

Press on in Confidence

Lesson #04

Philippians 1:18c-30

HOOK: Listen to this make-believe story: The Caterpillar Troop and the Army Ants were at war. A caterpillar captain named Duke worked hard to keep the Caterpillar Troop safe. After many tiring battles, Duke began to wonder when he could stop living as a caterpillar, form a cocoon and become a butterfly, just like all caterpillars get to do. He longed to be free from his caterpillar body and soar into the sky as a butterfly. But, if he did, the other caterpillars would be left to fight the war without him.

So, Duke decided it was best to not become a butterfly just yet, but to stay and continue to teach the caterpillars how to stand firm against the Army Ants. The evil plan of the Ants was to get one caterpillar alone, separated from the rest of the troop. They would say things like, “Hey, come play,” or “We need you to help us with something.” Before long, the unsuspecting caterpillar would be surrounded by the Army Ants! Those tricky ants would attack the poor caterpillar or the caterpillar would sometimes forget she was a caterpillar and would live among the ants, becoming just like them! So, Duke taught the Caterpillar Troop to always stay together, to be brave and to remind each other the truth of who they were. When they did this, the Army Ants could not separate or defeat them!

BOOK & LOOK: The story of Duke the caterpillar is pretend, but we learn in the Bible, in the book of Philippians, about a real man named Paul. Because he was a follower of Jesus, Paul lived for Christ and helped other believers to be strong in the Lord. Like Duke and Paul, we, too, can be wise and brave. We can dedicate ourselves to the Lord and to what He wants us to do. Paul was not afraid of death because he knew it meant life in Heaven with Jesus! (This is sort of like a caterpillar—though it “dies” to being a caterpillar in its cocoon, it comes out a butterfly and soars in the sky!)

TOOK: Just like the caterpillars in our story, we need to stay together as followers of Jesus. We need to be brave and remind each other that we are safe because of the Good News, that Jesus died so we would be saved and one day live in Heaven. Let’s go to church and study our Bibles together! Let’s be careful to remember that we are followers of Jesus.

Bible Verse: “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.” Philippians 1:27a

Prayer: “Dear God, Thank You that because we are Your followers our thoughts about life and death make a difference in how we live. Remind us to stay together as believers, to be brave and to learn more about You. Amen.”

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what we learned

We heard a pretend story about a caterpillar named Duke, but from the book of Philippians we learn about a real man named Paul. Because he was a follower of Jesus, Paul lived for Christ and helped other believers to be strong in the Lord. Like Duke and Paul, we, too, can be wise and brave. We can dedicate ourselves to the Lord and to what He wants us to do on earth. And Paul was not afraid of death because he knew it meant life in Heaven with Jesus! (This is sort of like a caterpillar—though at some time in its life it “dies” to being a caterpillar in its cocoon, it then lives again, but as a butterfly!)



memory verse

“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.” Philippians 1:27a



parent/child activity

Visit the library and check out a book about caterpillars and butterflies. Point out that a caterpillar lives his life as a caterpillar, but when it’s time, he is changed and lives as a butterfly. Help your child to see that we are a bit like that. While on earth, we are to live as children of God. Then one day, when it is time for us to leave this earth we won’t die for good, but we will live again in Heaven!



daily prayer

“Dear God, Thank You that because we are Your followers our thoughts about life and death make a difference in how we live. Remind us to stay together as believers, to be brave and to learn more about You. Amen.”