

Learn by Doing

Choice

Caterpillars to Butterflies

The life cycle of butterflies is often used as a symbol of rebirth into heavenly life. After death we transition through a cocoon-like state into the spiritual world, where we become like butterflies. Create a caterpillar that becomes a butterfly as you talk about the heavenly life the Lord wants for each of us.



1. Bend the brown pipe cleaner in half so it looks like a fuzzy caterpillar. Caterpillars hatch out of tiny eggs that a butterfly lays on a leaf. Their job is to eat lots of leaves and grow bigger. When a caterpillar is large enough it forms a pupa. Inside the pupa or cocoon a miracle takes place. The caterpillar turns into... a butterfly!
2. How are butterflies different from caterpillars? (They fly through the air, have beautiful patterns on their wings, etc.) We are going to turn our fuzzy caterpillars into beautiful butterflies.
3. If using the *Butterfly Picture* provided (p. 2), hand out pages for children to cut out. If using tissue, give each child two tissue rectangles. Lay one on top of the other.
4. Hand out stickers for children to decorate the top layer of tissue or the *Butterfly Picture*. Make the pattern the same on each half.
5. Once the wings are decorated, place the caterpillar in the center of the *Butterfly* or tissue rectangle and twist it into a body with two antennae. (Shaping the tissue into two wings.) What an amazing thing has happened to the caterpillar!
6. Tie one end of the yarn or ribbon to the bottom of the butterfly, using tape if needed.
7. To make the butterfly “fly”, hold the end of the yarn or ribbon and pull it around in a circle. If you want, take the butterfly outside and run around, letting the butterfly follow you!

Materials Needed for Each Child

Tissue paper in two bright colors **OR** *Butterfly Picture* p. 2, small stickers, brown pipe cleaners, yarn or ribbon, scissors, tape

Prepare in Advance

Divide stickers so each child has the same number. Cut tissue into rectangles approx. 8” x 5” (20cm x 12cm).

New Church Concept Drawn to Heaven

The Lord continually withdraws people from evils so far as they are willing to be withdrawn, and leads them to heaven. See *Apocalypse Explained* 1162

New Church Concept Butterflies

When good spirits have been prepared for heaven, they are clothed in new shining garments and become angels. They are like caterpillars which are changed into butterflies. See *Arcana Coelestia* 8848



Cut out around the butterfly.

Butterfly Picture