

From a Deep Blue Night to a Bright Morning Light

A Child's Activity Book for Easter

Written by
Daphna Flegal

Illustrated by
Four Story Creative



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“Asia, this looks great!” said Edgar, looking at all the flowers. “You’re just like a real gardener.”

“Thanks,” said Asia.

“Did you know that Jesus was mistaken for a gardener on the first Easter?” said Kat.

“Really?” said Asia.

“When?” asked Edgar.

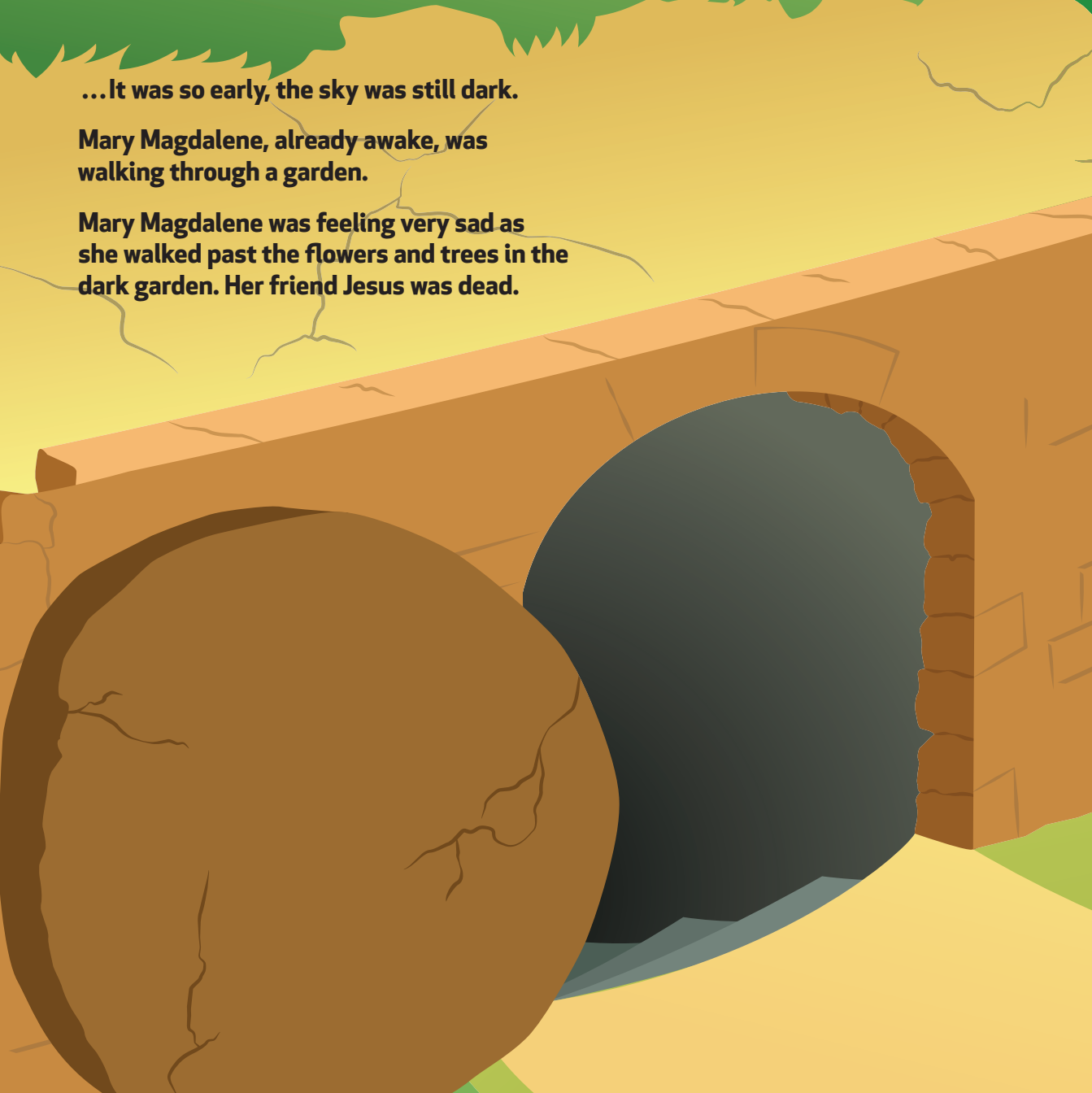
“Well,” said Kat, “it happened very early one morning...”



...It was so early, the sky was still dark.

Mary Magdalene, already awake, was walking through a garden.

Mary Magdalene was feeling very sad as she walked past the flowers and trees in the dark garden. Her friend Jesus was dead.



Jesus' friends had wrapped his body in a cloth and then placed him in a tomb inside the garden. The tomb was like a cave.

A large stone had been rolled in front of the opening so that no one could go in or out.

But when Mary Magdalene got to the tomb, she stopped in surprise. The stone had been rolled away. The tomb was open!



Mary Magdalene immediately ran back through the garden. She ran until she found Peter and John.

“Come quickly!” said Mary Magdalene. “Someone has taken Jesus away.”

Peter and John ran to the garden. They ran past the flowers and trees until they got to the open tomb.

Peter went in. He saw the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ body folded neatly and lying by itself.



Then John came in to see for himself.

Peter and John didn't know what to think. They didn't understand what had happened.

They slowly walked back to the place where they were staying.





**Mary Magdalene stayed in the garden.
She began to cry.**

**Suddenly, Mary Magdalene saw two
angels sitting beside the folded cloth.**

**“Woman, why are you crying?”
asked the angels.**

**“Someone has taken Jesus away, and
I don’t know where he is,” answered
Mary Magdalene.**





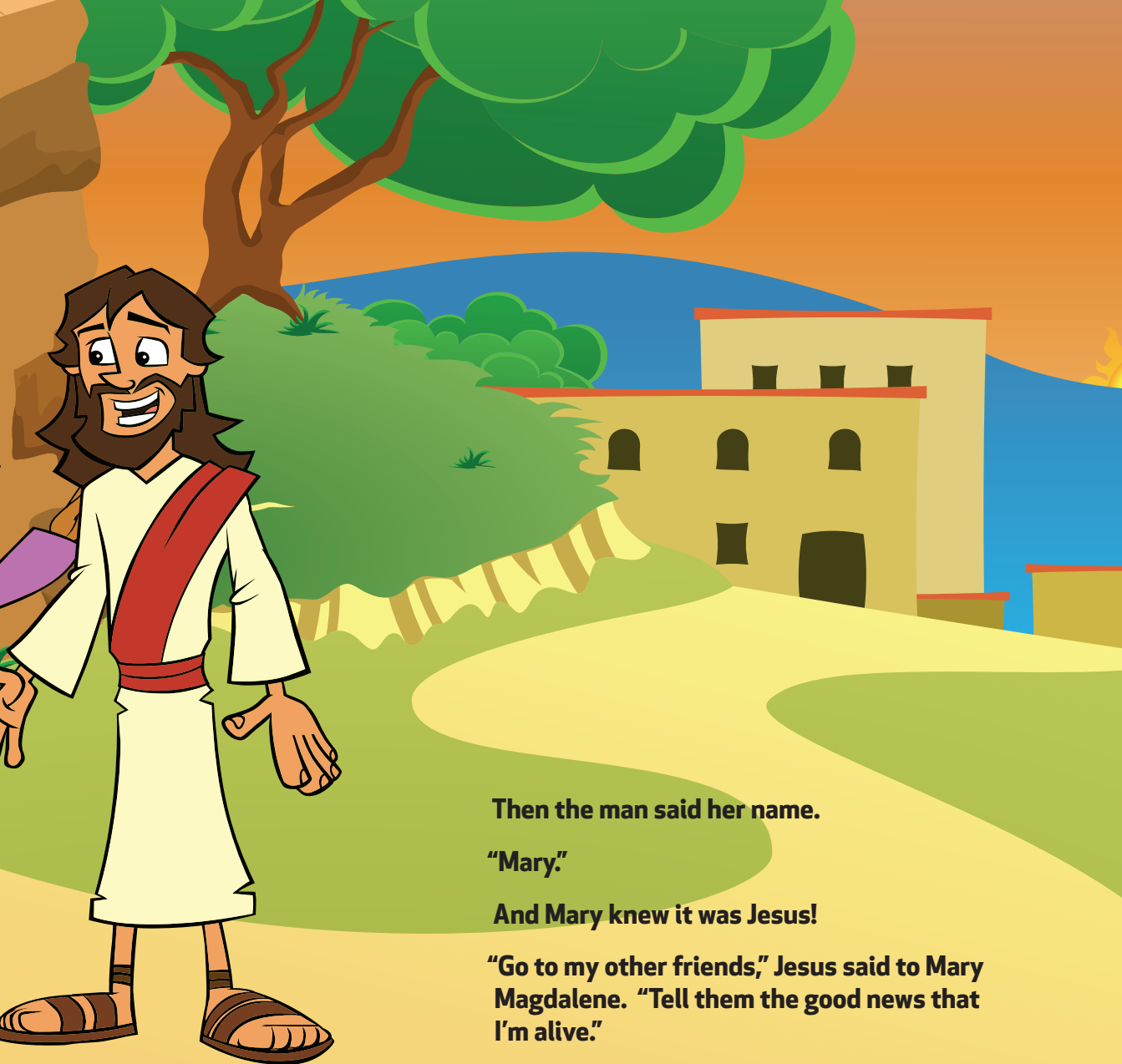


Then Mary Magdalene turned and saw a man standing behind her. She thought the man was the gardener.

**“Woman, why are you crying?” said the man.
“Who are you looking for?”**

“Sir,” answered Mary Magdalene, “I’m looking for my friend Jesus. If you have carried his body away, please tell me where you have taken him.”





Then the man said her name.

"Mary:"

And Mary knew it was Jesus!

"Go to my other friends," Jesus said to Mary Magdalene. "Tell them the good news that I'm alive."

The morning light brightened as the sun began to rise.

Mary Magdalene left the sunlit garden and ran to the friends of Jesus.







**"I've seen the Lord," she joyfully told them.
"Jesus is alive!"**



“Mary Magdalene was the first person to share the good news about Jesus that Easter day. She was a great witness.” said Edgar.

“We can be a good witness like Mary Magdalene,” said Kat, “and let people know that Jesus is alive.”

“How can we do that?” asked Asia.

“By sharing and being kind,” said Edgar, “and by telling people about how much Jesus loves us.”



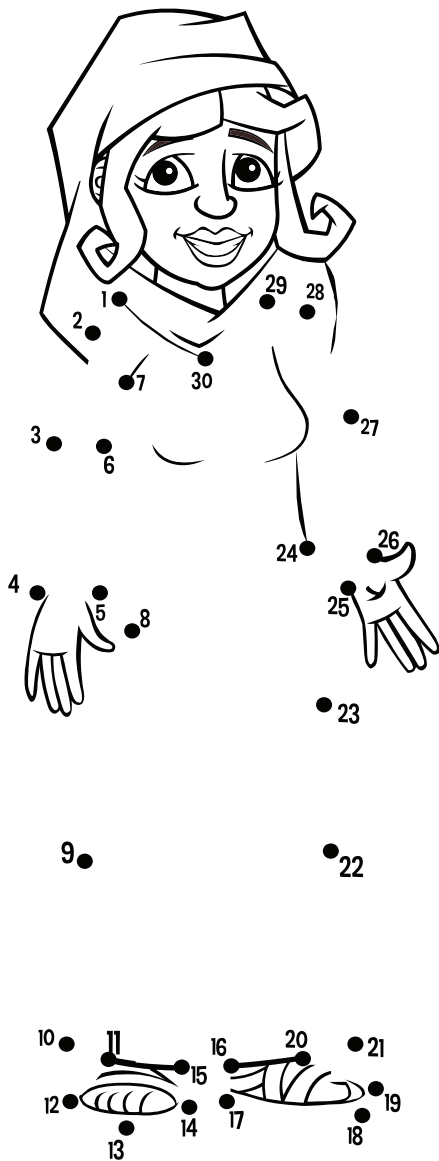


Help Mary Magdalene get to the garden tomb.





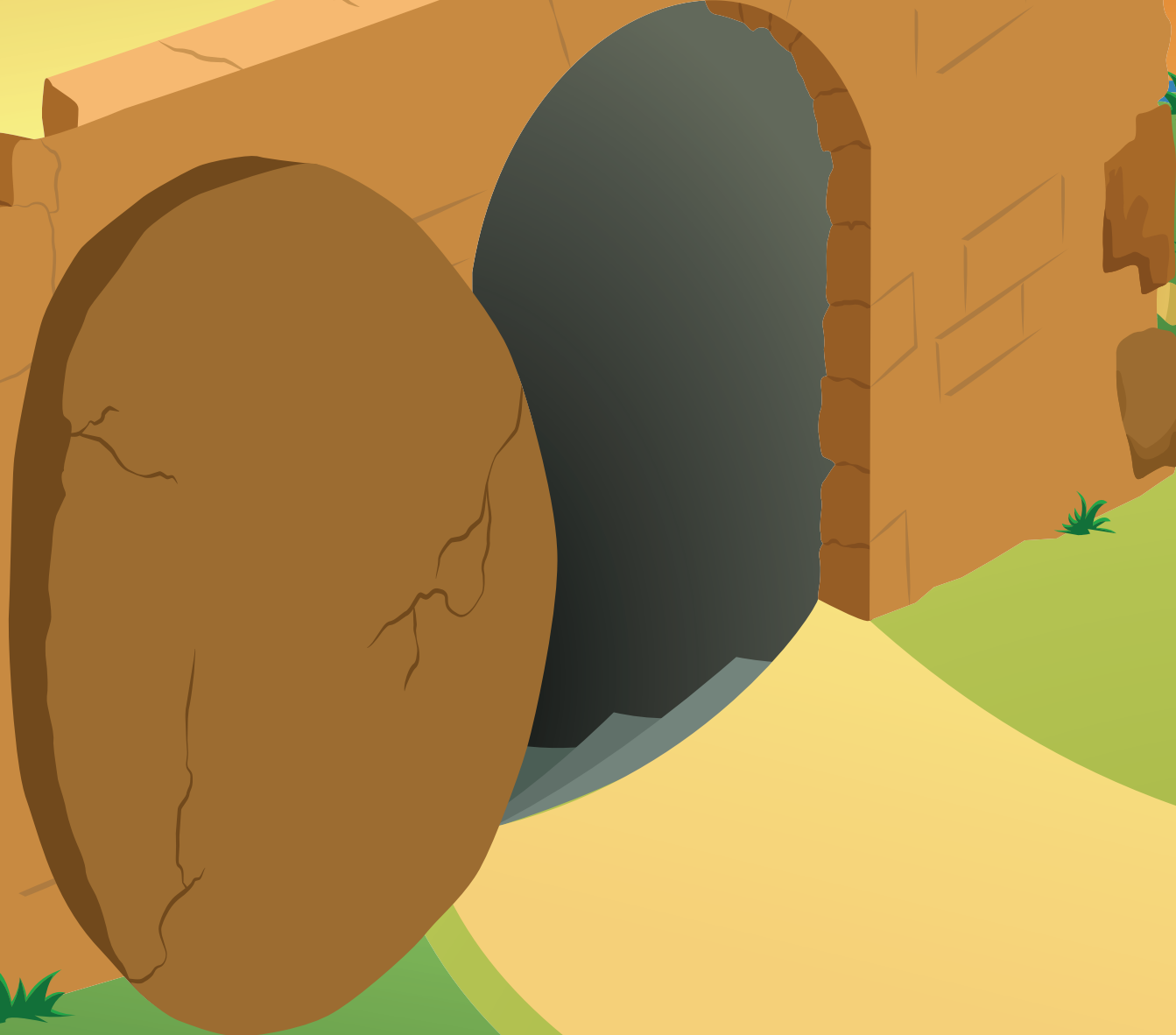
Dot-to-Dot



Picture Match

Draw a line from the picture in the column on the left to the matching picture in the column on the right. Butterflies remind us that Easter is about new life.





Add a sticker to the garden tomb each day of Holy Week.

The Resurrection of Jesus

Join Asia, Kat, and Edgar as they tell the story of Jesus' Resurrection from John 20:1-18.

Includes a maze, a dot-to-dot picture, picture match, and Holy Week calendar with stickers.



Daphna Flegal lives in Nashville, Tennessee, where she presently serves as lead editor of children's curriculum resources at The United Methodist Publishing House. She is most excited about her newest job—grandmother!



Four Story Creative is an independent studio located near Dallas, Texas. They have over 15 years of experience in animation, video production, and game development. Their passion is using technology to reach families with biblical media.

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