



FROM CATERPILLAR

TO COCOON



TO BUTTERFLY:



GOD'S METAPHOR OF METAMORPHOSIS



**Anna L. Liechty
Phyllis Vos Wezeman**



**LeaderResources
Leeds, MA**





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DEDICATION

FROM CATERPILLAR TO COCOON TO BUTTERFLY: GOD'S METAPHOR OF METAMORPHOSIS

MAP



MISSION



MODIFICATION



MARVEL



MATURITY



MYSTERY



MIRACLE



TO...Jill Ann Gretter...

...whose wings, now fully expanded, are ready to take flight.
A.L.L.

TO...Sally Elizabeth Van Beek...

...may you celebrate the message of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection each time you see the miracle of the caterpillar, cocoon, and butterfly.
P.V.W.

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FROM CATERPILLAR TO COCOON TO BUTTERFLY: GOD'S METAPHOR OF METAMORPHOSIS A LENT & EASTER RESOURCE

Anna L. Liechty and Phyllis Vos Wezeman

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INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

From Caterpillar to Cocoon to Butterfly: God's Metaphor of Metamorphosis offers congregations a thematic approach for communicating the message of Lent and Easter. Centered around the life cycle of a Monarch butterfly, a different stage of its development serves as a symbol each week for the process of spiritual growth during Lent. A word that can be displayed on a banner or a poster ties together the visual theme of the emerging butterfly with the spiritual message of the Scripture and the season.

Through their participation, people of all ages will experience the joy of Easter as they grow throughout Lent and affirm God's promise of Eternal Life.



WORSHIP

FROM CATERPILLAR TO COCOON TO BUTTERFLY: GOD'S METAPHOR OF METAMORPHOSIS

MAP



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OVERVIEW

COMPONENTS

Altar or Worship Center Arrangement
Banners or Posters
Children's Messages
Enhancements
Illustrations
Music
Scripture

SUPPLIES

ADVANCE PREPARATION

LEADERSHIP

CHILDREN'S MESSAGES

First Sunday In Lent: Map
Second Sunday In Lent: Mission
Third Sunday In Lent: Modification
Fourth Sunday In Lent: Marvel
Fifth Sunday In Lent: Maturity
Sixth Sunday In Lent: Mystery
Easter Sunday: Miracle

WORSHIP



OVERVIEW

The symbolism of the life cycle of a developing butterfly, from egg to larva to pupa to adult, provides the focus for a wide variety of Lent and Easter worship experiences including: constructing banners or posters; creating worship centers; making visual the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection; offering unique illustrations for bulletins and newsletters; providing seasonal services; reading Scriptures; and sharing children's messages.

In order to use the thematic approach offered in *From Caterpillar to Cocoon to Butterfly: God's Metaphor of Metamorphosis* the person or committee that coordinates the Lent and Easter worship, programs, and decorations must adapt the elements provided to best fit the individual congregation's needs. Any or all of the following components may be used to enhance the preparation for and the celebration of the Easter story.

COMPONENTS

Altar or Worship Center Arrangement

A three-dimensional display can serve as a visual focal point for worship during Lent, as well as on Easter Sunday. Materials to embellish a display include: a nature center that depicts the life cycle of the butterfly, enlargements of artwork or photographs of the developing stages of the Monarch butterfly, or a butterfly kit available from a science supply center or a teacher resource store.

Banners or Posters

Seven illustrations are provided for creating banners or posters throughout the six weeks of Lent and for Easter Sunday. Each visual helps to reinforce the theme for that Sunday and serves as a reminder of the stages of growth experienced physically by the butterfly and spiritually by the participants in the congregation. These graphics may be duplicated as patterns to use to create fabric banners or reproduced as paper posters to show throughout the series.

Children's Messages

Seven children's messages are included, one for each Sunday of Lent and one for Easter Sunday. The message may be given as a part of the morning worship service, or may be used as a segment of children's church.

The object lesson for each Sunday is based on the stages of the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly. Children should be encouraged to participate in the experience so that they feel involved and concerned about the emerging butterfly as well as the evolving story.

Enhancements

From Caterpillar to Cocoon to Butterfly may be used as a simple theme for Lent and Easter, or may be used extensively to provide the framework for coordinating congregational life during these seasons. The growth theme may be enhanced beyond worship applications to include education, outreach, and nurture opportunities.



Illustrations

From Caterpillar to Cocoon to Butterfly contains illustrations of the stages of the egg, larva, pupa, and adult symbols used each week during Lent and Easter. These designs may be reproduced for use as bulletin covers and clip art.

Music

Anthems and hymns may be selected to complement the theme and lesson for each worship experience. The message of the weekly word and the visual symbol should be reinforced through the lyrics. Besides congregational singing, the music may be included as special choral or solo presentations, as organ interludes, or as other instrumental performances.

Scripture

Scripture references are based on stories of Jesus' life and ministry taken from the Gospels. Scripture passages correlate with, but are not based on, the Revised Common Lectionary for Years A, B, and C.

SUPPLIES

To create the visual display and to prepare the components of *From Caterpillar to Cocoon to Butterfly: God's Metaphor of Metamorphosis* the coordinator must assemble the following materials: Banners or Posters, Bible(s), Fabric, purple and white, Music for selected songs, Table(s) or altar, and Visual display.

ADVANCE PREPARATION

In order to prepare for the presentation of *From Caterpillar to Cocoon to Butterfly*, construct individual banners or posters for each symbol or prepare one large background to which symbols may be added each week;

- obtain items for the children's messages;
- practice music for selected songs;
- prepare Worship Center display;
- secure leadership for all components.

LEADERSHIP

Coordination for *From Caterpillar to Cocoon to Butterfly: God's Metaphor of Metamorphosis* can be done by one person, or duties may be assigned to staff such as Pastors, Christian Educators, and Music Directors, or to volunteers serving on Worship Committees or Seasonal Task Forces.

Whoever assumes responsibility must see that leadership is provided for constructing banners; coordinating decorations; creating visual displays; facilitating special events; leading worship services; reading Scripture; selecting music; and sharing children's messages.



CHILDREN'S MESSAGES

First Sunday in Lent: Map

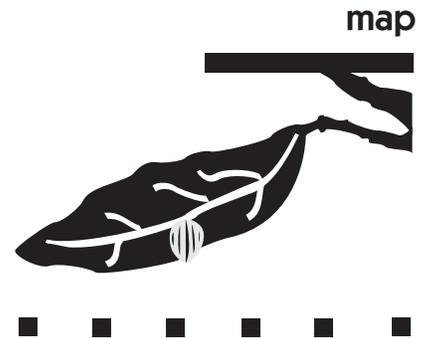
Passages

Jesus prays in the wilderness

Matthew 4:1-11

Mark 1:12,13

Luke 4:1-13



Purpose

During the First Week of Lent, we start the journey to Easter by comparing the story of Jesus' wilderness experience with Stage One of the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly, the egg.

Preparation

Illustration of egg on leaf

Presentation

Welcome to the First Sunday in the Season of Lent! Today we begin our forty-day journey to Easter. Lent is a time to think about the stories of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. This year we are going to journey toward Easter with a focus on one of God's special creatures: the Monarch Butterfly. As we learn more about the life cycle of the butterfly, we might begin to think that God created it just so we could have another way to think about the message of Lent and Easter. Let's get started! I said that Lent was a journey, and it is. And a journey begins with a look at the map.

[Hold up the illustration of an egg on a leaf.]

Do you see the tiny egg? The female Monarch butterfly lays one egg at a time on the underside of the leaf of the milkweed plant. The Monarch's oval white egg is very tiny -- only one-eighth of an inch long. The egg is attached to the leaf by a quick-drying glue-like liquid the female secretes. The egg stays on the leaf for three to five days before it hatches. For the butterfly, the egg is like its map for life. It contains all of the genetic information needed to produce God's beautiful creature.

The egg is the place where the butterfly's life story begins. As we start the season of Lent, we learn that, after Jesus was baptized, he spent forty days in the wilderness preparing for His ministry. Jesus was alone, like the single egg, preparing to emerge with a new mission. His time in the desert provided the map -- the direction -- that His journey was to take. As Jesus prayed, He resisted Satan's temptation to become something other

EDUCATION

CATERPILLARS

The humble caterpillar that enters the dark cocoon and emerges as a beautiful butterfly has often been paralleled with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Use these learning activities to help the participants explore and experience the mystery of this miracle in a tangible way. Make and use the projects in storytelling, as learning activities, for bulletin board displays, and in many other ways.

Ball Fringe Caterpillars

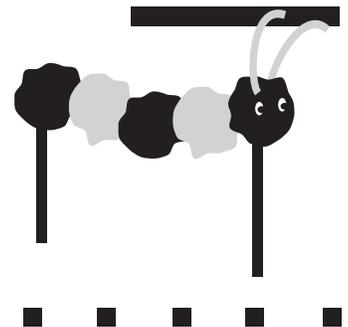
Provide

- Ball fringe
- Dowel rods or wooden skewers
- Glue
- Pipe cleaners
- Plastic eyes
- Scissors

Proceed

Cut a length of fringe approximately five balls long. Insert a dowel rod or wooden skewer into the center of the first and the last ball and glue it in place. Attach plastic eyes to one ball to form the head. Make antenna from pieces of pipe cleaner and place them in the head. Move the rods to operate the caterpillar.

ball fringe caterpillar



Egg Carton Caterpillars

Provide

- Egg cartons
- Glue
- Pipe cleaners
- Scissors
- Stickers, black circles

Proceed

Cut the egg carton in half lengthwise. Affix two black circle stickers to one end of the carton for eyes. Poke two pieces of pipe cleaner into the top of the head to serve as antenna for the caterpillar.

egg carton caterpillar



NURTURE



OVERVIEW

From Caterpillar to Cocoon to Butterfly: God's Metaphor of Metamorphosis invites families to share in the preparation for Lent and Easter by using devotions at home, that correspond with the weekly Children's Message in Worship, as the focus for seasonal activities. Centered on the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly, the four stages – egg, larva, pupa, and adult – tie together the visual message of the developing butterfly with the spiritual message of the Scripture and the season. Children should be encouraged to participate in the process so that they feel involved and concerned about the emerging butterfly as well as the evolving story.

Family worship suggestions are provided for devotions beginning the First Sunday in Lent and continuing through Easter Sunday. They include Scripture, symbol, story, and prayer. Six ideas for living out the message complete each week's preparation, building toward the celebration of Jesus' resurrection.

From Caterpillar to Cocoon to Butterfly challenges families to experience the joy of Easter, as they grow throughout Lent, transformed by the promise of Eternal Life.

NURTURE

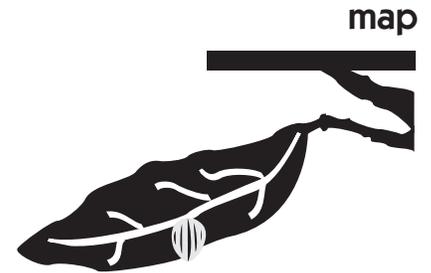


FAMILY DEVOTIONS

First Sunday in Lent: Map

Say

During the First Week of Lent, we start the journey to Easter by comparing the story of Jesus' wilderness experience with Stage One of the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly, the egg.



Read

Jesus prays in the wilderness

Matthew 4:1-11

Mark 1:12,13

Luke 4:1-13

Show

Illustration of egg on leaf

Say

As we study the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly, we can see that the egg provides all the genetic information needed as a "map" to guide the development from caterpillar to butterfly. Lent is a journey that also needs a map. Just like Jesus used His time alone in the wilderness to find the direction for His ministry, we need to use our time in Lent to study and to pray. During Lent, we can review the "map" God has given us to make sure that our direction follows God's plan. Like a single egg of the butterfly, we can use our Lenten journey as a time to grow: to spend time with God through prayer, to listen for God's instructions for our lives.

Pray

Dear God, Thank You for the lesson found in the tiny egg. During Lent, help us to take time to spend with You and to listen for Your message like Jesus did in the wilderness. Amen.

Do

Begin a journal or a map of your Lenten journey. Note the thoughts, plans, or insights of each week as you struggle to discover God's will for your life.

Borrow or purchase "Metamorphosis of a Butterfly: Giant Shaped Floor Puzzle" by Frank Schaffer Publications (23740 Hawthorne Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90505, 1-800-421-5565), and use it to trace the stages in the life cycle of the Monarch.

Draw a scene for each temptation Jesus faced in the wilderness. Place the pictures in a prominent spot to help reinforce the ability to turn away from temptation and to turn toward God.

Map out a time each day to be spent in devotions and prayer. Create a workable plan, individually or as a family, to be alone with God.

Order a butterfly kit from a company such as Insect Lore, P. O. Box 1535, Shafter, CA 93263, 1-800-LIVE-BUG (Phone), 1-661-746-0334 (Fax), livebug@insectlore.com (E-Mail) or www.insectlore.com. Watch the process of metamorphosis unfold.

Research in a book or on the Internet to find the stages in the life cycle of a Monarch butterfly. Begin a collection or display of artwork or photos that show each week's stage.

NURTURE



FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Second Sunday in Lent: Mission

Say

During the Second Week of Lent, we continue our journey to Easter by comparing the story of Jesus' calling the disciples with the Second Stage of the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly, the larva.



Read

Jesus calls the disciples

Matthew 4:18-22

Mark 1:16-20

Show

Illustration of larva on leaf

Say

As we continue to study the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly, we next celebrate the hatching of the tiny larva or caterpillar that sets about its mission of eating and growing. Lent is a time of mission for God's people, too. Jesus left His wilderness experience of temptation with a definite mission in mind, immediately calling disciples who would help Him accomplish God's plan. During Lent we become aware that we must set about devouring God's Word, studying and growing in order to become what God intends us to be, disciples of Jesus whose purpose is to make a difference in the world.

Pray

Dear God, Thank You for giving all of Your creatures a purpose in life. Feed us by Your Spirit so that we may grow to fulfill the mission You have planned for us. Amen.

Do

Add to the collection of artwork or photos that depict the stages of the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly.

Consider ways, as a disciple of Jesus, that you can help take care of a hungry world. Choose a charity or devise your own mission project and collect donations or food to help feed the hungry.



Find information about the disciples who followed Jesus. Consider which disciple seems most like you in his abilities, talents, and weaknesses. Why would Jesus call him? Why would Jesus call you?

Make a list of enjoyable foods. Choose one food to limit during Lent as a way to discipline yourself.

Read the book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. Talk about the similarities between the story and this stage in the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly.

Take care of any responsibilities required for raising the "butterfly kit." Keep a record of changes that take place throughout the week.

NURTURE



FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Third Sunday in Lent: Modification

modification

Say

During the Third Week of Lent, we continue our journey to Easter by comparing the story of Nicodemus with the Monarch caterpillar's growth and change.



Read

Jesus instructs Nicodemus

John 3:1-21

Show

Illustration of caterpillar on leaf

Say

As the Lenten study of the Monarch butterfly continues, we note how the caterpillar changes. Shedding its skin several times, it grows from a tiny worm to a two-inch caterpillar, making many modifications along the way. Lent is a season of growth for the Christian, too. Jesus told Nicodemus that people must be changed by God's Spirit. God has the power to help us shed our sin and change our hearts to become more like Jesus. Just like the caterpillar, we continue to change as we shed old ideas and attitudes and grow in the plan God has for our lives.

Pray

Dear God, Thank You for the power to change. Send Your Spirit to help us grow to be like Jesus. Amen.

Do

Add to the collection of artwork or photos that depict the changes in the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly.

Act out the process of the caterpillar shedding its skin. Then discuss what attitudes or ideas we need to "shed" during Lent. Act out those, too.

Go on a nature walk and look for places where caterpillars might live and grow.

Role-play the story of Jesus and Nicodemus. Use the Bible story, but write the dialogue in your own words. Remember to "shed" the roles after playing the parts.

Take care of any responsibilities required for raising the "butterfly kit." Observe how many times the caterpillars shed their skin. Keep a record of changes that occur during the week.

Write a change poem to show the process of an idea or a word becoming something new or different, like the change from tired to enthusiastic, or from selfish to generous. Each line should represent a modification in attitude or experience.