

Easter Resurrection Butterflies *by Matthew Kozlowski*

Why is this faith practice important?

One of the most ancient and appropriate symbols of Easter is the butterfly.

Butterflies are a powerful metaphor of the resurrection. Jesus Christ was buried in a dark tomb for three days, and then emerged, still himself but changed and glorified. The parallel to a butterfly is striking; caterpillars “bury” themselves within a chrysalis, emerging as transformed butterflies.

As Christians, we believe that we too are transformed through the grace of God. One transformation occurs as we follow Jesus’ teachings, living into the kingdom of God. In addition, we are assured of a further transformation when we, like Christ, inherit a glorified and eternal body. Making butterflies for Easter is a powerful way to claim and teach these Christian beliefs.



What materials are needed for this practice?

Option 1: Soft-winged butterfly inside chrysalis

Coffee filters. Washable markers (the colors bleed nicely when touched with water). Chenille stems (pipe cleaners). Popsicle sticks. Water and paintbrush. Glue or other fastener. Toilet paper tube.

Option 2: Durable outdoor butterfly - see picture and directions on next page

Craft foam of a variety of colors. Permanent markers. Decorative cutouts and symbols. Glue. Chenille stems (pipe cleaners). 1/4-inch welding rod to attach to butterfly and stick into the ground.

How to do it

Easter or before: Butterflies can be made during the Easter season, but a fun tradition is to make them during Holy Week. You can hide the butterflies or place each one in a “chrysalis,” so that they can be revealed on Easter Sunday.

Get crafty: Both styles of butterfly are easy to make. For the soft-winged style, use markers to decorate the coffee filter with lines, spirals, or patches of color. When you have finished coloring, dampen the filter slightly with the paintbrush dipped in water and watch the colors change. Allow the transformed filter to dry before attaching it to the popsicle stick with glue or by wrapping with the chenille stem as you make antennae. Roll the wings inward and fold butterfly into the tube/chrysalis.

Resources for this practice

Durable Outdoor Butterfly

To learn more about option 2, the durable outdoor butterfly, check out the full article posted on Building Faith www.buildfaith.org/2015/03/13/making-easter-butterflies-alleluia



“Older elementary children draw symbols with black pen or permanent marker, then adorn them with foam stickers for additional color. A thorax (the midsection of a butterfly) is cut from a coordinating color and glued between the wings for extra strength. Holes are punched at the top, and chenille stems are threaded through and curled to mimic antennae.”

- Nancy S. Eubanks, Director of Christian Education for Children at St. James Episcopal Church, Marietta, GA.

About the author

Matthew Kozlowski manages, edits, and writes for Building Faith. He lives in Alexandria, Virginia with his wife Danielle and two young daughters. Throughout his career he has been a teacher, camp counselor, school chaplain, camp chaplain, Sunday school teacher, parish priest, and Alpha course coordinator.