

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of various geometric shapes, including triangles, squares, and polygons, in shades of blue, green, yellow, pink, and grey. These shapes are scattered across the white background, creating a vibrant and abstract pattern.

STORYTELLING WITH

SHAPES

HOLY WEEK

SHAPE & STORY



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Thank you for purchasing **Storytelling with Shapes: Holy Week**. This resource has been created to engage with the stories of Holy Week (the events that occurred during the last week of Jesus' life) in a new and tangible way. Because of the varying degrees of difficulties in the puzzles, **Storytelling with Shapes: Holy Week** can be used by many age groups, children, youth (6th–12th grade), and even during intergenerational events.

Storytelling with Shapes: Holy Week uses seven individual shapes (tans). When these tans are combined, they create larger shapes (tangrams), helping participants imagine the story. An ancient Chinese story tells the legend of tangrams about a wise sage who, on his journey to bring a square sheet of glass to the king, fell, and the glass broke. When the sage presented the pieces to the king, he restructured them to form images that helped to tell of his journey. The king loved this way of storytelling and recreated the shapes out of wood. And that's how tangrams were invented!

Participants using this resource will also tell of a journey, Jesus' journey through Holy Week. For each of these events—Jesus' triumphant entry on Palm Sunday, the Last Supper Jesus had with the disciples on Maundy Thursday, the events surrounding Jesus' death on Good Friday, the questions and heartbreak Jesus' followers faced on Holy Saturday, and the surprising, good news of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday—we've paraphrased the related scripture and created a mini-story for you.

Storytelling with Shapes: Holy Week includes two versions of the five mini-stories, allowing participants of all ages to join the storytelling fun:

Shape & Story (this PDF): Each mini-story contains one tangram, with two options available.

Storytelling Cards: Each mini-story contains three tangrams, each with two options available. An included leader guide helps lead participants through the storytelling process, providing instructions on when to create the shapes as the story unfolds.

Each section (Shape & Story and Storytelling Cards) includes a QR code to an instructional video for using that portion of the resource.

We hope this new way of telling, hearing, and shaping these Holy Week stories will allow for a deeper understanding of the events of Holy Week as we piece together how they fit into our lives today.

As always, we love to see photos and hear stories about your use of our resources. When you post photos or comments online, please use the hashtag #illustratedministry or tag us @illustratedmin in the photos so we can see them. That allows us to be part of the conversation and you to be part of our online community.

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YouTube: youtube.com/illustratedmin

Our Facebook Group is a growing community. If you're looking for ideas and suggestions for using this resource, you can request to join here:

fb.com/groups/illustratedmin

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We've found there are three good ways to share our files with your community:

Email: Depending on the size of your congregation, we encourage you to email files to those who want to use the resource. Another option is to put an announcement in your bulletin, asking those interested in receiving the files to email the person with access to the resource.

Note: Please do not include attachments or links to download our files or videos in any emails/newsletters that are posted publicly online with services like Mailchimp, Constant Contact, etc. Links of this nature are searchable by Google, and the files can quickly become accessible to the general public.

Posting Online: We do not want the general public to have access to our products free of charge. We discourage posting our files online because they become easily accessible through Google searches. However, one option is to put the files on a password-protected page of your website, or use a private Facebook Group. Please remember to take the files down after you've finished using them.

Note: Please do not post the password in a bulletin or newsletter that is posted publicly online.

Print: Most congregations who purchase our digital files choose to print out the materials. Printing the materials is probably the easiest way to share the resources with your community.

Thanks for understanding, and we appreciate your support!

Illustrated Ministry



INSTRUCTIONS FOR CUTTING OUT SHAPES

- Print this page on sturdy paper (cardstock works best).
- Cut out the large square of shapes.
- Carefully cut out each shape within the square, following the lines where the colors meet.

Helpful hint: For more durability, laminate your shapes or glue the large square of shapes onto a cereal box or thin cardboard before cutting out the individual shapes.

MATCH & PLACE

After reading each story, use your shapes to solve the tangram puzzle. Match your shapes to the shapes on the page and place each shape on its spot to form the large shape connected to the story.

VISUALIZE & PLACE

After reading each story, visualize and experiment with how your shapes fit together to create the larger shape in the silhouette. Then, place your shapes in the silhouette to solve the tangram puzzle.



View our instructional video to see how to use the Shape & Story activity.



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PALM SUNDAY

ADAPTED FROM LUKE 19 & JOHN 12

The first day of Holy Week is Palm Sunday.

Every year, Jesus and the disciples traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. This year, however, Jesus did something a little different.

Before entering the city, Jesus told two disciples to walk to a nearby village and bring back a baby donkey. "If anyone tries to stop you," Jesus said, "just tell them God needs to borrow it."

When the disciples returned with the baby donkey, Jesus sat down and rode it up to Jerusalem. News traveled fast that the man on the colt was Jesus from Nazareth, the rabbi who performed many miracles and said he was the "Son of God."

Crowds of people ran to the city gates.

Some were curious, some were furious, and some exploded with excitement as they threw down their cloaks, danced and waved palm branches, and cried out, "Hosanna, save us! Blessed is this king who was sent by God!"



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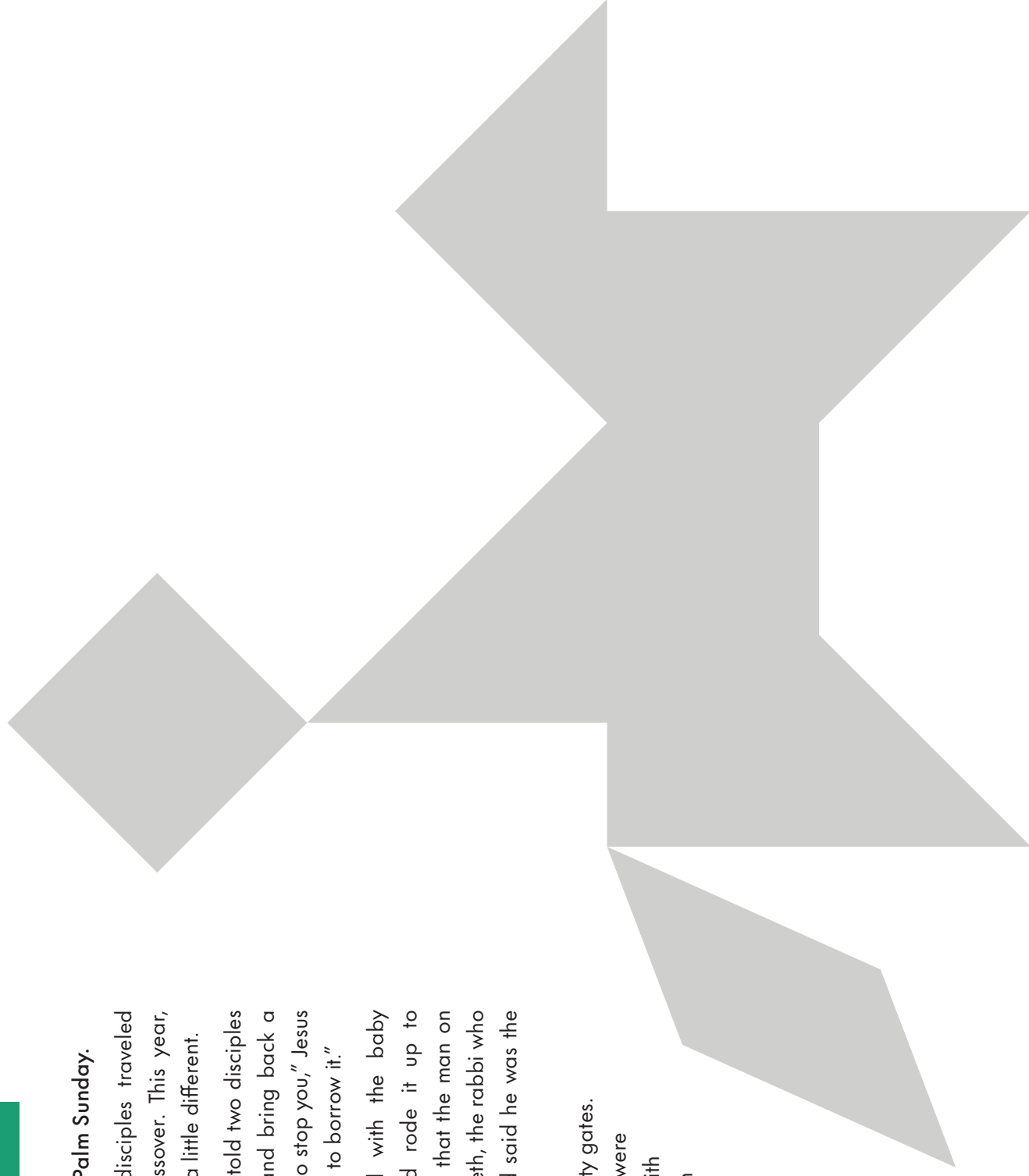
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MAUNDY THURSDAY

ADAPTED FROM MARK 14 & MATTHEW 26

The next day of Holy Week is Maundy Thursday.

On this day, we remember the final meal Jesus shared with his friends.

After spending the day preparing the Passover meal, Jesus and the disciples gathered around the table to eat. As the sun set, the meal began as usual—the same food, smells, stories, and laughter they shared every Passover.

While they ate, Jesus introduced a new tradition. Jesus took a loaf of bread, blessed it, and broke it. Then he gave it to the disciples and said, “Take and eat; this is my body.”

Then Jesus took a cup, gave thanks, and passed the cup around for the disciples to drink. As they drank, Jesus said, “This is my blood, poured out for many. I promise I won’t drink this again until God’s realm of peace blossoms all over the world.”

After this, Jesus and the disciples finished their meal, sang songs together, and walked out to the Mount of Olives under a starlit sky.



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GOOD FRIDAY

ADAPTED FROM MATTHEW 27 & MARK 15

Holy Week continues with Good Friday, the longest and saddest part of the story.

Jesus shared the good news of God's love everywhere he went, but not everyone thought it was good.

God's love doesn't care about how much money you have, how popular you are, or how many people you're in charge of. God's love includes everyone!

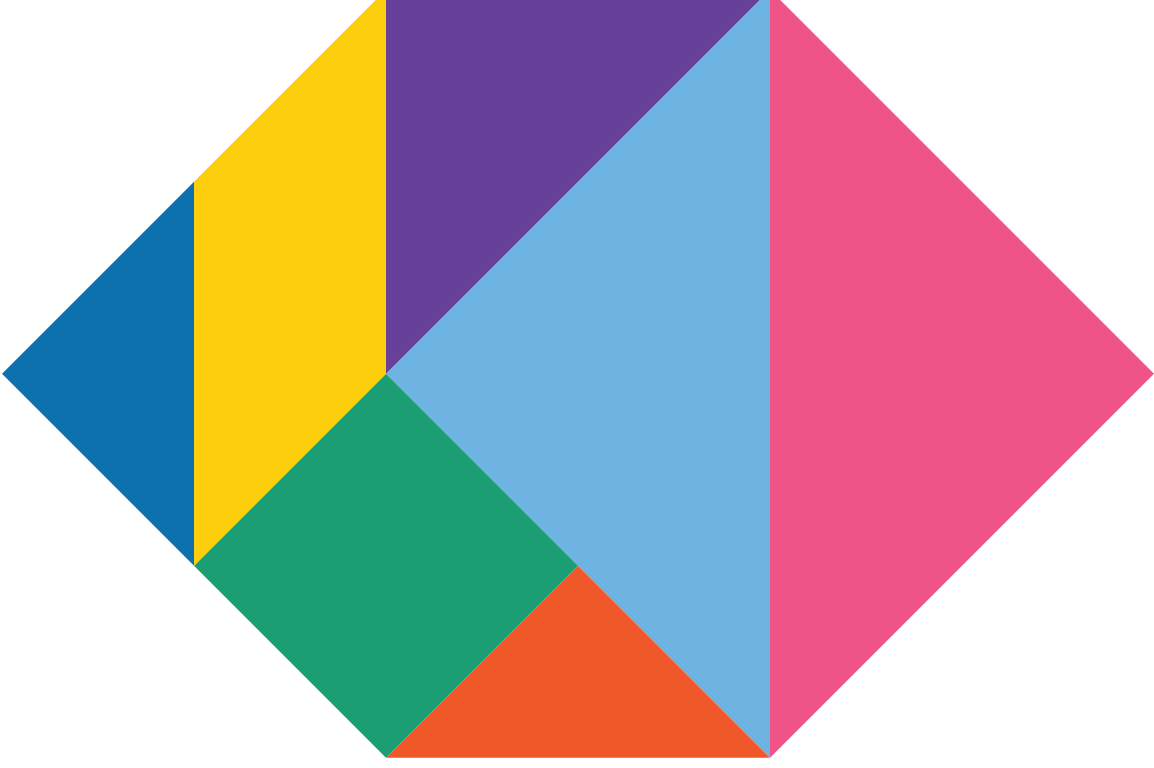
This news made some very rich and powerful people nervous. So they schemed to have Jesus killed, hoping everyone would eventually forget about him.

Jesus felt scared and alone. He knew about their scheme and the dangers he faced, but when he told his friends and reminded them of everything that would happen, they didn't understand.

On Good Friday, everything went into action. Jesus' friend betrayed him, his religious community bullied him, and the Roman government killed him.

With his last few breaths, Jesus cried, "My God, where are you?"

After he died, the sky turned dark, and the earth shook with sadness. Many people who loved Jesus and whose lives had been changed by Jesus, cried.



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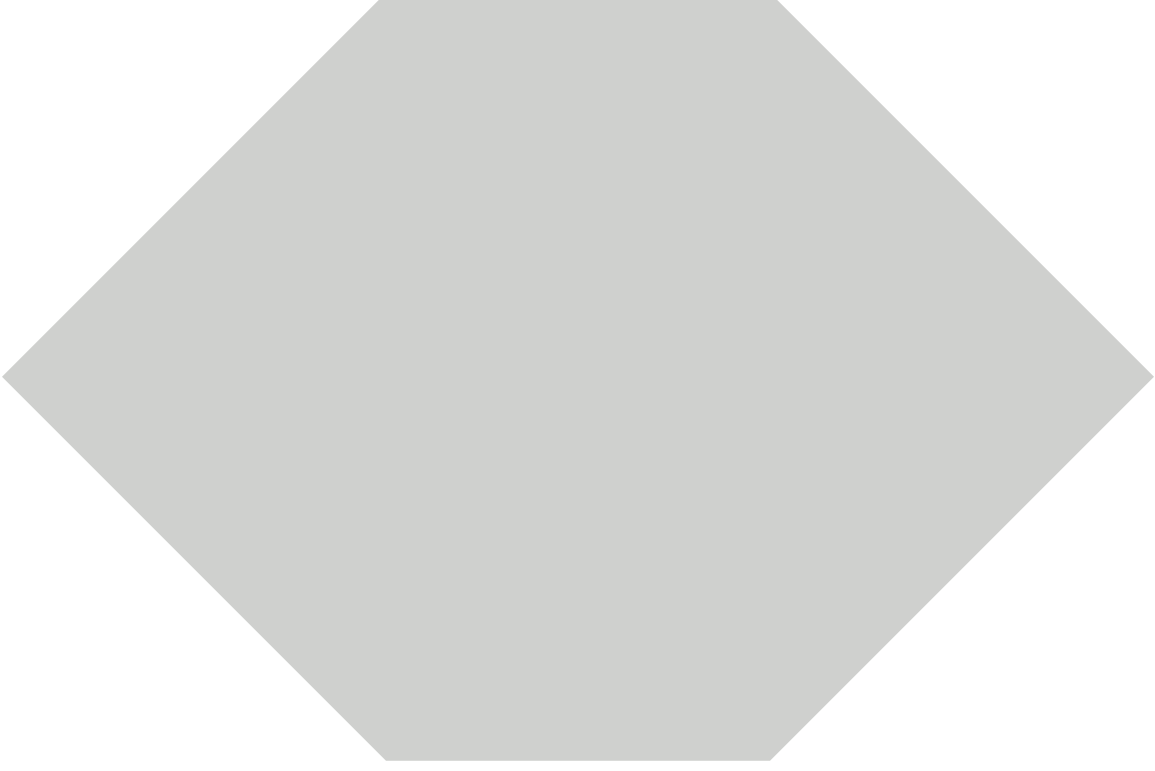
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HOLY SATURDAY

ADAPTED FROM JOHN 19 & LUKE 23

The day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday is called Holy Saturday.

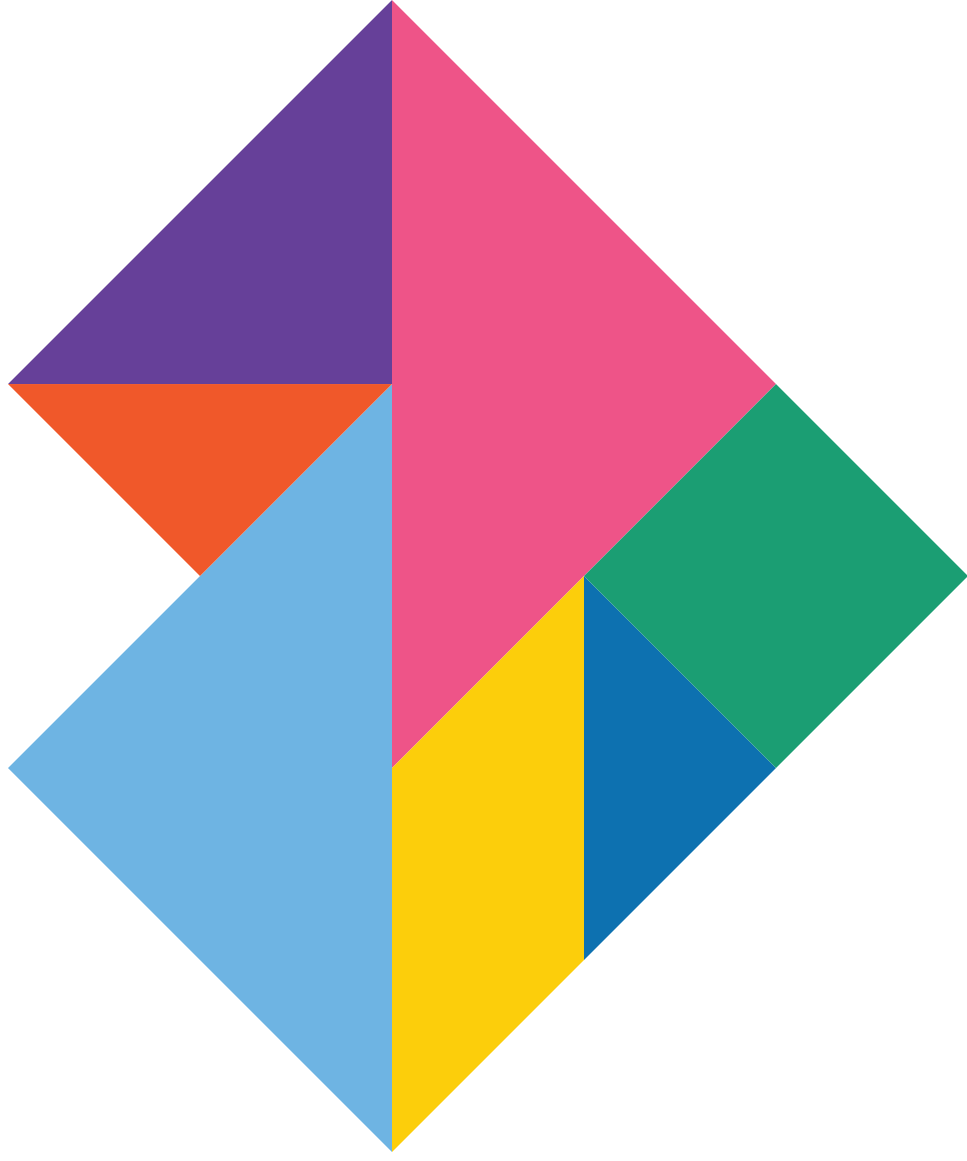
Shortly after Jesus died on Friday, a few of his friends wrapped his body in linen cloths and placed him in a nearby tomb. Burials didn't happen quite this fast, but the next day, Saturday, was a day of rest. Jesus' friends knew if they didn't bury his body quickly, they would've had to wait until Sunday.

After he was buried, Jesus' friends weren't sure what to do next. It was Saturday, and with no work to keep their minds busy or chores to keep their bodies moving, Jesus' friends had no choice but to slow down and grieve together. Something sad and unexpected happened, and for those who loved Jesus, it felt like their heart broke in half.

So, for one whole day, they sat in sadness and surprise.

Did that really just happen?

Is this really how it all ends?



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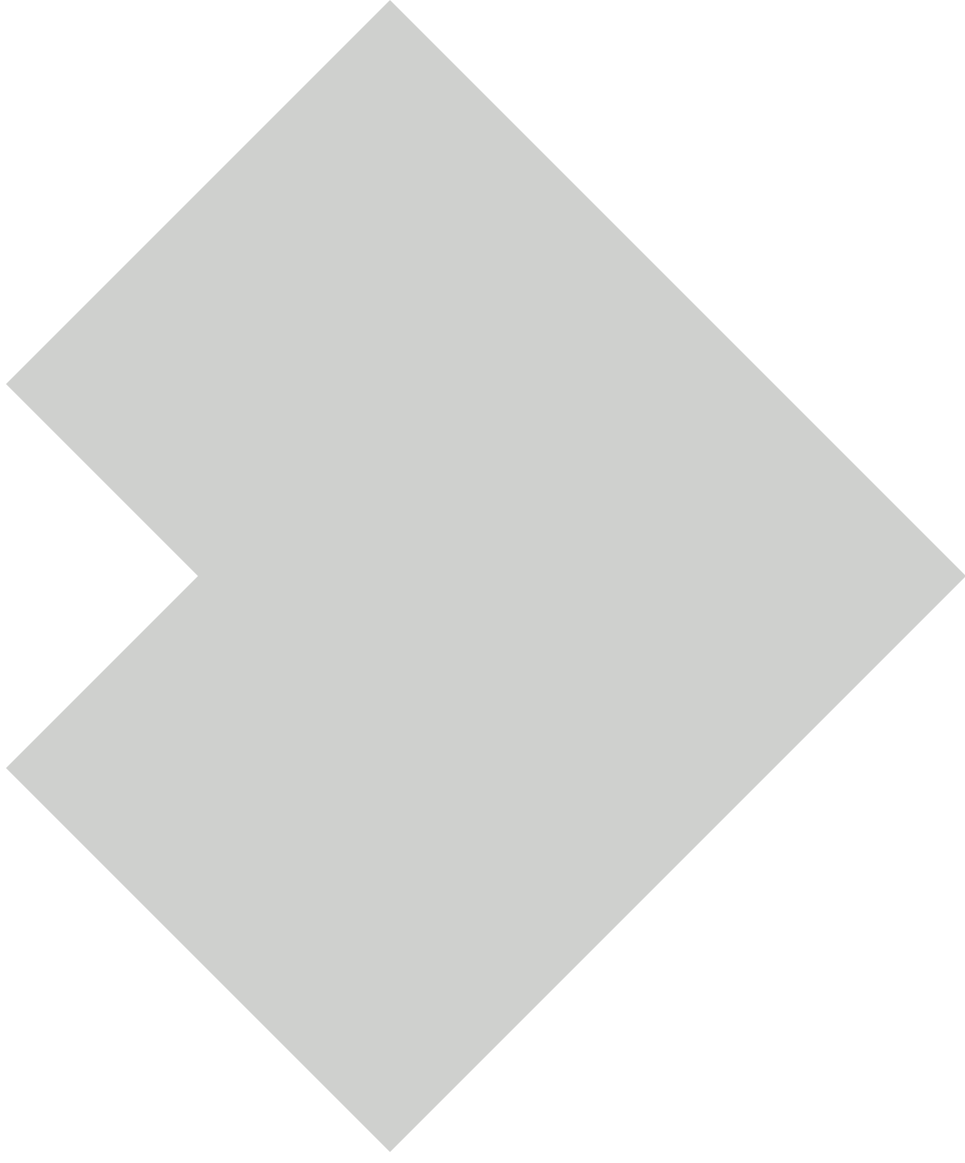
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EASTER SUNDAY

ADAPTED FROM JOHN 20

After a sad and quiet Saturday, Holy Week ends with Easter Sunday.

Early that morning, Jesus' friend Mary went to visit his tomb. When she arrived, she was shocked to find the huge stone had been rolled away from the tomb. Worried and confused, she ran to tell the other disciples.

Peter and another disciple didn't believe Mary, so they ran back with her to the tomb. When they looked inside, they saw it was true. Jesus' body wasn't there!

The two disciples walked back to where they were staying, wondering about all they had just seen and experienced, while Mary stayed behind.

Full of tears and big feelings, Mary looked inside the tomb again. This time, she saw two angels! They asked her why she was crying.

Just then, she turned and saw someone she thought was the gardener, but it was Jesus! Crying and laughing, Mary gave Jesus the biggest hug ever—she couldn't believe her friend and teacher was alive!

Then Mary ran faster than ever to tell the disciples this amazing news: **Jesus isn't dead anymore!**



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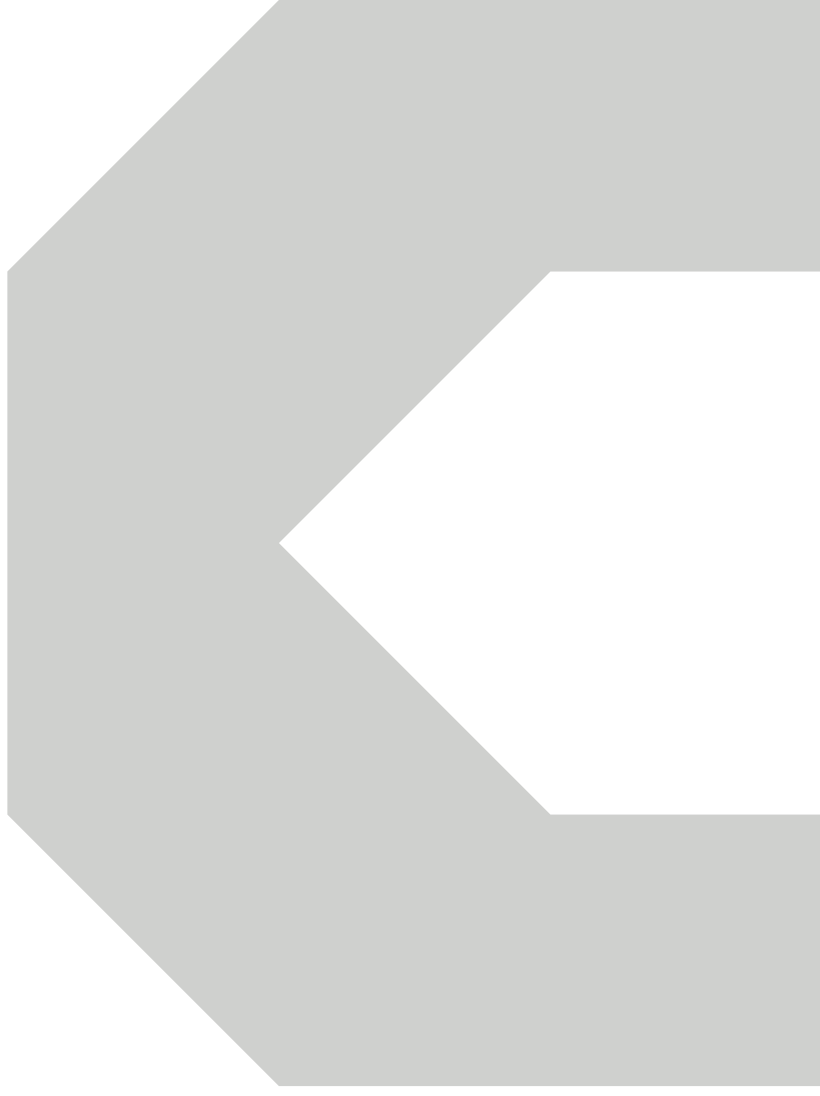
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