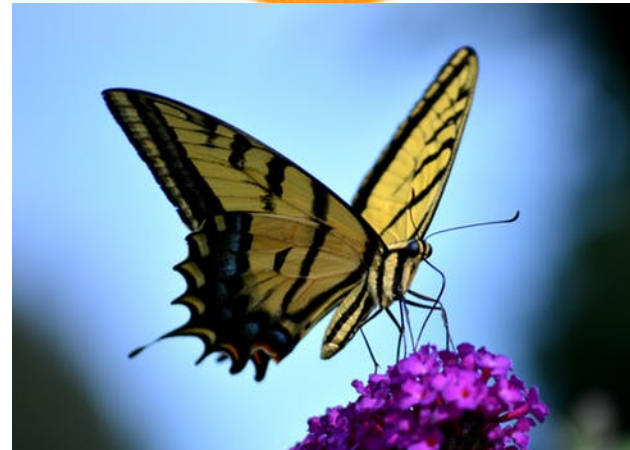
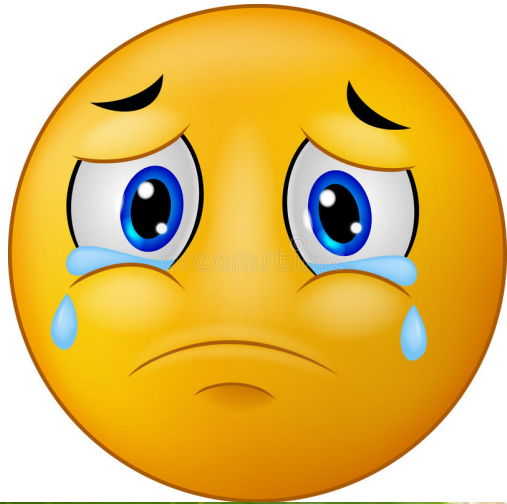


**IF I WERE A
BUTTERFLY**

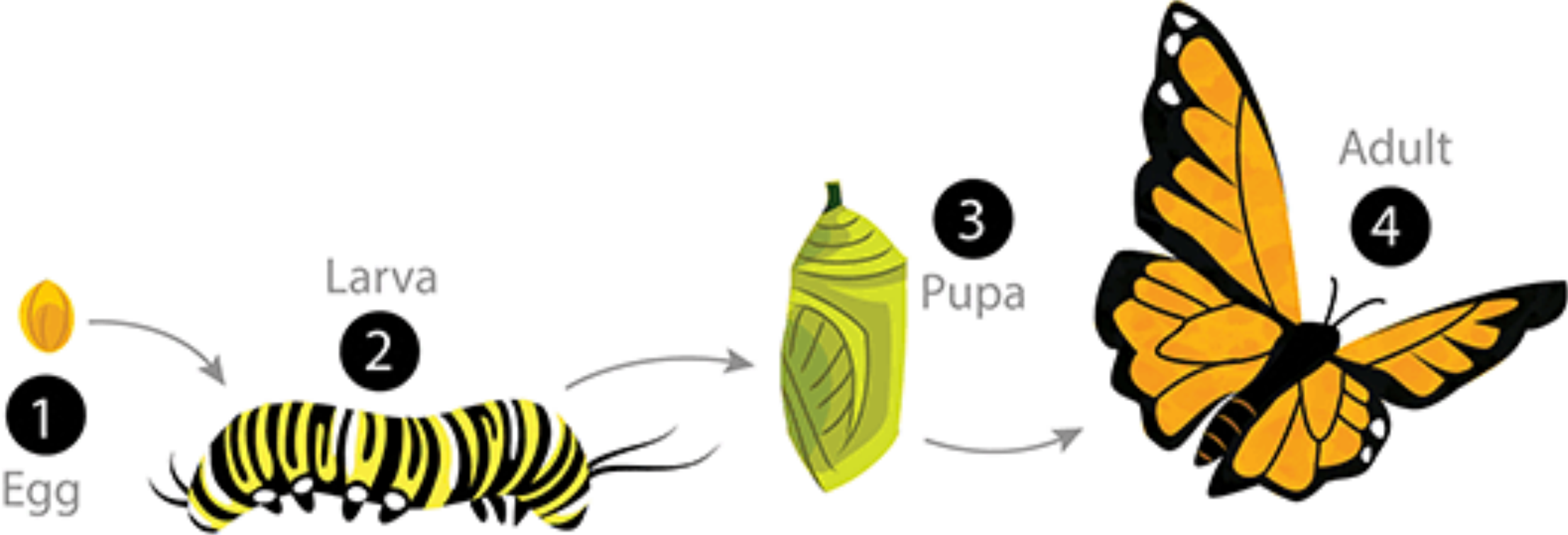
THE STORY OF ...



“The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are many more dying for a little love. The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty -- it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There's a **hunger for love**, as there is a **hunger for God.**”

Mother Teresa

STUCK IN 2ND OR 3RD. GEAR?



Always eating

Transformation

Propagation

4

10-14

10

14-40

Monarch

SOME BREAKTHROUGH CATALYSTS

- What compels you?
 - Know what drives you (Roms 13:8,14:13, 2Cor 5:14,17, Eph 4:32, 1Thes 3:12)
 - Obedience, not sacrifice
 - Empathy, not sympathy
- Crisis/Need?
 - Optional becomes necessary
 - Difficult circumstances to prepare us to impact others
- Revelation?
 - Do happen when you spend time with Him
 - Will set you free from ...

COMMANDMENTS OR RECOMMENDATIONS?

Great **Recommendation**

And you shall **love** the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

The second is this: You shall **love** your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.'" (Mk 12:30-31)

Great **Omission**

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

(Mt. 28:19)

- When we OMIT the loving, we OMIT the going
- When we COMMIT to loving, we COMMIT to going & doing

UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH

- We do not LIKE everyone we meet
 - Proud and boastful people
 - People who abuse children, widows and the under-privileged
 - Bosses who bullies and take advantage of their workers
 - People who takes bribes to get things done
 - Drugs pushers, gamblers, drunkards who abused their families
 - Abusive spouse
 - 'Black sheep' in the family causing grieves
 - Liars, and the list goes on...
- How then can I be obedient to His Great commandment if I have this problem?
 - The answer is this,

Jesus did not command us to LIKE our neighbours.
He commands us to LOVE our neighbours

LIKE & LOVE

Judge

- **Conditional**
- Me first
- Influenced by circumstances
- Deserving
- About how we feel

Love

- **Unconditional**
- Others first
- Not influenced by circumstances
- Not deserving
- Not about how we feel

You can't judge someone and love them at the same time.

GOOD SAMARITAN (LK 10:25-37)

- Lawyer – Stuck in 2nd gear (over analytical)
- Priest – Stuck in 2nd gear (no time, not my duty)
- Levi – Stuck in 2nd gear (tired, just want to go home)
- Samaritan – Breakthrough cultural barriers, perceptions, sacrifice and personal cost.

God brought the lawyer, priest, then the Levite. God brought them to this position, but they willfully refused the sacred duty which humanity demanded of them

- So, what's my story?

HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S LOVE?

- When it hurts. It doesn't hurt when you don't have that love relationship. - Jesus sweated 'blood'
- When you still care - He continued to the cross even though He could walk out of it
- When it costs you - Jesus laid down His life
- When you dislike everything that the person is doing to perpetuate their sin - Israel's disobedience
- When you weep for them - Jesus cried over Jerusalem

Did Jesus do all the above?

SUMMARY

- We cannot care when we cannot love
- Jesus did not command us to LIKE our neighbours.
Jesus commands us to LOVE our neighbours.
- The Great Commission will be the Great Omission when we cannot LOVE
- Lk 10:28 – “do this, and you will live”, Lk 10:37 – “you go and do likewise”.
Do not squander your opportunities to love.

CHALLENGE

- Who are you struggling to LOVE today?
Spouse, children, extended family, colleagues at work, someone sitting in this church today?
- FORGIVE: It's the best form of Love
- Take small steps – e.g. start with someone very dear to you