
FAITH @ HOME

WEEK OF MARCH 21, 2021

More ideas for “Laying Down and Leaning In”

You might like to read Colossians 3:12-17 in a few translations this week.

Parents with littles – if you just need one or two ideas, the don’t-miss ideas for young children are in green. Many of these are scalable for older and younger audiences by adjusting the language.

Black font is an all-play for children, teens, and adults.

Review

Watch the 2-part Family Ministry Moments from March 14 and March 21 about Colossians 3:1-17 with an illustration from *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

- March 14 - Colossians 3:1-11 <https://vimeo.com/526615001>
- March 21 – Colossians 3:12-17 <https://vimeo.com/526614830>

Read

Read Colossians 3:12-17 slowly together, making a list or drawing pictures of the words that describe who you are and what you are “wearing.” You might ask:

- Who does God say we are? (v. 12a)
- What “clothes” do we put on? What do you think that looks like? (v. 12b)

Observe

Observe the caterpillar to butterfly cycle and talk about transformation.

- The Butterfly Pavilion at the zoo is a great place to see the steps from chrysalis to butterfly.
- Heron Haven has a butterfly garden behind the building that isn’t yet in bloom but will be soon. Visiting it on a regular basis during the growing season will give you a chance to observe without hosting your own caterpillar habitat.
- Make a caterpillar habitat and watch the transformation of a caterpillar to a butterfly at home. This is a really fun, simple, and captivating experience for kids-adults. You may want to time it for when a garden patch of dill is available for swallowtails, but whatever kind of caterpillar you find, you will need a readily available source of the plant you found them on (they really do eat a LOT), a cage (dry aquarium with lid works great), a water-filled, foil covered jar holding sprigs of their fresh food, and a branch for them to form their chrysalis on. When the chrysalis starts to wiggle in preparation for the butterfly to emerge, you will need a sugar-water filled bowl with a sponge in it for them to get their first energy before you release them.
- <https://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/faq/how-can-i-raise-caterpillar-adult-stage>
- http://www.raisingbutterflies.org/getting_started

Explore

Some simple butterfly books about metamorphosis. Just as we are made new in Christ, a butterfly also undergoes complete transformation - a butterfly isn't just a caterpillar with wings!

- Lois Ehlert – *Waiting for Wings* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4tImWDoK20>
- Gail Gibbons – *Monarch Butterfly* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmYjofbTOFE>
- Tish Rabe – *My, Oh My - A Butterfly!* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uw-k3GleZo4>
- Eric Carle reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXHScpo_Vv8
- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* short, animated film <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75NQK-Sm1YY>

Make and Talk

Make a butterfly craft while you talk about how we are each made more beautiful after we have been wrapped up in Christ's love:

- Trace your child's hands on cardstock, representing butterfly wings.
- Cut them out and let your child decorate them with crayons, do-a-dot markers, stickers, etc. while you talk about the ways God makes us beautiful
- Using age-appropriate words of the characteristics in Colossians 3: 12, you might ask, "Can you put some kindness on your handprint? What color will you use for patience?" etc.
- When the handprints are as beautiful as the artist wants, glue or staple them together (wrist end to wrist end) with a clothespin, a decorated cardstock oval or a thick chenille wire in the middle for the body of the butterfly.
- You can add googly eyes and small chenille wire antennae if you like.
- Hang your child's masterpiece someplace you can talk about it as a reminder that we are each unique and beautiful creations, made new by Jesus' love.

Ponder

Questions to consider alone or together:

- Why do you think verse 13 tells us to bear with each other and forgive immediately following the list of virtues in verse 12?
- What does it mean to forgive as the Lord forgave you? What are some of the specific things about God's forgiveness that we can apply to our forgiveness of others?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. How do these two passages fit together?

Enjoy the *Lent Is Letting Go* Spotify Playlist:

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0zuUa2z5t4mi24nZekISgt?si=VMMpRM_ASHa-IlfLDQhPdg