

Parents Instructions: This is a 2 week project. Coloring the butterfly is the first week; glittering the butterfly is the second week.

You will need:

- **primary colors food colors (red blue yellow) mixed with water: bowl of green, blue, purple, orange, yellow**
- **the felt butterfly**
- **the dropper and a bowl of clear water**
- **paper plate and paper towels**

Please note: The story in the first week ends with Jesus death, but remind them that Easter is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, and the story will continue next Sunday. If your child is at all concerned- read the 7th story for them. The glittering has to happen on a dry butterfly, and you can read it again to them the following week when you of the glittering. Do not leave them wondering what happened. Our goal is to use this craft to share the good news- not create a cliff-hanger.

Week 1: For Sunday, March 29th

- *Place the butterfly on a paper plate with paper towels underneath it.*
- *give the kids their dropper and a small bowl of water to clean their dropper in between colors.*
- *Have the kids settle in at a workspace. Tell them that they will be listening to the story of Jesus last days, and making the butterfly with colors that are part of the story- one color for each story.*
- *Put out the first color and while they are working, read the story. Let them finish with the color in quiet after you read. When they are done, take away that color and put the next out.*
- *Do this until you get to the 6th story. Then put away all colors and ask them to close their eyes while you read. When you are finished, you can ask them if they have any questions. You can tell them that this is not the end of the story. Jesus dies on the cross, but the miracle of Easter is that he was resurrected and filled the world with God's love.*
- *Tell them that you will put the butterfly aside to dry. As it dries, the colors should fade. That is NOT a problem. Please take a picture of them with their butterfly before it dries, and then when it is dried. The following Sunday you will read the 7th story and do the glittering of the butterfly and the colors will re-emerge on the butterfly.*

Week 2: For Sunday, April 5th (Palm Sunday)

- Look at the butterfly. It should be pale. Explain that Jesus' friends were so sad and worried when he died. You will be telling them the story of what happened next, while they spread the glitter on the butterfly.
- it should take two sticks of glitter glue to cover the butterfly. It doesn't matter what color they use. Squeeze the glue out and have them spread it with the foam brush while you read the 7th Story.
- Wonder with them at how beautiful the butterfly is- and how wonderful it is to see that it is even more beautiful than it was before. Share your feelings about the beauty of the Risen Christ and how he brings love deeply and fully into our lives. Please take pictures and share them with us!

First Story

Jesus enters Jerusalem like a King

Add the Green for palm branches the people cut and spread on the road to welcome Jesus...

(then read Matthew 21:1-11 (NRSV))

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately.[a]" This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd[b] spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David! He is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Second Story

The Greatest Commandment

Add the Blue to remind us of the sky as Jesus gathered crowds and spoke to them outside, teaching all who would come and listen...

(then read Matthew 22: 34-39 (NRSV))

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

Third Story

A woman does something special for Jesus

Add the Purple for the royal anointing she did

(then read Matthew 26:6-12 (NRSV))

Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, "Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor." But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial.

Fourth Story

The Lord's Supper

Add the Orange to represent grain in the bread served at the supper...

(then read Matthew 26:26-30 (NRSV))

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Fifth Story

The soldiers make fun of Jesus

Add the yellow.

The yellow represents the crown of thorns and the strips of purple represent the robe the soldiers put on him...

(then read Matthew 27:27-31 (NRSV))

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Sixth Story

Jesus died on the cross and was placed in the tomb:

Close eyes as we read this part of the story

(then read Matthew 27:57-61, 62-66 (NRSV))

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Stop Here and Wait a Week

Seventh Story

The Resurrection of Jesus

Spread the glitter and see the beauty of the resurrection...

(then read Matthew 28:1-10 (NRSV))

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly

there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he[a] lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

How does the symbol of the butterfly help us to remember Jesus resurrection? How do you feel Jesus' love?