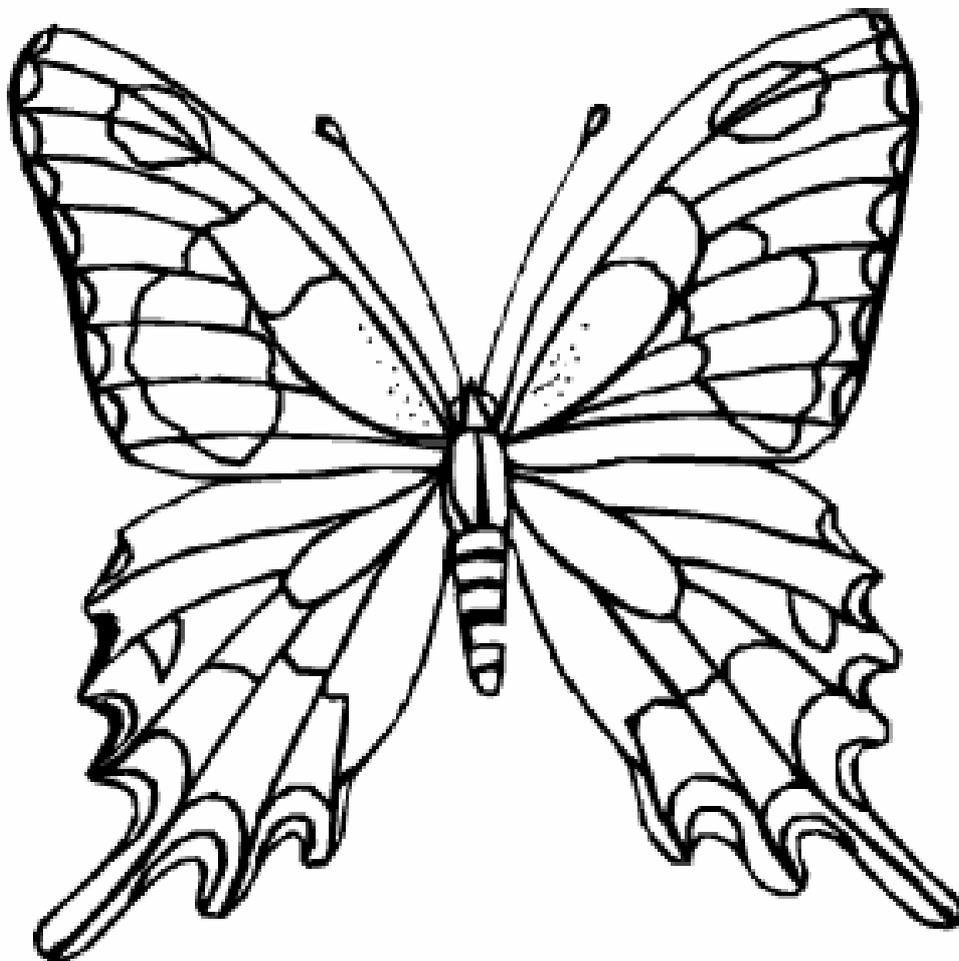


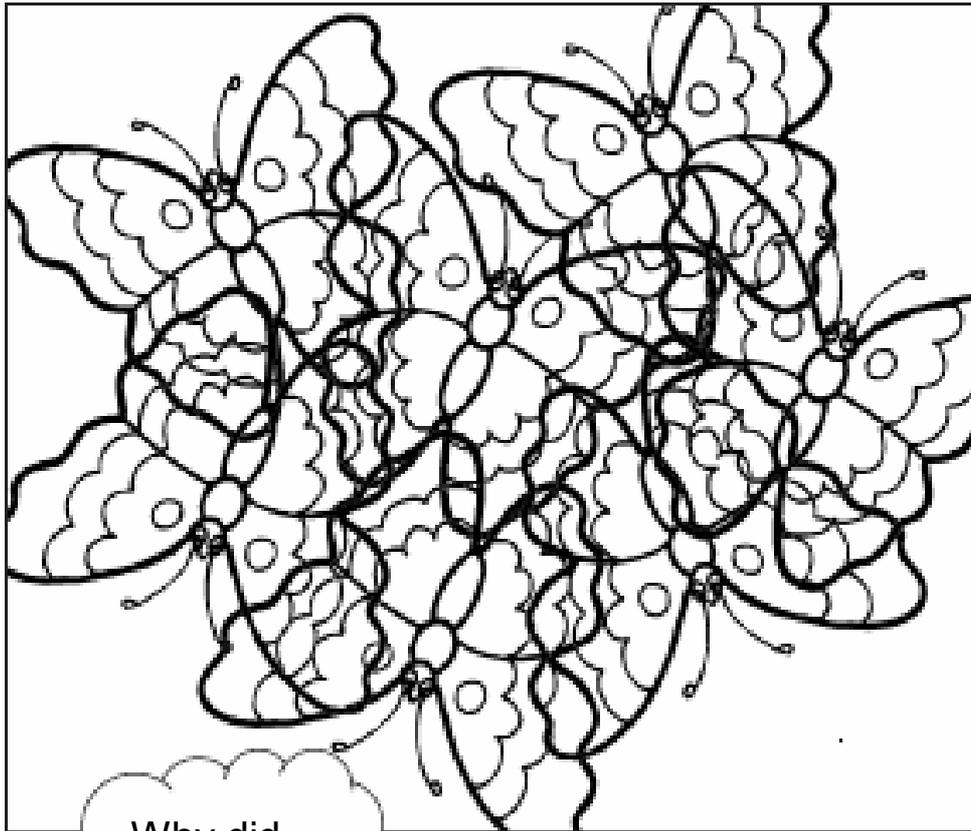
Why Jesus Came to Earth

Jesus came to earth with an important mission. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, sin entered the world. Sin means disobeying God. The Bible says that everyone sins and that we all deserve God's punishment. But God loves us so much that he gave his only Son to die for our sins. Jesus died on the cross and rose again, and now he is with his Father in heaven. All those who believe in Jesus and ask him to be their Savior are forgiven and have eternal life in God's kingdom. This is why Jesus came to earth.



"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
John 3:16

How many butterflies are in this picture?
Can you count them?



Why did
Jesus come
to earth?



Draw something here from
Jesus' life that impresses
you in a special way.

Lesson 31

Why Jesus Came to Earth

Bible Text: John 3:16 and Matthew 20:28.

Key Verse: John 3:16

Purpose: The children will understand why Jesus came to earth.

Please note!

Plan suitable activities for your group of children. The following activities can be adapted depending on the group's size, age, ability, the amount of time available, etc.

I. Lesson

You can begin using this story as an illustration:

Once upon a time there once lived an old tree in a meadow. In this tree lived thousands of caterpillars which were killing the tree. Because of them the tree looked so ugly and old. These caterpillars were so annoying that they started hurting each other. It was really disgusting to see them creeping on the old bark of the poor tree without any hope! At one time, this tree was one of the most beautiful trees in the meadow. The landlord was really proud of it. But now...oh, it looked pitiful. Now, above that ugly tree, hundreds of multicolored butterflies were flying and were sad that the little caterpillars were destroying the tree. Among these butterflies there was one who was the most beautiful of all. He was the son of the butterfly king. The butterfly king was a good king, with unbelievable powers, who felt very sad seeing these little hopeless, sad creatures. So he had an idea: to send the prince, his only son, among the caterpillars to tell them the secret by which they could someday become multicolored butterflies. No sooner said than done: the butterfly prince changed into a caterpillar and went down on the tree's bark. But he was surprised that nobody wanted him nor listened to him. A few caterpillars received him and liked his advice. But the majority dishonored him, hated him and they also wanted to kill him because he was disturbing them with his stories of hope about the future. How could it be possible to change from a caterpillar into a butterfly?

In the end, really annoyed about the prince's coming, the caterpillars beat him until he died. Then they wrapped him in a cocoon, where he remained for days. Yet, nobody knew what was going to happen, because three days after this sad event, the butterfly prince came out so beautiful and multicolored that all of those who had seen him before were amazed at his change and beauty. The loving caterpillars were really happy to see this. And they were waiting anxiously to change one day into multicolored butterflies. The caterpillars which hated him changed into butterflies, too. But they were black, ugly, sad, hopeless butterflies. They couldn't fly as high around the meadows and fields, enjoying their freedom. But the multicolored butterflies could fly about in freedom.

This is just a story. But I know someone more powerful than the butterfly king who did exactly the same thing. I am talking about God our Father who sent his only Son to earth to a sinful world, to bring us hope, freedom and eternal life. Let's read from the Bible and see why God sent Jesus to earth. Read John 3:16 and Matthew 20:28 then discuss these verses.

II. Activities

1. Coloring Activity

Jesus came to earth with an important mission. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, sin entered the world. Sin means disobeying God. The Bible says that everyone sins and that we all deserve God's punishment. But God loves us so much that he gave his only Son to die for our sins. Jesus died on the cross and rose again, and now he is with his Father in heaven. All those who believe in Jesus and ask him to be their Savior are forgiven and have eternal life in God's kingdom. This is why Jesus came to earth.

2. Key Verse

a. Read the verse out loud.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

b. Explain the verse.

This verse is also called the golden verse because the whole message of the Bible is found here.

God loves us very much.

How much? So much that He was ready to give his Son.

Why? So that everyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.

c. Help the children memorize the verse.

Make sure that each and every child learns John 3:16.

3. Review questions for the children.

- What is the name of God's Son?
- Why did the Father send his Son to earth?
- Why did Jesus come to earth?
- How did the people receive Jesus?
- What did the people do to Jesus?
- What does God the Father do for those who believe in his Son?
- Who receives eternal life?

III. Conclusion

God the Father sent his Son to earth for you. He knew your name before you were even born. He loves you so much that Jesus died for your sins. He wants to forgive you and give you eternal life. This was why Jesus came to earth: to save you and give you eternal life. You can become a new creature like the multicolored butterflies from the story. But to do so you have to accept his gift. Believe in Jesus, ask him to be a part of your life and follow him!