



Creation Lens

Exploring the World, Discovering God

Grade Level: Pre-Kindergarten

Title:

From Winter to Spring & From Lent to Easter

Denomination: Catholic

Lesson ID: ES-GPREK-01-CA

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Note: Web sites referenced in this lesson were valid at time of publication.

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EARTH SCIENCE – GRADE PRE-K - CATHOLIC
LESSON TITLE: From Winter to Spring & From Lent to Easter

SCIENCE LESSON CONCEPT

- From the harsh coldness of winter, spring brings new life

GOAL OF SCIENCE LESSON

- Students will learn that spring brings signs of renewal and new life.

OUTCOME EXPECTED

- Students will be able to tell that in spring the plants begin to grow and show signs of new life.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Small plastic cups – 1 per student
- Bag of potting soil

RELIGION LESSON CONCEPT

- From the somberness of Lent, Easter brings new life

GOAL OF RELIGION LESSON

- Students will learn that Easter brings renewal and new life.

OUTCOME EXPECTED

- Students will know the story of Jesus' Resurrection and bringing us new life.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Children's Bible – story of the Resurrection
- DVD or video for PreK children on the Easter Story

- Beans or seeds – 1 or 2 per child
- Plastic bags that can zip close – 1 per child
- Pictures of winter: snow scenes and barren trees
- Pictures of spring: budding trees, flowers, grass
- Pitcher of water
- Sunny window ledge or table by the window
- Labels with each student's name
- Plant growth chart – one space for each day

- Small butterfly pattern copied on paper – 1 per student
- 1 fairly large wooden cross that you can stand in a small pail or bucket
- Rocks to hold the wooden cross
- Prayer table
- Purple cloth to drape the cross
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- White cloth to drape the cross
- Crayons

OPTION 2 FOR BUTTERFLIES

- Clothespins – not spring type – 1 per student
- Coffee filter
- Crayons, markers or paints
- Chenille pipe cleaners for antenna – 1 per student

SCIENCE METHODOLOGY

- **SHOW** the students the pictures of winter.
- **ASK:** What season of the year is it? (winter)
- **ASK:** How can you tell? (snow, no leaves, no flowers, etc.)
- **SAY:** After winter comes another season. We call that season, spring.
- **ASK:** What is spring like? (warmer, grass begins to grow, leaves bud on the trees, flowers begin to grow, more sunshine, days are longer)
- **SHOW** the students the spring pictures.
- **ASK:** What signs of new life can you see in the pictures?
- **SAY:** We are going to do some springtime work. I am going to give each of you a plastic cup. (Give out cups.) When I call your name, please come to the table and I will help you fill your plastic cup with soil.
- **ASK:** Who knows what soil is? (dirt good for growing things)
- **CALL** the student's name and help that student fill the cup about $\frac{3}{4}$ full of soil. Student then returns to their place with their cup.

RELIGION METHODOLOGY

- **SAY:** You remember from our science class that we planted seeds and after a while they began to grow. We have a winter season in our church called Lent. During Lent our seeds of love for Jesus are planted and watered. Then at Easter, we see our seeds of faith really grow and bloom.
- I am going to read you the Easter Story of Jesus' rising from the dead to New Life. Listen very carefully.
- **READ** from the Children's Bible the Resurrection Story or watch a PreK DVD or video of the Resurrection of Jesus.
- **SAY:** Here is a wooden cross like the one Jesus died on. We are going to put it on our prayer table. (stand the cross up in the pail and put rocks in it to hold it erect)
- **SAY:** We are putting a purple cloth by the cross because that is the color of the season of Lent.
- **SAY:** Remember that spring comes after winter and after Lent comes Easter – new life.

OPTION # 1 - BUTTERFLIES

- **SAY:** One symbol of new life is the butterfly. I am going to give each of you a picture of a butterfly to color.
- **HAND OUT** the butterfly copies and tell the children to color them.

- **SAY:** Our plastic cups look like winter, don't they? (no plants, nothing growing)
- **SAY:** We are going to get spring started by planting some seeds in the soil.
- **HAVE** the students push one finger down in the soil.
- **GIVE** the students 1 or 2 beans or seeds to put in the hole.
- **TELL** the student to cover up the seeds by pushing the soil over the seeds.
- **TAKE** the pitcher of water and add a little water to each planting.
- **HAVE** the student bring the planter to the sunny window ledge and you attach the name label to the planter.
- **SAY:** Winter lasts a long time. We will have to wait to see signs of springtime and new life in our planters. We will check everyday to see if we can see signs of new life.
- **CHECK** the planters every day and water them every 3-4 days. Keep a chart for the students on the progress.
- **RECORD** the progress you can see (none, sprout, stem, leaf)
- **WHEN** all the planters have begun to grow, put each in a plastic bag and send them home.

- **HAVE** the children cut out the butterfly picture.

OPTION # 2 – BUTTERFLIES

- **GIVE** each student a coffee filter and have them use crayons, markers or paints to decorate the butterfly's wings.
- **GIVE** each student a clothespin and have them push the decorated coffee filter up the legs of the clothespin.
- **HAVE** the students wrap the chenille pipe cleaners around the neck of the clothespin and up the back of the head to form the antennae.
- **HAVE** the students draw eyes on the head of the butterfly.

BOTH OPTIONS:

- **COLLECT** the butterflies and put them under the purple cloth.
- **SAY:** The butterflies can not live outside in the winter so we will cover them up with our purple Lenten Cloth. They will have a big surprise for you when you come back to class after Easter Sunday.
- **POSIT:** Spring and Easter and Jesus' rising to new life tell us that we will live in new life in heaven with Jesus.
- **AFTER** the Easter break and before the children come back to class, change the purple cloth to the white one

- **IN A WEEK** ask the student to draw what their plant now looks like.
- **POSIT:** Spring brings signs of new life.

and drape it on the cross. Add glitter or sparkles to the butterflies. Hot glue the children's butterflies on the cross.

- **SEE** if the children notice their butterflies are now uncovered and even more beautiful than before.
- **POSIT:** Just like the butterflies rose to new life, at Easter we rise to new life with Jesus. We are even more beautiful with this new life.

SCIENCE LINKS

www.showmomthemoney.com/four-seasons-preschool-theme-crafts

[Four Seasons Preschool Theme Crafts | Preschool Lesson Plans ...](#) ... 2004-2006 Story Soup **Kids**, a division of Enchanted Corner Four **Seasons** Crafts for **Kids** ... Four **Seasons Preschool** Theme Crafts

www.first-school.ws/theme/seasons.htm

[Seasons Preschool Activities and Crafts](#) **Seasons preschool** printable activities, crafts and lessons plans for preschoolers and kindergarten (ages 2-6) educational activities and lesson plans related to the ...

RELIGIOUS LINKS

www.hopefortheflowers.org

[Hope for the Flowers](#), by Trina Paulus All over the world this parable has brought new **hope**. **Hope For the Flowers** celebrates **HOPE**. My wish for you is that your **hope** is strengthened in these difficult times and ...
A good book to read to the children.

www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/butterfly

[Butterfly and Caterpillar Crafts - Enchanted Learning](#)

[Software](#) **Butterfly and Caterpillar Crafts for kids**.

Kindergarten, **preschool**, and elementary school **crafts**. Make wonderful, simple **crafts** with things found around the house.

www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/insects/butterflies.htm

[Butterfly and Caterpillar Crafts for Kids](#) free printable templates and instructions for insects **crafts** suitable for **preschool**, kindergarten and grade school children.

www.freekidscrafts.com/butterfly_crafts-t92.html

[Free Kids Crafts - Butterfly Crafts](#) Free **kids** craft ideas including free printables, holiday **crafts**, coloring pages and more! ... More **Butterfly Crafts**

www.first-school.ws/THEME/animals/

[insects/butterfly.htm](#) [Butterfly Preschool Activities and Crafts](#)

Butterfly Preschool Activities and **Crafts**: Home > Themes > Animals > Bugs | Insects > **Butterfly** ... * Facts for **Kids** > The Monarch **Butterfly**: Color a **butterfly** online

www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/handprint/butterfly

[Handprint Butterfly Craft - EnchantedLearning.com](#) Handprint

Butterfly Craft for **kids**. Kindergarten, **preschool**, and elementary school **crafts**. Make wonderful, simple **crafts** with things found around the house.



KEY WORDS

- FOUR SEASONS
- WINTER
- SPRING
- CHANGES
- PLANTS
- SIGNS
- SOIL
- SEEDS
- NEW LIFE



KEY WORDS

- BUTTERFLY
- NEW LIFE
- EASTER
- RESURRECTION

KEY WORDS



FOUR SEASONS

WINTER

CHANGES

SPRING

PLANTS

SIGNS

SOIL

SEEDS

NEW LIFE

BUTTERFLY

NEW LIFE

EASTER

RESURRECTION