What this is: Early Word Story

Where it's used: In any intergenerational gathering, but specifically with Lectionary based gatherings

Time: 3 minutes

Bible focus/theme: John 20

What’s needed: Text and illustrations (displayed on screen) for ‘Knock knock’. Download here:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/z2o23mbe2am9lpm/Preschool%20Story%201%20Thomas.ppt?dl=0
A really well prepared, engaging story teller.
A well prepared assistant to lead responses.

Knock Knock

This, like all Bible stories, is an all-age story. Don’t call children to the front, away from their families. This is a story to listen to as family, as whole community, so draw all your community in. Use all your best story telling gestures, work the whole space, remember that timing, suspense, pause and dynamics are essential in shaping communication that serves the listener well.

With each repetition of the phrase ‘knock knock’ have an assistant presenter lead the community in knocking on a surface (wooden pews are ideal for this!)
Warm up with a few practices before launching into the story.
Knock Knock!

Thomas
John 20:19-31

Knock knock! Who’s there?
Knock knock! Who’s there?

Jesus’ following friends are in a room. The door is locked

Knock knock! They are all afraid …
Knock knock … their knees are knocking in fear. They are all very sad because their friend Jesus has been killed.

Knock knock … a hammer hit the nails on the big wooden cross where Jesus died.

Knock knock! Some women went to look in the cave where Jesus had been buried.
Knock Knock! Who’s there?
No one was there!
Knock knock ... now they are wondering and afraid and sad. The door is locked and they don’t want anyone to come and ‘knock knock’.

But suddenly!
With no ‘knock knock!’ on the door, and no squeak of the hinges, and no turn of the handle, Jesus -- their very, very best friend is there. Not dead, not buried, not sad, not afraid – but alive.

They talk and laugh. Jesus smiles and tells them good things.

After Jesus leaves again, even though his body isn’t there, they don’t feel alone. It is like he is still there, close in every breath.

But then...
Knock knock!
Knock knock!
Who’s there?
Knock knock!
“IT’s me! Thomas!”
The friends let Thomas in – and tell him
“Jesus was here! He’s alive”

But Thomas can’t believe them.
“You say you have all seen and touched him – I would need to see and touch him too!”
A week goes by --
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday

Knock knock!
Who's there?
Knock knock!
Who's there?
Knock knock!
Who's there?

Andrew, John, Peter and James are there,
Bartholomew, Thaddeus, Phillip, Matthew, and Simon are there
and Thomas is there.
Jesus' following friends are in a room.
The door is shut

And with no Knock knock!
Jesus is in the room again.
"Thomas! We are still friends.
See and touch my hands and body
– see it really is me!"

"I really died and really came alive."
"... and you really are God,"
says Thomas.

Knock knock!
Knock knock!
Who's there?
Thomas!
Spread the good news,
Jesus is alive – his goodness
is everywhere.

Doors can’t keep him out, graves can’t hold
him down, death can’t knock him down.