

# The Butterfly

## Theme

There is new life in Christ Jesus.

## Object

A butterfly. If you can't find a real one, you can find an artificial one at a hobby shop or make one. (see the link the bottom of this sermon)

## Scripture

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." John 3:3 (NIV)

One night a man named Nicodemus came to talk to Jesus. As Jesus was talking to him, he said something that Nicodemus didn't understand. He told Nicodemus, "No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." Nicodemus was really puzzled by what Jesus said. He just couldn't understand how someone could be born again. To this day, a lot of people still have trouble understanding how that can be possible.

This morning I have brought something that might help us to understand what Jesus meant. I have brought a butterfly. Just look at my butterfly! Isn't it beautiful? I think the butterfly is one of the most beautiful things that God has ever created, but it wasn't always so beautiful.

As you probably know, the butterfly started out as a fuzzy little caterpillar. Now some people may think caterpillars are cute, some may think that they are funny, but probably no one would say that they are beautiful. A caterpillar is a worm -- and worms are not beautiful! Then, one day the caterpillar spins a cocoon about himself and stays there for several weeks. When it comes out, it is no longer a caterpillar, it has been miraculously changed into a beautiful butterfly.

God didn't just take a caterpillar and stick some wings on him and paint the wings all different colors. When the cocoon opens and the butterfly crawls out, it is a new creation. The caterpillar is gone! It has now become a butterfly.

That is a good picture of what Jesus meant when he said we had to be "born again." The Bible says, "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" When we invite Jesus to come into our heart, we become a new creation. God doesn't just clean us up and slap on a little paint, he makes us into a new person. Would you rather be, a worm or a butterfly? Jesus will make you into a new creation if you will invite him into your heart.

Dear Lord, we thank you for sending Jesus to die on the cross so that we, like the butterfly, can become a new creation. We ask you to change us and to make us beautiful. Amen.



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Sermon Title: "Born Again!" and "The Butterfly"

Scripture Reading: John 3:1-17

### CATERPILLAR CRAWL:

Run a relay with two teams with children crawling like a squiggly caterpillar. If time allows and if there is grass or clean carpet, let children crawl like caterpillars back to their classroom area!!

### BUTTERFLY MUSICAL CHAIRS:

Chairs can be placed around the room in no certain pattern. Tell children to run with arms out and waving like butterflies while the music plays and when the music stops, the "butterflies" must find a chair. There should always be one less chair than there are children! Continue the game as time allows.

### OLD AND NEW CREATIONS:

Divide the class up into two teams. At the teacher's whistle to begin, Team 1 will run to the OLD CLOTHES PILE to put on all the old clothes in the pile. Team 2 will run to the NEW CLOTHES PILE and quickly put on all the new clothes and see which team gets all the clothes on first. While children sit in a circle with these clothes on, let the teacher tell today's Bible story.

### NEW CREATIONS:

Give children a large piece of paper to draw themselves in the colors and clothes that they are wearing today. Write I AM A NEW CREATION on the shirts or socks or at the top of the paper. Give children some buttons or ribbons or sequins to glue on to their creation picture.

### TISSUE BUTTERFLY:

Give children a large tracing of a butterfly for the child to cut out and then take various colors of tissue paper for children to make into tiny "wads" to glue on to the butterfly to decorate. Save an open area on both butterfly wings to write NEW LIFE IN JESUS, etc. (Fewer tissue paper "wads" will be needed if the teacher just encourages the children to use the tissue paper around the outside edges of the butterfly.)

### BUTTERFLY MOBILE:

Let children draw, cut out and color large butterflies. Write NEW LIFE IN JESUS or other ideas from our lesson today about NEW CREATIONS. Hang the butterflies from a hoop that has been wrapped with tissue paper and hang from a tree outside the classroom or in their own front yards. The teacher can have pieces of construction paper cut in various shapes for the children to glue onto their butterflies.

### CATERPILLAR CRAWLER:

Provide children with a piece of ribbon and some tiny fuzzy craft balls (about 5 for each child) to glue onto the ribbon. Children will enjoy having a longer piece of ribbon so they can pull the caterpillar across the table or floor. After the caterpillars are completed, let children "crawl" their caterpillar across the room to a piece of paper that has butterfly stickers on it (prepared ahead of time by the teacher), and tape their

caterpillar to that paper. One sheet of paper for each child with a butterfly sticker or more on each one.  
Write NEW LIFE IN CHRIST, or NEW CREATION, etc on the Butterfly sheet.

### BORN AGAIN CREATION:

Let children color a large cross on a piece of paper and use different colors to write YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN (each word a different color). Let children draw butterflies around the picture or use butterfly stickers. For older children, suggest that they put each word in a small outline of a butterfly and trace the butterfly with different colored markers.

### BUTTERFLY SNACKS:

Give each child an empty toilet paper roll and a piece of construction paper that will roll around the tp roll just once. Let them add butterfly stickers to the paper and tape to the roll. Give small snacks for the children to put into their "snack roll" and as they share a snack with someone after class, encourage children to tell about being a NEW CREATION IN JESUS!

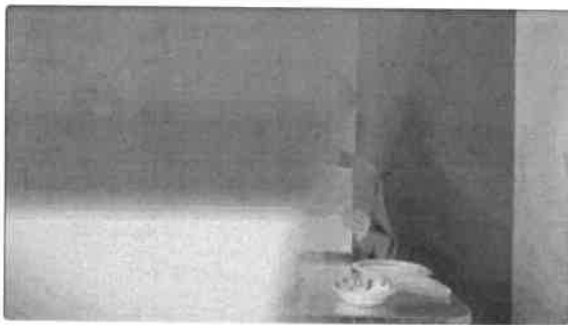
Song: "Ye Must Be Born Again

"

Words and Music (pdf)

MP3 Accompaniment Track (right click to save to your computer)

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## Animated Bible Lessons

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**Jesus and Nicodemus**  
*John 3*

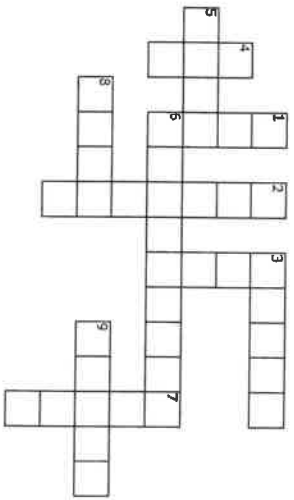
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# Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS**
1. To be brought into life by birth
  2. A person who instructs or trains others
  3. A clear, colorless liquid; H<sub>2</sub>O
  4. To observe by using your eyes
  5. To receive sounds with your ears
  6. A Pharisee who went to Jesus at night
  7. Something that can be heard
  8. The period from birth until death
  9. The real facts about something; not false
- DOWN**
1. To be brought into life by birth
  2. A person who instructs or trains others
  3. The movement of air outside
  4. To observe by using your eyes
  5. To receive sounds with your ears
  6. A Pharisee who went to Jesus at night
  7. Something that can be heard
  8. The period from birth until death
  9. The real facts about something; not false

HEAR	TRUTH	NICODEMUS	WIND	TEACHER
WATER	SOUND	SEE	LIFE	BORN

# BORN AGAIN

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## Children's Worship Bulletin

You Must Be Born Again!

John 3:1-17

### Word Search Puzzle

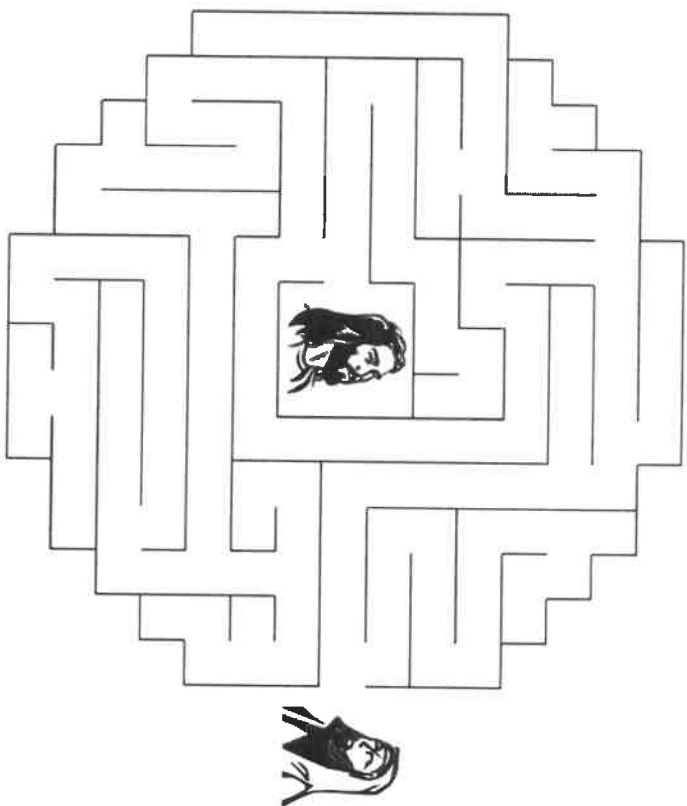
U J O W H I D P E K A V N D Z  
G K U T D L O V E D S N I T D  
E N R R I B V A T C A A C E Z  
T I F F N S A G R A H Y O A G  
B D T L K H D A U B T L D C M  
V H J G E I D I T V V W E H H  
N K Q Y D S N N H Y G P M E M  
B V N L H F H G B D S N U R H  
B O R N O Q M R D R J L S S R  
M O F S O N A Q C O A P I A A  
W A T E R P N H H N M W J M B  
F X S L I F E I R G E H C O B  
J P H A R I S E E J S T I M I  
M J E S U S T N I G H T I W B  
F A I C Y E S P I R I T K P G

BIRTH	TRUTH	SPIRIT	NIGHT	JEWISH
PHARISEE	AGAIN	ETERNAL	MAN	RABBI
BORN	WORLD	KINGDOM	NICODEMUS	FLESH
JESUS	LOVED	TEACHER	LIFE	WATER

Your Church Name Here  
Anytown, USA

# Maze Puzzle

Can you help Nicodemus find his way to Jesus?



In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."  
John 3:3 (NIV)



# Coloring Page



Jesus and Nicodemus  
John 3

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