

BUTTERFLIES AND OLD TIRES

A lesson in planting and harvesting, faith and reward.

Almost nothing is better for children than a butterfly garden. The whole project is as simple as an old tire filled with potting soil and a handful of dill or parsley seed. As soon as the dill or parsley or both are a couple of inches tall add some sort of bright colored flower like zinnia, lantana or best of all Tithonia (mexican sunflower). The flower will attract butterflies, some of them swallowtails which will lay their eggs on the parsley and dill. Keep this instruction sheet someplace safe until you actually see a caterpillar.

From the time you first see a caterpillar you have about two weeks to make a hatchery. The only requirement is a box 1-2 foot square. Cut it on the diagonal. When the caterpillars are 1 ½ - 2 ½ inches long add them and a little parsley, then cover the box with nylon tulle or recycled panty hose. In a week or two you SHOULD have your cocoons. Mist them lightly with water twice a week and in 3-4 more weeks you will have butterflies. If nothing happens in that time collect the cocoons and refrigerate for two weeks before trying again. The whole project is filled with wonder.

The Christian lesson is that once Christ has come into your heart you are a caterpillar, eating scripture and growing. Some days you will feel like you are flying on those promises, other days you will feel like a cocoon filled with caterpillar goo wondering if the promises will ever work for you. Like the caterpillar relax and flow with the process and never forget to eat your scripture.

Lesson One: Life is like gardening. What you plant is what you harvest. Plant faith and harvest God's love.

Lesson Two: Like the caterpillar relax and flow with the process and never forget to eat your scripture.

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