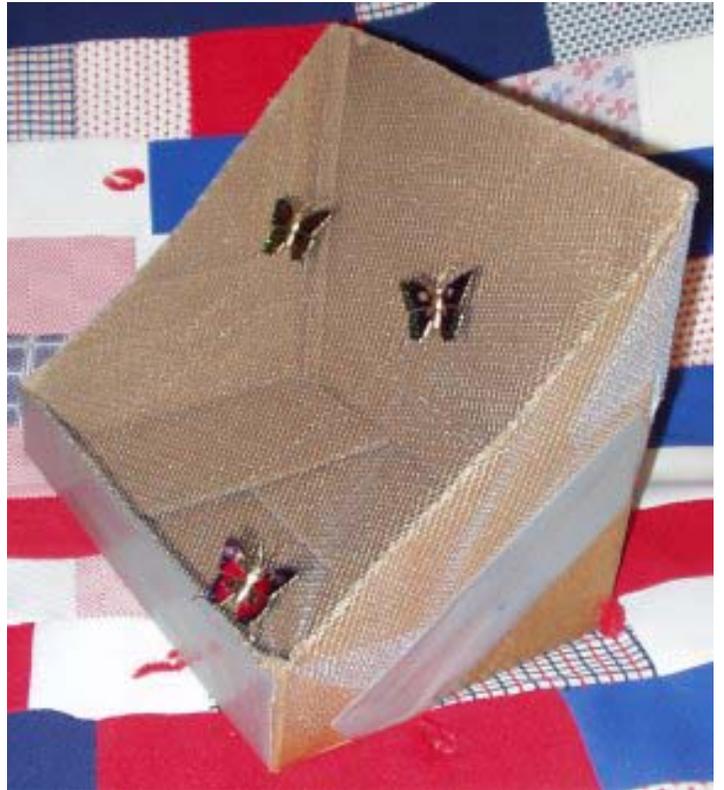


# Butterfly garden/hatchery

**Age Group: 5-14** The key plants are a brightly colored flower like Tithonia, Nicotiana etc. to draw the butterflies AND a companion plant like parsley, dill or anise for the caterpillars to feed on. All of these plants grow easily from seed and need not be started indoors. The companion plants also make good flavoring for salads, etc. To learn more click the God's plants button to the left.

These plants usually grow well in a tire garden or straight in the ground. If you are planting in the ground spade the soil up and chop into small bits. A **topping** of 1: of potting soil will make your seeds more likely to sprout uniformly and be healthy. June-Sept. keep your eye out for caterpillars. This garden is designed for swallowtail butterflies.

If you see a caterpillar 1 ½-2 ½ inches long take it inside and put it in the butterfly hatchery (see picture). A cardboard box cut with a 1-2 inch lip on the front and ten or more inches in the back with a piece of nylon tulle across the top. Inside the hatchery place a jar lid with water and a leaf or two from your companion plant fresh each day. The caterpillar should spin a cocoon within 2-3 weeks. If not keep feeding it. Once the cocoon has been spun spray it lightly with water once a day OR put it in an open plastic baggie in the fridge



**The Bible verse** we have chosen for this activity is 1 Peter 1:23 “You have been born anew, not from perishable but from imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

**This Bible lesson** we leave up to the parent. One we like is that like a caterpillar if you stuff yourself with Bible Verses your spirit will be beautiful as a butterfly. Sort of you become what you eat.

You might lead your child (group) in a **prayer** something like this: “Father God, thank you that we can come to you as we are. Thank you too that you do not leave us that way. You give us new life, new life for eternity and new life for our time on earth.” Amen

As with all our pages your local library is full of books for families who wish to learn more or do more.