue book from page 3 lies on the floor of the card in front of the heart.

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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



Pop-up card: door brown, window light blue

Cut the dashed edge. Then fold it in half and cut the two short solid lines. Fold on the dotted lines.



Front door: door brown, frame light gray

Glue on the front of the card.



Heart: color it red

Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

John 20:29 (KJV)

Verse card: glue on the back

Name: _____ ✂ Harder level

Book pages and book cover (harder level)

But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God;

and that believing ye might have life through his name.

John 20:31 (KJV)

Book pages: fold in half on the dotted line, words inside.



Book cover: dark blue, ribbon and heart red

How to add the book

1. Make the pop-up card from page 2 first: color it, cut it out, pop up the step, glue on the heart, the front door and the verse card.
2. Color the book cover dark blue, and the ribbon and the small heart red. Cut out the book pages and the book cover on the dashed lines.
3. Fold the book pages in half on the dotted line, with the words inside. Glue the cover on the top of the folded book.
4. Glue the back of the book on the floor of the card, in front of the heart, with the fold on the left. Lift the cover to read John 20:31.
5. Read it together: John wrote these things "that ye might believe" (John 20:31). Then say John 20:29 from memory.

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/doubting-thomas-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock works best), brown, light gray, light blue and red crayons or markers, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and a dark blue crayon.
Before class: make one card yourself so you can show how the step pops up. For preschoolers, cut out every piece, cut the two short solid lines and pop up the step on each card.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's card, front door, heart and verse card, cut the two short lines and pop up the step. Kids color the doors, the window and the heart. You help them glue the heart on the step, the door on the front and the verse card on the back. Read the verse together, or just "blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut out the pieces, cut the two short lines with a grown-up's help, pop up the step and glue on the heart, the front door and the verse card. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the card like the medium level, then fold the little book from page 3, with John 20:31 inside, and glue it on the floor of the card in front of the heart. Kids say John 20:29 from memory before they take it home. This is the craft in the second photo.

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Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** on the inside of the card, color the door brown and the window light blue. On the front door piece, color the door brown and the frame around it light gray. Color the heart red.
2. **Cut:** cut out the card, the front door, the heart and the verse card on the dashed lines.
3. **Fold and cut:** fold the card in half on the long dotted line across the middle, with the drawings on the outside. Cut the two short solid lines through both layers, starting at the fold.
4. **Pop it up:** fold the flap between the two cuts forward and back on its dotted line, and press hard. Open the card, fold it the other way so the drawings are inside, and push the flap to the inside as you close it. Press it shut. When you open the card, a little step pops up.
5. **Heart:** glue the bottom of the heart on the front of the step (the gray glue spot), point down, so the heart stands up in front of the wall.
6. **Door and verse:** close the card. Glue the front door on the front and the verse card on the back. The door is shut, like the doors in John 20:26. Open the card, and the heart stands up: Thomas believed and said, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28).

Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the door. Why were the doors shut? *(The disciples were afraid, John 20:19)* What did Jesus say when He stood in the midst? *(Peace be unto you, 20:19)*
- Who was not there the first time? *(Thomas, 20:24)* What did Thomas say he needed before he would believe? *(To see the print of the nails, 20:25)*
- Open the card. What did Thomas say when he saw Jesus? *(My Lord and my God, 20:28)* Who did Jesus say is blessed? *(Those who have not seen, and yet have believed, 20:29)*

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Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** saith = said; thou hast = you have; blessed = happy because God is good to you; in the midst = in the middle; faithless = not believing; that ye might believe = so that you would believe.
- **What the Bible says:** the doors were shut both times Jesus came (John 20:19, 26), so the card has a shut door on the front. The heart stands for believing: Jesus said, "be not faithless, but believing" (20:27). The craft shows no people, and Jesus is not drawn.
- **If a child asks about "My Lord and my God":** Thomas called Jesus his Lord and his God (John 20:28). There is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4), and Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16).
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and pop up the step before class, and use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished card so they can see the goal.
- **The pop-up step:** the two short solid lines must start at the fold. Crease the flap hard both ways before pushing it in, and press the card shut before the glue goes on. Glue only the bottom of the heart to the step, so the card still closes flat.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Doubting Thomas Sunday school lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/doubting-thomas.

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