Date: 2/20/2016

Title: Butterfly or Caterpillar

Theme: Only God can change us from sinners to saints.

Object: Picture of Monarch butterfly and caterpillar

Text: 2 Cor 5:17 (NKJV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

God is amazing! God can do great things!

The more we learn about the things God has created, the more we can appreciate how great God is.

There are many beautiful and amazing things that God has made, but the one I want to tell you about today is the butterfly.

After pot luck today, we’re going to watch a DVD about butterflies. It’s really good. Don’t miss it!

So for the children’s sermon, I want to tell you about butterflies and how they change.

Here’s a picture of a Monarch Butterfly. Isn’t it beautiful? [Describe]

But look how the butterfly starts out.

Here’s a picture of the Monarch butterfly caterpillar. Isn’t it ugly? [Describe]

So how does this ugly caterpillar turn into this beautiful butterfly?

It does so by following the instructions that God placed in its genetic code.

The caterpillar forms a chrysalis in which it breaks down into an organic soup of different molecules.

Then the genetic code uses these molecules and reassembles them into a completely different insect.

And out of the chrysalis comes this beautiful butterfly.

It has beautiful wings and big long legs. It has the muscle structure that allows it to fly. It has compound eyes that can see really well, antennae to smell with, and a big long straw to suck nectar out of flowers.

It’s totally different than the ugly caterpillar it started out as.

This wonderful change reminds me of what the apostle Paul wrote in the Bible. [Read again]

When we accept Jesus as our Savior, He changes us from an ugly caterpillar to a beautiful butterfly.

The Bible says that we have all disobeyed God; we have broken His commandments; we have sinned.

Maybe you disobeyed your parents; maybe you told a lie; maybe you took something that didn’t belong to you; maybe you called somebody names or made fun of them; maybe you watched TV on Sabbath instead of coming to church…

And when we sin, this is what we look like to God: a big fat ugly caterpillar.

But here’s the good news: we don’t have to stay fat ugly caterpillars.

We can become beautiful butterflies that fly up to heaven.

And how do we become these new creations? Listen again to the Bible:

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”

Where do we need to be? In Christ.

That means that we need to love Jesus and ask Him to forgive us of our sins.

You know He died for our sins, right? He took our punishment on the cross.

So when we believe in Him and ask Him to forgive us, He can and He does.

And when God forgives us, He sees us as a beautiful butterfly, not as an ugly caterpillar.

Which would you rather be? Let’s ask Jesus to come into our hearts and make us beautiful butterflies that will fly to heaven when Jesus comes.