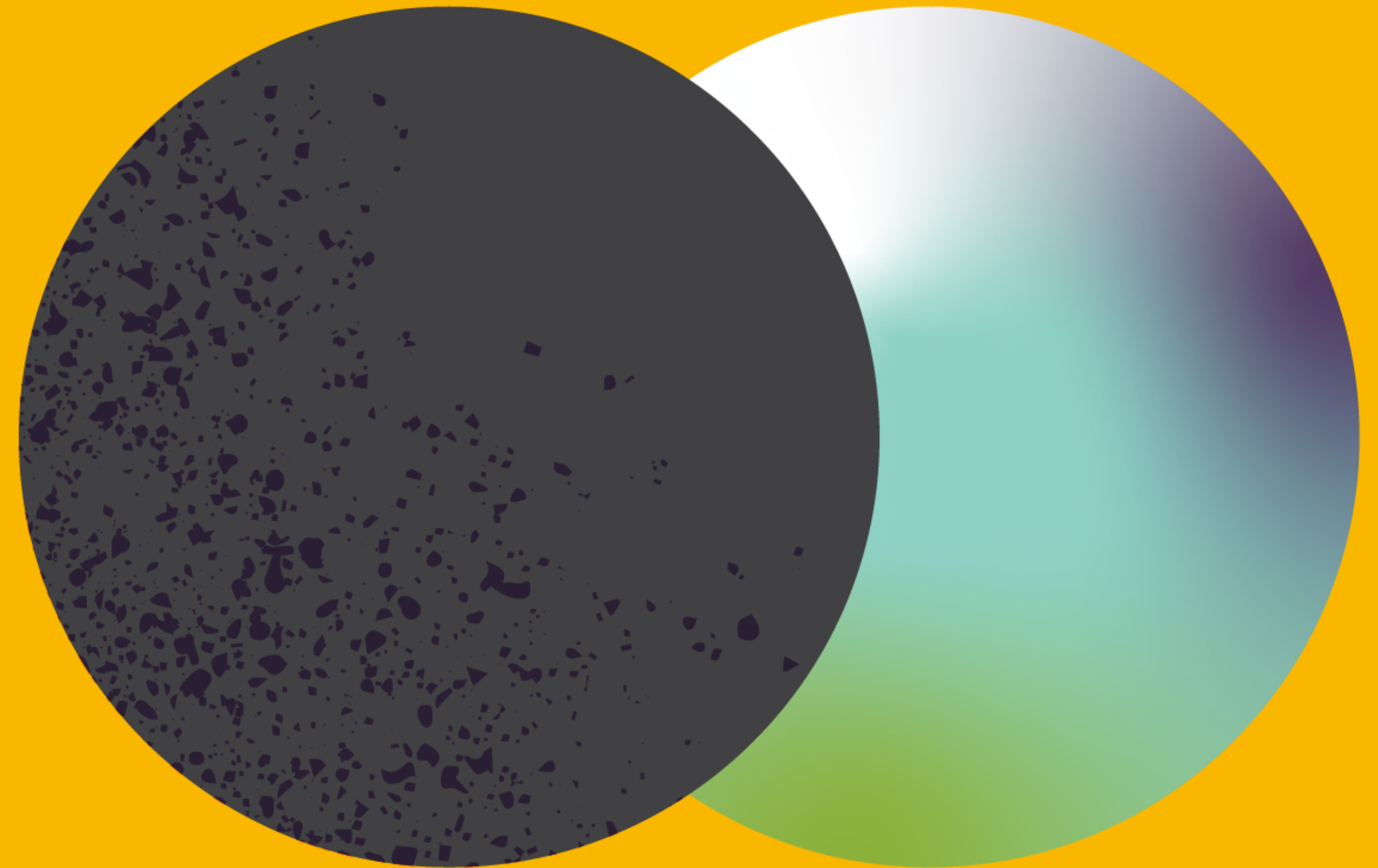


2023



Eastertide

John 20:19-31





Low Sunday

“The Easter lilies have been taken away, the fanfares are but an echo of what bounced joyously around the room the week before. There are fewer people and less hoopla. Perhaps the pastor is taking the Sunday off. To be in worship on such a day can feel a bit like showing up at a party after most of the guests have left and those who remain report on what a grand time you missed by coming too late.”

Martin B. Copenhagen

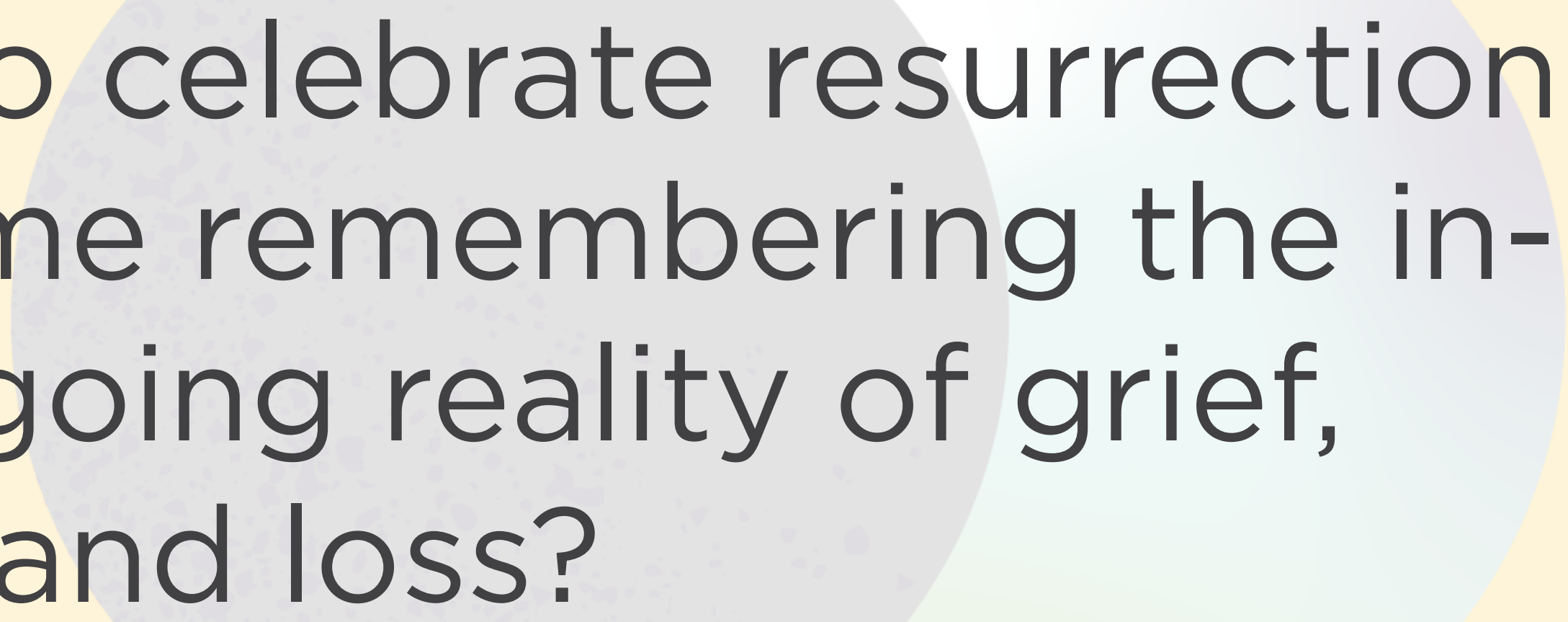




A More Honest Easter



What might it look like to keep a more honest
Easter?



What might it look like to celebrate resurrection life, while at the same time remembering the in-betweenness and ongoing reality of grief, suffering, and loss?



**Downtown Eastside
Neighbourhood
House**

DROP OFF INFO:

LOCATION:

- **DTES NH - 573 E HASTINGS ST.**

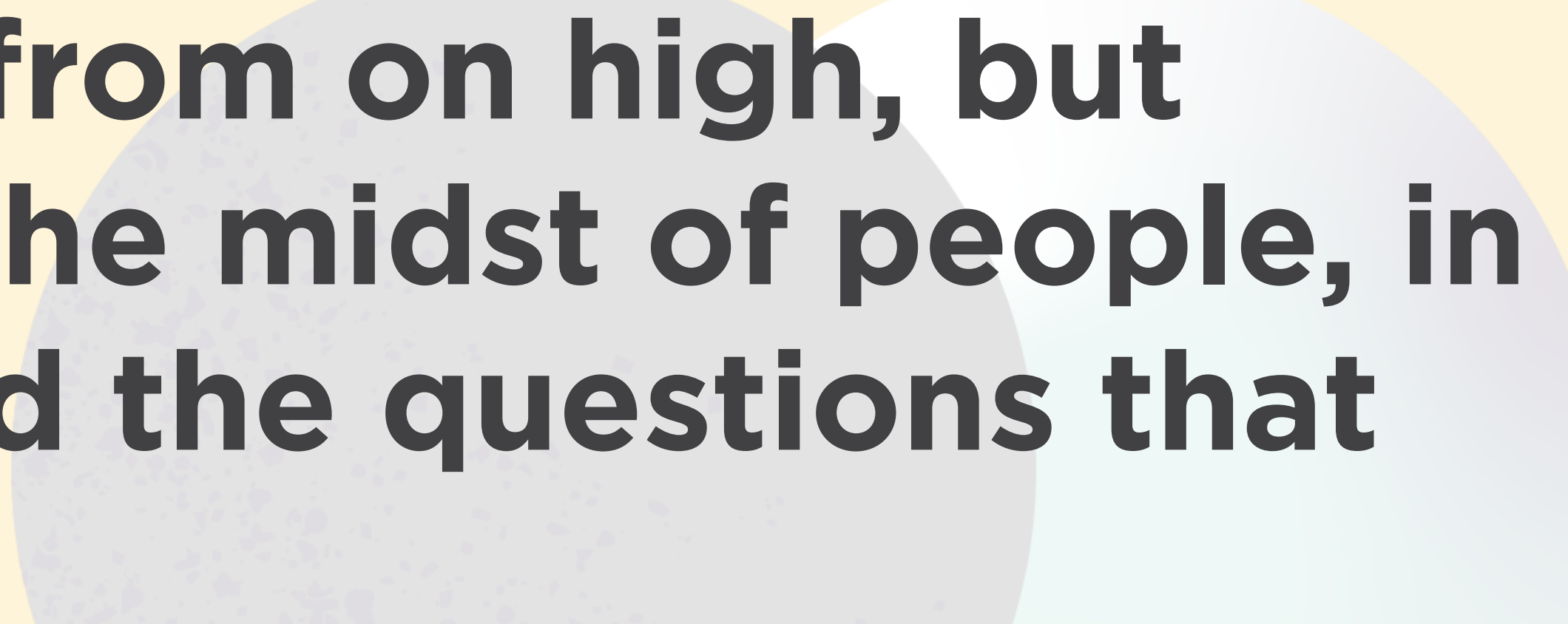
QUESTIONS:

- **DM US OR EMAIL
VOLUNTEER@DTESNHOUSE.CA**

John 20:19-31

[page 756]





“He never approached from on high, but always in the midst, in the midst of people, in the midst of real life and the questions that real life asks.”

Frederick Buechner

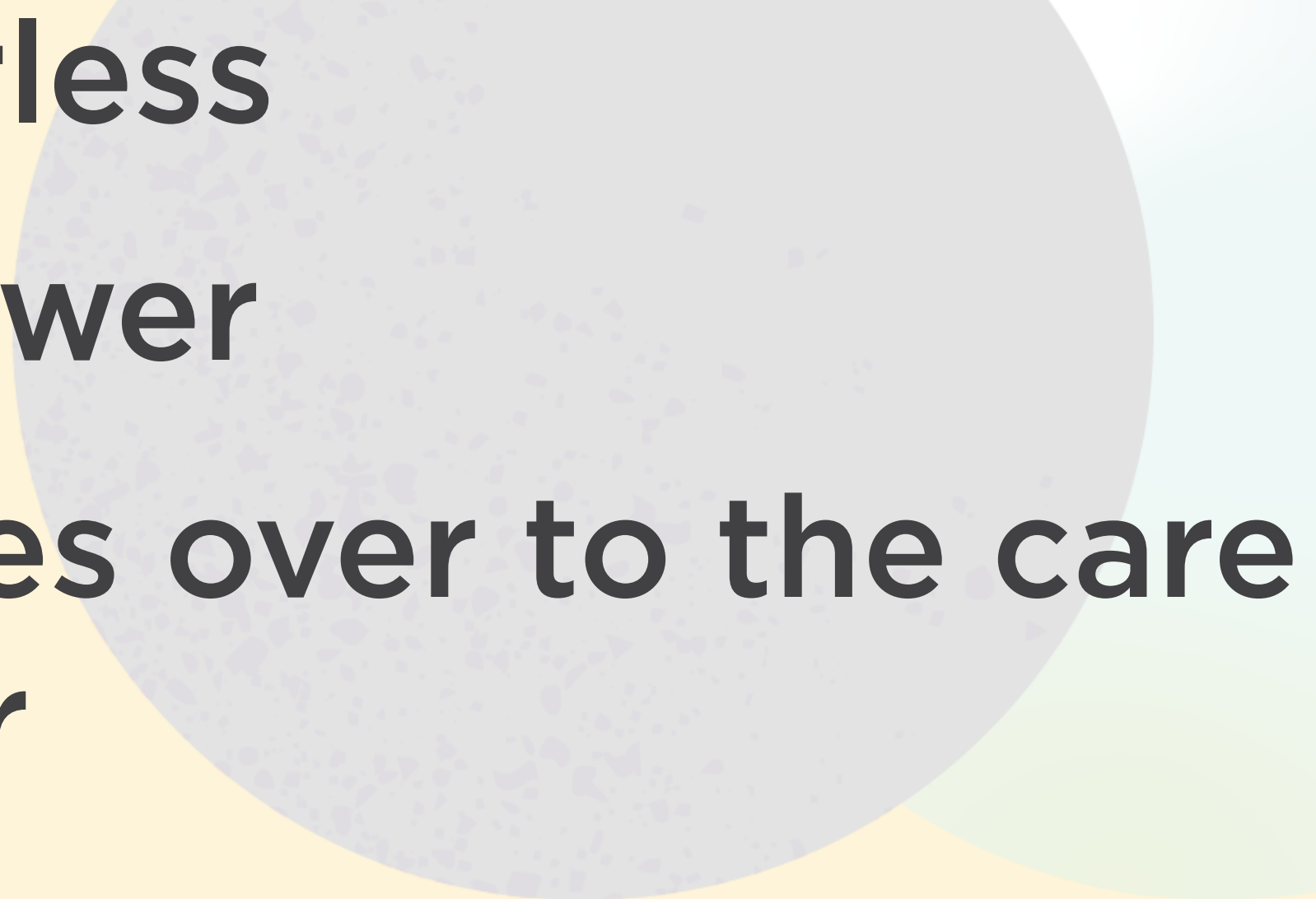
19-20 **Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.” Then he showed them his hands and side.**

John 20:19-31 (The Message)

20-23 The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were awestruck. Jesus repeated his greeting: “Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you.” Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. “Receive the Holy Spirit,” he said. “If you forgive someone’s sins, they’re gone for good. If you don’t forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?”

John 20:19-31 (The Message)

12 Steps (AA)

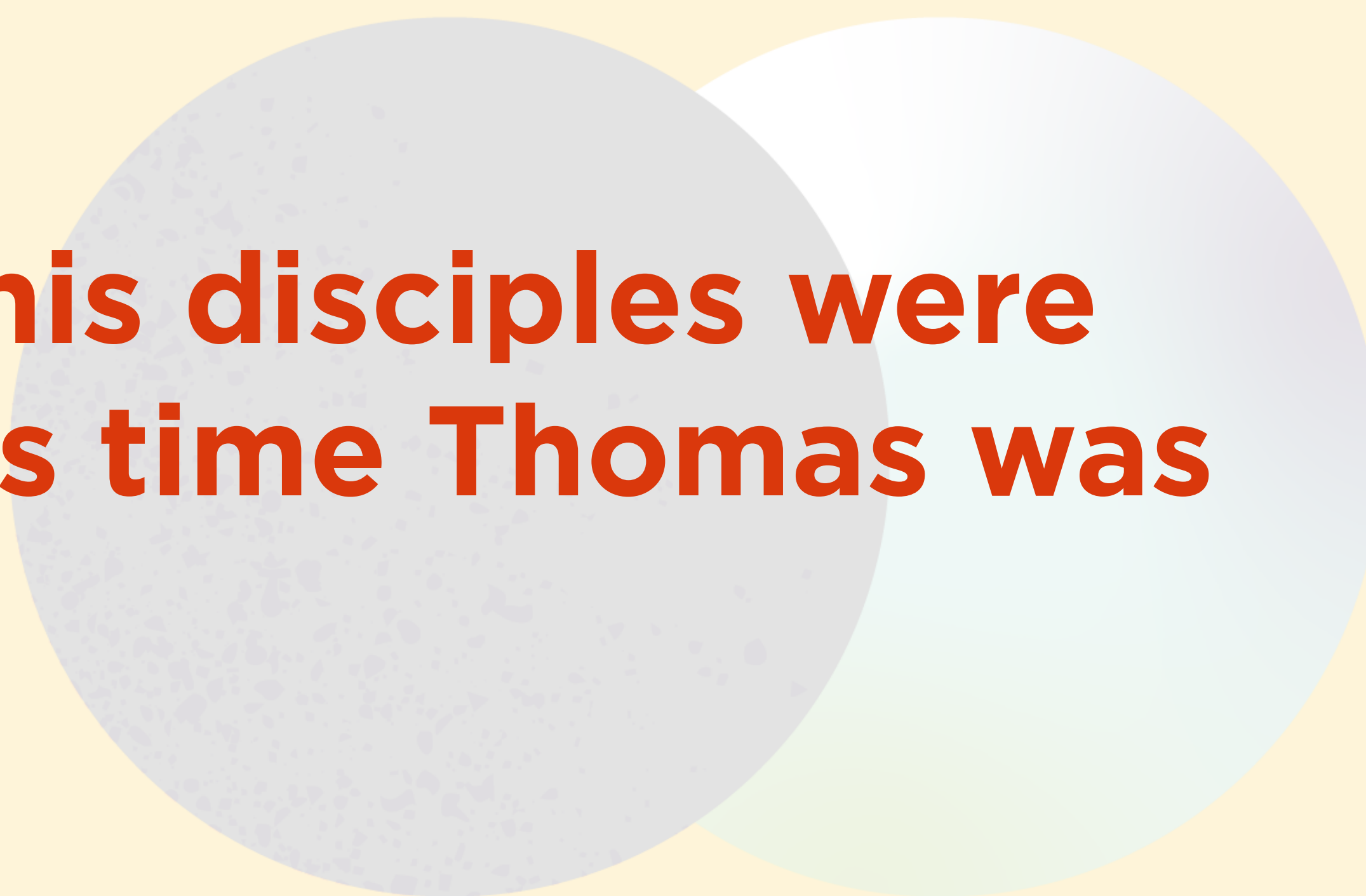
1. Admit we are powerless
 2. Belief in a higher power
 3. Turn our will and lives over to the care of that higher power
 - 7/8. Forgiveness / Making amends
- 

24-25 **But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, “We saw the Master.” But he said, “Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won’t believe it.”**

John 20:19-31 (The Message)

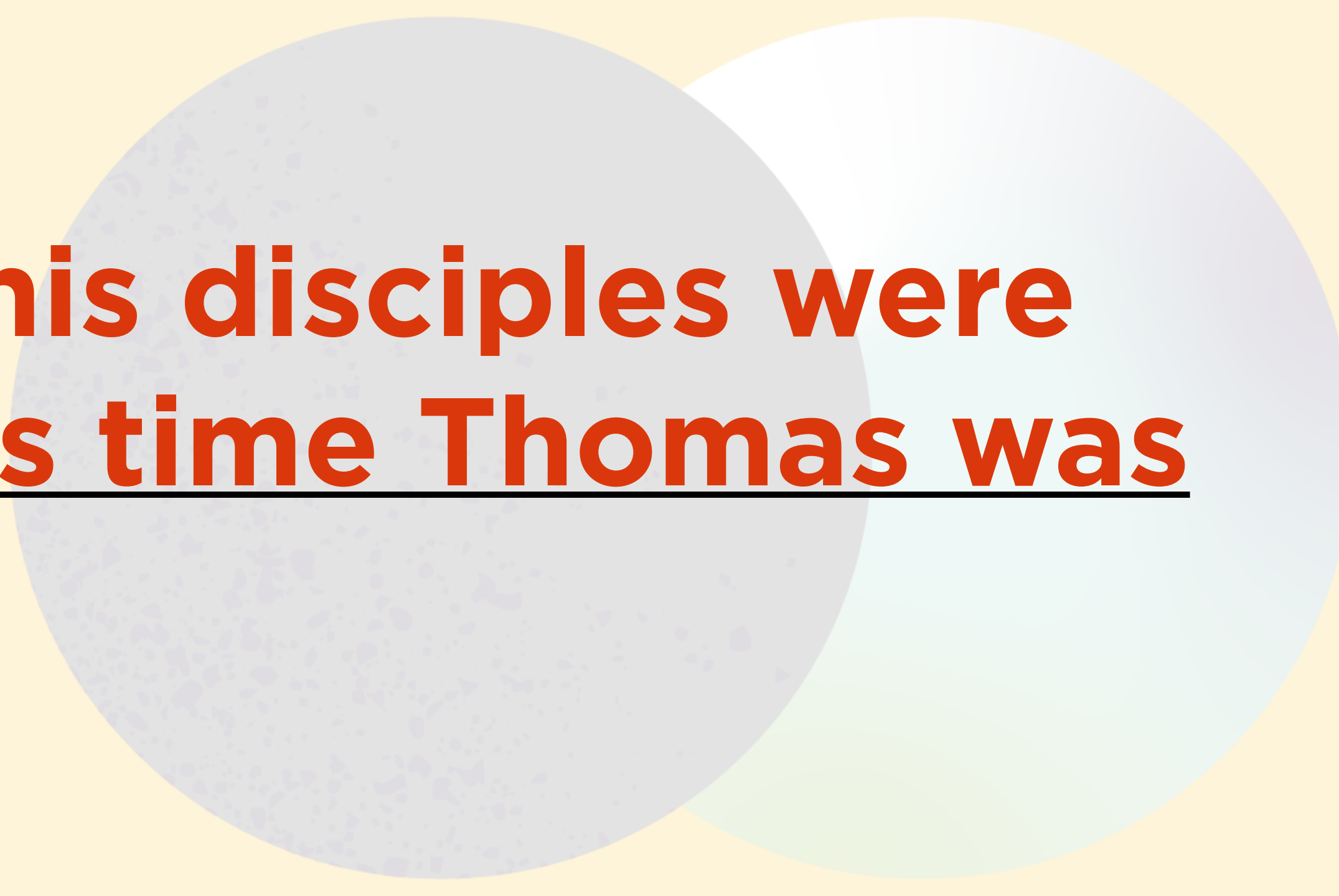
Out-of-true

The image features a light yellow background. In the center, there are two overlapping circles. The circle on the left is a muted blue color, and the circle on the right is a light green color. They overlap in the middle. The text 'Out-of-true' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, positioned horizontally between the two circles, centered vertically relative to the overlap.



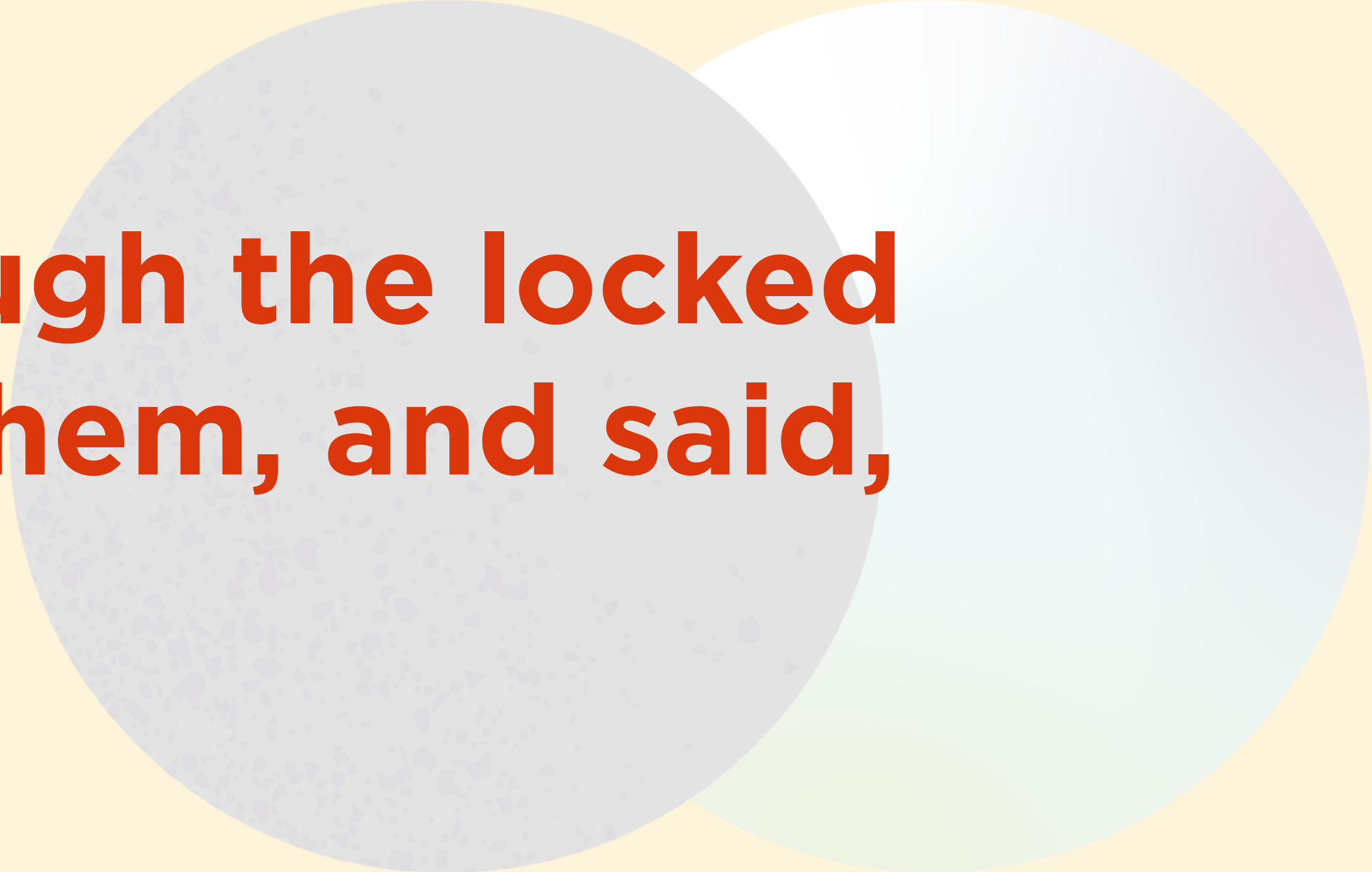
26a **Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them.**

John 20:19-31 (The Message)



26a **Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them.**

John 20:19-31 (The Message)



26b **Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.”**

John 20:19-31 (The Message)

27 Then he focused his attention on Thomas. “Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don’t be unbelieving. Believe.”

John 20:19-31 (The Message)

“He is like a good doctor, in that he does not give the same prescription to everyone. Instead, he approaches his followers in different ways because, after all, our experiences are different and our approaches to life are different. He finds a way to bless us.”

Martin B. Copenhaver

28-29 **Thomas said, “My Master! My God!”**
Jesus said, “So, you believe because
you’ve seen with your own eyes. Even
better blessings are in store for those who
believe without seeing.”

John 20:19-31 (The Message)

30-31 **Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it.**

John 20:19-31 (The Message)

Belief doesn't mean we are turning a blind eye to reasonable verified facts in order to remain religious. When we say "I Believe" we are saying that we are *"believing into, actively trusting, living in a relationship of commitment toward"*



“To keep an honest Easter is to embody a more faithful testimony, based on true encounter.”

Nelson Boschman



How has Jesus shown himself to you recently?

How/where has the community of faith encouraged you to believe without seeing?