

PIONEER CLUBS'

THEME VERSE 2022-2023

2 Corinthians 5:17

Decorations

Make a caterpillar by using 7-8 green paper plates (or balloons) and one red paper plate (or balloon) as the head. Add eyes and a mouth to the red paper plate. Make sure the plates (or balloons) are all the same size. Add to a wall or bulletin board.

Cut out butterfly or dragonfly shapes and hang from the ceiling using fishing wire and magnets or binder clips.

Activities

Butterfly Walk

Take a walk outside and look for butterflies. Consider bringing a butterfly net or a book about butterflies to help you catch, identify, and release the butterflies you find. Search for similar creatures as well, such as dragonflies.

Supplies:

- Books about butterflies
- Butterfly net

Butterfly & Dragonfly Science

Discover the life stages of a butterfly and/or dragonfly. Consider checking out books from the library on this topic, or showing a video. Be sure to check the content before sharing with kids.

Emphasize these stages in a butterfly's life.

- Egg—Very tiny, about the size of a pinhead. Mother lays the eggs on leaves.
- Caterpillar—Eats leaves. Grows to be about 100x the size it was as an egg. Sheds skin about 4-5 times as it grows larger.
- Pupa/Chrysalis—Hardened case forms around the caterpillar, which hangs from a twig or protected part of the plant. Inside the case, the pupa transforms into a butterfly over the course of a few weeks to months (depending on the species).
- Adult Butterfly—After its transformation inside the chrysalis is complete, it breaks through the case. Once the wings are strong enough, it flies away to land on flowers and lay eggs.

Raise Butterflies

Purchase a butterfly garden kit. Follow the instructions to raise caterpillars and watch them transform into butterflies over time.

Note: This may be a great activity to save for the spring as you end the club year.

Supplies:

- Butterfly garden kit

Recycle—From Old to New

Make a work of art by using stuff you would normally throw away. Be creative with things such as bottle caps, old puzzle pieces, milk jugs, and boxes.

Supplies:

- Glue
- Miscellaneous recyclable materials

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Crafts

Coffee Filter Butterfly

Pass out two coffee filters to each kid. These will become the wings of the butterfly. Encourage kids not to get the coffee filters too wet or draw too hard on them so that they do not rip apart.

If using water color paints, pass out paints, small cups filled about 1/2 full with water, and small paintbrushes. Let kids paint on the coffee filters.

If using markers, pass out markers and let kids draw on their coffee filters. When they are done, they can use a spray bottle filled with water to lightly spray the coffee filters so the colors come together. *Option:* Place the coffee filters on towels to help them dry faster and make clean-up easier.

While the coffee filters are drying, give kids a toilet paper roll and a 6-foot (2 m) length of green crepe paper. This will turn into the chrysalis. Use a piece of tape to secure one end of the crepe paper. Then wrap the tube using the crepe paper until it is entirely green. Cover one end of the tube as well. Either tape the end down, or tuck it into a wrapped section.

Pass out clothespins and markers. Let kids draw a face for the head of the butterfly. *Optional:* Draw the rest of the body, too.

Once the coffee filters are dry, fold them both in half. The top wings should have the flat/folded edge at the top. The bottom wings should have the flat/folded

edge at the bottom. Pinch the centers together, and hold with the clothespin decorated as the butterfly's body. Kids may place the butterfly inside its chrysalis.

Supplies:

- Cardboard tubes (1 per child)
- Clothespins
- Coffee filters (2 per child)
- Markers
- Water color paint, paintbrushes, cups, water OR markers and spray bottles filled with water
- *Optional:* Towels

Cardboard Roll Butterfly

Ahead of time, cut cardboard tubes into 1-inch rings. A toilet paper tube will make about 4 rings. A paper towel roll will make about 8 rings.

Pass out 4 rings to each kid. Have kids pinch the rings so they are in the shape of an eye. Pass out paint and paintbrushes. Let kids paint the rings. These will become the wings of the butterflies.

Pass out one pipe cleaner to each kid. Fold the pipe cleaner in half. Twist together, but leave the ends open. Curl the ends. The twisted section will be the body of the butterfly, and the curled ends will be the antennae.

Once the paint is dry, glue the pipe cleaner and cardboard rings together—two rings on the left of the pipe cleaner, and two rings on the right.

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Supplies:

- Paintbrushes
- Pipe cleaners (1 per child)
- Scissors
- Toilet paper tubes (1 per child) or paper towel tubes (1 per 2 children)
- Washable paint

Bow Tie Pasta Butterfly

Pass out markers and at least 4-5 piece of bow tie pasta to each kid. Each piece of pasta will become a butterfly. Kids will color the pasta to decorate the butterfly's wings.

Cut pipe cleaners or string into 3-inch (7 cm) pieces. Wrap around the center of each butterfly, and tie a simple knot at the top. Trim the pipe cleaners or string to create the antennae and make it look proportional to the size of the butterfly.

Pass out cardstock and glue. Kids will glue the butterflies on the page, and may draw a field, flowers, etc. Encourage kids to also write the memory verse, 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Supplies:

- Bow tie pasta (1 box per 20 kids)
- Cardstock
- Coloring supplies
- Glue
- Markers
- Pipe cleaners or string
- Scissors

Sponge Printed Butterfly

Give each kid a rectangular sponge and a rubber band. Wrap the rubber band around the center of the widest side of the sponge. The center should be much narrower than the outer edges.

Pass out paint and paintbrushes. Kids will paint a design for the wings of butterfly on their sponge. When they are ready, they will flip the sponge over and use it as a stamp onto cardstock paper. Be sure to write their name on the paper. Then they can paint or use a marker to draw on the body and antennae of the butterfly.

Supplies:

- Cardstock
- Markers
- Paintbrushes
- Rubber bands
- Sponges
- Washable paint

Songs

Sing songs about salvation and our identity in Christ as believers.

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Devotional

Pass out an index card and pencil to each kid. Have kids write at least three words or phrases that describe their identity. Ideas may include roles such as daughter or brother, attributes such as hair color, character qualities, skills, etc. Younger kids may choose to draw these ideas instead of write them. Encourage kids to think about the most important things about them that make up who they are.

Have kids share their ideas in smaller groups, and then have 2-3 kids share with the whole group.

You are all so wonderfully made by God! In Genesis 1:27, the Bible says that people were made in God's image. That means that each and every person has value and purpose, no matter how old or young they are, what they look like, or where they come from.

But sadly, the Bible says that the first people who lived on earth, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God's one rule for them. They sinned against God. And that sin has been passed down to each and every person. All people, except for Jesus, have sinned. Read Romans 3:23.

In fact, this is what Jesus said to his followers. Read Matthew 15:19. **Because of the effect of sin, we do not love God with our whole heart, mind, and strength. Our sinful hearts lead us to do sinful actions.**

Draw a stick figure on the left side of the board.

Above the figure, write the phrase, "Old Life."

- **Can you name some sinful actions?** (Lying; Stealing; Cheating; Gossip; etc.) As kids share ideas, write key words or phrases next to the figure.

So our hearts are sinful. Our actions are sinful. It seems that we could label our identity as "sinner." This seems pretty sad. It's not comforting or exciting. But there is hope that this doesn't have to be where our identity stays.

Let's look back at the transformation that happens in a creature like a butterfly. Moths, dragonflies, and many other insects have fairly similar transformation stages. If you have pictures of these stages, show them as you talk about them.

So first off, a mother butterfly lays an egg. This egg is tiny. The mother places the egg on a leaf, so as soon as it hatches into a caterpillar, it can eat the leaf as food to help it grow. The caterpillar eats and eats. It grows to be 100 times larger than it started. It even sheds its old skin as it grows.

Once it is done growing, it wraps itself in a protective casing and hangs from a branch. While it is in the chrysalis, it is going through a major transformation. This can take from a few months to even a few years! Finally, when it is ready, the chrysalis splits open, and a butterfly emerges. It builds up its strength, flaps its wings, and flies off. This is the stage in the butterfly's life when we see it flying near flowers and other plants.

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This is similar to the transformation that God works in us through salvation. Read Ezekiel 36:26-27. **God gives us a new heart.**

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. **We have an old self—one that was controlled by our sinful hearts. If we have trusted Jesus as our Savior, we have a new heart—one that is controlled by a desire to know and love God.** Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. **The love of Christ changes our hearts. Our changed hearts change our actions and behaviors.** Read Colossians 3:12-14.

Our relationship with Christ gives us a new identity. We are a "new creation" in Christ. Draw a second stick figure on the right side of the board. Above the figure, write the words "New Life." Let's look up some more verses that describe our new identity in Christ. Pass out slips of paper with verse references on them, one verse per kid. You may want to choose stronger readers or older kids. As you discuss each idea, write a key word or phrase next to the stick figure.

- Galatians 3:26—sons of God
- 1 John 5:11-12—have life
- Galatians 3:28—we are one (united by what we have in common—one Lord, one Savior, one way to be saved, etc.)
- Romans 8:2—we are free
- Ephesians 1:11—we will receive an inheritance one day
- Ephesians 1:3—we are blessed
- 1 Corinthians 1:2—we are holy (set apart)
- Romans 3:24—redeemed

Pass out a second notecard to each kid. At the top of the notecard, have kids write the phrase, "In Christ, I am . . ." Beneath this phrase, have kids write down some words that describe their new identity in Christ. Ask them to write the verse references as well. Then let them color or decorate it. They can use it as a bookmark for their Bible or handbook during club this year.

Supplies:

- Bible
- Coloring supplies
- Dry erase board
- Dry erase marker
- Notecards (2 per kid)
- Pencils

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Bible Memory

Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17. Write the verse on a dry erase board where kids can see it. Draw or tape a picture of a butterfly to a ball. (If taping, make sure all edges of the paper are taped down to avoid paper cuts.) Kids will pass the ball around the circle, saying the next word in the verse as they hold the ball. Each time the verse is said, add an extra word each kid must say before passing the ball. Continue until kids are saying the entire verse before passing the ball to the next player.

Supplies:

- Ball
- Bible

Games

Human-Sized Chrysalis

Divide kids into teams with 3-4 kids on each team. Give each team a roll of toilet paper. Each team will choose one player on their team to be their caterpillar. The rest of the team will wrap their caterpillar in their chrysalis using the toilet paper. Caution kids not to wrap the toilet paper too tight, and to make sure not to cover noses and mouths so their teammate can still breathe. See how quickly each team can completely cover their caterpillar. Rate which team was the most successful. Then let the caterpillar break free of their chrysalis as a butterfly!

Supplies:

- Toilet paper (1 roll per team)

Caterpillar Relay

Divide kids into teams. Have each team stand in a single file line behind the starting line. Place cones at the other end of the playing area, directly opposite each team. Place a sheet or blanket next to each cone.

One at a time, kids crawl like a caterpillar to their team's cone. Then they will wrap themselves in the sheet or blanket as their "chrysalis," count to 5, remove the sheet or blanket, and flap their wings as a butterfly or dragonfly as they run back to tag the next player on their team. The team to have each player complete the relay first, wins.

Supplies:

- Cones (1 per team)
- Sheet or blanket (1 per team)

Old vs. New

Ahead of time, write "Old" on one sheet of paper. Write "New" on another sheet of paper. Tape these on opposite walls in the playing area.

Show kids the item or picture of the item. Kids will have to decide if it is old or new. If they believe it is old, they will run to the wall with the sign that says, "Old." If they believe that it is new, they will run to the wall with the sign that says, "New."

Supplies:

- Marker
- Paper (2 sheets)
- Pictures of items or physical items that are brand new
- Pictures of items or physical items that are old or used

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Chrysalis Relay

Ahead of time, cut twine or brown yarn into 3-foot (1 m) pieces. Tape one end to a wide wooden popsicle stick. Make one for each team. Option: Draw a picture of a caterpillar on each popsicle stick.

Divide kids into teams. Kids will take turns putting their caterpillar (popsicle stick) into a chrysalis by wrapping the entire length of twine or yarn tightly around the popsicle stick. Then kids will remove the chrysalis, before passing it on the next person on their team to repeat. The first team to have all players finish, wins.

Supplies:

- Measuring stick or ruler
- Scissors
- Tape
- Twine or brown yarn
- Wide wooden popsicle sticks
- *Optional:* Markers

Snacks

Butterfly Bags

Give kids a clothespin and marker. Let them draw a face on the clothespin. Kids can fill their sandwich bag with two different snack options. Seal bag closed. Twist in the center twice. Place clothespin on twist to hold.

Supplies:

- Clothespin (1 per child)
- Markers
- Snacks of choice (2 kinds or more such as dried fruits, small crackers, etc.)
- Ziptop sandwich bag (1 per child)

Banana Butterflies

Ahead of time, remove peels and cut bananas in half. Place each banana half on a plate. Also cut apples into thin slices. Cut slices in half.

Give kids each a banana half and two pretzels. Kids will place the pretzels into the banana as the "wings" of the butterfly. Pass out dried cranberries or raisins. Kids will add these as the eyes (and may also add a mouth) on the banana. Pass out two apple slices per child. Kids will place these at the top of the banana to become the antennae.

Supplies:

- Apples (1 per 10 children)
- Bananas (1 per 2 children)
- Dried cranberries or raisins
- Knife
- Plates
- Pretzels (2 per child)



