

Easter

Witnessing Resurrection

When I was in kindergarten, my dad found a butterfly chrysalis in our garden. He talked with the teacher, who agreed it would be a great learning opportunity for our class. The entire class crowded around the chrysalis every day, anxious to see if that would be the day that the butterfly would emerge. Imagine the awe and wonder for our class of five year olds one Monday morning when we walked into class to see a butterfly hanging upside-down in its makeshift habitat, drying its newly emerged wings.

The teacher let me be the one to release the butterfly, and the whole class watched with fascination as it flew away. Butterflies are traditionally a symbol of the Resurrection, as they represent transformation and change. This whimsical activity is a powerful illustration of transformation and resurrection.

Designed for ages 3+

Materials

Butterfly chrysalis and habitat (see notes for details)

Time Investment: 7–10 days of waiting, 30 minutes of discussion

How To

1. Approximately 10 days before Easter, order a butterfly chrysalis and habitat from a reputable company. (See notes.)
2. When the chrysalis arrives, have a short discussion about butterflies and their transformation. Some questions to guide you:

What is happening inside this chrysalis right now?

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How are you feeling about it? Excited? Hopeful? Impatient?

3. Wait for the butterfly to emerge. When it does...celebrate! Use the opportunity for another discussion:

How does this butterfly remind us of what God is like?

How do people change and transform?

4. When it is time to release the butterfly, release it with these words, “*God, we thank you for teaching us about change and miracles, and we thank you for this butterfly. Help us have a wonderful Easter season. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.*”

Notes

- To get the chrysalis and habitat, run an Internet search on “Live butterfly chrysalis.” Choose a company that guarantees at least one of the chrysalises will produce a live butterfly.
- More than any other activity in this book, this one requires advance planning, a financial investment, and uncommon materials. That said, the impact of this activity is powerful, and the activity is quite special, just as resurrection is special. Consider alternating this live butterfly activity with some the variations below from year to year.
- Though this activity is timed for the butterfly to emerge around Easter, it is impossible to guarantee this will happen. Instead of being a drawback, this is a benefit, because it provides an opportunity to talk about it. Sometimes the transformation we are expecting to see takes longer than we expect; sometimes it comes early!

Variations

- Instead of a live butterfly activity, draw a chrysalis (cocoon) several days before Easter. Then, on Easter, make your own butterfly by drawing one, cutting one out of construction paper, or finding a butterfly craft your family would like to do. Go through the discussion questions above.
- Search for instructions on an origami butterfly or other crafty butterfly. Make a variety of butterflies and hang them in your home to remember the Resurrection.