

“You Can Be a Butterfly” VBS 2023

Day 4 Script

Finding the Right Cocoon and...Transformation!

Shepherd

Heart Person

Caterpillar 1/New Butterfly 1

Caterpillar 2/New Butterfly 2

Caterpillar 3/New Butterfly 3

Caterpillar 4/New Butterfly 4

Butterfly 1

Butterfly 2

Butterfly 3

Additional Butterfly/Dove

Father Abraham

(Note: The four caterpillars are already wearing their wings under their costumes, or they are stashed in the cocoons, so they can come out as butterflies at the end!)

The Shepherd and Heart Person reiterate with the kids through question and answer what happened the day before, including the caterpillars failed attempts to fly and how those ways don't work to bring true change. They also talk about how the caterpillars aren't doing so well right now – they're wrapping up in all the wrong stuff instead of their death with Christ.

*(The Caterpillars crawl out – they are **angry, unforgiving and bitter** over someone treating them wrong and hurting their feelings. They are rolling in the dirt getting more and more wrapped up in the earth and their flesh. Instead of weaving a cocoon **they are covered in the earth/dirt situation and full of bitterness and bad attitudes.**)*

Caterpillar 1: Yesterday, everything the butterflies said sounded good, but—ugh! Then someone was so mean to me yesterday, and I just can't forgive them! I know I'm supposed to, but they were wrong, and I was right!

Caterpillar 3: Man, I can't believe flight school, they scammed me out of so much money! Flight school told me that this is how I would be able to fly, if I get it all figured out and do all the right things, I could fly myself! But no, it didn't work, and now I'm still where I am *and* I'm broke!

Caterpillar 2: When I was at church, I felt the environment, I felt the people... and it felt good! But then, I went back home, and someone pushed me off the playground, and then mom made the food she knows I don't like and she made me eat it anyway, and then I had to do *another* thing I didn't want to do...ugh! It's like, I was in the environment, I was in that place where I felt good and like I was with God, but then I left, and...how can I be with Jesus if I'm not in an environment of Jesus?

Caterpillar 4: I was reading my Bible the other day, and you know, there is this really beautiful part where Jesus tells us we need to love our neighbors – but my neighbors are mean! They kicked dirt in my face, and then I had to clean myself off, and I was so upset.

Caterpillar 1: I know! And I can't stop thinking about it! I try, but it's like I'm all wrapped up in it – they were so wrong, and really hurt my feelings, and I just keep thinking, “What can I do to get back at them?” Because they deserve it! Make them feel bad like they made me feel bad!

Caterpillar 3: Even when I go to sleep, I go to bed and I'm just thinking about it, how wrong it was and how much they hurt me.

Caterpillar 2: I know, and when I wake up, it only takes 5 seconds and then I remember!

Caterpillar 1: Sometimes I pretend to be nice to them, because that's what I'm supposed to do, I'm supposed to be nice, and I don't want to get in trouble, but in my head I can't let it go. It's just so not cool.

(Enter butterflies.)

Butterfly 1: You guys are getting all wound up, all tangled up, in the wroooong cocoon! That's not the environment you want to go into, that's not what you want to wrap up in! Right?

Caterpillar 2: But I can't help it...

Caterpillar 4: Yeah, it doesn't matter how much scripture I know, it just keeps reminding me that I'm not good enough.

Butterfly 2: You need to wrap up in Jesus and His death and all that He did on the cross. He will set you free from anger and unforgiveness because He already died on the Cross to put our old selfish life away!

Caterpillar 3: But how can I do that...?

Butterfly 3: Your heart has to make a decision, and when it does, you're not going to have to do it on your own – the *Holy Spirit* is going to overshadow you, and start making an environment of *Jesus* inside of you. He is going to start filling you up with this one purpose: so Jesus can grow. So when you say “Yes” with your heart, the Holy Spirit comes and starts lifting up Jesus instead of all those yucky things that your unforgiveness wants to lift up.

Butterfly 2: How does *that* sound? One yes at a time with the Holy Spirit, and you're going to start weaving your cocoon.

(One by one, the Caterpillars get up, step forward, and pray from their hearts)

Caterpillar 1: You know, I'm having a hard time not thinking about it, Lord. But my heart is saying yes to you. I don't want this dirt cocoon anymore, I don't want this to be my environment anymore, I want you to be my environment.

Caterpillar 3: I'm still dealing with all these bills from flight school that didn't work, and I just feel so angry that I got stolen from, but Lord, I don't want to be angry like that anymore, I don't know how, but in my heart I am choosing you and I want you to be what I'm wrapped up in instead of all this anger.

Caterpillar 2: I see other people and I see them doing wrong and it makes me look at them and I think, "I know what to do, I'm better than them, I'm right." But... it doesn't make me feel any better, and in the end I end up doing the same thing they do, because I make a mistake later... And I want your Life to be in me, Jesus, so that when I look at other people I know that I can forgive them, and not focus on me being better, but Jesus' heart for them.

Caterpillar 4: You know, I've read His Word, and I know a lot, but... I just haven't been able to let it get in my heart, because I haven't been able to get it out of my head. I think maybe I need to let it go in my heart. And let Him change me. Instead of trying to change myself.

(Heart Person comes in and shares with the kids and the caterpillars about being filled with the Holy Spirit)

(After this time about the Holy Spirit is finished, Heart Person can tell the caterpillars that now by the Spirit they will be able to get in their cocoons. Ad lib: the caterpillars are excited, and the Holy Spirit and the butterflies help them get in.)

(Once in the cocoons, the caterpillars begin singing in faith the "Cocoon Song".)

*****END FIRST PART OF DRAMA – KIDS WILL DO OTHER THINGS ON THIS DAY AND THEN RETURN LATER FOR THE SECOND HALF*****

(Enter Heart Person and Shepherd.)

Heart Person: Hello, kids! So, our caterpillars are still in their cocoons. It might seem like they will never come out! I bet sometimes they even feel like they will never lose their caterpillar ways and grow their Jesus Wings! We must not look with our eyes! We must see with God's eyes that Jesus is in them and He is growing!

Shepherd: That's right! Everyone put on your heavenly Father's eyes!

*(Shepherd puts on his glasses and each child puts on the Father's Eyes glasses they made the day before. Then they all look into the cocoons with their glasses and see Jesus growing within. They lay hands on the cocoons and pray for Christ to be formed in each one, reciting the verses of from **Galatians 4:19, "My children, I really, really want Jesus to be formed in you."**)*

Shepherd: There, that's the truth, right there! I see Jesus is growing in each one of those caterpillars.

(Enter Father Abraham (Abel) wearing ridiculous large glasses.)

Father Abraham: Hello there! My name is Father Abraham. I bet you're wondering why I'm wearing these funny glasses! Well, you see, these are my Father's eyes. If I take them off and look at these caterpillars in their cocoons, things look pretty ugly. I see little brown sacks, and caterpillars who can never stop being selfish and self-centered. But that is not what their Heavenly Father sees! He sees four caterpillars who have stopped trying to be good in their own strength and are embracing Jesus and His Cross Jesus and are spending their time looking at Him. And you know what else? The Father sees Jesus growing inside those caterpillars even when they don't see it or feel it! And so, we must put on our Father's eyes when

we are dealing with our brothers and sisters in Christ, otherwise we might miss something beautiful, and something very important to the Father! It doesn't matter what people look like to us; it matters what they look like to their heavenly Father. So, I'm going to put on my Father's eyes, and I'm going to pray for them what Paul prayed in the Bible for some caterpillars he knew: "My children, I really, really want Jesus to grow in you" (Galatians 4:19). Jesus, please grow in these caterpillars while they are in their cocoons. They are wrapped up in their death with you, Jesus, and they are praying our memory verse from yesterday while they're in there: He must get bigger and I must get smaller (John 3:30)! And we say yes to that too, Jesus. We want you to get bigger and us to get smaller. In Jesus' name, amen.

(The caterpillars (still in their cocoons) take their places on the ground for the "Awake O Zion" song finale.)

(Butterflies and Holy Spirit fly over cocoons to "AWAKE O ZION")

For Awake O Zion:

0:00-0:50 – Two times "Awake" sung through – Caterpillars are curled up on floor, not moving, with butterflies flying over them

0:50-1:09 – First "shake thyself" – Caterpillars begin waking up and moving slightly

1:09-1:35 – First "loose thyself" – Caterpillars really start moving, distinct movements within the cocoon, getting up to knees, squirming

1:35-2:10 – Instrumental – Caterpillars movements are more dramatic, they get to their feet, they get out of their cocoons and see their wings by the end of the instrumental

2:10-end – Butterflies are showing them how to use their wings, and they take beautiful flight!

(after song ends)

New Butterfly 1: Praise God! Jesus has given us His wings! I could never make myself loving the way Jesus is. I always found myself being selfish, but Jesus and His Cross is real, and now He is my life. I

can feel His heart in me wanting to love people, and forgive people, and be patient with people. But it is Christ in me, not me! Christ in us really is our hope of glory! (Colossians 1:27)

New Butterfly 2: Yeah! Before, I was stuck in the earth, always fighting for my way or what I wanted, always putting myself first, and always thinking I knew best, but now, Jesus in me lifts me right up out of the self-centered earth and into His loving nature. The life of Jesus in me has made me free from crawling in selfishness! (Romans 8:2)

New Butterfly 4: Letting Jesus live through me IS what it means to have wings! I'm brand new! The Bible says, "If anyone is in Christ they are a new creature. The old things are gone, and look! All things have become new because Jesus is REALLY LIVING IN ME!" (II Corinthians 5:17)

New Butterfly 3: Jesus' life is changing me from the inside out! I am crucified with Christ and now His Life lives in me! And you know what? The KIND of Life that fills me now is LAMB life...a life of selfless giving and sacrificial love!

(All the butterflies fly around the room, flying around the kids, singing "Hallelujah, Your Life Gives Me Wings")