

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB
BIBLE DISCOVERY
"Becoming God's Child"

Recommended for: All

LESSON AIM: To help the children understand what being a Christian is all about. To teach them the transformation that takes place in our lives as we become God's child.

MEMORY VERSE: *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" 1 John 1:9*

SUPPLIES: Photocopies of activity sheets (patterns provided), a real caterpillar, a cocoon or butterfly, or a book with actual pictures for a visual. A suggested book is The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carl.

Instruct the Bear Leader to pick and choose how much material to cover. By comparison, this lesson has three times the teaching content as other lessons.



OPENING: Make a display of information and books about caterpillars and butterflies for children to view. These may be obtained from your public library.

Discuss the analogy of the butterfly and the transformation that takes place when a caterpillar breaks through the cocoon along with becoming a new creature when we accept Jesus as our Savior.



EDUCATE: While the larva is in the cocoon, no one can see what is taking place but there is a definite change going on. The end result is a beautiful, colorful, living butterfly.

The same thing happens when we ask Jesus to be our personal Savior. No one can see inside us, but a change takes place when we become a Christian or one of God's children. People will know we are Christians by the way we act and talk. When we ask Jesus to be our personal Savior, some say that we become "born again" - this means that we have become a new creation in Christ Jesus. We have been transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Children may already be acquainted with the process that takes place when the caterpillar spins his cocoon. The caterpillar remains inside for a period of time and then breaks out when the process is completed. The beautiful, colorful butterfly is a new creature because of the transformation that took place.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE CATERPILLAR, COCOON, AND BUTTERFLY:

There are four stages of a butterfly's life cycle: 1) egg; 2) larva (caterpillar); 3) pupa (cocoon or chrysalis); 4) adult.

1. Larva have rather elastic bodies, simple eyes, chewing mouth parts and small legs. They eat continuously, and shed their skin as needed, as they grow to hundreds of times their original size.

2. The cocoon is made up of a single silk thread that could reach up to a half a mile. It can take a caterpillar weeks, even months, to make a cocoon.

3. Once the cocoon is made the larva is now called a pupa. During the time they are in the cocoon the structure of the larva totally transforms: internal systems are reorganized and adult external structures develop.

4. The making of the cocoon:

a. The caterpillar finds a site and he hangs upside down.

b. He starts to spin around himself making a oblong cocoon.

c. He hangs onto a limb with a sticky liquid and keeps a firm grip as he is spinning.

d. The complete development of the cocoon is called the chrysalis which is a hard, protective shell.

e. In a matter of weeks, the skin of the cocoon begins to split from one end to the other.

f. In about two minutes after the skin splits, the caterpillar breaks out. It is now a butterfly.

g. The complete development from the caterpillar to the butterfly is completed within the chrysalis.

WORD DEFINITIONS: (This is for Juniors and maybe Primary.)

CHRYSLIS - The pupa of a moth or butterfly, enclosed in a hard case or cocoon

LARVA - newly hatched wormlike form of many insects

METAMORPHOSIS - To transform, change of form; an alteration in appearance.

COCOON - A type of envelope, often largely of silk, which many insects form about themselves and in which they pass into the pupa stage. Silkworm cocoons are the source of silk. A cocoon is 1 - 1½" long and weighs about an ounce.

CATERPILLAR - The wormlike, often hairy larva of a butterfly or moth.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE BUTTERFLY: (This is for all)

The butterfly's body is slender. The scales on the broad wings help it to fly. If you touch a butterfly wing, you might damage the scales and it will not be able to fly. The scales are the powdery substance that comes off onto our fingers.

When a butterfly is ready to break out of the cocoon, its wings remain pressed together as it emerges. It has a firm grip on the empty chrysalis. A blood-like fluid is pumped from the tiny body into the wing veins. The wings expand. It will spread its wings out so they can harden and dry and then...it's ready to fly!

SALVATION: WHY IT'S IMPORTANT - (This is for all)

Scripture verse:

1. *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.*" (Romans 6:23)
2. *That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*" (Romans 10:9)
3. *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*" (I John 1:9)
4. *And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*" (Acts 2:21)



ACTIVITY: BIBLE DRILL (For Primary and Juniors)

To involve the children with the use of their Bible and finding scriptures that relate to the lesson and their assigned memory work. Use verses listed above.

Set up 4 to 6 chairs, depending on the size of the class. Ask both boys and girls to volunteer for the Bible drill.

Teacher: "Attention! Bibles up!" [Kids hold up Bibles. Give scripture reference (book, chapter and verse).]

Kids: [Repeat reference after the teacher with Bibles still up.]

Teacher: "Charge!"

Kids: [First pupil to find the scripture stands and reads it.]

Teacher: [Acknowledges child, checks the verse and issues a bear buck.]

CRAFTS: (For All)

Coloring sheet of a butterfly (included for 3 years - 3rd grade)
caterpillar/butterfly (included for 4th - 6th grade)

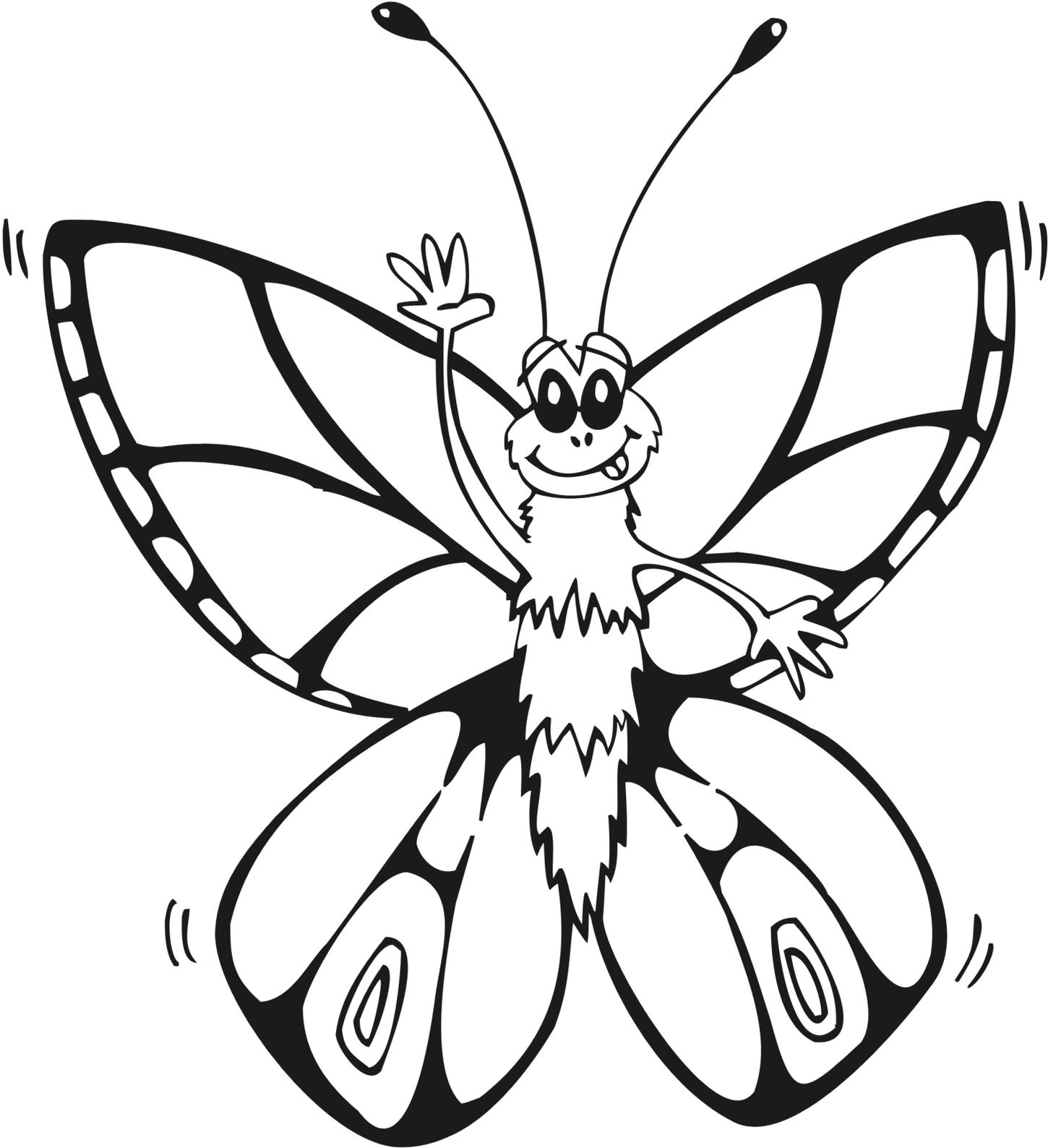
SNACK: SUNBURST SANDWICHES

INGREDIENTS: Marmalade and pineapple Jelly. Slices of white bread and a sun cookie cutter. Have the children make sunburst sandwiches with the cutter and spread with one of the jellies.



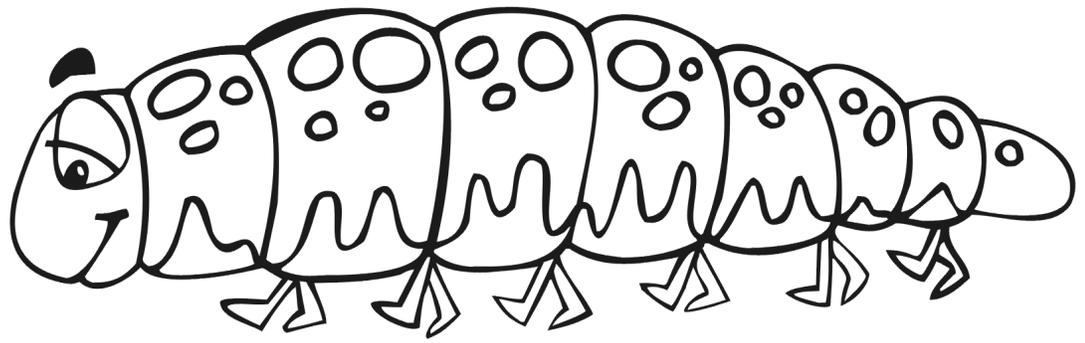
CONCLUSION: Have the children gather together for prayer time. Provide the opportunity for children to ask Jesus to be their Savior. Make sure to note those that asked Jesus into their heart so you can talk with them later and answer any questions they might have.

Becoming God's Children Activity Sheet

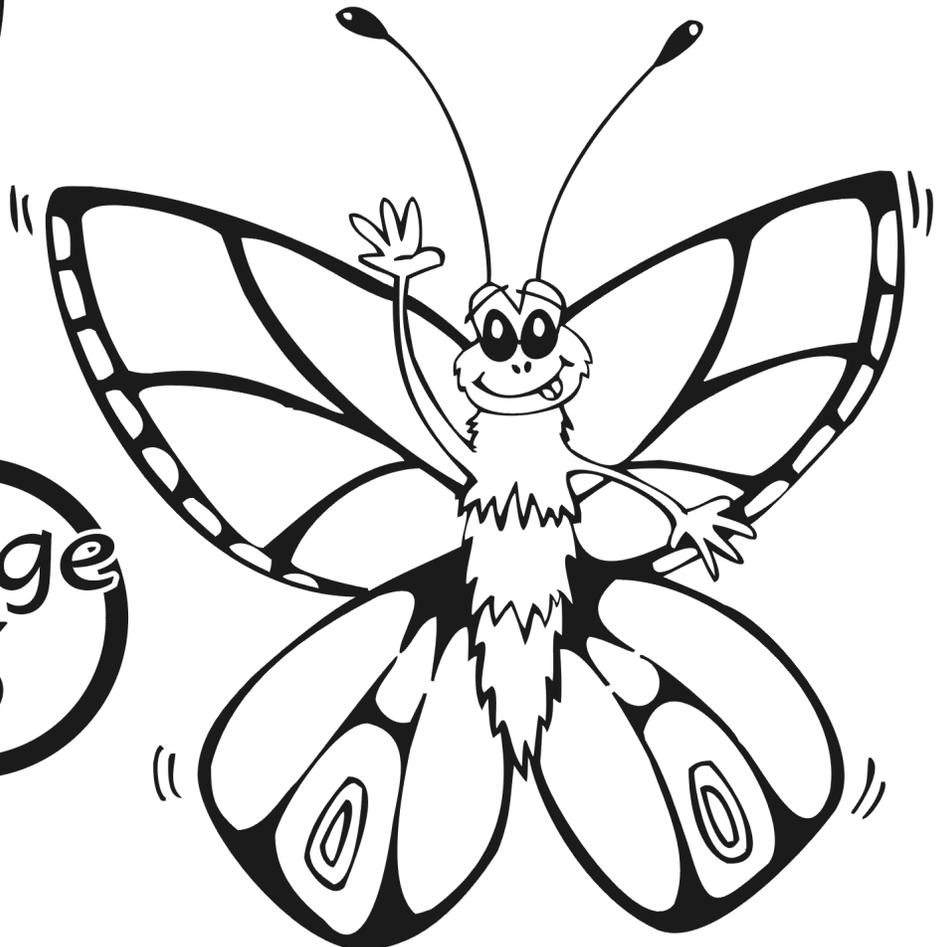


Becoming God's Children Activity Sheet

Stage
1



Stage
2



Stage
3