



## preparing

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I wonder if you are a person who likes small details? Or maybe you're a person who sees the BIG picture more clearly than those finer points? God the Father who loves you enormously can see both. All at the same time. He knows every hair on your head and he knows the plans he has for you. Isn't it grand that the One who loves you best is holding all things together for you – both the **BIG** things and the small things. Rest easy. God's got it all.

## settling and listening

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You might want to have this conversation while at home or in the car or any time that you hear that still small voice cheering you on.

If at home and if you make it a practice at home to set aside a special time and place, consider laying out a cloth and lighting a candle as you say

LEADER: Come, let us draw near to God.

**PEOPLE: And God will draw near to us.**

Prayer leader can pray. ***"Come, Holy Spirit. As we make space for you, open our ears to hear. Open our mind to understand. Stir our heart. Help us to know and love you more. Amen."***

If the nudge to speak comes at a time when you are out and about, just go for it! The Holy Spirit will give you what you need.

***I wonder what you know about insects?  
What makes an insect an insect?  
I wonder if you can name some insects?***

Pause after each question to listen and gather their thoughts.

***Today we're going to read first from the Psalms. The word psalm means 'praise'. As we read part of Psalm 104, you'll see why this is a song of praise to God. It is FULL of wild wonderings, describing the things God has made. You may find that this is a psalm you want to read again and again, so we tucked the whole thing in your journal. But for today, we'll read a few verses together as we wonder about insects.***

***I invite you to draw what you are hearing and what God is stirring in you on as we read from Psalm 104.***

Invite a kid or grownup to read Psalm 104:1-5, 24.

***A reading from Psalm 104.***

<sup>1</sup> I will praise the Lord.

Lord my God, you are very great.

You are dressed in glory and majesty.

<sup>2</sup> The Lord wraps himself in light as if it were a robe.

He spreads out the heavens like a tent.

<sup>3</sup> He builds his palace high in the heavens.

He makes the clouds serve as his chariot.

He rides on the wings of the wind.

<sup>4</sup> He makes the winds serve as his messengers.

He makes flashes of lightning serve him.

<sup>5</sup> He placed the earth on its foundations.

It can never be moved.

**Some facts about insects:**

three parts

- The head includes the eyes, antennae, and mouth.
- The thorax, which separates the head from the abdomen, is where the insects wings and legs are attached.
- The abdomen is the largest part. It houses the insect's heart, stomach and tubes used for breathing.

six legs

antennae

born from eggs

have exoskeleton

compound eyes help them see all around

some can fly

close to one million different kinds

<sup>24</sup> Lord, you have made so many things!  
How wise you were when you made all of them!  
The earth is full of your creatures.

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.***

***I wonder what you notice about how the psalmist praises God in these verses?***

***Is there a particular word or phrase you find interesting?***

***As you think about God 'spreading out the heavens' and also creating little, tiny bugs, what does that make you wonder about who God is?***

***One of the things I love most about our creative Creator is that he is constantly helping us all – the heavens, people, and insects – to grow and change. I wonder if there is an insect you are thinking of that changes?***

Pause to hear ideas.

***Ooooh! Those are some great ideas! I have a book here that tells us about butterflies that grow and change. Let's take a look . . .***

Read [A Butterfly is Patient](#) by Dianna Hutts Aston, illustrated by Sylvia Long.

Depending on time and attention span, read through quickly (just the BIG font words) or slowly (both the BIG font and smaller details) on each page. Focus especially on the pages showing the life cycle of a butterfly.

***In the New Testament, the writer, Paul, describes that same kind of transformation that a caterpillar goes through to become a butterfly, only it's a***

***change that happens to us – on the inside – when we turn away from old ways of trusting in things that are imperfect and unworthy and instead turning toward Jesus and trusting in him to forgive us.***

***As you listen to God’s good words to us, I wonder what he will show you about who he is and what he does in us?***

Invite a reader.

***A reading from 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 17-21.***

<sup>14</sup> Christ’s love controls us. We are sure that one person died for everyone. And so everyone died. <sup>15</sup> Christ died for everyone. He died so that those who live should not live for themselves anymore. They should live for Christ. He died for them and was raised again. ...<sup>17</sup> When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God. He brought us back to himself through Christ’s death on the cross. And he has given us the task of bringing others back to him through Christ. <sup>19</sup> God was bringing the world back to himself through Christ. He did not hold people’s sins against them. God has trusted us with the message that people may be brought back to him. <sup>20</sup> So we are Christ’s official messengers. It is as if God were making his appeal through us. Here is what Christ wants us to beg you to do. Come back to God! <sup>21</sup> Christ didn’t have any sin. But God made him become sin for us. So we can be made right with God because of what Christ has done for us.

***The Word of the Lord.***

***Thanks be to God.***

***I wonder what connections you are making?***

***I wonder what you are observing?***

Pause to share responses.

Summarize with this: **God, the creator of the whole world and everything in it – including YOU! – is attentive to details. From the great expanse of the sky down to the tiniest insect. So, when you consider the ways that the LORD creates and changes and grows the beautiful things he has made, I wonder what you think about the beautiful ways he is changing you? All out of love.**

### **praying**

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Seal your time and conversation by giving thanks to God by saying together the Lord's Prayer or singing the Doxology.