



Children's Story

Cycle A, Easter 2

Too Good to be True

Title: Too Good to be True
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Church: Charleswood Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, MB
Text: John 20: 19 - 31
Theme: God's resurrecting power seems too good to be true, but it really is true.

Gathering Activity:

Warmly invite the children to come forward for the children's time, that part of worship where we help children understand and connect with the worship theme and with God, whom we gather to worship each Sunday. Open the topic by asking them if there are things that really amaze them, because they seem too good to be true.

In today's Scripture reading from John 20, the disciples had a hard time believing that Jesus had really been raised. (*Show them the text in your Bible.*) It made me think of a story about a caterpillar that had a hard time believing he could go to sleep and wake up as a butterfly, but he did. I think it's a story Jesus might have enjoyed telling children when they gathered around him. Let's prepare our hearts to hear the story by imagining ourselves right onto the lap of Jesus, who is famous for good stories and for inviting children onto his lap.

(Once there is a worshipful silence, begin the following story.)

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Story

Fuzzy was a caterpillar. He was very fuzzy and he loved crawling along little branches that led him to juicy leaves he would eat. That's what he did most of the time. Fuzzy was almost always hungry and just loved chewing green things. Now and then, when he had finished eating a really juicy leaf, and a beautiful butterfly would flutter by, he would sigh and think about how beautiful it was. There was something extra special about butterflies.

They were so fluttery and colourful, but when he looked at their bodies and heads, he felt a special attraction, as if they were his cousins or something. Once, when he was very little, a butterfly had hovered near him to show him where the most delicious leaves were. And while he was eating them it told him that one day, he would grow up to be a butterfly, too, and be just as beautiful. He often thought about this story when his tummy was full and he was falling asleep. But he just couldn't believe it. Butterflies were so amazing and he was so ordinary. It seemed too good to be true.

But one day, when he had eaten an extra big leaf and was especially sleepy, he started rolling himself around in something that was coming out of his body. Soon he fell into a delicious, dark sleep. What was happening to Fuzzy?

Yes, he was wrapping himself into a cocoon, and falling into a very deep, long sleep. When he finally woke up he felt very tight in his cocoon, so he started wriggling and flexing his muscles. As he wriggled he noticed something on his sides and back.

The cocoon was cracking and getting looser, so he kept wriggling. Finally it fell off. Fuzzy was tired from the work and slept on the twig to which his cocoon had been attached.

After a while the warm sun and a gentle breeze woke him up. It seemed to be lifting something off of his back. He wriggled some more and looked at himself. Do you know what he saw? Wings! Beautiful wings!

Fuzzy wasn't a fuzzy caterpillar anymore. Fuzzy was a butterfly! When he stopped admiring his wings he looked around and saw another butterfly hovering nearby. It looked like one he had seen before. Maybe it was the one who told him the story. Now it was smiling at him and inviting him to come fly with her. Fuzzy still couldn't believe it.

He was scared, but happy, too. Finally he decided to give it a try. He loosened his grip on the twig just as a breeze picked up and lifted him gently into the sky. He followed the other butterfly and landed next to her on a nearby bush. Fuzzy was so happy, he thought he'd burst. But he didn't, he just flew around. It wasn't too good to be true after all.

Wondering questions:

- I wonder what it is like to be a caterpillar.
- I wonder what it is like to be a butterfly.
- I wonder who that other butterfly was.
- I wonder if Jesus felt like a butterfly after God raised him from the dead.

Prayer

Thank you Jesus, for true things that are too good to be true. Thank you for caterpillars and butterflies and for coming back to life on that first Easter. Amen.