

vinced. **Except I shall see.** He had seen the gaping wounds in the dead body of his Master, now he must see those same wounds in his living body. **I will not believe.** Let it strengthen our faith to remember that one of the first company of Christians believed only upon the most infallible proofs.

26. After eight days. This was the Jewish method of expressing a week. The meeting was on the Sunday evening following Easter, showing that already the first day of the week had begun to be observed by the believers in Jesus. **His disciples were within.** Kneeling at the same place and under the same circumstances, yet with what different feelings. One was there in doubt and trouble, all the rest in the joy of faith. **(5) He who puts off faith, puts off joy in the Lord. Then came Jesus.** As before, appearing miraculously in the room. **(6) And even now he comes where believers meet.**

27. Then saith he to Thomas. Showing by his words that he had heard the words of unbelief spoken by Thomas, and was, therefore, omnipresent and omniscient. **(7) Our Lord hears all our utterances and is ever present at our side, a fact to make us rejoice while we tremble. Reach hither.** He answers the declaration of Thomas sentence by sentence, and offers to meet the test. **Thrust it into my side.** There was the open, bloodless wound, penetrating to the heart, and so large that a man's hand could be plunged into it. **Be not faithless.** He was in that spiritual condition from which he must pass either into faith on the one side or

open disbelief on the other, and he must make his choice between the two states.

28. My Lord and my God. Thomas leaps at a bound from the depths of doubt to a height of faith far above that of the other disciples; for up to that moment no one had addressed Jesus as God. He saw in his Master not only the risen Saviour, but the King of Israel, and the Divine One. And it is to be noticed that Jesus did not reject this title, which, if addressed to any man, would be blasphemous.

29. Because thou hast seen me. Words of commendation, yet almost suggesting a rebuke. **Blessed are they.** This last benediction of Christ is the peculiar privilege of those who have not seen him in the flesh, yet have believed in him as their Redeemer. **(8) We can enjoy a privilege of faith higher even than an apostle's.**

30. 31. Many other signs. As John relates many events unnoticed by the other evangelists, so there were many more wonderful facts which John has left unwritten, and the half of Christ's life has never been told. **These are written.** The purpose of the Gospel is to strengthen faith in Christ, to show him in his divine nature, and to give to men the knowledge of eternal life. **The Son of God.** John's gospel more than any other reveals the divine side of Christ's personality. **Might have life.** The life of God here, which leads to the everlasting life hereafter.

HOME READINGS.

M. Thomas convinced. John 20, 19-29.

Tu. The disciples partakers of Christ. Heb. 3, 1-19.

W. The Holy Ghost bestowed. Acts 19, 1-7.

Th. Using the power given. Acts 8, 5-17.

F. Faith without sight. 2 Cor. 5, 1-10.

S. Eternal life by faith. 1 Pet. 1, 1-9.

S. Convincing the Gentiles. Acts 13, 38-52.

GOLDEN TEXT

And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. John 20, 28.

LESSON HYMNS.

No. 136, Dominion Hymnal.

Let us sing with one accord,
Praise to Jesus Christ our Lord.

No. 140, Dominion Hymnal.

Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit,
Great Jehovah, Three in One.

No. 150, Dominion Hymnal.

We praise thee, O God! for the Son of thy love,
For Jesus who died, and is now gone above!

TIME.—A week later than last lesson.

PLACE.—Jerusalem.

RULERS.—Same as before.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The blessedness of faith.

QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

1. Jesus and the Ten. v. 19-23

What had been the effect of the crucifixion upon the populace?

How long after the separation in the Garden of Gethsemane before the disciples were again united?

What kind of meeting were they holding?

What does the fact that they were together hint at as to their purposes?

How could Jesus appear to them when they were in secret with fast doors?

How did he calm their fears?

What was his commission to them in this interview?

2. Jesus and Thomas. v. 24-29.

Thomas is called the doubter. Why?

Was he the only one of the eleven who had doubted? Luke 24, 11.

Who first of the disciples had his doubts dispelled? Luke 24, 34; 1 Cor. 15, 5.

What things did the ten probably tell Thomas about the appearance of the Lord to them? John 20, 19.

Did Thomas ask more than the others had received? How long was Thomas left to his doubts? Had any been added to the company of believers in these eight days?

Practical Teachings.

1. The apostles gathered in his name in spite of their danger from the Jews. Learn from them Christian courage.

2. Jesus came to them when they did not expect. Doors and bolts were no bar to his presence. Learn to feel that he is ever near, though unseen.

3. His presence each time was a benediction of peace. He is the Christian's peace. Is he yours?

4. Unbelief vanished at sight. But it is more blessed to believe without sight. ONLY believe in Christ's message.

QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

1. Jesus and the Ten. v. 19-23.

Where did the disciples meet?

Why were the doors closed?

Who met with them?

What was his salutation?

What token did he show them?

What effect had his presence upon them?

What was his charge to them?

What gift did he bestow upon them?

What power was given to them?

2. Jesus and Thomas. v. 24-29.

Who was absent at this meeting?

By what other name was he known?

What did the disciples tell him?

How did he receive their story?

When did Thomas meet with the disciples?

Who appeared among them?

What did he say to them?

What did Jesus say to Thomas?

What was Thomas's answer?

What did Jesus say of his faith?

Upon whom did he pronounce a blessing?

Teachings of the Lesson.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. That the presence of Jesus brings peace?

2. That his presence drives away doubt?

3. That faith in Jesus brings blessing to the believer?

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

Who gathered together in an upper room to talk of the resurrection of Jesus? **Ten of the disciples.**

Who came and stood in their midst? **Jesus, their risen Lord.**

What did he come to bring them? **Peace.**

What did he show them? **The prints of the nails and of the spear in his hands and his side.**