



Keepin' It Real (Jesus appears to Thomas) • *John 20:24-31*

A true friend will help you believe.

Thomas is often referred to as "doubting Thomas" because of his "I'll believe it when I see it" attitude. Jesus didn't respond to His friend's doubt with condemnation, but with patience and understanding. While He might have preferred Thomas to believe without proof, that didn't stop Him from showing up in the flesh to help Thomas believe. That's what a true friend will do for you. As we talk about friendship—spending time with someone you trust and enjoy—we should always remember that Jesus was a perfect friend, patient and giving, encouraging and trustworthy. We should strive to be a friend like Jesus because our patience, giving, and trustworthiness will go a long way to encourage others to believe in Him. This week, focus on helping your kids learn how important it is to find friends who will help strengthen their faith—and how they can help strengthen the faith of others.

"A friend loves at all times. He is there to help when trouble comes." *Proverbs 17:17, NIV*