

A Butterfly Celebration

This celebration is suggested as a concluding exercise following a time of intensive study and interaction by the group. It could be the finale of a retreat or study experience, or it could preclude a serious worship experience.

Materials needed: Art paper.

Phase I: Summarize high points of shared experience.

Read Colossians 3:12-15.

Phase II: Give each participant two sheets of construction paper. Ask them to tear out butterflies from the paper. The butterflies are not to be drawn and cut, but torn from the paper. Each person should be able to get six or more butterflies from the two sheets of paper.

Phase III: Leader: In order to celebrate our shared experience we are going to share now in a butterfly exchange. Just as butterflies are silent and beautiful, so this beautiful activity is to be done in silence. You may communicate non-verbally with a handshake, an embrace, etc., but no words are to be spoken.

As we consider the time we have spent together, the experience we have shared, and the Biblical admonition to love one another and to forgive one another that we have just read, I want us to take a few minutes to think upon these things in silence. (Moments of silence.) Remembering your thoughts just now I invite you to —

- a. Give someone a butterfly if you want to say — "I'm really glad to have shared this experience with you."
- b. Give someone a butterfly if you want to say — "I've hurt you and I want you to know I'm truly sorry."
- c. Give someone a butterfly if you want to say, "Thanks for that special thing you did that had so much meaning for me."
- d. Give someone a butterfly just to let them know you think they are special.
- e. Give someone a butterfly to communicate private thoughts you want to share.

In silence now exchange your butterflies. (Allow plenty of time for this. Judge by the response of participants when to end the exercise.)

Phase IV: Leader: Look at your butterflies. They are not perfectly formed, but they are rough representations. That's so much like our lives, isn't it? Look at the mess on the floor — that's like our lives also. But, somehow — when we share together in God's love, a thing of great beauty can be born even in the midst of our imperfections. Spend a few moments thinking about what has just happened. (Silence)

Quote: (L. Richard Lessor, Argus Communications)

"Happiness is like a butterfly.

The more you chase it, the more it will elude you.

But if you turn your attention to other things,

It comes and softly sits on your shoulder."

**Closing
Prayer:**

Bless our butterfly celebration Lord. Help us to share ourselves with others in our words and deeds. Bless us now as we go from here, and help us to remember with great joy what we have meant to one another and what we have shared. Keep us ever in your love.

Amen