

## Taking It Home

Give the children one or more “New Life in Jesus” items to take home. Encourage them to use these items to tell their families about the special meaning the caterpillar and butterfly have for God’s people. Encourage them to count how many butterflies—real or in pictures—they see this week. Each time they see one, they can thank Jesus for winning new life for us.

## Extra Activities

### How to Eat a Butterfly

Let the children use a butterfly-shaped cookie cutter to cut butterflies out of finger Jell-O. They can poke short pieces of shoestring licorice into the gelatin to create feelers and use candy dots to decorate the wings.

Or set up a learning center in the classroom where each child can make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Show them how to use a plastic knife to cut the sandwich in half diagonally. Have them place a straight pretzel stick (or a small sweet pickle!) in the middle of a paper plate and arrange a sandwich “wing” on each side. (*Use this activity only if you are sure there are no children with peanut allergies in your class.*)

### Butterfly Bucket

Call a nursery to see which butterfly-attracting plants grow well in your area. Butterfly weed, cardinal flowers, zinnias, marigolds, purple cone flowers, lantana, garden phlox, lavender, and Mexican sunflowers all attract butterflies. Cover the bottom of a plastic dishpan with gravel, and fill it with soil. Plant the flowers, leaving a space in the center for a small bowl of fresh water for the butterflies.

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#BFCXDC



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# New Life in Jesus

## (A Second Option for Your Devotion)

### Getting Started

Display the poem you will use in the devotion on a chart or bulletin board—“Caterpillar” by Christina G. Rossetti. Fold a brightly colored piece of construction paper in half lengthwise. Trace your right footprint on the paper, being sure the top and bottom of your arch touch the fold; this is a pattern for the paper butterfly you will cut out during the devotion.

Also, cut a three-cup section from an egg carton. This will make three body parts—one, the caterpillar’s head; the other two, the torso. Use crayons, markers, bits of brown “fur” from a fabric store, and/or construction paper to decorate your caterpillar. Draw eyes, if you wish, or glue on eyes from a craft store. Add feelers made from chenille wire. (If you don’t have an egg carton, simply cut a squiggly shape out of brown paper—perhaps a grocery sack—to resemble a caterpillar.)

In addition you will need scissors, glue or tape, and a rubber band.

## Introduction

Call attention to the poem “Caterpillar,” displayed on the chart or bulletin board. Read it aloud together once or twice.

### Caterpillar

*Brown and furry*

*Caterpillar in a hurry;*

*Take your walk*

*To the shady leaf or stalk.*

*May no toad spy you,*

*May the little birds pass by you;*

*Spin and die,*

*To live again a butterfly.*

*by Christina G. Rossetti*

Then show the children the egg carton “caterpillar” you have made. Tell them that often a butterfly is used as a symbol for the new life Jesus won for us. Review the butterfly’s life cycle:

- ✦ A butterfly lays its eggs. From them, tiny caterpillars hatch.
- ✦ The caterpillars eat and eat. Then, one day, they attach themselves to a leaf or brick wall or some other surface. They begin to spin a chrysalis around themselves. (Roll your “caterpillar” up in the piece of construction paper and secure it in place with a rubber band.) The caterpillar’s chrysalis reminds us of the tomb where Jesus’ friends placed his body on Good Friday. How sad they were, thinking they would never see their friend again. And how happy Satan was, thinking he had won the victory over Jesus.
- ✦ Then, sometime later, a beautiful butterfly emerges from the chrysalis. (Unroll the construction paper and

*fold it in half. Cut out your footprint and open it up to reveal a butterfly. Glue or tape the caterpillar in the center to represent the body.)* When a butterfly crawls out of its chrysalis and flies away, we remember how Jesus came out of the tomb—alive! Now his friends were excited and happy. And Satan was defeated! Jesus gives us new life with him right now and, one day, he will take us to live in heaven with him forever.

## Getting to the Heart

The Bible says, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17). Because of all Jesus did for us, we have a new life. We live with Jesus now and forever.

(Reread the lines in the poem about the toad and birds.) A toad or a bird might try to harm a caterpillar. We will have troubles in our lives, too, but Jesus walks right beside us. He helps us every step of the way, working out even the bad things that happen to us for our good.

One day our bodies will die. But like Jesus, we will not stay dead. We are a “new creation.” God will change our bodies to make them glorious! Our new bodies will never get sick. We will not be sad or hurt again. Our bodies will be like Jesus’ resurrected body, and our lives will be better than anything we can even imagine! Because Jesus died and rose for us, we, too, will rise and live with him forever.

Let’s pray to thank Jesus for doing all this for us!

Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to earth to live and die for me. Thank you for defeating sin, death, and the devil. Thank you for making me a new creation and for promising me eternal life in heaven with you. I love you, Jesus! Amen.