



If a Butterfly Dies

While we hope all of our caterpillars turn into a chrysalises and the chrysalises transforms into a butterflies, this doesn't always happen. If he/she doesn't survive, this is an opportunity at a very basic level to talk about: 1) what living things need, and 2) that death is a natural part of life.

It may seem silly to adults but having a simplified memorial can help children learn that we can be thankful for all living creatures and say goodbye. This is a healthy practice to begin building as they grow and will experience death again in their lives.

Your family may already have a ritual related to when a small pet dies that you prefer to use, if not here are some steps to consider:

- Handle the butterfly with care.
- Decide what simple/biodegradable wrapping you would like to bury them in, tissue or thin cardboard container. If you use a paper roll or box children can decorate it with markers beforehand.
- Place them in the wrapping.
- Take them outside and dig a hole in the ground off to the side of any traffic areas/paths.
- Remind the child that God cares for all the animals God created and read a verse or passage from scripture. Psalms 36:6, Psalm 50:10-11, Job 12:7-10
- Let anyone who would like to, share something they appreciated/liked about the pet.
- Lay the pet in the hole and let everyone place a little of the dirt on top. Finish covering it and pat the dirt gently.
- Close by saying a prayer, thanking God for all of God's creatures, especially this one and how it was a part of your lives.