



Teaching Plans



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Cubbies HoneyComb Teaching Plans

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Introduction to Cubbies HoneyComb Teaching Plans

WELCOME to the exciting world of Awana Clubs Cubbies®. Get ready for the boundless energy, curious questions, teachable hearts and simple faith of the preschoolers in your club. As you get to know them, you will share in their love, wonder and silliness. You may also share in their sorrow over a lost toy or a parting with Mom or Dad at the door. These little ones will surely keep you on your toes — and on your knees in prayer! But here's the most exciting part: you will witness God's work firsthand in their lives and yours.

WHAT IS CUBBIES?

Cubbies is a weekly Awana® club designed for children who are in the two years prior to entering kindergarten. The Cubbies program features Scripture memorization and age-appropriate, hands-on Bible learning in a setting that fosters love and respect for God. Parents

are central in Cubbies! The Cubbies handbooks encourage and equip parents to actively nurture their child spiritually. At club, Cubbies leaders reinforce the teaching parents do in the home. In this way, parents and club leaders work as a team to spiritually nurture Cubbies children.

THE PURPOSE OF CUBBIES

As preschoolers take the first steps in their walk with God, they form core beliefs and attitudes that can shape their faith for years to come. Cubbies builds a foundation of faith in preschoolers (3- to 5-year-olds) by nurturing their **respect** for God, His Son and His Word.

A child's spiritual journey must start with a **respect** for the awesomeness and authority of God. Without this initial respect for God and His standards, a child cannot understand the need for salvation or make wise life choices.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do His commandments ... (Psalm 111:10)

By fear, the psalmist did not mean a timid, shrinking kind of fear, but rather an awe of God's greatness

and holiness, resulting in humble, reverent obedience. Because we respect God, we want to love Him and do His will.

The Cubbies curriculum teaches respect for God, His Son and His Word in several important ways:

It is God-focused. Each lesson and unit highlights a key aspect of God's character (such as His love, faithfulness or power). Since Cubbies learn best through stories, the character trait is usually presented through a Bible story. In Cubbies, we emphasize that all stories from the Bible are true and not make-believe. God teaches us about Himself as we see Him relate to real people in real, historical settings.

It is Christ-centered. God's Son, Jesus Christ, is the cornerstone of Cubbies club.

Christ is the only way to the Father (John 14:6) and the central message of the Scriptures (Luke 24:27). From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible unfolds God's plan to redeem the world from sin through the work of His promised Savior. Each club year, the first four lessons in Cubbies (Bear Hugs A, B, I and 2) explain the gospel in a simple way. The rest of the lessons cover key Old and New Testament Bible stories. The teacher connects Bible stories, even the Old Testament ones, to Christ. For example, when teaching the story of Noah and the ark, the teacher explains that just as God promised to save Noah and his family from the flood (the punishment for sin), God has promised to save us from the punishment for sin through His Son, Jesus Christ. Yes, Christ is the cornerstone of Cubbies club!

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It is built on the Bible.

We show respect for God by memorizing and obeying what He says. Each week, Cubbies memorize a Bible verse or a Bible-based Core Truth. (Core Truths are explained later in this introduction.) Leaders and parents are urged to open the Bible when they are teaching, whether they are paraphrasing or reading verses directly. We also recommend showing Cubbies where their memory verse is found in the Bible. From an early age, Cubbies must learn that the Bible is different from any other book. God talks to us through the Bible, and all His Words are true. The Cubbies program helps children respect and treasure God's Word.

It prioritizes the home.

The Bible designates parents as the primary spiritual teachers of their children (see Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Proverbs 6:20-23 and

Ephesians 6:4). Cubbies probably won't gain a foundational respect for God through two hours a week at club. Instead, most of their learning about God will happen indirectly as they watch the lifestyle and attitudes of their parents or guardians, the people they see every day. The Cubbies program makes every effort to motivate and equip parents to be strong, biblical role models and teachers. Cubbies leaders see their role as reinforcing the teaching parents do in the home; however, leaders also recognize that the Cubbies who do not come from Christian homes (or who have uninvolved parents) will need extra support and attention.

It promotes loving, respectful relationships.

To learn respect for God, Cubbies must experience an environment of respect and see respectfulness modeled

by the people who take care of them. Leaders and parents must be loving authority figures who show Cubbies how to respect not only God but other authority figures, peers and even the church building and the grounds. Love and teaching respect go hand-in-hand, because when Cubbies fall short (as we all do) they can rest in the truth that we love them no matter what! Pray that Cubbies know and feel God's love through all of your words and actions.

Nurturing respect for God is a big job. Leaders and parents must pray daily, asking for God to give them wisdom (and patience) as they convey His awesomeness and authority to impressionable preschool children.

WHO'S WHO IN CUBBIES



The **Awana commander** oversees Cubbies and other Awana clubs in your church.



The **Cubbies director** leads and manages the Cubbies club, ministering primarily to Cubbies leaders. Read the *Cubbies Director Role Book* for detailed information.



Cubbies leaders serve in various aspects of the club, ministering primarily to Cubbies and their parents. Read the *Cubbies Leader Role Book* for detailed information.

The *Secretary Role Book* and *Game Director Role Book* may also be helpful resources.

CORE CUBBIES MATERIALS

Thank you for purchasing the *Cubbies HoneyComb Teaching Plans*. If you have not already done so, you will need to purchase the **Cubbies *HoneyComb Teaching Cards*** as visuals to accompany your lessons. These colorfully illustrated cards are also available as digital images to display with a projector and computer.



Apple Acres Entrance Booklet

Order one for each Cubbie. Both first- and second-year Cubbies complete this at the beginning of each new club year. Visiting Cubbies must complete this booklet before receiving a handbook.

Consult the *Awana Ministry Catalog* or visit awana.org to order these core materials for your Cubbies and their families.



Parent Welcome Booklet

Order one for each Cubbies family. This booklet introduces parents to the vision of Awana and the various Awana programs for kids and teens (ages 2 to 18).



HoneyComb Handbook

Order one for each Cubbie. Cubbies all work in the same handbook at the same pace. Handbooks alternate each year, so if Cubbies complete the *HoneyComb* handbook this year, they will complete the *AppleSeed* handbook next year.

NOTE: Always order extra supplies. Preschoolers are known to misplace items, and you may have newcomers after the first week of club.

CUBBIES UNIFORM AND AWARDS

Rewards are biblical and motivating, but they can easily become a distraction or a source of competition among kids. When Cubbies memorize a verse, affirm the spiritual value of what they are doing: They are showing love and obedience to God. They are learning important truths that will help them every day. Show equal excitement about every child's progress. Never compare children to each other.

After completing the *Apple Acres* entrance booklet and the *HoneyComb Trail* in the handbook, Cubbies who consistently complete Bear Hugs will receive an award about every four weeks. Consult the *Cubbies Director Role Book* or *Cubbies Leader Role Book* for details on the Cubbies awards and award system. The resource CD for the *HoneyComb Teaching Plans* includes a diagram of a

Cubbies vest and award emblems for your reference. If you find that many parents do not sew on the awards, use the adhesive Badge Magic® Sheets available in the *Awana Ministry Catalog* or give parents directions for ironing on the awards. The pocket on the vest is a convenient place for Cubbies to store awards as they travel home from club.



HOW CUBBIES LEARN

Have you ever realized that the longer you stand up and talk to a group of preschoolers, the more they tune you out? That's because preschoolers are "five-sense" learners — they learn best when they see, hear, taste, smell and touch. They also need lots of repetition of the same truth in different ways.

Total Time Teaching (TTT) is a positive, creative teaching approach that stimulates repetition and five-sense learning in Cubbies. In order for TTT to work, the majority of the materials and activities, both at home and at club, must be coordinated to reinforce the lesson theme. TTT is most successful when it is a team effort among ALL Cubbies leaders and parents.

The Cubbies *HoneyComb* handbook and coordinated teaching plans have been written with TTT built-in. Here's how it works in a typical week: The child is first introduced to a biblical truth, such as "God made my family," at home when his parents read the Bear Hug from the handbook and work with him on the memory verse and activities. When the child comes to club, the leaders reinforce the truth from the Bear Hug in each club segment. For example, the child decorates paper dolls to look like his family members in Coming In; watches a puppet show about Cubbie Bear who is looking for his family; listens to a lesson (with pictures of various families) about God making our families and giving parents

and children special jobs in the family; and plays a song game, in which Cubbies act out various ways they can help at home. In all these various sensory activities, the teacher repeats the truth that God made the Cubbies' families.

Implementing TTT is easy because each weekly lesson plan includes several multi-sensory activity options that all coordinate with the lesson theme. Even better, most of the activities have been suggested and/or tested by real Cubbies leaders! Choose and adapt the activities that work best for your situation.

PREPARING FOR THE CLUB YEAR

Step 1: Set Your Schedule

First, the Awana commander and Cubbies director must decide on a **starting and ending time for the Cubbies club**. Most Cubbies clubs meet for 90 minutes (one hour and a half) to two hours. We do not recommend meeting for less than this. If your club meets for the shorter 90 minute time frame, you may want to eliminate the Snacks or the Songs segments. Do not eliminate the Lesson Time or the Handbook Time, since these are central to the meeting. Be sure to allow five minutes in your schedule for transitions to another room.

The commander and director must also decide on a **calendar schedule** for the Cubbies club that coordinates with other Awana clubs and church events. The teaching plans include 28 Bear Hug lessons (including Bear Hugs A and B) and four Special Day lessons. This gives you a total of 32 lessons. If your club meets for less than 32 weeks, we recommend skipping Bear Hug B and the review lessons in Bear Hugs 6, 14 and/or 18, since these are familiar Bible stories.

The resource CD for the *HoneyComb Teaching Plans*

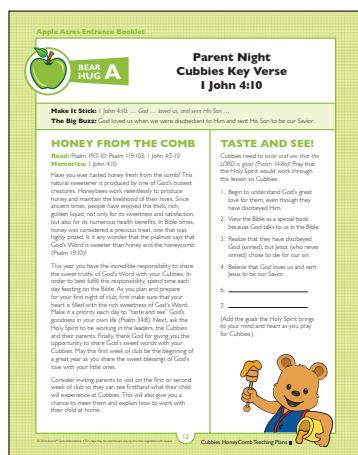
includes a sample club calendar and a template for creating your own calendar. Give parents a copy of the club calendar at the beginning of the year. You may want to attach the calendar to the inside cover of each child's handbook for the parents' easy reference.

Step 2: Prepare Your Leaders

The Cubbies director should **decide who will be in charge of each segment of the meeting**. The director may actively lead each segment, or the director may assign roles to other leaders and oversee their roles.

For example, some directors designate puppet leaders, Bible lesson leaders, craft leaders and game leaders. All leaders should be screened in accordance with your church's policy and complete Getting Started training for their role in Cubbies. Talk to your commander about this training and the Awana leader certification process.

In advance, the director should **give each leader a copy of the first page of the Bear Hug lesson** for the upcoming week. (These can be printed easily from the resource CD. You may want to give leaders pages for more than one lesson at a time.) This page contains the lesson theme, memory verse, goals phrased as prayers for Cubbies, devotional insights and practical ministry tips. This page will promote a unified teaching approach and help leaders prepare spiritually for club. Encourage leaders to memorize the same verse Cubbies memorize. Leaders should always learn the complete Bible verse.



The director should also **give each handbook group leader the handbook leader sheet** that corresponds to the weekly Bear Hug. (These can also be printed from the resource CD. Some clubs may choose to copy this sheet on the back of the devotional page just mentioned.) This sheet contains helpful discussion questions, tips and activity ideas for helping Cubbies during Handbook Time.

Step 3: Plan the Club Meeting

The *Cubbies Director Role Book* and *Cubbies Leader Role Book* give you detailed information on the purposes and practices of each segment of club. Here are some aspects we want to highlight.

Make It Stick is the Cubbies' weekly memory verse or phrase. Cubbies all work on the same verse at the same time. However, most Bible verses will have a short and long version. This allows Cubbies to learn the verse at a level that matches their ability. (Cubbies who learn the long version must also learn the Bible reference.) In the handbook, parents note the version they worked on with their child. Since the Cubbies can learn the verse at either level, it is usually best for the leader to repeat the long version of the verse and reference during club activities and let Cubbies chime in on the part they know. In this way, you reinforce both groups.

In each lesson, **The Big Buzz** summarizes the lesson theme

(main idea) in a few sentences. Each unit (Units 1–6) has a Core Truth. The Core Truth is a simple statement about the character of God or Jesus that is repeated in each lesson of a unit (God is Creator, God is the one true God, Jesus is the Good Shepherd, etc.). Although each unit lesson has a specific memory verse and lesson theme, these themes and verses all reinforce and coordinate with the larger unit Core Truth. In the fourth lesson of each unit, Cubbies recite the Core Truth as part of their handbook section. Cubbies also recite the first verse of the unit again (which is a summary verse for the unit). Since the fourth lesson in each unit is a built-in review for all Cubbies, there is no separate handbook review section on these weeks.

Coming In is the 10 to 15 minutes prior to the official start of club when children check in. As soon as Cubbies arrive, leaders should engage them in a hands-on activity that reinforces what they learned from the handbook at home and prepares them for what they will learn in club. Each Bear Hug suggests activity ideas for Coming In. Choose or adapt the idea that works best for your club. If desired, choose more than one idea and set the various activities up at centers (or tables) around the room. Station a leader at each center and let Cubbies choose a center or rotate groups of Cubbies among the centers.

To reinforce learning, the same centers can be set up, with slight variations, for an entire four-week unit. The resource CD contains patterns to use with some activities. If desired, activities and centers from Coming In may be continued during or after Handbook Time. Some clubs choose less-structured activities for Coming In, such as free play with toys, puzzles or reading Bible storybooks. Leaders talk with Cubbies and try to guide conversations naturally into the lesson theme.

During the **Puppet Show**, children come to know and love the three Cubbies animal characters. You can purchase Cubbie Bear, Luvie Lamb and Katie Collie puppets from the *Awana Ministry Catalog*. The puppet scripts can be performed easily by one leader, since no more than two puppets appear at any one time in the script. If more leaders are available, you could set up a puppet stage and assign a puppet to each leader. The puppet stories introduce the lesson theme in an interactive and entertaining way. However, since children easily confuse reality and make-believe, Awana recommends that you avoid situations where these fictional puppet characters explicitly teach biblical truths.

Snacks are optional. Many clubs add them in after Handbook Time or after Play Time. Each Bear Hug suggests

snack ideas that fit the lesson theme. Please note that food allergies are becoming more common among children. (See “Safe Snack Guidelines” on the resource CD.) Ask about allergies and other food restrictions when the Cubbies register each year and be sure leaders are informed. Also consider posting a description of the weekly snack in a visible place for parents to see when they drop off their child. Many clubs display a snack sign-up sheet during club registration and invite parents to take turns bringing snacks. Cubbies also may enjoy assisting their parent with the snack.

As you prepare for **Lesson Time**, be sure to read the Scripture passages listed in *Honey From the Comb*. Let God’s Word teach and transform you before you teach it to Cubbies. Pray about the goals listed in *Taste and See!* and add any goals the Holy Spirit brings to mind for your Cubbies. Remember, the Holy Spirit is the best teacher. Always ask Him to show you ways to adapt and personalize your lesson so you can partner with what HE wants to do through you and in your specific Cubbies club. Finally, it’s a good idea to practice using your visuals before you teach. Cubbies easily lose focus if you are constantly fumbling around for teaching cards or trying to figure out how to work the projector. The *HoneyComb Teaching Cards* and digital card

images come with a numbered list of cards for each lesson for your reference. You may display cards on a music stand or easel instead of holding them while teaching. You may also use the Cubbies Teaching Card Display book available in the *Awana Ministry Catalog*.

In **Handbook Time**, Cubbies work with a leader in small groups to discuss and apply the Bible lesson, recite memory work and complete an activity that reinforces their learning. Cubbies complete one Bear Hug handbook section each week. The Review and Under the Apple Tree sections are optional for each week.

Play Time is an energetic, motion-filled time of non-competitive games that reinforce the lesson theme. The teaching plans include game ideas that can work with various club sizes and spaces. You will also find a list of anytime games on the resource CD. Anytime games are perfect for the weeks when Cubbies finish planned games early. Remember, preschoolers love repetition, and they often need to play a game several times to learn it. Do not be afraid to repeat the same game, or a slightly modified version, for several weeks. You can usually adapt games to fit each new lesson theme.

Going Home is a great time to clean up, lead Cubbies in low-energy review activities and connect with parents.

THE TWO Ps: PRAYER AND PARENTS

It is important to prepare for your club year by following all the steps listed. We urge you to organize your schedule, train your leaders and plan your club meetings with excellence. However, you can do all these things and still not have a successful club year. Why? Because you need the two Ps!

The first and most important P is **prayer**. This basic Christian discipline tends to be the most neglected, especially when leaders are worrying about all the logistics of club: Do I have enough leaders tonight? Where is my Luvie Lamb puppet? Did someone forget the craft sticks? Expect that prayer will get pushed out of your ministry unless you make a constant, diligent and unified effort. Do whatever you have to do to make prayer the heartbeat of your ministry. Without the presence and power of God through His Word and Spirit, your ministry will have little more spiritual impact than a child's daycare center.

The second P is **parents**. A key theme of your prayers should be the parents of your Cubbies. Remember, the Bible designates parents, not church leaders, as the primary spiritual teachers of their children. Parents will be at various levels in fulfilling their God-given role, so you must meet them at their level. Pray for unsaved parents to trust Christ as Savior — many parents have come to faith while working on handbook sections with their

child. Pray that parents new to the faith will mature as disciples and gain the vision and basic tools for teaching their children. (The Cubbies handbook is a perfect tool for parents because it gives a simple, fun and age-appropriate format for teaching the Bible to their child.) Pray that mature Christian parents will renew and deepen their commitment to spiritual training in the home. Pray also for those parents, whether saved or unsaved, who are disengaged with their child's Cubbies experience.

You should put at least as much, if not more, effort into involving parents as you put into planning a club meeting. Remember, your club meetings are meant to **reinforce** the teaching parents have already done in the home. Here are some basic points to keep in mind.

- **Invite parents to a club meeting at the beginning of the year.** The first lesson, Bear Hug A, is written to include both parents and Cubbies. Use this time to introduce parents to the Cubbies program and leaders. Show them how to work with their child on the entrance booklet and handbook. Explain the Cubbies award structure and answer any questions they have. If many of your Cubbies' parents serve as leaders in other Awana clubs, schedule this meeting when other clubs do not meet.
- **Recognize diversity in families.** In our culture, we can safely

assume that many Cubbies do not come from traditional, two-parent homes. Cubbies may be raised by a single parent, grandparent, foster parent, stepparent or other relative. Cubbies may alternate living between two parents who are divorced. Be sensitive and accommodating to each family situation.

- **Build relationships with parents.** Talk with parents at the start or end of club, visit their home, contact them by phone or email, and connect at special parent or church events through the year. Use their child as a springboard for conversation: share their child's progress, positive personality traits or memorable questions and quotes. Build a sense of partnership with the parents; you are working together to help their child grow spiritually.
- **Introduce parents to *Parent Pause* and Awana resources.** Parents need to know the various ways Awana can help their family grow spiritually.

When parents register, give them a copy of the *Parent Welcome Booklet* (available in the *Awana Ministry Catalog*). This booklet outlines the vision of Awana and its programs for children and teens.

Each month, give parents a copy of the *Parent Pause* newsletter, available as a free download from the ART (Awana Resources and Tools) section of awana.org. This

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newsletter gives parents ideas for growing their preschooler's faith at home. It also includes a page for leaders to add Cubbies club news.

Many other resources are available for parents and families at awana.org/athome.

- **Make sure each home has a Bible.** The Cubbies handbooks encourage parents to open

the Bible during their teaching time. Even if parents don't read from the Bible directly, the child sees that the memory verse or teaching comes from God's Word. This also starts a habit of parent and child opening the Bible together. Be available to show parents how to find Bible books and verses.

- **Enlist parents' help with club.** Parents can donate supplies,

cut out craft patterns, provide snacks or assist your club in other ways. Of course, if they have direct contact with the kids, they must complete Getting Started training and be screened in accordance with your church's child protection policy.

DISCIPLINE IN CUBBIES

Cubbies are learning self-control. Help them by clearly communicating and demonstrating behavior expectations at the beginning of the club year. Many leaders use the **Cubbie Bear Buddy Levels** to remind Cubbies of appropriate behavior for various club segments. Create a simple picture poster for each level and display it at the right time during club. For more discipline ideas see the *Cubbies Director Role Book*.

CUBBIE BEAR BUDDY LEVELS	
Cubbie Bear Buddy Level One	
When to use it: Lesson Time Puppet Show	Behavior: Cubbies sit still and listen quietly unless the leader directs them otherwise.
Cubbie Bear Buddy Level Two	
When to use it: Coming In Handbook Time Going Home	Behavior: Cubbies may talk quietly as they interact with leaders and other Cubbies.
Cubbie Bear Buddy Level Three	
When to use it: Play Time	Behavior: Cubbies may cheer, jump and play while following game rules.

CUBBIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The prayer of Awana is that **all** children and youth will come to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Expect that you will have children with a wide range of abilities, backgrounds and personalities in your Cubbies club. Some children may require extra attention and individualized

support due to a special need. Special needs range from mild learning disabilities and developmental delays to severe mental disability, physical impairments, language barriers, terminal illness or food allergies, to name a few. Build a partnership with parents, and keep a constant discussion

going with them about the best ways to support their child. You may also want to consult the book *Awana for Me!* (available in the *Awana Ministry Catalog*), which offers practical strategies for helping children with various special needs during all segments of club.



BEAR
HUG A

Parent Night Cubbies Key Verse I John 4:10

Make It Stick: I John 4:10: ... God ... loved us, and sent His Son ...

The Big Buzz: God loved us when we were disobedient to Him. He sent His Son to be our Savior.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Psalm 19:7-10; Psalm 119:103; I John 4:7-10

Memorize: I John 4:10

Have you ever tasted honey fresh from the comb? This natural sweetener is produced by one of God's busiest creatures. Honeybees work relentlessly to produce honey and maintain the livelihood of their hives. Since ancient times, people have enjoyed this thick, rich, golden liquid, not only for its sweetness and satisfaction, but also for its numerous health benefits. In Bible times, honey was considered a precious treat, one that was highly prized. Is it any wonder that the psalmist says that God's Word is sweeter than honey and the honeycomb (Psalm 19:10)?

This year you have the incredible responsibility to share the sweet truths of God's Word with your Cubbies. In order to best fulfill this responsibility, spend time each day feasting on the Bible. As you plan and prepare for your first night of club, first make sure that your heart is filled with the rich sweetness of God's Word. Make it a priority each day to "taste and see" God's goodness in your own life (Psalm 34:8). Next, ask the Holy Spirit to be working in the leaders, the Cubbies and their parents. Finally, thank God for giving you the opportunity to share God's sweet words with your Cubbies. May this first week of club be the beginning of a great year as you share the rich blessings of God's love with your little ones.

Consider inviting parents to visit on the first or second week of club so they can see firsthand what their child will experience at Cubbies. This will also give you a chance to meet them and explain how to work with their child at home.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good* (Psalm 34:8)! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Begin to understand God's great love for them, even though they have disobeyed Him.
2. View the Bible as a special book because God talks to us in the Bible.
3. Realize that they have disobeyed God (sinned), but Jesus (who never sinned) chose to die for our sin.
4. Believe that God loves us and sent Jesus to be our Savior:
5. _____
6. _____

(Add the goals the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

We recommend inviting parents to this first night of club so you can introduce them to the program and show them how to help their child at home.

Welcome parents and Cubbies with one or more of the following activities.

IDEA 1: Photos

What You Need

- Camera

Designate a leader to take pictures of individual Cubbies as they arrive. Use the child's picture as the photo for the front cover of his or her handbook. If parents are joining you for this first meeting, also take a picture of the child and parent together. These pictures could be displayed on a bulletin board, used in a future craft or framed for a family gift.

Remember to obtain written permission from a parent before using a Cubbie's photo in any of your club's displays or materials.

IDEA 2: Heart Wreaths

What You Need

- Paper plate precut into a wreath shape for each Cubbie
- Construction paper in various colors
- Markers
- Glue sticks

Beforehand, leaders should cut out the center of each paper plate to form a wreath for each Cubbie. They should also cut many sizes and colors of construction paper hearts to fit on the wreaths. On some hearts, write "I John 4:10" or "God loves us." Cubbies can choose hearts to glue around the edge of their plate. As they work, talk about people who love them. Tell them that God loves them too. He loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth for us.

IDEA 3: Honeybee Stick Puppets

What You Need

- Precut bee pattern for each Cubbie (resource CD)
- Yellow and black crayons
- Glue sticks
- Jumbo craft sticks
- *Optional* — poster of an apple tree hanging on the wall

Each Cubbie can color a bee and glue it to a craft stick to make a bee puppet. Lead Cubbies in using their puppets to act out the poem below. Cubbies could move their puppets to the optional apple tree poster when you mention the tree.

Honeybee, honeybee, buzz around.
Honeybee, honeybee, touch the ground.
Honeybee, honeybee, fly up high.
Honeybee, honeybee, touch the sky.
Honeybee, honeybee, land on my shoe.
Honeybee, honeybee, find something blue.
Honeybee, honeybee, go to a tree.
Honeybee, honeybee, please don't sting me!

IDEA 4: Honeybee Counting Sheets

What You Need

- Five paper sheets each picturing a large flower and a number 1-5 (resource CD)
- Fifteen or more laminated paper bees (resource CD) or bees made from yellow pom-poms with black stripes drawn on them

Set the paper sheets on various tables. Help Cubbies place the correct number of bees on each flower. For larger groups, add more sheets and more bees.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Develop a starting routine that Cubbies can expect each week. For example, say a pledge to your country's flag, recognize upcoming Cubbies' birthdays, sing the "Cubbies Song" or recite key Cubbies verses. (See the "Cubbies Song" lyrics and music on the resource CD or listen to the song on the handbook CD.)

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- *Optional* — jar or bottle of honey and plate or spoon

LEADER: Hi, Cubbies! Welcome to the first night of club. Have you had fun so far? *(Pause for response.)* Now it's time for a special treat! I have a special friend who likes to visit each week. He has been listening to us, and he's excited to see all of you. Can you help me say hello to him? When I count to three, let's say "Hello, Cubbie!" Ready? One — two — three. Cubbie!

(After children call out, bring the Cubbie puppet into view. Raise and lower your arm with quick, large motions so Cubbie seems to be hopping.)

CUBBIE (hopping): Hello, boys and girls! I'm so excited to see you!

(Cubbie continues to hop around excitedly.)

LEADER (laughing): I can SEE you are excited, Cubbie. Can you tell the boys and girls what you have been doing today?

CUBBIE (stops hopping): Well, Timothy and I have been exploring Apple Acres Farm. Guess what we found?

LEADER: I have no idea. Can you give me a hint? And can you tell the Cubbies who Timothy is?

CUBBIE: Timothy is my best friend, and I live on the farm with him and his family. Today we found something small that flies around to all the flowers. It makes a funny sound like this.

(Cubbie makes a buzzing sound.)

LEADER (looking to children): Cubbies, can you help me guess what Cubbie Bear and Timothy found? *(Pause for responses from Cubbies.)*

CUBBIE: That's right! We found bees! We watched them fly from flower to flower, sucking up sweet juice from the flowers, called nectar. Then they flew back to their home, the beehive.

LEADER: What do the bees do in their hive?

CUBBIE: They work together to make honeycombs and yummy honey. They make the honey from all the sweet nectar they get from the flowers around the farm. When the bees are done making the honey, Timothy said his dad will gather all the honey from all the hives so we can eat some of it! *(moving his mouth and making lip smacking noises)* Mmm ... I love honey!

(If you brought a honey bottle or jar, display it to the children. Squirt a little honey on a plate or scoop some up with a spoon and show the children. Talk about how the honey looks and tastes. Remove the honey from the area immediately after the puppet show so children do not get into it. Consider serving a snack with honey for snack time.)

LEADER: Wow! I'll bet it's fun to watch the bees buzzing around.

CUBBIE: Yes, but we have to be very careful not to bother them. They are working hard! Timothy's dad told us that we must NEVER go near the beehives. The bees could get upset, and they might sting us!

LEADER: Ouch! That would hurt. Well, it is always important to obey what our parents say!

CUBBIE: It sure is! Boy, all this talk about honey makes me hungry for my favorite snack! I'm going to ask Timothy if we can have some apple slices and honey from the honey jar. Goodbye, everybody!

LEADER: Goodbye, Cubbie!

(Let children say goodbye as the puppet is put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during the club meeting.

Transition Cubbies into snack time with this song. Sing it to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

Snack, snack, snack time's here,
Won't you take a seat?
Let's fold our hands
And close our eyes,
We'll pray before we eat.

IDEA 1: Honey Pots and Dipping Sticks

What You Need

- Honey in individual cups
- Items for dipping (e.g., peeled apple slices, pretzel sticks, graham crackers)
- Small plates

Arrange items for dipping on a plate for each Cubbie. (For Cubbies under age 4, it is best to cut apples into half-inch [1.3-cm] pieces to prevent any potential for choking.) As Cubbies are dipping the items in the honey, remind them that Cubbie Bear loves apples and honey. Talk about things and people they love, as well as people who love them. Remind them that God loves them and sent His Son.

IDEA 2: Apple Acres Trail Mix

What You Need

- Apple-flavored cereal
- Honeycomb® cereal
- Teddy Grahams® crackers
- Miniature pretzels
- Red, green and yellow M&M's® to represent apples
- Cups or plastic snack bags
- *Optional* — dried apple chips cut or broken into bite-size pieces (avoid any jagged edges)

Combine ingredients in a large bowl. Scoop portions into cups or plastic snack bags and serve to Cubbies.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

• "If You're Happy You're at Cubbies"

This is exactly like the traditional Sunday school favorite "If You're Happy and You Know It," except you replace the opening line with "If you're happy you're at Cubbies."

• "First John 4:10" This is a fun way to teach the Cubbies key verse. Sing these lyrics to the tune of "B-I-N-G-O"

God loved us and sent His Son,
The Bible tells us so.
God loved us and sent His Son,
(Sing 3 times.)
First John 4:10

• "Jesus Loves Me" It's good to end with a quieter song if you are transitioning into Prayer and Lesson Time.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Cubbies are just learning to pray. Use this time to intentionally model and teach the basics of prayer. Adapt the following dialogue to fit you and your Cubbies.)

Now it's time to talk to God. We call talking to God prayer. When we pray, we fold our hands, bow our heads, and close our eyes. This helps us remember that we are talking to God!

(Pray a short prayer, similar to this: "Dear God, thank You for each of the boys and girls in Cubbies. Thank You for loving us. Help us to listen and learn more about You and Your Son, Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.")

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 1-5
- Bible with a bookmark placed at 1 John 4:10
- *Optional* — scrap of sanded wood, metal wrench or hammer or other tool

(Adapt and personalize the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

It sounds as if Cubbie Bear really likes honey. How many of you have ever tasted honey? Did you like it? *(Pause for responses.)*

It must be fun for Cubbie and Timothy to watch the bees buzzing around and flying to the flowers, but I hope they remember to obey Timothy's dad and stay away from the beehives so they don't get stung. I am glad that God gave us moms and dads and the other grown-ups who love us and take good care of us. ***(Be sensitive to any Cubbies who do not live with both or either parents.)*** Cubbies, your daddies and mommies want you to obey so that you will be safe and happy. You must obey these grown-ups all the time.

Where are some places you like to go with your mommy or daddy or the grown-up who takes care of you? ***(Encourage parents or guardians to discuss this question with their child. Possible answers include the grocery store, the park or church.)***

Optional: Ask Cubbies to stand up. Tell them to watch and copy what you do. Say, "Let's pretend we are going to the store with our parents." Make motions like you are shopping at a grocery store, such as pushing a cart or picking items off a shelf. Say "I am sure you are all good listeners at the store!" If time allows, make motions for other places Cubbies might go with parents.

When you are at the store, it is important to remember to stay with your mom or dad so that you are always safe. I would like to tell you a pretend story about a little boy who didn't stay close to his daddy at the store.

(Display TC1 and point to the boy.) Micah loves to go places with his parents, and his favorite

place to go is the hardware store! He loves looking at all the shiny tools and smelling the fresh, new wood.

Optional: Pass the piece of wood around the room. Encourage Cubbies to smell the wood. Pass the wrench or other tool among the leaders and parents in the room. Ask them to hold the wrench so that the Cubbies can examine it closely and, if practical, touch it.

One day while Micah and his daddy were at the hardware store, Daddy needed to ask the salesclerk an important question.

"Please stand quietly beside me while I talk to this man," Daddy said.

While Micah waited, he looked around the big store. He saw so many neat tools!

"Daddy, can we go look at those shiny machines with the big wheels?" Micah asked.

"In just a minute," said Daddy. "I need for you to wait right here beside me while I talk to the salesclerk."

(Display TC2 and point to Daddy and the salesclerk in the picture.) Daddy seemed to be taking an extra-long time talking to the man, and Micah was bored. He decided to go peek at the shiny machine with the big wheels.

(Keep displaying TC2 and point to the snowblower.) Micah walked to the shiny machine and touched the big, black wheels. There were so many cool buttons! Micah thought about how fun it would be to run that machine.

Micah was so busy looking at the machines that he walked farther and farther down that long row. When he looked up, he could not see his daddy anywhere!

All of a sudden, the hardware store was not a fun place to be. Micah was lost. He called out, "Daddy!" ***(Ask Cubbies to stand up and cry out, "Daddy!")***

(Display TC3, pointing to the boy.) Micah began to cry. He knew that he should have obeyed.

All of a sudden, Micah stopped crying. He heard

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his name! **(Display TC4.)** He turned around and saw his daddy. "There you are!" Daddy called.

Micah ran to his daddy. Daddy gave him a big hug.

Cubbies, did you know we are like Micah? Just like Micah disobeyed his daddy, we sometimes disobey too. In the Bible, God tells us to obey our parents, so when we don't obey our mommy or our daddy, we are disobeying God. If Mommy asks you to pick up your toys and you don't pick them up, that is disobeying God. **(Ask Cubbies to think of other ways they might disobey God. Answers may include throwing a fit, fighting over a toy.)**

When we disobey God it is sin. ALL of us disobey God, and this makes God sad. **(Make a sad face. Encourage Cubbies to make sad faces.)** But do you know what? Just like Micah's dad loved him even though he disobeyed, God still loves us when we do wrong things.

(Hold up your Bible and handle it with reverence.) This Bible is a very special book. God talks to us through the Bible. In the Bible, God tells us that He loves us very much. God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to do something about our sin! Today we are going to learn a very special verse from the Bible that tells us all about God's love. **(Open your Bible to 1 John 4:10.)** 1 John 4:10 says: ... God ... loved us, and sent His Son ... **(Repeat the verse twice with Cubbies.)**

Optional: To help explain that God loves each of the children, ask each child to stand. Say the verse again, replacing "us" with the child's name. For example say, "... God loved Emily and sent His Son ..." For larger classes, use generalized terms: "... God loved girls and sent His Son ..." or "... God ... loved boys and sent His Son ..."

(Display TC5.) The Bible tells us that God sent His Son, Jesus, to live on earth. There was something different about Jesus. He NEVER disobeyed or did ANYTHING wrong. Jesus never sinned, but Jesus loved us so much that He chose to die on the cross for our sin. **(Point to the middle cross in the picture.)** It was hard for Jesus to die, but He did it because it was the only way to save us from our sin. Then, three days later, Jesus came alive again!

Let's pray and thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, to save us from sin. He is the Savior! We will learn more about how much our Savior, Jesus, loves us next week. **(Close in prayer.)**

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug A Handbook Leader Sheet (resource CD). This contains helpful discussion questions, tips and activity ideas for helping Cubbies review the lesson and learn the verse.

If parents are visiting, they can join their child's handbook group.

IDEA 1: Bear Hug A Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of the Bear Hug A Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — heart stickers

Repeat 1 John 4:10 with Cubbies several times. Then briefly review the shapes on the sheet with Cubbies. Instruct them to only circle and color the hearts. When a Cubbie completes the sheet, he or she can ask a parent or leader to read the words on the hearts. If desired, Cubbies can place some stickers on the hearts without words. While Cubbies work, you may want to show parents how to use the Cubbies Apple Acres entrance booklet with their child at home. Answer any questions parents have about Cubbies.

IDEA 2: Quarter-fold Bible

What You Need

- Quarter-fold Bible craft pattern (resource CD)
- Crayons

Help Cubbies fold pattern sheet into quarters like a card. Then they can color their "Bible" and take it home to share the message of 1 John 4:10 with their family.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

IDEA 1: God Loves Who?

What You Need

- Nothing

All Cubbies and leaders stand on one side of the play area. The game leader stands in the middle of the area. He or she will call out, "God loves leaders!" and all the leaders will run to the opposite side of the room. Next, the game leader calls, "God loves Cubbies!" and all the Cubbies will run to join the leaders. After the leaders and Cubbies return to their starting places, the game leader can begin the game again with various calls. (e.g, "God loves boys!" "God loves girls!" "God loves everyone wearing sneakers!")

IDEA 2: The Listening Game

What You Need

- Nothing

Remind Cubbies that in the lesson, they talked about going places with their parents and how it's important to listen and obey what parents tell them so they stay safe. Say, "In this game, we will practice listening closely and following directions." Give Cubbies instructions that correspond to going places like the grocery store, the park, church, etc. For example, lead the group in pretending to walk across a street after looking both ways, pushing a grocery cart while watching out for other customers, putting three oranges in the cart, putting their seatbelts on, playing catch or climbing on monkey bars at the park, shaking hands with a new friend, praying at church, or quietly walking through church hallways.

IDEA 3: Honeybees in the Orchard

What You Need

- Nothing

Tell Cubbies to stand in rows, arm-length apart, to resemble apple trees in an orchard. Choose one child to be a honeybee. He will

buzz, flap his arms and pretend to fly in and out of the trees as you sing/chant:

Go 'round and 'round the apple trees.
Go 'round and 'round the apple trees.
Go 'round and 'round the apple trees.
Keep on working but don't sting me!

When he tags someone, they say "Ouch!" and trade places. The bee becomes an apple tree and the tree becomes the new honeybee.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

After children help clean up the room, involve them in a low-energy activity that also summarizes the verse or lesson theme for the week. For example, direct Cubbies to sit in a circle and pass around a toy or real apple while music plays. When the music stops, everyone says, God loved (insert name of child with apple) and sent His Son. The child with the apple stands up and walks around the circle once and sits back down. Continue until everyone has had a turn to walk around the circle. Larger clubs can divide Cubbies into several small circles.

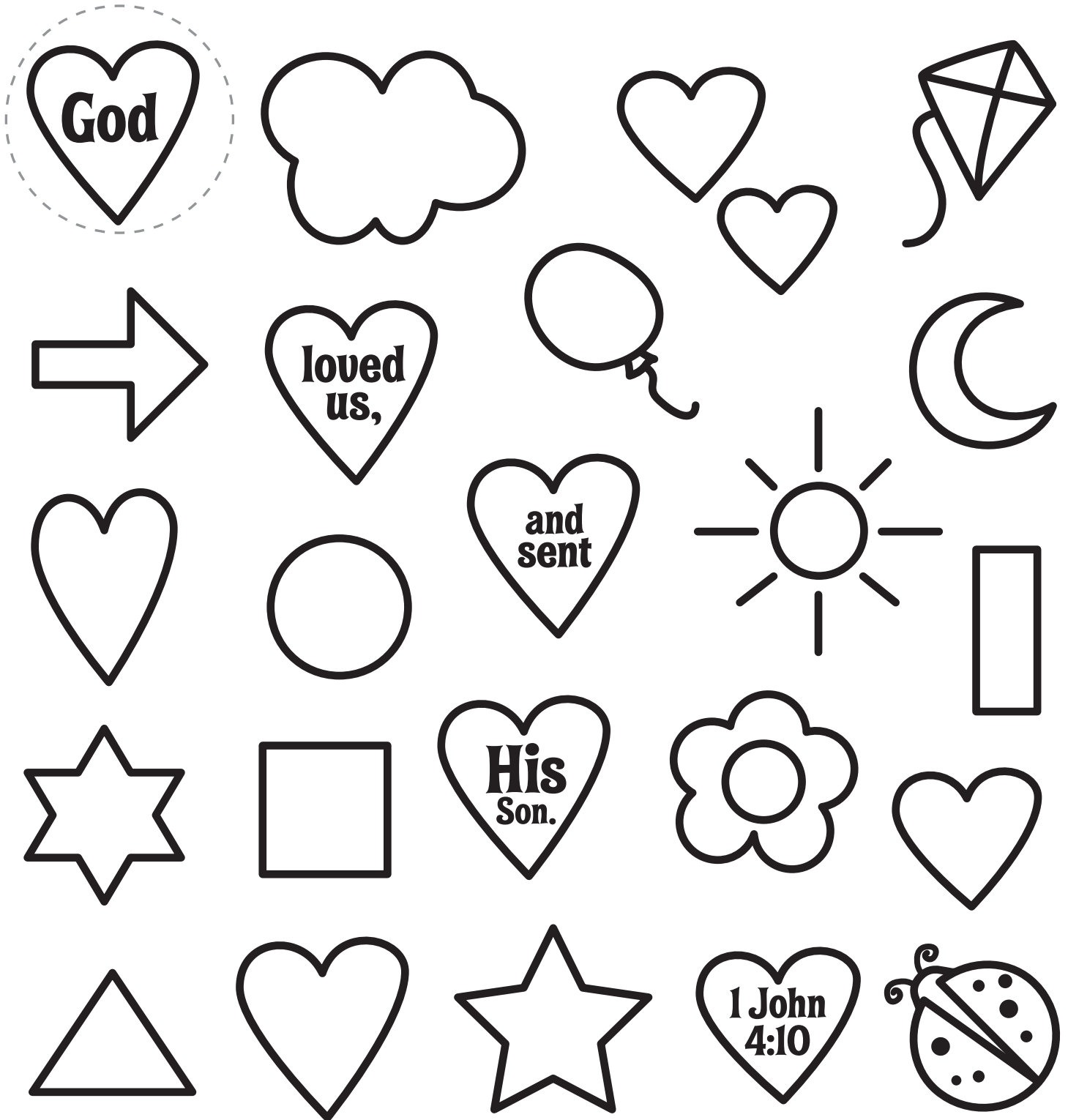
Whether parents have been with you at club or meet you at the door, let them know that you and other leaders are available to answer any questions they have about Cubbies. Give each family a *Parent Welcome Booklet* (available from Awana). This booklet introduces parents to the vision of Awana and the various Awana clubs for kids and teens (ages 2 to 18). The back page is blank for you to add your club and church contact information.

This is also a great time to hand out or email parents the current month's copy of the *Parent Pause* newsletter, available as a free download in the ART (Awana Resources and Tools) section of awana.org. This newsletter gives parents ideas for growing their preschooler's faith at home. It also includes a page for leaders to add Cubbies club news.

If you did not take photos during Coming In, remind parents to bring a wallet-sized photo of their child next week to attach to the child's handbook. Parents could also attach a photo to the child's handbook at home.

... God ... loved us, and sent His Son ...
(1 John 4:10)

NAME: _____



Basic Instructions: Find and circle all the heart shapes on the page. As you look at the hearts, remember how much God loves you.
Even More Fun: Color the hearts in your favorite colors. Ask a grown-up to read you the words on the hearts in order. This is your Bible verse for the week!
Ultimate Fun: Place heart stickers on the hearts without words. Practice the verse several times with a grown-up until you can say it on your own.



BEAR
HUG B

Cubbies Motto: Jesus Loves Me

Make It Stick: Jesus Loves Me

The Big Buzz: Jesus loves the children, and Jesus loves you too!

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Mark 10:13-16

Memorize: Cubbies Motto: Jesus loves me

Can you recall several childhood songs that detail Christ's love for children? Songs like "Jesus Loves the Little Children" or "Jesus Loves Me" are easy for little ones to quickly learn, and yet these simple tunes communicate powerful truths. Little ones are *precious* to our heavenly Father.

Mark 10 records the true account of Jesus' love for children. On that long-ago day the disciples realized that Jesus treasures all people, even the littlest ones. Our Savior was not too busy to love, care for and teach the boys and girls in His midst.

You too can learn from Christ's example. As you prepare this lesson, recognize the magnitude of your responsibility. You have been called to teach these little ones — and possibly their parents — the message of God's great love. Your Cubbies' tender, impressionable hearts are ready to hear the truths of God's Word. In order to best fulfill this task, ask God to fill your heart with love for your Cubbies. Carefully study and prepare so that you can clearly present God's Word to the children. During club, seek out opportunities to personally demonstrate Christ's love to several of the boys and girls by offering appropriate attention. Patiently answer each child's questions. Stoop to the child's eye level when you talk to him or her. Address each child by name. Make each child feel valuable and important. God will reward your effort, and these children will blossom under genuine, God-driven love.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good (Psalm 34:8)*! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Hear and see the hands-on ways that Jesus loves children.
2. Recognize the personal value they each have to Jesus.
3. Desire to show Jesus love in return.
4. Understand that those who trust Jesus as Savior can look forward to one day living with Him in heaven.
5. _____
6. _____

(Add the goals the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

Welcome Cubbies and reinforce what they learned in their entrance booklets with one or more of the following activities.

IDEA 1: Door Hanger Picture Frames

What You Need

- Card stock copy of precut door hanger for each Cubbie (resource CD)
- Crayons
- A photo of each Cubbie (use photos taken during Coming In last week)
- Tape
- *Optional* — small stickers of Jesus, Bibles or hearts to decorate door hangers

Beforehand, leaders will precut door hangers (including heart openings) for children. Cubbies can decorate them as desired. Older children may like to color the letters. Leaders can help tape each child's picture so it shows through the cut out heart. Repeat the motto several times as children work.

IDEA 2: Handheld Mirrors

What You Need

- Card stock (or cardboard) precut handheld mirror for each Cubbie (resource CD)
- Precut aluminum foil circles or circles cut from mirror paper (paper available at teaching stores)
- Glue sticks
- Crayons
- *Optional* — heart stickers

Beforehand, leaders will cut out handheld mirror shapes from card stock paper. Leaders will also cut circles from aluminum foil or mirror paper using the template. Cubbies color and decorate one side with crayons or stickers. Cubbies glue the foil circle on the opposite side of the mirror. Cubbies can look into the foil to see their faces.

IDEA 3: Jesus Loves the Children Matching Game

What You Need

- A file folder with one set of Jesus and children figures glued on the inside covers (resource CD)
- Precut second set of Jesus and children figures (resource CD)
- *Optional* — Large clubs can make several sets of file folders and figures. Adhesive VELCRO® dots can also be used to enhance matching activity.

Ahead of time, glue one set of Jesus and children figures inside a file folder. Give each Cubbie one or more figures from the second set. Cubbies will match their pictures to the folder set by placing pictures on top of each other. For reuse and durability, laminate the folder and the matching set and add VELCRO dots to the pictures. (Add loop dots [fuzzy dots] right above or in the middle of file folder pictures. Add hook dots [non-fuzzy dots] to the backs of the matching pictures and position the dots so most of the picture will be covered when dots are joined.)

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue to develop a starting routine for your Cubbies club. This week, do a flag pledge, sing the "Cubbies Song" and review the Cubbies key verse from Bear Hug A. For extra fun, let Cubbies hold up their fingers when they say the reference with you: First John (**hold up one finger**) 4 (**hold up four fingers**) 10 (**hold up 10 fingers and shout "TEN!"**).

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PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — soft ball that can fit in Katie's mouth

LEADER: Hi, Cubbies! Are you ready to see Cubbie Bear?

When I count to three, call "Cubbie." Ready?
One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(After children call out, bring the Cubbie puppet into view. Raise and lower your arm with quick, large motions so Cubbie seems to be hopping excitedly.)

CUBBIE *(hopping, yet slowing down as he talks):* Hi, boys and girls! I'm so excited to see you. Wow! There are a lot of you here today. Can you tell me your names?

(If you have a small group, point to each child and say his or her name. Cubbie can say "Hi" and repeat the name after you. If you have a large group, instruct the children to all say their names at once.)

CUBBIE: Wow! That's a lot of names to learn. I will have to keep working on learning your names so we can all become good friends.

LEADER: That's a great idea! Say, that reminds me of your good friend, Timothy. What are you and Timothy going to do today?

CUBBIE: Timothy and I want to explore the apple orchard today. We want to pick some of the ripe apples so Grammy Lois, Timothy's grandma, can make an apple pie!

LEADER: Yum! That sounds like fun!

CUBBIE: I am so excited to go exploring with Timothy. We go everywhere together on the farm, and the apple orchard is one of my favorite places to go.

(Make a loud barking sound and bring the Katie Collie puppet into view.)

KATIE: Ruff, ruff! Cubbie, I heard that you and Timothy want to go exploring in the apple orchard today.

CUBBIE: That's right! Doesn't that sound fun, Katie? Why don't you come with us? We can all have fun together!

KATIE: It does sound fun, Cubbie, but you can't go today. I just heard Timothy's mother say that Timothy has to stay close to the house today and finish his chores. He has to sweep the porch and help pick up the leaves in the yard.

CUBBIE *(sadly, ready to cry):* Oh, no! That makes me sad! I really wanted to go to the orchard today. And my tummy is really hungry for some apples — and apple pie.

KATIE: Sorry, Cubbie. I know that makes you sad. Maybe you and I can play outside while Timothy finishes his chores. We can play catch with my favorite ball! *(If you have the optional ball, remove Katie from view and place the ball in her mouth. Return her into view so she can show Cubbie and the children the ball.)*

LEADER: Playing catch will be fun, but I'm sorry that you don't get to go pick apples today, Cubbie.

CUBBIE: That's OK. I like to play with Katie Collie. She is really good at playing catch. She never misses the ball, and she can jump really high!

(Make the Katie puppet jump high by lifting your arm. The optional ball can stay in her mouth.)

LEADER: Well, you two enjoy playing catch!

CUBBIE and KATIE: Bye, boys and girls.

(Let the children say goodbye as the puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during the club meeting. Use the snack time song from Bear Hug A to transition Cubbies. Plan a way for Cubbies to sanitize their hands before eating the snack.

IDEA 1: Watermelon Hearts

What You Need

- Watermelon
- Knife for leader's use
- Mini heart-shaped cookie cutter
- *Optional* — cantaloupe, honeydew melon, craft sticks or candy apple sticks

Cut watermelon into slices. Use cookie cutter to cut slices into heart shapes. For variety, add cantaloupe and honeydew melon hearts. Two or three fruit pieces can be threaded onto a craft stick to make "heart kabobs." In place of fruit, you could serve heart-shaped sugar cookies.

IDEA 2: Strawberry Pinwheels

What You Need

- Soft, whole-grain tortilla shells
- Low-fat strawberry cream cheese
- Strawberry jam
- Knife for spreading

Spread cream cheese to edge of each tortilla. Spread one tablespoon of jam down the center. Roll up the tortilla so that the jam runs the length of the roll. Chill in refrigerator for one hour. When ready to serve, slice the roll into one-inch (2.5-cm) sections so they look like pinwheels. While Cubbies eat, ask them what color the jam is. Talk about other things that are red, including hearts. Remind Cubbies of Jesus' love for them and ask them if they want to love Jesus with all their heart.

IDEA 2: Cheese Hearts and Crackers

What You Need

- Low-fat cheese
- Mini heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Crackers

Ahead of time, use a mini heart-shaped cookie cutter to cut heart shapes out of cheese. Serve with crackers. Remind the Cubbies that Jesus loves them very much and recite the motto several times together.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **"If You're Happy You're at Cubbies"** from Bear Hug A
- **"First John 4:10"** from Bear Hug A
- **"Jesus Loves Me"** Modify the song by replacing the word *me* in the first line with a child's name. (E.g., "Jesus loves Grant. This I know ...") Sing the song with each child's name.
- **"Jesus Loves the Little Children"**

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer. Say the following in your own words.)

Cubbies, it's time for us to talk to God. Do you remember what we call talking to God? **(Allow Cubbies to respond.)** That's right! We call talking to God prayer. God loves to hear us talk to Him. When we talk to God, we bow our heads, fold our hands, and close our eyes. This helps us to sit quietly and think about what we are saying to God.

(Pray a short prayer, asking God to help the children listen to God's Word during Lesson Time.)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 6-10
- Bible with a bookmark placed at Mark 10:13-16

Cubbies, do you remember why Cubbie Bear was sad today? (*Allow response.*) Cubbie didn't get to go do something that he really wanted to do. Can you think of a time when you were not able to do something that you really wanted to do? What happened? (*Allow children to briefly share their experiences. Give examples if children are slow to respond, such as not being able to go over to a friend's house, not being able to play a special board game with Mommy or Daddy, or not being able to go to the playground because of the weather or sickness.*)

Today we are going to learn a true story from God's special book, the Bible. The Cubbie and Katie story was just make-believe. We use our imagination when we see animals talking, because animals don't really talk. But everything we read in the Bible really and truly happened! We can believe the Bible.

(*Open your Bible to Mark 10. Hold it or set it in front of you while you teach so Cubbies know you are transitioning to a time of learning truth from God's Word. Display TC6.*)

One day Jesus was talking to lots of people. He was telling them about His Father, God. In the crowd were grandmas and grandpas, mommies and daddies and even some boys and girls and babies! (*Point to the parents and the children in the picture.*)

The moms and dads wanted Jesus to pray for their children (Matthew 19:13). They also wanted the children to learn all about Jesus, so they moved their children closer to Jesus.

Cubbies, can you think about how exciting it would be to see Jesus? Let's pretend we are the children in the crowd. (*Ask children to stand and take one step forward, and then say, "I want*

to learn about Jesus.") Good! Now you can sit down and we will learn what happened to the boys and girls in our true story!

(*Display TC7.*) Jesus had special helpers with Him. These helpers were called disciples. Can you say that with me? (*Encourage children to say disciples with you as you point to them in the picture.*)

The disciples did not want the children to bother Jesus. They told the children, "Stop! You cannot come closer to see Jesus today!"

Optional: Have Cubbies stand. Tell half of the Cubbies to pretend to be the disciples, while the other half pretend to be the children. Encourage the "children" to take steps forward as if they are going to see Jesus. On your count of three, have the "disciples" hold up their hands and tell the "children" to stop. The "children" must freeze in place. Repeat the activity, allowing children to switch roles.

How sad! The children really wanted to see Jesus, but they had to turn around and go away. The children probably felt so sad. Can you make a sad face? (*Make a sad face. Encourage Cubbies to follow your example.*)

(*Point to Jesus in the picture.*) Boys and girls, look at Jesus. Did He look happy that the children were going away? (*Allow response.*)

He was angry! He did not like His disciples telling the children to go away. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Do not stop them!" (*Encourage the children to repeat Jesus' words together. Remind the children how much Jesus loved the boys and girls. He was not too busy for the children.*)

(*Display TC8.*) All the children happily walked toward Jesus. Can you pretend to be the happy children? (*Ask children to stand and walk in place as they clap their hands and smile. Direct children to be seated, and then point to Jesus and the children in the picture.*)

(*Display TC9.*) See the children with Jesus? Jesus loved them. He held them on His lap. Jesus

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prayed for each one of the boys and girls that day.

Optional: If your Cubbies are still engaged, ask them several questions as they look at the pictures on TC8 and TC9. Possible questions: Where would you be if you were with Jesus in this picture? Would you sit in His lap or stand next to Him? Would you be shy and peek out like the child in the back? Would you give Him a big hug or a kiss? Would you hold His hand? Do any of the children look like you? (Kids love to see “themselves” in pictures and it helps them personalize the story.)

Cubbies, Jesus loved the children, and Jesus loves each one of you! Let’s say the Cubbies motto together: Jesus loves me! **(Repeat the motto several times. Cubbies should point to themselves each time they say the word me. If your group is small, point to each Cubbie and insert his or her name into the motto: “Jesus loves Andrew,” “Jesus loves Emma,” etc.)**

(Display TC10.) Guess what, Cubbies? Jesus liked the way the little children came to Him and trusted in Him. We can trust that Jesus loves us and that He is our Savior, who died on the cross for our sin and came alive again. Jesus said the people who trust Him as their Savior will have a home with Him in heaven one day. In heaven, we will live with Jesus always. It will be a wonderful, happy and perfect place!

Optional: Ask, “Does anyone know a song that reminds us of how much Jesus loves boys and girls?” Allow children to give several suggestions. Choose one of the songs mentioned, or “Jesus Loves Me,” to sing together. Emphasize Jesus’ love for children and repeat the Cubbies motto several more times.

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug B Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD. This sheet contains helpful discussion questions, tips and activity ideas for helping Cubbies review the lesson and learn the verse.

IDEA 1: Bear Hug B Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of the Bear Hug B Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons or colored pencils

Review the Bible story of Jesus and the children. Tell Cubbies to pretend they are children trying to get to Jesus that day. Let them complete the maze on the activity sheet to reach Jesus. If desired, Cubbies can complete the various fun options at the bottom of the sheet.

IDEA 2: Magnetic Pom-poms

What You Need

- Copy of the heart pattern sheet (resource CD)
- A large supply of assorted pom-poms (any size or color)
- Strip magnets
- Scissors for leaders to use to cut magnets
- Hot glue gun
- A cookie sheet for each handbook table (These can be bought at dollar store. Just make sure the sheet will work with the magnets.)

Beforehand, make many magnetic pom-poms by cutting small magnet strips and hot gluing one to each pom-pom. During Handbook Time, lay a heart pattern sheet on a cookie sheet at each group’s table. Cubbies can place pom-poms on each circle in the heart after they finish reciting the motto or while others are reciting the motto.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Preschoolers love repetition. They are comforted by familiarity, and they often need to play a game several times to learn it. Don't be afraid to repeat the same games for several weeks. You can usually adapt games to fit the new lesson theme.

IDEA 1: Jesus Loves Who?

What You Need

- Nothing

This game is a repeat of a game in Bear Hug A, with slight variations. All Cubbies stand on one side of the play area. The game leader stands in the middle of the area and calls out, "Jesus loves Cubbies!" All Cubbies run to the opposite side of the room. Then the game leader sends Cubbies back to their starting position and repeats the game by calling out various statements (e.g., "Jesus loves kids with brown eyes!" "Jesus loves Cubbies who are 3 years old!" "Jesus loves Cubbies who like ice cream!"). Cubbies run when they fit the description called. Make sure all Cubbies get a chance to run.

IDEA 2: Name Games

What You Need

- A soft ball
- *Optional* — apple beanbag (made from felt) or a red beanbag

Play one of these games to help Cubbies continue to learn each other's names. Game 1: Say, "Katie Collie wanted to play catch with her ball in our puppet story. Let's play a game of catch now with our ball (or beanbag). Let's all stand in a circle. Before you throw the ball to someone you have to say their name." Game 2: Hold beanbag (or ball) and say, "I like apples. Yes, I do. I like apples. (insert name), do you?" Toss the beanbag to the child named. The child answers and tosses the beanbag back to you. (As children catch on, allow them to say the rhyme and choose a person to toss the beanbag to.)

IDEA 3: Musical Hugs

What You Need

- Music player

Instruct Cubbies to move around the room while music plays. (The game leader can give ideas for movement such as walk, hop, tiptoe, march or run.) When the music stops, each child should quickly find someone to hug and say "Jesus loves you." (If you have children who would be uncomfortable with hugs, they can give high fives instead.)

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

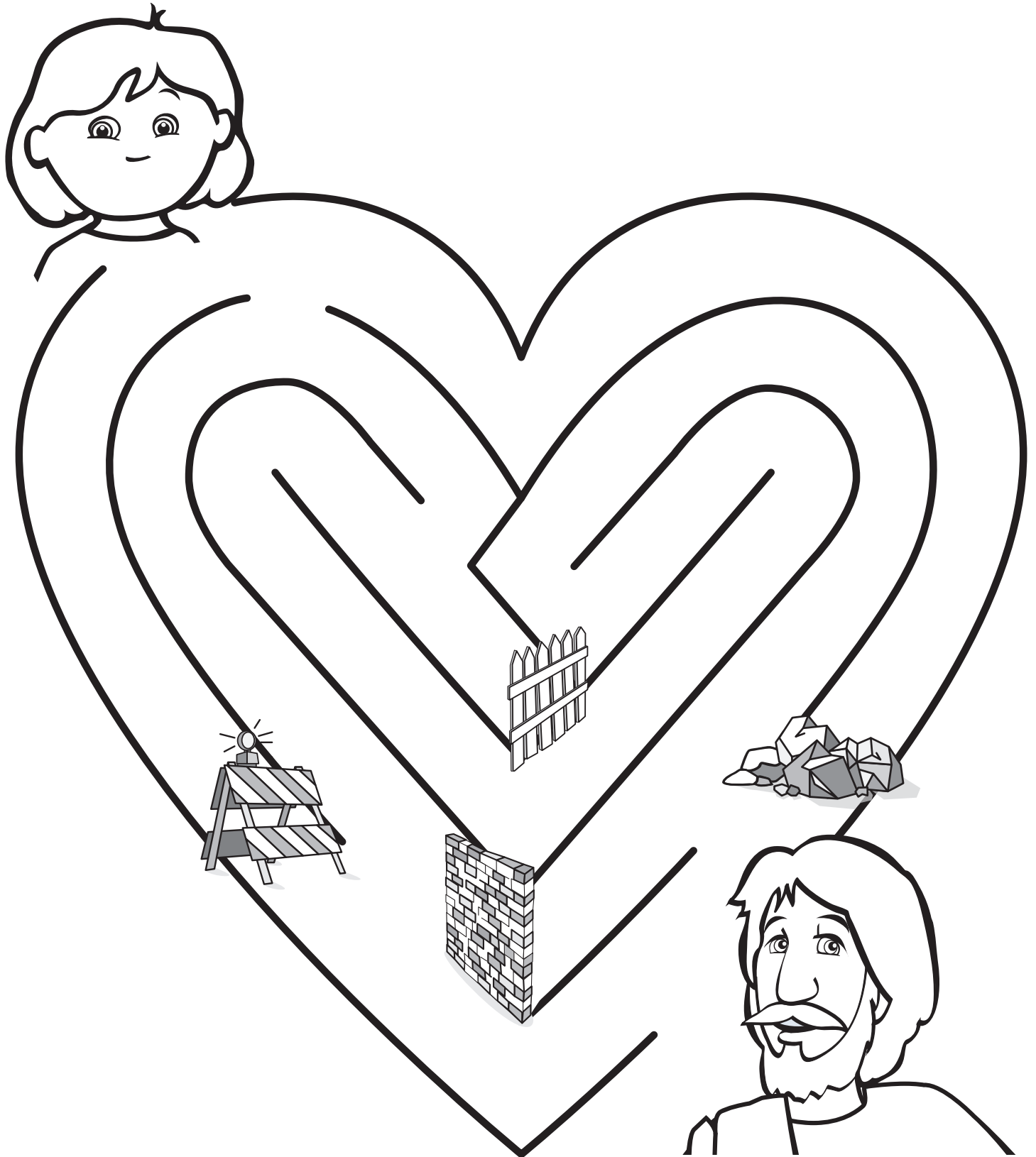
While children wait for parents to arrive, involve them in a low-energy activity that also reviews the Cubbies motto.

Here's something to ponder in your ministry to Cubbies: Have you ever considered what a paper plate and a china plate have in common? We use them for the same thing — as a way to hold our food while we eat it. However, in other ways they are not the same. The paper plate is disposable, less costly to buy and more efficient in cleanup. On the other hand, the china plate is costly, must be washed, handled with great care, delicate, easily broken, takes more time and effort, and is often passed down from generation to generation. Love the children in your club as heirloom china plates, taking the time and effort needed to keep them protected and nurtured.

AWARD ALERT!

Since Cubbies have finished the Cubbies *Apple Acres* entrance booklet, they will each receive a vest, the first Green Apple emblem and a handbook. Be sure parents know how to work with their child on handbook sections.





Basic Instructions: Do you remember the story of Jesus and the children from the Bible (in Mark 10:13-16)? The children wanted to see Jesus, but Jesus' friends, the disciples, told the children to go away. Jesus didn't want the children to go away. He told the children to come to Him. Pretend you are a child from the story. Complete the maze to get to Jesus.

Even More Fun: Color the child. Tell two friends that Jesus loves them too. How do you feel when you think about Jesus loving you? If it makes you feel happy, draw a smile on the face.

Ultimate Fun: Color Jesus.



**BEAR
HUG**

I

A Is for All

Make It Stick: Romans 3:23: ... *All have sinned* ...

The Big Buzz: All of us are sinners, and all of us need the Savior, Jesus Christ, to save us from our sin.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Romans 3:9-23

Memorize: Romans 3:23

This week your Cubbies will learn one of the foundational truths of the gospel: all have sinned. Romans 3 gives two diverse examples of "All." In verses 9-19, the apostle Paul paints a devastating picture of humanity's hopeless state: ... *There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God (Romans 3:10-11).*

The tragedy of humanity is fully revealed in verse 23 as Paul compares our helplessness to God's glory. *For ALL have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23, emphasis added).* No one, not even the kindest, most generous person who ever lived, could be good enough when compared to God's holy glory. For the nonbeliever, Romans 3:23 is an eternal sentence of death. ALL of us face the same fate because of our sin.

However, another "All" offers hope. It is ... *the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto ALL ... them that believe ... (Romans 3:22, emphasis added).*

During the club year, you will present the gospel to your Cubbies many times. As you do so, remember that for Cubbies to understand their need for a Savior, they must first realize they have disobeyed God (sinned). You can usually get kids to see their sin when you share real-life examples of disobedience to parents — because all Cubbies have disobeyed their parents! They also need to recognize the importance of obedience to their greatest authority: God.

As you prepare this lesson, ask the Holy Spirit to prepare you to present the truths of Romans 3:22 and 23 to your Cubbies.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good (Psalm 34:8)*! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Learn the definition of sin: Sin is anything we think, say or do that disobeys God.
2. Grasp the truth that all people are sinners.
3. Recognize their personal sin as disobedience to God.
4. Begin to comprehend their personal need for a Savior.
5. _____
6. _____

(Add the goals the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

Welcome Cubbies and reinforce what they learned at home with one or more of the following activities.

IDEA 1: Apple Pie

What You Need

- One pie tin (or paper plate) for each table
- Apple shapes with letters on them cut from card stock or foam (resource CD)
- *Optional* — tan felt circle cut to fit inside the pie tin, puffy paint or liquid glue to trace over letters, set of apples that include pictures of A and C items (resource CD)

This activity can be continued in the next lesson (Bear Hug 2). Beforehand, cut out several apple shapes to use with each pie tin. (For Cubbies who are visually impaired or who need extra sensory input, trace over the letters on the apples with puffy paint or liquid glue and let it dry. Cubbies can identify the letters by touch.) Place the optional tan circle inside the tin to represent dough. Invite Cubbies to help make an “apple pie” by placing all the A apples into the tin. Pretend to put the pie in the oven (in a cubbyhole, on a shelf, etc.). As you pretend the pie is cooking, say that in Cubbies the letter A stands for All. Recite Romans 3:23 and define sin for Cubbies. Challenge older Cubbies with the set of apples with pictures on them. If the apple shows an item that begins with an A, they should place it in the pie. Next week, tell Cubbies to place all the C apples or apples with C pictures into the tin. Review that C stands for Christ and recite Romans 5:8.

IDEA 2: Scribble Letters

What You Need

- Blue painter's tape
- Copy of “A Is for All” pattern sheet for each Cubbie (resource CD)
- Markers or crayons
- Pictures of kids sinning (resource CD)

Give each Cubbie an “A Is for All” pattern sheet. At each table, leaders help Cubbies stick strips of tape in the middle of their paper to form a large A. Cubbies use markers or crayons to scribble all over their paper. Then a leader can help each Cubbie carefully remove the tape to reveal a beautiful letter A. Ask the Cubbies if they remember what Bible word starts with the letter A (*All*). Together recite Romans 3:23. Define sin and use the pictures to talk about examples of sin.

IDEA 3: Magnetic Pom-poms

What You Need

- Copy of the A, C and cross circle pattern sheets (resource CD)
- A large supply of assorted pom-poms (any size or color)
- Strip magnets
- Scissors (for leaders' use) to cut magnets
- Hot glue gun
- Two cookie sheets
- *Optional* — if desired, simply have Cubbies glue pom-poms directly onto the patterns

This activity can be continued in the next lesson. Make magnetic pom-poms by cutting small magnet strips and hot gluing one to each pom-pom. Lay the A circle pattern sheet on a cookie sheet. (Laminate the sheet for durability.) Tell Cubbies to place pom-poms on ALL the circles. When all the circles are filled, say that just as ALL the circles have been filled, the Bible says we are ALL sinners — that means you and me and every other person. Count all the people in the room together. Then recite Romans 3:23. Next week include the second cookie sheet with the C circle pattern sheet and cross circle pattern sheet on it.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue to develop a starting routine for your Cubbies club. This week you may want to sing the “Cubbies Song” and “If You're Happy You're at Cubbies” (from Bear Hug A). Recite the Cubbies key verse and the Cubbies motto.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Luvie Lamb puppet
- *Optional* — apple, toy airplane or picture of an airplane

LEADER: Boys and girls, I wonder what Cubbie Bear has been up to today? Let's see if he will come and talk with us. On the count of three, say "Cubbie!" Ready? One — two — three. Cubbie!

(After children call out, bring the Cubbie puppet into view, breathing heavily.)

CUBBIE *(breathing heavily)*: Hi, boys and girls!

LEADER: Cubbie, have you been running? You seem like you're out of breath!

CUBBIE *(still breathing heavily)*: Yes, I just ran over here from the playground. Timothy and I had quite an adventure today. We were looking for A's on Apple Acres Farm. *(Emphasize the A sounds in Apple Acres Farm.)* First, we found a lot of yummy apples! The word *apple* starts with an A.

(Hold up an apple if you brought one. Then bring the Luvie Lamb puppet into view. She hides behind Cubbie and giggles.)

CUBBIE: After I picked an apple, we stopped by the petting zoo.

LEADER *(spotting Luvie Lamb)*: Luvie, does your name start with an A?

LUVIE *(hopping out from behind Cubbie)*: No! Luvie starts with an L. Today Timothy, Cubbie and I watched a tiny little *ant* trying to carry a piece of *apple* up the *anthill*.

LEADER: Wait! *Ant* and *anthill* both begin with the letter A!

LUVIE *(nodding)*: That's right!

CUBBIE: Then Timothy and I climbed on the big toy *airplane* in the playground.

LUVIE *(interrupting Cubbie)*: And *airplane* starts with A!

(Display the toy airplane or airplane picture if you brought it.)

LEADER: It sounds like you all had an *amazing* day!

CUBBIE *(nodding)*: We did! And the best part was that I got to spend the day playing with my friends!

LEADER: I'm glad. It's fun to have special play times with friends.

CUBBIE: It sure is. *(Moving his mouth and making lip-smacking noises.)* Our search for A's has made me really hungry! Luvie, let's go see if Timothy will share a piece of his grandma's *awesome* *apple* pie. Bye, everyone!

(Let children say goodbye as the puppets are put away.)

LEADER: Cubbie and his friends found lots of things that start with the letter A on the farm. Today we're going to learn about a word from the Bible that starts with the letter A. This word helps us remember something very important that God wants us to know.

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during the club meeting. Use the snack time song from prior weeks to transition Cubbies.

IDEA 1: Letter A Snacks

What You Need

- Any food that begins with the letter A (e.g., animal crackers, apple turnovers, angel food cake, apricots, applesauce, Apple Jacks® cereal)

Say the name of the snack while Cubbies eat and see if they can tell you the beginning letter of the snack. Name together other foods that start with A. Remind Cubbies that the Bible word All starts with A and recite Romans 3:23 together. Review the definition of sin and name a few examples of ways a child might sin.

IDEA 2: Alphabet Crackers of Cookies

What You Need

- Alphabet crackers or cookies

As Cubbies eat, encourage them to look for the letter A crackers or cookies. Review that A is for All. Make sure Cubbies understand the meaning of Romans 3:23 and recite it together.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- “The B-I-B-L-E”** Remind Cubbies that the Bible tells us that we are sinners, and it also tells us that God loves us. To help literal-minded preschoolers, change the last line of the song from “I stand alone on the Word of God ...” to “I like to hear the Word of God. The B-I-B-L-E!”
- “Romans 3:23”** from the *HoneyComb Handbook Music CD*
- “Where Is the A?”** to the tune of “Where Is Thumbkin?” Hide TC14 or a construction paper A behind your back and display it when you sing “Here it is!”

Where is the A? Where is the A?
Here it is! Here it is!
Tell us what it stands for.
Tell us what it stands for.
A is for all ... All have sinned ...

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, it's time to talk to God in prayer. When we pray, we can tell God we are sorry for our sin. If you worked with someone at home in your handbook, you learned about sin. Do you remember what a sin is? *(Allow Cubbies to respond.)* A sin is anything we think *(point to head)*, say *(point to mouth)* or do *(hit your fist in your hand)* that disobeys God. *(Repeat the sin definition and let Cubbies do the motions with you.)* Fold your hands, bow your heads, and close your eyes so that we do not look at anybody else when we talk to God.

(Model a short prayer of admitting a sin to God. For example, you could say, “We are sorry, God, for the times we have disobeyed our parents. We know that You say that is a sin. Thank you, God, for forgiving our sin because of what Jesus did for us on the cross.”)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 11-14
- Bible with a bookmark placed at Romans 3:23
- *Optional* — a few tulips or a bouquet of any kind of flower, a Cubbies vest

(Adapt and personalize the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

I'm happy that Cubbie got to play with his good friends, Timothy and Luvie, today. Do you have good friends you like to play with? What do you like to do with your friends? *(Encourage children to respond.)*

I want to tell you a pretend story about a little girl named Sara who liked to play with her good friend, Emma. Even though Sara had fun with her friend, something sad happened.

Sara loved to play outside. She loved to blow bubbles and ride her tricycle. One day Sara asked Emma to come over for a play date. They had so much fun! First, they enjoyed a yummy snack.

After the girls finished their snack, Sara asked her mom if they could play outside. "That's fine," said Mom, "but do not go into Mrs. Brown's yard, and be sure not to pick her flowers."

(Display TC 11.) Emma and Sara ran to the playhouse and pretended to fix dinner. "We need some pretty flowers," Sara said, pointing to the empty cup on the table. "There are pretty ones in Mrs. Brown's yard."

"Sara, your mom said we shouldn't pick the flowers in Mrs. Brown's yard!" Emma reminded her.

"But our table will look so nice with flowers on it," said Sara. "I won't pick ALL the flowers. I'll only pick enough flowers to fit in the cup."

(Display TC12.) Sara ran to the neighbor's fence and picked a handful of the biggest, brightest tulips she could find. She ran back to the playhouse and proudly put the flowers in the empty cup.

Optional: Pass around the flowers you brought. Encourage children to smell them and to feel their pretty petals. As children examine the flowers, explain that Sara was so happy to have the pretty flowers for her table, but she shouldn't have disobeyed.

Later, when Sara's mom came out to tell Emma it was time to go home, she noticed the flowers.

"Sara," mother asked, "Did you pick the flowers from Mrs. Brown's yard?"

Sara looked down at her toes. "Yes, Mama," she whispered.

"Sara, I told you not to pick Mrs. Brown's flowers," said her mother.

Sara knew she had disobeyed. "I'm sorry, Mama," said Sara. She started to cry.

"Sara, you need to tell Mrs. Brown that you are sorry," Sara's mother said.

(Display TC13.) After Emma went home, Sara and her mother walked to Mrs. Brown's house and knocked on her door. When Mrs. Brown opened the door, she noticed the wilted tulips in Sara's hand.

"I did something wrong," said Sara quietly. "I picked your flowers after Mama told me not to."

Mrs. Brown looked sadly at the wilted flowers. "Those were the best tulips in my garden. I was going to pick them and put them in the vase on my table. My friends are coming over for dinner and I wanted the table to look pretty," she said.

"I'm sorry," said Sara.

"I am sad about my flowers," said Mrs. Brown, "but I am glad that you told me the truth. Just remember that it is never OK to disobey."

Sara and her mom walked home. Sara was still sad about the flowers.

"Let's go to the store," said Sara's mom. "You can help me buy some new flowers for Mrs. Brown. She can put the new flowers on her table to make it look pretty."

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Sara nodded. She knew that every time she looked at Mrs. Brown's house she would remember that it is never OK to disobey.

Boys and girls, we ALL do wrong things, just like Sara. (*Span your hands out across the room.*) Each person in this room has done wrong things: all of the leaders, and all of the Cubbies. Can you help me think of some wrong things you might do? (*Encourage children to respond. Possible answers include disobeying parents or leaders, fighting with brothers and sisters, lying.*)

(*Display TC14, point to the children sinning in the picture. Talk about the ways the children appear to be sinning in the pictures.*) Cubbies, when we do wrong things and disobey God, we sin. A sin is anything we think (*point to your head*), say (*point to your mouth*) or do (*hit your fist in your hand*) that disobeys God. (*Repeat the definition and motions together.*)

(*Open your Bible to Romans 3:23.*) God's special book, the Bible, says: ... *All have sinned* ... (*Romans 3:23*). Let's stand and say the verse together. (*Have children stand and repeat the verse with you several times as you display TC14 again. Then direct children to be seated.*)

(*Point to the letter A on TC14.*) Do you see the letter A? This A stands for the word *all* in ... *All have sinned* ... You each have an A on your Cubbies vest. (*Hold up the Cubbies vest and point to the A. Encourage children to find and trace the A on their vests.*) This letter A reminds us that ALL people sin. Every boy sins, and every girl sins. Every grown-up sins too.

(*Ask all the girls in the room to stand and say, "Every girl sins." Ask all the boys in the room to stand and say, "Every boy sins." Stand and invite all the leaders in the room to stand with you and say, "Every leader sins." When everyone in the room is standing, repeat Romans 3:23 several times together.*)

Because we have all sinned, we *all* need a Savior to save us from sin. Cubbies, I have good news! God loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. We will learn more about what Jesus did for us next week.

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug I Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD. This sheet contains helpful discussion questions, tips and activity ideas for helping Cubbies review the lesson and learn the verse.

IDEA 1: Bear Hug I Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of the Bear Hug I Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — construction paper, glue sticks, pairs of child-sized scissors, pictures of kids sinning (resource CD)

Review the letter A with Cubbies. Show them first how to trace a path through the A boxes with a finger. Then let them use a crayon to draw a line through only the A boxes to complete the maze. If you are doing the Ultimate Fun activity at the bottom of the sheet, talk about the wrong choices the children are making in the pictures. Review that sin is anything we think, say or do that disobeys God.

IDEA 2: Play-Doh Letters

What You Need

- Play-Doh®
- Craft stick for each leader
- Colorful straws cut into one-inch (2.5-cm) lengths
- *Optional* — rolling pins to flatten Play-Doh

Show Cubbies how to flatten a ball of Play-Doh with their hands or a rolling pin. Leaders carve a large A on each Cubbie's dough, using the end of a craft stick. Cubbies then insert the straw pieces (either all laid flat or all sticking up) into the carving to form the letter. Review that A is for All and recite Romans 3:23.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Preschoolers enjoy repetition, and they often need to play a game several times to learn it. Play a few of the Cubbies' favorite games from the past two weeks and add one or more of these new games.

IDEA 1: Cubbie See, Cubbie Do

What You Need

- Nothing

Direct Cubbies to stand and copy the actions of a leader who is hopping and chanting, "Cubbie see, Cubbie do. I can (hop). How about you?" The leader keeps repeating the chant and replacing the word *hop* with various actions, such as clap my hands, pat my head, reach for the sky, say Romans 3:23, growl like a bear, wiggle my fingers or stand on one foot. When the group recites Romans 3:23 together, the leader should stop to ask Cubbies what the words *all* and *sin* mean.

IDEA 2: Letter A Action Game

What You Need

- Picture cube made from card stock (resource CD)
- *Optional* — square tissue box, scissors, glue stick and enlarged cube pictures (resource CD)

Use the pattern on the resource CD to make a picture cube. (If desired, use a standard sized, square tissue box. Copy the enlarged pictures from the patterns on the resource CD and glue a picture on each side of the cube.)

To play, a leader rolls the cube and Cubbies chant, "Leader, leader, what do you see?" The leader says, "I see a (insert name of the cube picture facing up) looking at me!" Children then do an action based on the picture:

Apple — Children pretend to pick apples from a tree.

Ants — Children form a line and march like ants.

Airplane — Children spread their arms to make wings and pretend to fly around the room.

Anchor — Children sink to the floor and sit.

Alligator — Children mimic an alligator mouth by straightening their arms and slapping their hands together.

Letter A — Children say "A is for All" and recite Romans 3:23.

IDEA 3: Search for All People

What You Need

- Several wooden peg clothespins colored to look like people
- Bucket or box
- *Optional* — Use colored balls, beanbags or blocks instead of clothespins.

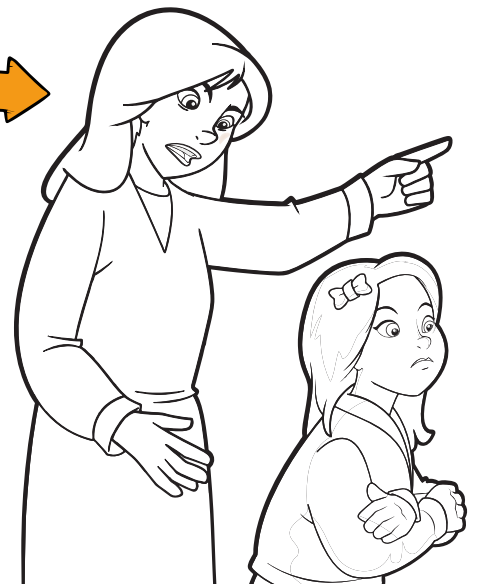
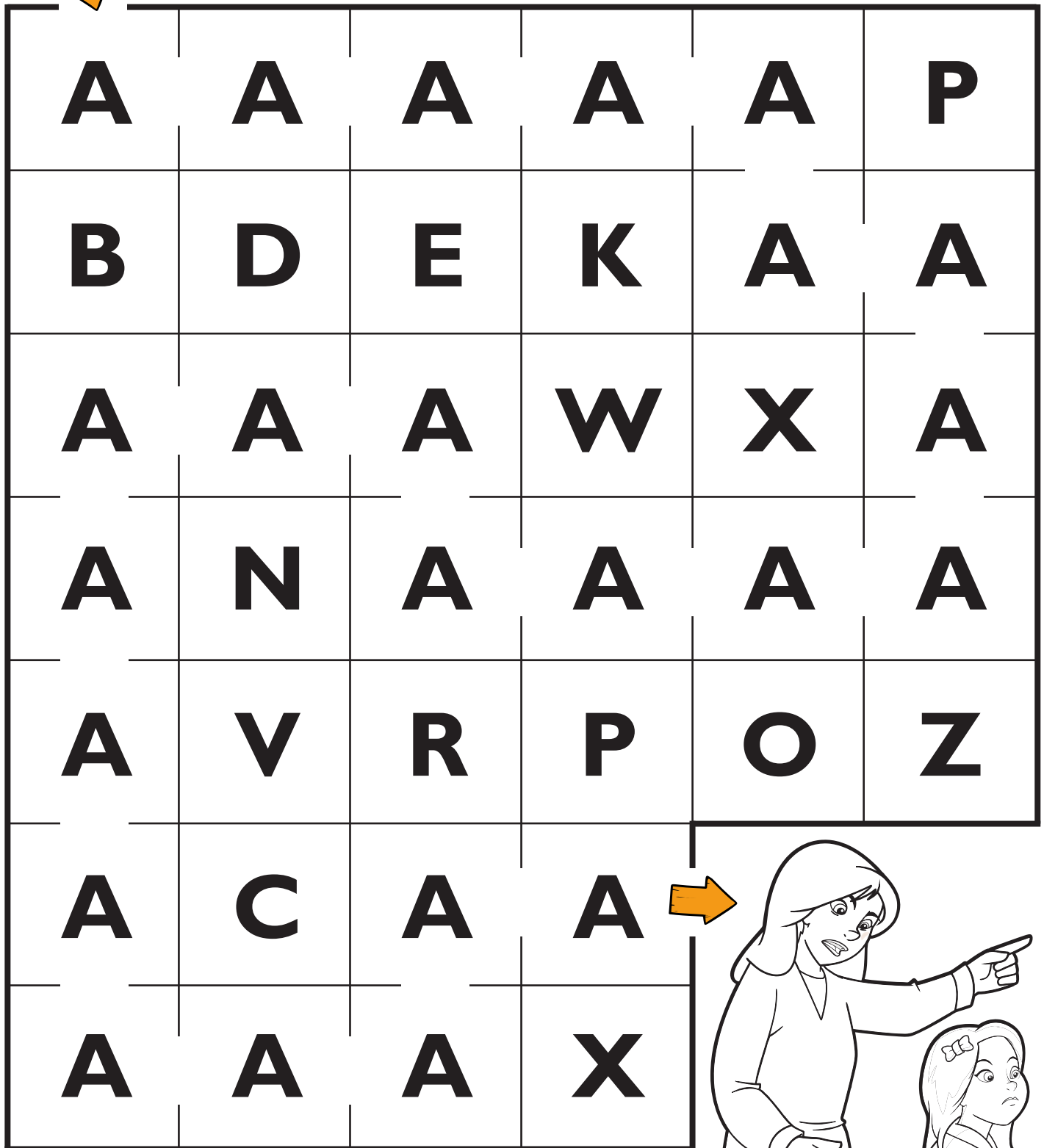
Ahead of time, use a permanent marker to draw a face on each clothespin head. You can also paint hair or clothes on the clothespins. Scatter the clothespins around the play area. Tell Cubbies to race to pick up all the people and drop them in the bucket or box. Count the clothespins together and make sure that ALL the clothespins have been found. Ask Cubbies: "How many people have sinned? Only two people? Only 10 people?" Emphasize that ALL people have sinned, including you and all the Cubbies.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

Set a timer or play a song while Cubbies clean up the room. Challenge Cubbies to put away ALL the toys, papers, books or other items before the timer sounds or the music stops. Review that A is for All and recite Romans 3:23. This game can be part of your Going Home routine each week. Next week, also review that C is for Christ and recite Romans 5:8.



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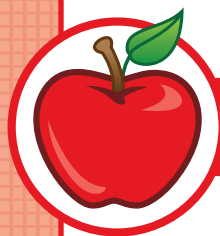


A is for All.
... All have sinned ...
(Romans 3:23)

Basic Instructions: Draw a line through only the A boxes to reach the Scripture verse and picture. Say "A is for All." Recite Romans 3:23.

Even More Fun: Color all of the A boxes and the picture of the mother and child.

Ultimate Fun: Cut out the picture of the mother and child and glue it to a sheet of construction paper. On the paper, glue other pictures of children sinning (which your Cubbies leader will give to you).



**BEAR
HUG 2**

C Is for Christ

Make It Stick: Romans 5:8: ... *While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

The Big Buzz: While we were sinners, God loved us and sent His Son to live a perfect life and then die for our sins and rise again. Those who trust Christ as Savior will live in heaven with Him forever.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Romans 5:1-8

Memorize: Romans 5:8

We have all heard heroic stories of men and women who gave their lives trying to save another person, and our response is usually one of awe and — if we are honest — surprise.

It is good to remember such deeds, but we often fail to recognize the greatest personal sacrifice of all time: ... *while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).*

Christ, the perfect, sinless Son of God, knowingly gave up the riches of heaven to face a torturous death on the cross for all people. For you. For the Cubbies in your club.

The greatest demonstration of love took place on the cross of Calvary, and the benefits are eternal. As you recall the ultimate sacrifice made on your behalf, may your heart echo the praises of Paul: *Unto Him be glory ... throughout all ages ... (Ephesians 3:21).*

This week you get to introduce your Cubbies more fully to the person and work of Jesus Christ. As you relive the account of Christ's birth, earthly ministry, death and resurrection, emphasize that Christ *chose* to come to earth and die for our sin because He loves us. As the boys and girls begin to recognize God's great love for them, their hearts will be tender to their need of a Savior.

Be sure to leave time at the end of this lesson for Cubbies to ask questions. Over the last three lessons, you have been explaining the gospel in a variety of ways. Cubbies often need to hear the gospel several times before they understand it. Use this question time to check their level of understanding.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good (Psalm 34:8)*! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Remember that God loves us, even though we have sinned. God sent His Son to save us from the punishment of our sin.
2. Believe that Jesus is the sinless Son of God.
3. Learn that Jesus lived on earth, loved people, died on the cross for our sins, rose again and now lives in heaven.
4. Realize that those who trust Jesus as Savior will live with Him forever in heaven someday.
5. Begin to understand the gospel message, so at the right time, they will trust Christ personally as Savior.
6. _____

(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

Welcome Cubbies and reinforce what they learned at home in their handbooks by continuing the IDEA 1: Apple Pie or IDEA 3: Magnetic Pom-poms from Bear Hug 1 or by choosing one or more of the activities below.

IDEA 1: Crayon Reveal A and C

What You Need

- Construction paper
- White crayons
- Water color paints
- Paint brushes
- Cups of water
- *Optional* — Romans 3:23 and Romans 5:8 verse labels (resource CD)

Ahead of time, a leader presses firmly with a white crayon to draw a large A or C on each paper. Cubbies paint over the paper with watercolors to reveal the letter. Review what the A and C stand for in Cubbies and recite the corresponding verses. You may also attach the corresponding verse label to each picture.

IDEA 2: Pipe Cleaner C's

What You Need

- Pipe cleaners
- Drinking straws in various colors
- Pairs of child-sized scissors

Let Cubbies use scissors to snip off sections of the straws. (This is great practice with scissors that even the younger Cubbies can do!) Then Cubbies will thread a pipe cleaner through several straw sections until the pipe cleaner is almost covered. Leaders fold a short portion of the pipe cleaner over the first and last straw sections to keep all the sections in place. Finally, show Cubbies how to bend the pipe cleaner into the shape of the letter C. Remind them that C stands for Christ and recite Romans 5:8 together.

IDEA 3: We've Got Mail

What You Need

- Several envelopes
- Pen or marker
- Two boxes
- *Optional* — decorate the boxes to look like mailboxes

Ahead of time, seal the envelopes and write an A or C on the front of each envelope. Also write a large A on one box and a large C on the other box. Give each Cubbie a handful of envelopes. Let Cubbies pretend to be mail carriers and place the mail in the correct mail boxes. Review what the A and C stand for in Cubbies.

IDEA 4: Ping-pong Scoop

What You Need

- Several ping-pong balls
- Permanent marker
- Clean, recycled ice cream bucket
- Ice cream scoop
- Plastic or paper bowl for each child or only two bowls (an A bowl and C bowl)

Beforehand, write an A or C on each of the balls. Place balls in the empty ice cream bucket. Cubbies take turns using the scoop to retrieve a ball from the bucket. If the Cubbie can identify the letter and recite the corresponding verse, she may place the ball in her bowl or in the right letter bowl. Otherwise, it is placed back in the bucket, and the next child takes a turn. For large clubs, include several sets of buckets and scoops so children do not have to wait long for their turn. Save the balls and bucket for use with Play Time IDEA 1: A/C Jumping Bean.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. For example, sing the "Cubbies Song" and "If You're Happy You're at Cubbies" (from Bear Hug A). Recite the Cubbies key verse, the Cubbies motto, the A verse (Romans 3:23) and the C verse (Romans 5:8).

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — adhesive bandage

(Before the puppet show, place the optional adhesive bandage on the Cubbie Bear puppet's nose.)

LEADER: Hi, Cubbies! I wonder how our friend, Cubbie Bear, is doing today. Are you ready to see him? When I count to three, call "Cubbie!" I'm sure he will come out and talk with us! One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(After children call out, bring the Cubbie puppet into view. He should either have the bandage on his nose or hold his nose with his paw.)

CUBBIE: Hi, boys and girls.

LEADER: Cubbie, is something wrong with your nose?

CUBBIE (rubbing his nose): Yes, I got stung by a bee today.

LEADER: A bee!? Oh, no, Cubbie, what happened?

CUBBIE: Well, Timothy and I decided to search the farm to find all the things that start with the letter C. We found toy *cars* in Timothy's room, a picture of a *castle* in the living room, and ...

LEADER: Well, I still don't understand how you hurt your nose!

CUBBIE: While we were outside looking for things that begin with C, I got really hungry! I remembered one of my favorite C words: a *comb*!

LEADER (confused): Do you mean the kind of comb you use in your hair?

CUBBIE: No, a *honeycomb*! I remembered the beehive we found near the apple orchard. And bees make honeycombs in their hives. Everybody knows that when you find a honeycomb, you will surely find some yummy honey! Timothy and I walked to the orchard near the beehive. We tried to be quiet ...

(Make a loud barking sound and bring the Katie Collie puppet into view.)

KATIE (interrupting): I reminded Cubbie and Timothy to stay away from the beehive, or they might get stung!

CUBBIE: Timothy and I tried to be careful. We thought the bees were away visiting flowers on the farm. We tiptoed to the hive, but then we saw that the bees were still home! They came out of their hive, and one of the bees stung me right on the nose!

LEADER: Ouch! I'm sorry, Cubbie.

CUBBIE: That's OK. It doesn't hurt anymore. Timothy put medicine and a bandage on my nose.

KATIE: And I licked Cubbie Bear's paw to cheer him up.

LEADER: I'm glad you have Timothy and Katie Collie to help you feel better.

CUBBIE (laughing): I am too! Timothy says he is happy to have a great friend like me, even though sometimes I like honey too much, and I get us into trouble.

KATIE: And I am glad that I have you for a friend, Cubbie, even though you don't always listen to me.

LEADER: And you both have a good friend, Timothy, who loves you. Boys and girls, can you say goodbye to Cubbie and Katie Collie?

(Let children say goodbye as the puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during the club meeting. Provide a way for Cubbies to sanitize their hands before eating the snack.

IDEA 1: Letter C Snacks

What You Need

- Any food that begins with the letter C (e.g., cantaloupe, cottage cheese, crackers, corn cereal, croissants, cucumbers and dip, cross-shaped cookies)

Say the name of the snack while Cubbies eat and see if they can tell you the beginning letter of the snack. Name together other foods that start with C. Remind Cubbies that the most important word that starts with C is *Christ*. Recite Romans 5:8 together and talk about why you are glad Jesus died on the cross for our sin.

IDEA 2: Carrot Cake Mini-Cupcakes

What You Need

- Carrot cake (or chocolate) mini-cupcakes
- *Optional* — substitute chocolate chip cookies for cupcakes

Review the sound of the letter C with Cubbies. Say the name of your snack and tell Cubbies to raise their hands when they hear a C sound. Ask Cubbies to tell you what the C stands for in Cubbies. Ask if any Cubbies want to recite Romans 5:8 for the group.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **“The B-I-B-L-E”** Change the last line of the song to “I like to hear the Word of God. The B-I-B-L-E!”
- **“Where Is the A?”** from Bear Hug 1. Turn this song into a game by having Cubbies sit in a circle. Choose one Cubbie to stand and close his eyes while you give a small foam or plastic A (or index card with A written on it) to a child in the circle, who hides it from view. Before the group sings “Here it is!” the child standing should open his eyes and guess who has the A. The child with the A should display it while the group finishes the song and she becomes the guesser on the next round. Repeat the song so several Cubbies have a turn to hold the A.
- **“Where Is the C?”** Sing this to the Thumbkin tune as you did for “Where Is the A?” This can also be a game as described above. Use a foam C instead of the foam A.

Where is the C? Where is the C?
Here it is! Here it is!
Tell us what it stands for.
Tell us what it stands for.
C is for Christ. C is for Christ.

(Repeat the last two lines but use these words.)
... While we were yet sinners,
... Christ died for us. ... Christ died for us.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, I am glad that we can talk to God in prayer. You can pray to God at any time and at any place. When we pray, we can thank God for all He does for us. We can thank Him for His love. Let's thank God for loving us and sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. Fold your hands, bow your heads and close your eyes so that we can talk to God.

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 8, 10, 14-19
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Romans 3:23 and 5:8
- Cubbies vest
- *Optional* — box filled with paper shreds to represent hay in a manger; baby doll, small cross for Cubbies to pass or larger sanded wooden cross to display, a small stone

(Adapt this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Choose only one or two of the suggested options so you will have time for questions at the end. Open with prayer.)

Katie Collie loves Cubbie Bear very much, even though Cubbie did not listen to her when she told him not to go to the beehive. You have people who love you too! Can you think of some people who love you? *(Responses might include their parents, grandparents, siblings, friends.)*

I know someone who loves you even *more* than anyone else does. Do you know who it is? *(Pause for response.)* It's God! Let's learn more about His love from our special book, the Bible.

(Hold up your Bible and open it to Romans 3:23.)

The Bible tells us the truth about God's love for us. God loves each of us, even though we have all disobeyed God and sinned. *(Display TC14.)*

Remember last week's lesson? We learned that A is for All. Can you say last week's verse with me? ... *All have sinned ... (Romans 3:23).* *(Remind Cubbies sin is anything we think [point to your head], say [point to your mouth] or do [hit your fist in your hand] that disobeys God. Repeat the verse and definition and let Cubbies do the motions with you.)*

Because we have all sinned, we all deserve to be punished by God. (Being punished is when you get in BIG trouble because of the bad things you have done.) The punishment for sin is death. But God loves us, and He chose to do something for us because of our sin. One day, when the time was just right, God sent Jesus, His very own Son, to save us by dying on the cross and being punished for us.

(Show TC15.) What do you think of when you see this picture? *(Let children discuss how this picture reminds them of Christmas, the time we celebrate Jesus' birth.)* Jesus was born as a tiny baby. He didn't have a warm, soft bed or cuddly blankets. He had a manger for His bed. A manger was usually filled with hay for the animals to eat.

Optional: Ask children to stand and sing "Away in a Manger." Add simple motions, if desired.

Optional: Set out a box filled with paper shreds and let Cubbies pretend it is a manger. Set a baby doll in the manger. Let girls take turns pretending to be Mary and rock the baby. Boys can pretend to be Joseph kneeling by the manger and keeping Mary and the baby safe.

You were once a tiny baby, just like Jesus. You didn't stay little for long, and neither did He! He grew and grew. *(Lift arms higher and higher above your head and encourage Cubbies to do the same.)*

(Display TC16.) As a boy, Jesus loved to go to the temple. The temple was the place where people went to worship and learn about God. While Jesus was in the temple, He told the teachers many things about His Father, God. They were surprised at how much He knew!

Jesus was very special. Remember, He is God's Son! That means that Jesus never, ever sinned. He never disobeyed His parents. He never fought with his brothers.

(Display TC8.) As a man, Jesus showed love to all people. He loved the oldest grandmas and grandpas, the moms and the dads and the tiniest babies. Jesus was happy to have little children near Him. He loved them very much.

Many people loved Jesus, but some men did not like Jesus at all. They did not believe that Jesus is God's Son. *(Display TC17.)* These men hurt Jesus and then put Him on a cross. Jesus is God's Son. He could have stopped the men, but He didn't. Jesus chose to die on the cross for our sins. He was punished for us so we wouldn't have to be punished for our sins.

Optional: Pass around a small cross for Cubbies to examine or let them come up to touch a

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larger wooden cross. When you talk about the tomb, pass around a small rock.

It was hard for Jesus to die on the cross, but He did it because He loves us very much. **(Point to the letter C on TC17. Hold up a Cubbies vest and point to the C on the vest. Have Cubbies locate the C on their vests.)** C stands for Christ. **(Read the verse from your open Bible.)** ... While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). **(Have children use their finger to trace the C on their vest or in the air as they repeat the memory verse several times.)**

After Jesus died, His friends put His body in a tomb, which is like a cave in a rock. His friends were very sad that Jesus died. The soldiers put a large stone in front of the opening. Three days passed. Can you count to three with me? **(Encourage children to count on their fingers.)** One — two — three.

I'm glad this is NOT the end of our true story! **(Display TC18.)** On day three, Jesus came alive again! His friends were so happy that Jesus was alive. They praised God and told everyone, "Jesus is alive!"

Optional: Have children stand and clap their hands and shout, "Jesus is alive!" Or clap and sing the following words to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."

Jesus is alive. Jesus is alive.

I will clap my hands and sing. Yes, Jesus is alive.

(Display TC19.) Soon it was time for Jesus to go back to His Father, God. Before Jesus went up to heaven, He told His friends that He would come back one day to take us to heaven to be with Him too. **(Display TC10.)** Those who trust Jesus as Savior, who believe He died on the cross for their sins and came alive again, can one day live in heaven with Him. Heaven will be a happy, safe and more-fun-than-you-can-imagine kind of place. We will love and serve Jesus there forever.

Cubbies, we've heard a lot about Jesus today. What questions do you have about what you've heard?

(This lesson may be new and difficult for some Cubbies. Allowing them to ask questions gives you a chance to hear their reactions, gauge their level of understanding, explain the lesson more fully and discern how the Holy Spirit may be at work. Cubbies may have questions about how to trust Christ as Savior. Review the document "Sharing the Gospel with Cubbies" on the resource CD to find helpful tips on presenting the gospel in an accurate and age-appropriate way.)

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 2 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

IDEA 1: Bear Hug 2 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of the Bear Hug 2 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — construction paper, glue sticks, pairs of child-sized scissors

Review the events from Christ's life as children color the puzzle. For the Ultimate Fun option at the bottom of the activity sheet, Cubbies can cut out the pictures, fit them together as puzzle and glue them to a piece of construction paper.

IDEA 2: Letters in the Haystack

What You Need

- Yellow shredded paper (or green Easter grass)
- Several craft sticks
- A box or tub for each handbook table

Write an alphabet letter on each craft stick, including mostly A's and C's. Place shredded paper in each box. Mix in craft sticks. Cubbies take turns pulling out a stick from the box. When they find an A or C, they recite what the letter stands for and the corresponding verse.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

IDEA 1: A/C Jumping Bean

What You Need

- Several ping-pong balls
- Permanent marker
- Jumping bean labels (resource CD)
- Bucket
- *Optional* — Use index cards instead of ping-pong balls. Write an A or a C on most cards and glue a jumping bean picture on the remaining cards.

Ahead of time, write the letter A or C on most of the ping-pong balls. Attach a jumping bean label to each of the remaining ping-pong balls. Cubbies take turns choosing a ball from the bucket. If an A ball is chosen, the group says “A is for All” and Cubbies make an A shape by raising their arms and touching their fingertips together overhead. The group recites Romans 3:23. If a C ball is chosen, the group says “C is for Christ” and Cubbies make a C shape with their arms. The group recites Romans 5:8. If a ball with a bean is chosen, Cubbies yell “Jumping Bean!” and everyone jumps up and down three times.

IDEA 2: Follow the Honeybee

What You Need

- Nothing
- *Optional* — cut-out flower patterns (resource CD)

Direct Cubbies to line up behind the game leader, who pretends to be a honeybee leading all the other honeybees (the Cubbies) back to their hive. (Designate a spot in the room as the hive.) The leader can lead Cubbies in all directions around the room while they all flap their arms like wings and make buzzing noises. When they reach the hive, the leader chants, “Busy, buzzing honeybees, can you say your verse with me?” The Cubbies recite Romans 5:8 together and the game begins again. For fun, attach flower patterns to the floor or a wall for the bees to stop at as they travel to their hive.

IDEA 3: Color Run

What You Need

- Awana® Game Square or masking tape and construction paper in red, blue, green and yellow
- *Optional* — Use Teaching Cards 14, 17, 18 and 10.

If you do not have a Game Square available, tape one color of paper on each wall in your room. Gather Cubbies in the middle of the play area. Tell Cubbies that they must listen and follow your directions. First, tell the Cubbies to walk slowly to the green line or paper. Once all Cubbies arrive, recite Romans 3:23 together. (Hold up TC14 if desired.) Next, tell Cubbies to crawl to the red line or paper. Recite Romans 5:8 together. (Hold up TC17.) Then, tell Cubbies to smile and hop to the blue line or paper. Cheer together and say, “Jesus came alive again!” (Hold up TC18.) Finally, tell Cubbies to run to the yellow line or paper. Say that yellow reminds you of streets of gold in heaven where we will live with Jesus someday. (Hold up TC10.) Repeat the game and change the order in which you call colors.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

AWARD ALERT!



Cubbies finish the HoneyComb Trail this week. Each Cubbie will receive a Red Apple emblem and a HoneyComb Trail emblem to attach to his or her vest. This is a good time to tell parents about the adhesive Badge Magic sheets, available in the *Awana Ministry Catalog*.

You may want to tell parents to arrive a few minutes early to see their child receive the awards.

C is for Christ.

**... While we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)**

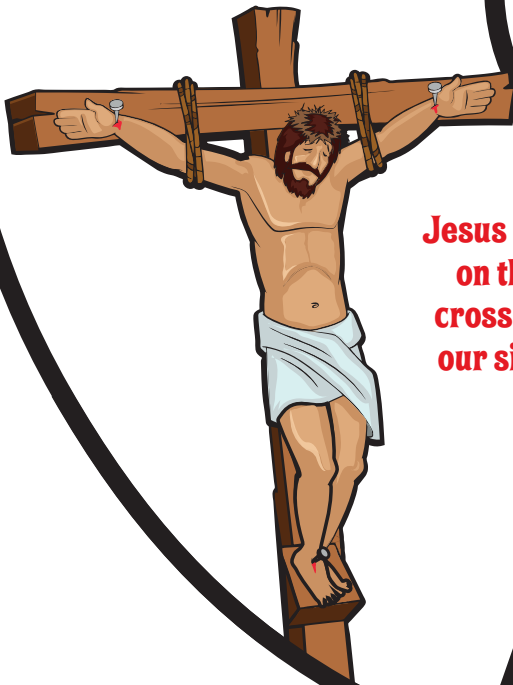
NAME: _____



Jesus loved the children.



Jesus was born and laid in a manger.



**Jesus died
on the
cross for
our sins.**

**Jesus
came alive
again!**



Basic Instructions: Tell your leader or another grown-up what is happening in each picture. Color the background of each picture.

Even More Fun: Cut out the pictures. Fit the pictures together like a puzzle to make a C shape.

Ultimate Fun: Glue your puzzle onto a sheet of construction paper. Use this paper to tell someone else about Jesus.


**BEAR
HUG 3**

Our Magnificent Creator

Make It Stick: Revelation 4:11: “*Thou art worthy, O Lord ... **for Thou hast created all things ...***” (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: God is our Creator. In six days, God made all things, including the first man and woman. God placed Adam and Eve in charge of the earth and all the animals.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Genesis 1; Colossians 1:15-20; Revelation 4:1-11

Memorize: Revelation 4:11

You have most likely studied the account of creation countless times, focusing on the very first chapter of God’s Word. And while this passage offers great depth and insight into the majesty and might of our Creator, the story does not end here.

Throughout the rest of Scripture, God’s sustaining power and personal plan for His creation is unfolded. At the center of God’s plan is Christ: all things were created by Him and for Him, and in Him all things consist, or hold together. With His blood, He reconciled everything in heaven and on earth to Himself (Colossians 1:15-20).

In the very last book of the Bible, we catch a rare glimpse of our creator God in His home. In Revelation 4, John compares the magnificence of the Almighty to priceless jewels. Around the throne sit 24 elders, clothed in white, each adorned with a golden crown. Peals of thunder, lightning and voices echo from the throne, which overlooks a sea of crystal-clear glass. Near the throne reside four creatures — odd in appearance — always seeing, taking in all the details of the Holy One in His majesty. The job of these creatures, day and night, is to offer constant praise.

This is our God, the Alpha and Omega, the Creator and Sustainer and Redeemer of all things. He is still on His throne, still in control.

As you prepare this week’s lesson, reflect often on the One who is seated on His throne. Offer Him the praise and honor that He is worthy to receive. As your Cubbies see your awe of the Creator, they will begin to understand just how great our God is.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good* (Psalm 34:8)! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Grasp that God is our powerful Creator; He made the world from nothing, using only His words.
2. Understand that God created everything in six days and rested on the seventh day.
3. Recognize that Adam and Eve were God’s special creation. God put them in charge of all the earth and animals and told them to start a family.
4. Praise and thank God together for His creation.

5. _____

(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

Welcome Cubbies and reinforce what they learned at home in their handbooks with one or more of the following activities.

IDEA 1: Envelope Animal Puppets

What You Need

- A supply of envelopes (number 6 ¾ or number 10 size envelopes)
- Pairs of child-sized scissors
- Precut puppet animal faces (resource CD)
- Precut puppet animal add-ons (resource CD)
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons

Show each Cubbie how to lick and seal an envelope. The Cubbie will cut off one of the short sides of the envelope to make a pocket to insert his or her hand into the puppet. Let Cubbies select an animal face and corresponding add-ons to glue on the puppet. Cubbies can color their puppets. As Cubbies work, ask them to name some of their favorite animals that God created.

IDEA 2: Creation Riddles

What You Need

- Toy animals and other creation objects (e.g., star, flower, leaf, fruit, vegetable, doll)
- Drawstring or paper bag
- *Optional* — instead of toys and other objects, use creation pictures (resource CD)

Place creation objects or pictures in the bag. (You can use objects you are using in the optional creation bins activity for Lesson Time.) A leader will choose an item from the bag and describe it with a riddle (while keeping the item in the bag so Cubbies can't see it). The Cubbie who first raises his or her hand and guesses correctly gets to hold the item. Continue choosing items and saying riddles as time allows. Here are sample riddles:

- God created me. I have four legs. I have a long swishy tail and a mane. I say neigh. What am I? (A horse.)
- God created me. I twinkle in the sky at night. I have pointy sides. What am I? (A star.)
- God created me. I have colorful petals. I have a long green stem. I smell so very sweet. What am I? (A flower.)

At the end of the game, tell Cubbies with items to hold them up while the whole group recites Revelation 4:11. Play this game again during Going Home.

IDEA 3: Big Red Barn

What You Need

- Large sheet of red construction paper (size 12" x 18" [31 x 46 cm])
- Scissors (for leader's use)
- Crayons (including a white crayon)
- Farm animal stickers or cutouts (resource CD)
- Glue sticks (if you are using cutouts)

Beforehand, use the red construction paper to make a barn. Lay the sheet horizontally and fold the left and right sides so that they meet (not overlap) in the middle. These are the barn doors. Use scissors to trim the top corners to resemble a barn roof. (See sample on resource CD.) Draw doors and windows with the white crayon. Let Cubbies attach farm animal stickers or cutouts inside the barn. Cubbies can color the animals and draw food, hay or stalls for the animals. For large clubs, divide Cubbies into groups and include several sets of barns and animals. Thank God together for the animals He created.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Review the A verse (Romans 3:23) and C verse (Romans 5:8) from prior lessons. Since these verses offer a simple explanation of the gospel, consider including them in your starting routine each week. This is also a good time to introduce the unit Core Truth: God Is Creator.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Luvie Lamb puppet
- *Optional* — large red apple; clear, plastic bags of grass blades

LEADER: Hi, Cubbies! Are you ready to see our friend, Cubbie Bear? On the count of three, let's call him. One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Bring the Cubbie puppet hopping into view.)

CUBBIE *(still hopping)*: Hello, everybody!

LEADER: Hi, Cubbie Bear! I see you're hopping and jumping as usual. Why are you so excited today?

CUBBIE: Well, this morning I was sleeping on a branch in my favorite apple tree. All of a sudden, I felt something tickling my nose.

LEADER: Was it your friend, Timothy?

CUBBIE *(shaking head)*: No. Timothy was still inside, sound asleep in his warm bed. I'll give you a hint. It was little and had feathers. It flies high in the air and lives in a nest in my favorite apple tree.

LEADER: Boys and girls, what do you think woke up Cubbie Bear? *(Allow response.)*

CUBBIE: That's right! A little bird called a chickadee was tickling me with her feathers. She pointed out the beautiful sun that was just coming up this morning. It was yellow and orange.

LEADER: Boys and girls, do you see anything in this room that is yellow or orange like the sun? *(Encourage boys and girls to look around and respond.)*

CUBBIE: We had fun watching the sunrise while I ate a big, red juicy apple for breakfast.

(Hold up the optional apple when Cubbie mentions it. Cubbie could notice the apple and say, "Hey, that looks just like the apple I ate for breakfast!")

CUBBIE: Other animals on the farm were waking up and eating breakfast too.

LEADER: Really? What other animals did you see?

(Set the optional bag of grass where children can see it or place it in between Luvie's hooves so she is carrying it. Bring the Luvie Lamb puppet into view.)

LUVIE *(giggling)*: I was up early this morning. Cubbie came over to visit me, and I said he was welcome to eat some of my yummy, green grass.

(If the bag of grass is visible, Luvie can ask Cubbie, "Do you want some?")

CUBBIE *(shaking his head)*: No, thank you, Luvie. Bears like me love sweet juicy apples and delicious honey. We do NOT eat grass.

LUVIE *(giggling again)*: That's OK. There's more for me!

CUBBIE *(turns to leader)*: You know, there are a lot of animals on Apple Acres Farm, and each animal is different.

LUVIE: That's right! Cubbie and I eat different foods, and we do not look the same.

CUBBIE: I have brown fur, and I wear a blue vest.

LUVIE: And I have white wool and a purple ribbon on my head.

LEADER: You're right, Cubbie Bear and Luvie Lamb. You are very different from one another. But you have three things that are the same.

LUVIE: We do?

LEADER: Yes! You are both animals. You both live at Apple Acres Farm. And you both have a special friend who loves you and takes care of you.

CUBBIE AND LUVIE: Timothy!

LEADER *(laughs)*: That's right!

CUBBIE: Hmm, I wonder what Timothy's doing right now. I think I'll go find him.

LUVIE: I think I'll go and finish eating my grass!

LEADER: OK, we'll see you again soon. Good-bye, Cubbie and Luvie!

(Children wave goodbye as the puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during the club meeting.

IDEA 1: Underwater Scene Snack

What You Need

- Plain rice cakes
- Cream cheese
- Blue food coloring
- Knife (for leader's use)
- Fresh vegetable assortment (celery, red and green peppers, broccoli)
- Fish-shaped crackers

Top each rice cake with cream cheese tinted blue with food coloring. Slice veggies to resemble plants that would be found in the water. Create an underwater scene by arranging a couple of veggies and two or three fish crackers on the cream cheese portion of each rice cake. As Cubbies eat, ask them if they can name other animals that live in the ocean or water. Talk about how awesome God is for creating so many different kinds of animals.

IDEA 2: Animal Trail Mix

What You Need

- Animal cookies
- Fish-shaped crackers
- Cheerios®
- Small pretzels
- Chocolate chips
- *Optional* — For added fun, serve the mix in ice cream cones.

Mix all ingredients and store in an air-tight container. Serve the mix in cups or ice cream cones. As Cubbies are eating, ask them to identify the animals on their cookies. Pray together and thank God for creating the animals.

IDEA 3: Light and Dark Cookies

What You Need

- Chocolate cookies or cupcakes with a light cream filling, such as Oreo® cookies

As you serve the cookies, explain that the dark portion reminds us that at first the earth was dark. The light portion reminds us that God created the light and gave us the daytime to enjoy. God made the light and everything else. Can we do that? No! Only God can.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **“God Made All Things”** to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.” This is a good theme song to repeat during the unit.

God made all things, God made all things,
I will clap my hands in praise
For God made all things.

- **“My God Is So Big”** or **“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”** Kids really enjoy the hand and body motions to these songs too!

- **“The Cows in the Barn”** to the tune of “The Wheels on the Bus”

The cows in the barn go moo, moo, moo,
Moo, moo, moo, moo, moo, moo.
The cows in the barn go moo, moo, moo,
God made them all!

Repeat the song with other animal verses: The pigs in the pen go oink, oink, oink. The ducks in the pond go quack, quack, quack. The rooster on the fence goes cock-a-doodle-doo.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time intentionally to model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, today we will learn that God is our Creator. That means He made all things. He made all the animals, and He made all people, including me and you! We can praise God for being our awesome Creator. Fold your hands, bow your heads and close your eyes to help us remember we are talking with our creator God. Listen to the words I pray, and then you can repeat the words after me.

(Pray various short statements of thanks to God for aspects of creation and let children repeat each statement in unison. For example, say, “Thank you, God, for creating the big, blue sky” or “Thank you, God, for creating flowers and trees” or “Thank you, God, for creating me.”)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 20-24
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Genesis 1 and Revelation 4:11
- *Optional* — flashlight, fruit or vegetable, an empty milk carton and egg carton, seven plastic bins or bags, items that represent each day of creation to place in the appropriate bin or bag (See ideas below in the Days of Creation Bins optional idea.)

(Adapt the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

Cubbie Bear and Luvie Lamb are very different from each other, and they enjoy different types of foods. Cubbies, what are some of your favorite foods? *(Allow response.)*

Some of the foods we enjoy, like fruits and vegetables, grow in the ground or on plants and trees. Some of the other foods we enjoy come from animals. For example, milk comes from cows, and eggs come from chickens. *(Show the optional fruit or vegetable, milk and egg cartons or other food items.)* Did you know that God made all of the plants and trees that grow food for us? God also made all the animals. In fact, our big God made EVERYTHING! Let's learn more about all the things that God made.

(Open your Bible to Genesis 1.) A long, LONG time ago there were no trees, no people, no animals, no sun and no earth. It was quiet and dark!

Optional: Dim the lights and close the window shades to illustrate darkness (but leave a little light so Cubbies are not scared). Shine a flashlight when you talk about God creating light.

In that great darkness of nothing, there was only God. God was there before there was ANYTHING else. Our big and powerful God has always been there. NO ONE made Him; He has always been alive!

Our great big God had a wonderful plan. The very first verse in God's special book, the Bible, tells

us that God created the heavens and the earth. *(Read Genesis 1:1 from your Bible. Some Cubbies may recognize this verse from AppleSeed.)*

To *create* means "to make something out of nothing" *(To illustrate, open your hands to show they are empty and ask kids if there is anything in your hands.)* God made the whole world and everything in it out of nothing! He used His words to create.

Optional: Ask the Cubbies to try several times to make a dog appear by just saying the words, "Let there be a dog." Then have them try to speak something else into existence. Emphasize that no matter how hard we try, we can't make something out of nothing.

Only our powerful God could speak and make something out of nothing. Let's look at all the wonderful things God made by speaking.

On Day One, God created the light. He called the light "day" and the darkness "night."

(Display TC20 and point to the sky.) On Day Two, God said to let there be sky. A beautiful sky appeared above the waters.

On Day Three, God said to let the land appear. Green grass, plants, and lots of trees and flowers grew on the land! *(Point to the land and plants in the picture.)*

On Day Four, God made lights for the day and night. *(Point to the sun.)* God said to let there be a big, bright sun during the day. *(Display TC21.)* God also made the moon and all the stars to shine at night.

(Display TC22.) On Day Five, God said to let there be fish swimming in the waters. *(Point to the fish in the picture. Have children put their palms together and wiggle their hands back and forth as if they were fish swimming.)* God also made birds on Day Five. *(Point to the birds. Have children stand and flap their arms as if they were birds flying high in the sky.)*

On Day Six, God spoke, and all kinds of animals were created. *(Let children identify some of the different animals in the picture.)*

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Optional: Have children stand and pretend to be different animals. Remind children that ALL land animals were created on Day Six.

(Display TC23. Point to Adam and Eve.) Then God created two very special people. God made Adam and Eve and put them in charge of the earth and all the animals. He told them to start a family so that many more people would live on the earth.

God saw that everything He made was very good, and it was! On Day Seven, God rested. He wasn't tired. He was happy with all of the beautiful things that He created just by speaking!

Optional: Days of Creation Bins: Include items similar to these in seven bins or bags: a flashlight in the first bin; cotton balls and a sheet of blue construction paper for the second bin; small, sealed jar filled with dirt, silk flowers and plastic or real fruits and vegetables for the third bin; star shape or black sheet of paper with star stickers on it, yellow paper circle and picture of the moon for the fourth bin; toy fish and birds for the fifth bin; toy animals and a boy and a girl doll for the sixth bin. (The seventh bin is empty.) Set out the bins, station leaders at different bins and let Cubbies take turns exploring the items in each bin. Or Cubbies may stay seated, and a leader can pull out items in each bin as he or she teaches or reviews the days of creation.

(Display TC24.) Cubbies, I am so glad that our big and powerful God is the creator of all things. This is a picture of the earth, where we live, and other planets in space. At the top, the picture says **God is Creator**. Can you say that with me? **(Have children repeat the Core Truth phrase two times.)**

When I think of all the things that our God created, it makes me so happy. I want to praise our creator God for all that He has made. Our memory verse this week reminds us that we should praise God. **(Open your Bible to Revelation 4:11.)** "Thou art worthy, O Lord ... for Thou hast created all things ..." (Revelation 4:11).

God is worthy means that He deserves our praise and thanks. Let's point to God as we say our verse together. **(Point upwards to God as you repeat the verse with your Cubbies. Close with a prayer of praise to God for His creation. You may also want to sing the song "God Made All Things" listed in the Songs section.)**

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 3 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

IDEA 1: Bear Hug 3 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of the Bear Hug 3 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons

Tell Cubbies to find and circle the five items in the picture. Do the first one together. While Cubbies work on finding the other items, review that God created all things. Repeat Revelation 4:11 together, pointing upwards to God. Explain that the word *worthy* means that God deserves our praise and thanks. Pray together, thanking God for some of the specific things He created.

IDEA 2: Honeybee Stick Puppet

What You Need

- Precut bee patterns (resource CD)
- Jumbo craft sticks
- Glue stick

Make a honeybee stick puppet for each handbook group by gluing a bee pattern to the top of each craft stick. When it's a child's turn to say the verse, the child holds the puppet while the handbook group leader says, "Busy, buzzing honeybee, can you say your verse with me?" This activity can be used with any Bear Hug verse.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Repeat one or two of the Cubbies' favorite games from the last two lessons as a review. For example, repeat the Letter A Action Game or A/C Jumping Bean.

IDEA 1: Sleeping Cubbies**What You Need**

- Nothing

Direct Cubbies to lie on the floor and pretend to sleep. For fun, Cubbies can make snoring sounds. The game leader says:

Sleeping, sleeping. All the Cubbies were sleeping. But when they woke up, they were (frogs)!

As soon as the leader finishes speaking, the Cubbies "wake up" and start jumping around like frogs. Then the leader directs Cubbies to sleep again and repeats the saying, inserting a new animal (in place of frogs) or another item God created. Cubbies pretend to be whatever animal or other item is inserted. Here are examples of items to insert: trees, elephants, sun, eagles, sharks, rocks. At the end of the game, thank God for creating the items mentioned.

IDEA 2: Animal Musical Chairs**What You Need**

- Small chairs
- A different animal picture for each chair (resource CD)
- A music player

Set up chairs in a circle, with seats facing outside the circle. Include a chair for each Cubbie and one **extra chair**. (If you have a large club, set up several circles of chairs so you can have more than one game going at a time.) Place an animal picture face-down under each chair. When the music plays, Cubbies walk around the outside of the circle. When the music stops, each Cubbie sits on the chair closest to him or her. The game leader shows Cubbies the picture under the empty chair, and Cubbies get one minute to stand up and act like the animal or walk around the circle while acting like the animal. The leader

replaces the picture under the chair and the game begins again. Play until Cubbies have acted out many different animals.

IDEA 3: Feed Cubbie Bear**What You Need**

- Cardboard box
- Glue stick
- Cubbie face printed on card stock (resource CD)
- Scissors for leader's use
- A and C apple cards printed on card stock (resource CD)

Use this game to review creation as well as the A and C verses. Print, cut out and glue the Cubbie face onto a side of the box. Cut an opening in Cubbie's mouth and the box behind it. As you begin the game, ask Cubbies to name some animals God created. Talk about what each animal eats. Say that Cubbie Bear likes to eat apples and he is very hungry today. Scatter the apple cards in the play area. Choose a few Cubbies at a time to each find an A apple card to put in Cubbie's mouth. (Keep groups moving quickly, so Cubbies do not have to wait long for their turn.) Review what the A stands for in Cubbies (A is for All. Romans 3:23) or talk about animals that start with A (ant, alligator, alpaca, etc.). Scatter the apple cards again. This time, choose a few Cubbies at a time to find C apple cards to feed to Cubbie Bear. Review what the C stands for in Cubbies (C is for Christ. Romans 5:8) or talk about animals that start with C (camel, cat, cow, etc.).

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

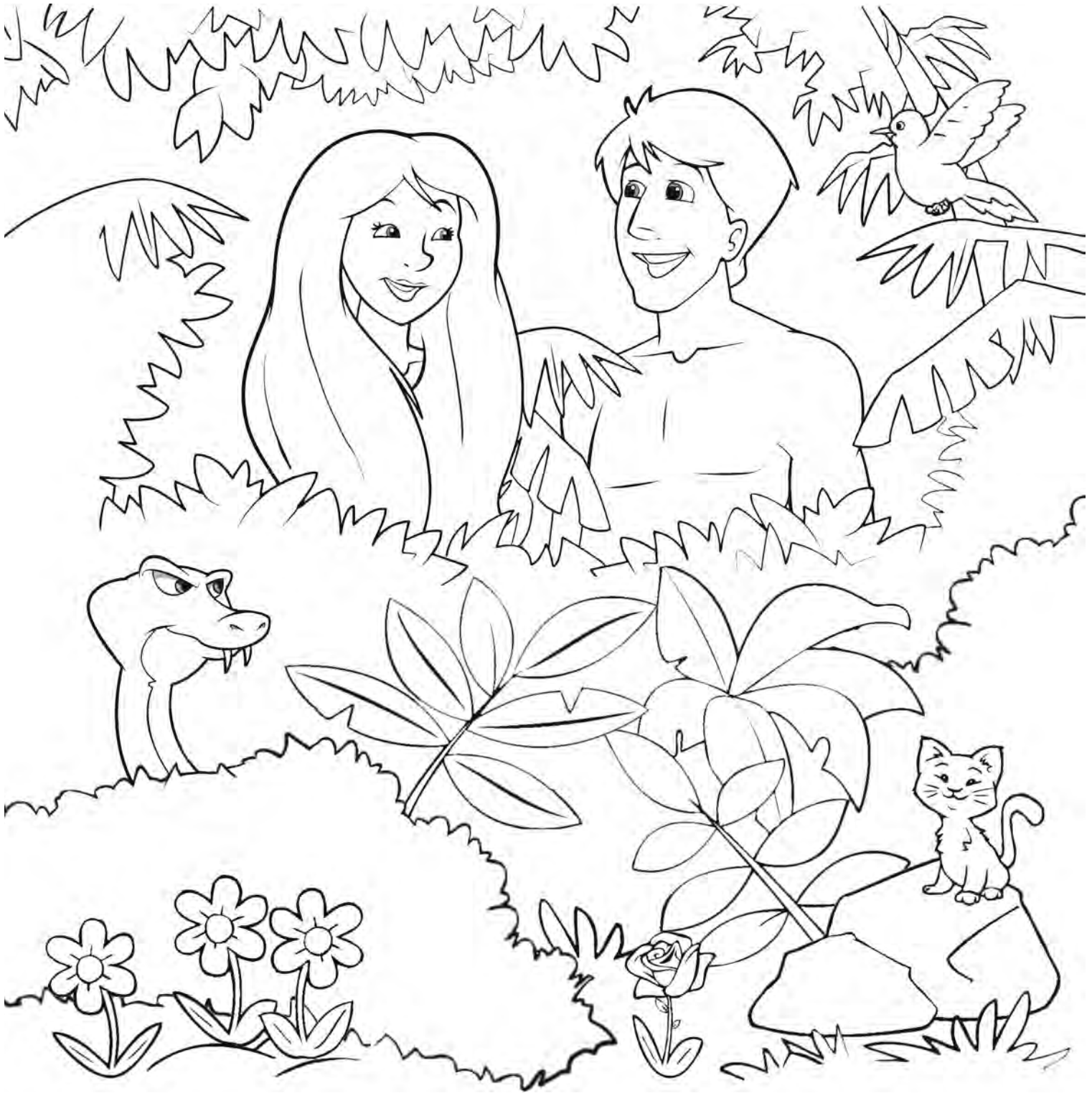
Tell parents of Cubbies to help their child find a photo to bring to club next week. Choose one of the following kinds of photos for Cubbies to bring (or let parents choose which kind of photo to have their child bring):

- A photo of their family or someone in their family
- A photo of a pet in their house
- A photo of themselves doing a favorite activity
- A photo of something God created

During Going Home in the next Bear Hug, you will lead Cubbies in a time of group sharing about their photos.

“Thou art worthy, O Lord ... for Thou hast created all things ...” (Revelation 4:11)

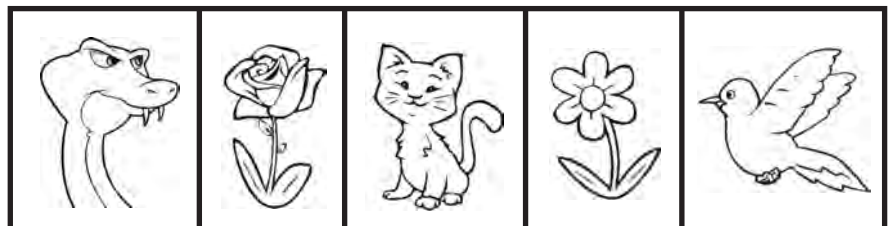
NAME: _____



Basic Instructions: Each of the five items in the boxes is in the picture somewhere. Find and circle the items in the picture.

Even More Fun: Color the picture.

Ultimate Fun: On the back of the paper, draw a picture of one of your favorite things God created. You can also create a picture using your favorite stickers of things God created.




**BEAR
HUG 4**

God Created All People and You Too!

Make It Stick: Psalm 139:14: *I will praise Thee; for **I am** fearfully and wonderfully made ...* (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: God created all the different people in the world. People are God's most important creation because they were made in the image of God. God created each of us uniquely, and He knows and loves us.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Genesis 2; Psalm 139

Memorize: Psalm 139:14

Have you ever studied a 3D ultrasound picture of a baby in the womb? At various stages of development, many features of the unborn child can be clearly seen, even the fine, downy hair on his head. These images reveal the great transformation that takes place in the 40-week long journey of life before birth and they point onlookers to the skilled Craftsman at work.

From the moment of conception, God begins His artistry in the lives of each individual. Deep inside the womb, God's handiwork is displayed in the developing baby (Psalm 139:13). God's careful detail to even the most fragile forms of human life shows His comprehensive and intimate care for those bearing His image. And His thoughts toward us are vast, full of purpose and plans (Psalm 139:16-17).

Think about it: each of your Cubbies is a masterpiece, God's great handiwork. His plan and purpose for their lives has already been written, and YOU are a part of that plan. You have the opportunity to introduce these little ones to the Creator and Sustainer of their lives.

Purpose this week to show these little ones how precious they are in God's sight. Emphasize that they are God's special and unique creation, and that God loves them just as they are. Share with them that God cares about every detail of their little lives. Encourage them to offer praise to the One who has a great plan for their future.

As you do so, reflect on God's goodness in your life and thank Him for His active work and direction. Reacquaint yourself with your Creator and worship Him in praise.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good* (Psalm 34:8)! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Recognize that God created Adam and Eve and ALL people, including each of them.
2. Learn that each person is important and beautiful to God, even though we are all different from one another.
3. Understand that ALL people are made in God's image, which means they are like God in many ways. People can know, love and serve God.
4. Grasp the truth that God loves us. He knows and cares about every detail of our lives.

5. _____

(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

Welcome Cubbies and reinforce what they learned in their handbooks with one or more of the following activities.

IDEA 1: Paper Dolls

What You Need

- Boy or girl pattern page for each Cubbie (resource CD)
- Vest patterns (resource CD)
- Scissors for leader's use
- Crayons and markers
- Glue sticks

Ahead of time, cut out the vest patterns. Cubbies can color the vests blue, or you can print the vests in color. Give each Cubbie a page with a boy or girl pattern on it. They should each glue a blue Cubbies vest on their child and decorate the child to look like themselves. Encourage them to use the correct skin, eye, hair and clothes colors. As they work, remind them that God made them exactly how He wanted them to be, and He knows everything about them – even the number of hairs on their heads! Cubbies may fold their papers along the dashed lines to make the child figure stand or you could cut out the Cubbies' decorated child figures and use them to create a bulleting board display.

IDEA 2: Shaving Cream Portraits

What You Need

- Cans of non-mentholated shaving cream
- Baby wipes or a wet cloth

Clear off tables. Leaders will spray a pile of shaving cream on the table in front of each Cubbie. Cubbies smooth the shaving cream on the table with their hands and then use a finger to draw a picture of themselves. Show them how to draw a circle head, eyes, nose, mouth and hair. They can also draw their family members or friends. Clean Cubbies hands with a wipe or wet cloth when they

are finished. Explain that God created each one of them, and they are special to God.

IDEA 3: Fingerprint Craft

What You Need

- Construction paper
- Crayons or markers
- An ink pad with dark, washable ink
- Verse labels (resource CD)
- Baby wipes or a wet cloth
- *Optional* — magnifying glasses

Leaders use a crayon or marker to trace each Cubbie's hand on a piece of construction paper. Cubbies stick a verse label at the top or bottom of their paper. Leaders then assist children in pressing one finger at a time into the ink pad and placing the appropriate fingerprint on each finger of the traced hand. Messy hands can be cleaned with the wipes or wet cloth. For added fun, let Cubbies examine each other's fingerprints with a magnifying glass. Talk about how no two fingerprints are exactly alike. God made everyone different.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

In your starting routine, include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto and the A and C verses. Kids may enjoy singing the "Where Is the A?" and "Where Is the C?" songs (from Bear Hug 2). This is also a good time to review the unit Core Truth: God Is Creator.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — family photo to display

LEADER: Hi, Cubbies! Are you ready to see our friend, Cubbie Bear? On the count of three, let's call him. One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Before the puppet show begins, hang the picture of a family on a nearby wall. Bring the Cubbie puppet into view. Keep Cubbie's head down low.)

LEADER: Is something wrong, Cubbie?

CUBBIE *(still holding head down)*: I'm a little sad today. I really wanted to play with my friends. But they were all busy. Timothy had to go to the farmer's market with his family. I know he had to go, but I was still sad that he couldn't spend time with me.

LEADER: What about Katie Collie. Did you ask her to play with you?

CUBBIE: Yes. I asked if she wanted to play catch with me at the playground but —

(Bring Katie Collie puppet into view.)

KATIE *(barking as she enters)*: Did I hear someone call my name?

LEADER *(laughing)*: We were just talking about you, Katie. Did Cubbie ask you to play with him today?

KATIE: Yes, but I was too busy to play catch with Cubbie Bear. I had to watch the house since Timothy and his family were away. I AM the family dog, after all. *(Katie lifts her nose and turns her head from side to side proudly.)*

CUBBIE: I know you had a special job to do, Katie. I was just a little sad that you couldn't play with me.

KATIE: Maybe tomorrow we can play catch.

Right now, a group of school kids are coming to the farm, so I need to go walk around the farm to make sure all the kids stay safe!

(Katie Collie puppet exits.)

CUBBIE *(to the leader)*: See, no one wants to play with me.

LEADER: What about Luvie Lamb? Did you ask her to play a game with you?

CUBBIE: Luvie Lamb had to go out in the pasture today. A pasture is a place where she and the other sheep like to eat grass. See? Even SHE was doing something with her family. It's just not fair.

LEADER: What's not fair, Cubbie?

(If you have the optional photo hanging, Cubbie should point to it and say, "See that picture on the wall?" The leader should respond by saying, "Yes, it's a picture of a happy family.")

CUBBIE: All of my friends have families who love them and take care of them, but I don't have ANYONE who loves me or takes care of me.

LEADER: Now wait just a minute, Cubbie. I know there are LOTS of boys and girls in this room who love you! Boys and girls, do you want to tell Cubbie you love him?

(Lead children in saying "We love you" to Cubbie together.)

CUBBIE: That makes me feel a little better.

LEADER: Good. And I also know that there is one little boy who loves you and takes care of you. I'm sure he even gives you lots of fresh, juicy apples.

CUBBIE *(laughing)*: Timothy! *(Pauses.)* I guess you are right. Timothy said that he would help me look for my family tomorrow. He said that my family will look like me. I'm excited to start looking for them! I'll come back and tell you what happens. Goodbye, everyone!

(Children wave goodbye as the Cubbie puppet is put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during the club meeting. Provide a way for Cubbies to sanitize their hands before eating the snack.

IDEA 1: Decorate a Gingerbread Person

What You Need

- Gingerbread person cookies
- Tubes of colored icing
- Sprinkles or chocolate chips

Serve each Cubbie a gingerbread person cookie. Cubbies can use the icing and sprinkles or chips to decorate the cookie to look like themselves. Recite Psalm 139:14 together and identify some of the unique ways God has made each Cubbie.

IDEA 2: Similar Yet Different

What You Need

- Two or more types of snacks that have both similarities and differences (e.g., three kinds of fruit, two types of cereal, two kinds of cookies, three sizes of round crackers)

Show Cubbies the snacks and talk about how the snacks are different and similar. For example, each kind of fruit may have a different color or texture but they are all fruits and taste sweet. The cookies may have a different shape and flavor, but they are both cookies and were both baked in an oven.

As Cubbies eat the snack, explain that people are the same and different too. Talk about the things that are the same about the Cubbies (they have bodies, they can laugh, they can talk to God, etc.) and things that are different (eye or hair color, feelings, families, etc.). God made us all different, but God loves us all. He knows everything about us.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **“God Made All Things”** from Bear Hug 3

- **“Jesus Loves the Little Children”** As you sing the song, replace the line “red and yellow, black and white” with three or four of the children’s names in your group. Here is an example:

Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world
(Jake) and (Abby), (Will) and (Jessica)
They are precious in His sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

After a child’s name is called, he or she should stand. Repeat the song with different names until all children are standing. (Sometimes you will need to speed up the syllables in a child’s name so it fits the tune.)

- **“God Made Me”** to the tune of “London Bridges”

God made me and all of you,
All of you, all of you.
God made me and all of you.
How He loves us!

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Our Bible verse this week reminds us that we should praise God because He made us. We can praise God by telling Him thank You for making all the parts of us. Let’s start with our head. What did God make in or on our head? *(Let children answer by saying eyes, eyebrows, eyelashes, brain, hair, noses, etc. Pray and thank God for each item after it is named.)* God also made our arms and legs. He made our hands and feet and our fingernails and toenails. He made our whole bodies! He also made the person we are on the inside. He knows what we like and what we think. He loves us so much!

(Ask if a few Cubbies would like to pray aloud for the group and say, “Thank You, God, for creating us!” Or instead, ask Cubbies to name specific prayer requests for themselves or their families. Remind them that God knows and cares about every part of our lives. For more personal attention, large clubs may want to divide children into small groups to share prayer requests with a leader.)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)**What You Need**

- Teaching Cards (TC) 21-26
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Genesis 2 and Psalm 139:14
- *Optional* — three or four handheld mirrors; a small, tightly sealed, clear jar of dirt

Cubbies, do you think Cubbie will find his family? **(Allow response.)** Timothy said that Cubbie Bear's family would look like him. Many times boys and girls look like their mommies or their daddies.

(Pass out optional mirrors. Encourage children to look at their features in a mirror and then pass the mirror to the person sitting next to them.) Cubbie Bear has brown fur and black eyes. Maybe one of his parents has brown fur and black eyes too. What color is your hair? What color are your eyes? **(If you have a small club, allow individual children to answer while looking in a mirror. If you have a large club, ask those with a certain hair or eye color to stand. For example, say, "If you have blond hair, please stand." Make sure all Cubbies get a chance to stand.)**

Some of you have brown or black hair, and some of you have blond or red hair. Some people have brown eyes, and other people have blue or green eyes. No one else looks exactly like you. **(If you have a set of twins in your club, explain that even though they look alike, there are differences between them. Perhaps the twins, the Cubbies or you can point out some differences.)**

Did you know that God made you to look exactly the way you look? In fact, God made each person special, starting with the first two people He made. Let's learn more about these people in God's special book, the Bible.

(Open your Bible to Genesis 2 and display TC22.) Do you remember our true story from last week? A long, long, time ago God made all things. He made the earth, sky, sun, birds, plants, fish and all the rest of the animals. **(Display TC21.)** He made the moon and the stars to shine at night. **(Display TC24) God is Creator.** God used only His words to make all those things.

(Display TC23. Point to Adam in the picture.)

After God made the animals, He made a special person, someone who would be able to talk with God and know God. He made a man! But God did not make man in the same way as He made all the animals. He did something special when He made man. The Bible says that God made man from dust, or dirt, and then God breathed into man so that He could be alive. He named this man Adam.

Optional: Hold up or pass around a jar of dirt when you talk about God making Adam from dust. When you talk about God breathing into Adam, have children stand, breathe in deeply and exhale. Explain that only our powerful Creator could breathe life into Adam.

God knew that Adam needed a special friend who could help him take care of all of God's creation. So God made a woman to be a special friend for Adam. Her name was Eve.

Adam and Eve were the most IMPORTANT of God's creations. Adam and Eve were different from all the other things that God made because Adam and Eve were made in God's image. That means that they were like God in many ways. Adam and Eve could know **(make an open Bible with your hands, since we know God through the Bible)**, love **(cross arms over chest)**, and serve God **(lift both hands up to God)**. None of the other things God made — not even the animals — could do that! God told Adam and Eve to take care of the earth, and God put them in charge of the fish, the birds and all the other animals. He also told them to have children, so the earth would be full of people.

(Display TC25.) God made all the people that now live on the earth. He made people who are all different sizes. Some people are tall and some people are short. **(Ask one Cubbie to come up and point to a person in the picture who is tall. Let another Cubbie point to a person who is short.)** Some people are young; some are older. **(Ask one Cubbie to point to a young person and an older person. Continue having Cubbies point to different**

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people as you describe various features.) Some people have light colored skin, and other people have dark skin. Some people wear glasses, and some people need wheelchairs or walkers to help them get from place to place. No matter what a person looks like, every person God made is beautiful to God. You and I and all people are made in God's image. We are like Him in many ways. We can know, love and serve God. We serve God by obeying Him and doing what He tells us to do in the Bible.

Optional: Emphasize that each person God made is special and important to God. Call out different positive traits of your Cubbies and have them stand (e.g., "If you have brown hair, stand up"). After each group of children stands, say together, "I am special to God!"

(Open your Bible to Psalm 139:14.) Here is a verse from the Bible that tells us about how God made us. Psalm 139:14 says: *I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made ...* Let's practice that verse together. **(Invite Cubbies to repeat the verse with you twice.)** That word *fearfully* means "awesomely." God did an awesome and wonderful job when He created you.

Because God created you, He also knows about you. Cubbies, did you know that God knows EVERYTHING about you? God knew all about you, even when you were a teeny, tiny baby growing inside your mom's body. The Bible tells us that God even knows how many hairs are on your head **(point to or grab a few strands of your hair)**. Wow! God even knows about all of the things you are good at and like to do. **(Display TC26. Discuss with Cubbies the individual likes of the people in the picture. Ask Cubbies to share things they like to do.)**

God made you just the way you are, and He loves you very, very much. Let's praise God for making each of us by reviewing our verse for today. *I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made ... (Psalm 139:14).* **(Have children clap hands as they say the word praise and repeat the verse with you several times.)**

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 4 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

IDEA 1: Bear Hug 4 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of the Bear Hug 4 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — pairs of child-sized scissors, glue sticks, construction paper

Show Cubbies how to draw a line from one face half to the matching face half. As a fun option, Cubbies can cut out the halves, fit the matching halves together like a puzzle and glue the completed puzzles onto a sheet of construction paper.

IDEA 2: Memory Matching Game

What You Need

- A set of people face game cards for each handbook group (resource CD)
- *Optional* — Laminate cards for durability. For fun, you could mix in some photos of Cubbies or Cubbies leaders as cards.

Mix up the cards and set them face down on the table in rows. After each Cubbie says Psalm 139:14, he or she gets a chance to flip over two cards. If the faces on the cards match, the Cubbie removes the two cards and takes another turn. If the cards don't match, the Cubbie flips them back over, and the next Cubbie gets a chance to say the verse and take a turn. Point out all the different faces on the cards. Explain that God created so many different people, but each person is special to God and loved by Him.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Play your favorite game from last week's lesson as a review.

Idea 1: "I Can ..." Game**What You Need**

- A can (make sure it has no sharp edges) or a recycled disinfecting wipes container
- Jumbo craft sticks or slips of paper
- Thin marker or pen

Ahead of time, write different actions on the sticks (or slips). Here are sample actions: jump, bend, twist, march, stand on one foot, run across the room, wiggle your toes, clap your hands, kick. Place sticks in the can. Put a label on the can that says "I can ..." Before starting the game, review with Cubbies that God, the Creator, gave each one of us an amazing body that can do all kinds of things. Recite Psalm 139:14 together. Let Cubbies take turns choosing a stick from the can. Read the action and direct the Cubbies to perform the action. Be sensitive to any Cubbies that have physical limitations, and be sure to include some actions that they can perform.

Idea 2: Seeds and Sprouts**What You Need**

- Nothing
- *Optional* — Cubbie Says

This game is played just like Simon Says, but you will replace the name Simon with Cubbie. For extra fun, use the puppet to speak action commands. Do not eliminate any Cubbies who do an action that is not preceded by the phrase "Cubbie says." Rather, encourage them to continue listening closely and following directions. Mention many body parts in your commands. Here are examples: Touch your elbows. Point to your ankles. Wiggle your fingers. Stick out your tongue. Blink your eyes. Stand on your toes. Bend your knee. At the end of the game, say, "God created such wonderful bodies for us. Isn't He amazing? Let's praise Him by reciting Psalm 139:14 together." Recite the verse twice with Cubbies.

Idea 3: Tail Tag**What You Need**

- Bandanas

Before starting the game, lead Cubbies in a prayer thanking God for bodies that can run and play. Give each Cubbie a bandana "tail" to stick in his back pocket, belt loop or waistband. The object of the game is to pull off other player's tails and drop them on the floor. If a Cubbie's tail is pulled off, she must stop and put her tail back on before she can resume play. (Note: This is a high energy game that Cubbies love. Do not play it for long. They will tire very quickly. You may also want to set boundary lines for this game if you are in a large area.)

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

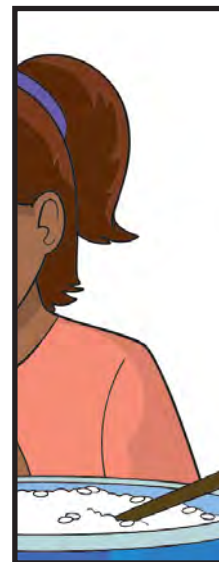
If you had Cubbies bring photos, as suggested in the last lesson, give each Cubbie a turn to tell the group about their photo. If you have a large group, you may want to divide into handbook groups for the sharing. Ask Cubbies questions about their photo to get them talking. No Cubbie should be forced to share, since some may be too shy or lacking in social or verbal development.

If you are doing Coming In IDEA 1: Family Scavenger Hunt in the next Bear Hug, give families directions on how to participate.

Remember, preschoolers have the same general characteristics but they are each created as individuals. Get to know the children in your club and (or) handbook group. Do you know their skills, personalities, abilities, likes and even their dislikes? Seek and search your heart: Do you truly notice each child in your small group? How about each parent? Though your Cubbies and their families are all different, they are all alike in the most important ways: God created them. They are fearfully and wonderfully made. God loves them and died for them. Let these truths guide your interactions with Cubbies this year.

***I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully
and wonderfully made ... (Psalm 139:14)***

NAME: _____



Basic Instructions: God made all the different people in the world, including you! The faces on this sheet are all different. Draw a line from each of the face halves to its complete match. The first one has been done for you.

Even More Fun: Cut out each face half. Fit the matching faces together like a puzzle.

Ultimate Fun: Glue the face puzzles onto a sheet of construction paper. Ask a grown-up to help you cut a photo of yourself in half like a puzzle, fit it back together and glue it to the sheet.


**BEAR
HUG 5**

God Made Your Family!

Make It Stick: Ephesians 6:1: ***Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*** (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: God made each family, and God gives each family member a special role to fill in his or her family.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Ephesians 5:22-6:4

Memorize: Ephesians 6:1

Have you glanced through your childhood photo album lately? If so, the photos likely produced feelings of nostalgia as you remembered long-past memories of loved ones, the people whom you call “family.”

The photos in your album are varied, just like the personalities behind the faces. Each person has individual traits or quirks, and yet those characteristics blend together to create the family you grew up with, the people who influenced you.

God designed the family to bring glory to Him; but in order to honor God as we should, every family member has a certain job to fulfill. Ephesians 5:22-6:4 offers biblical guidelines for each person in the family. Ephesians 5:22-33 outline roles for the husband and wife. Ephesians 6 begins with the child’s responsibility (vv. 1–3) and continues with a special admonition to parents (v. 4).

As you study these passages, think back on the influence your family had in your life. Even if you come from a difficult family situation, you can still find reasons to thank God. Thank God for your childhood and the lessons you learned through your family, and then ask for His help in strengthening your current role as a spouse, parent or influential adult in a child’s life.

Make extra effort to be aware and sensitive to each Cubbie’s family situation. You will probably have Cubbies who live with only one parent or share time between two divorced parents. Other children may live with a grandparent, aunt, uncle or foster parent. Sadly, there may be Cubbies who do not feel safe or cared for at home. Watch for any signs of abuse and report your suspicions in accordance with your church’s child protection policies.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good (Psalm 34:8)*! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Recognize that God gave them their families and has special jobs for each family member to do.
2. Understand that God has chosen the people in each Cubbie’s household.
3. Learn that God wants them to obey their parents happily and quickly and to be kind and forgiving to their siblings.
4. Hear and discuss practical ways children can obey their parents and show kindness to siblings.

5. _____

(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

IDEA 1: Family Scavenger Hunt

What You Need

- Copy of the list of scavenger hunt items for each family

Beforehand, create and distribute a list of common, inexpensive items that parents could help their child find at home. Items could include a tube of toothpaste, a family photo, a baby item or hat from a family member, a favorite book, or a leaf or stone from their yard. Cubbies and parents will bring the items to club in a bag. During Coming In, divide parents and Cubbies into hand-book groups to show and tell about their items.

IDEA 2: Paper Doll Families

What You Need

- Precut family paper dolls (resource CD)
- Crayons and markers
- Construction paper
- Glue sticks
- *Optional* — items to further decorate dolls, such as fabric clothes patterns, buttons, sequins, lace, ribbons, yarn for hair (Supervise Cubbies carefully with small objects to prevent choking hazards.)

Tell Cubbies to decorate paper dolls to look like some or all of the people in their family. Ahead of time, print and cut out several mother, father, child and baby paper doll patterns. The mother and father dolls can represent any adult that is caring for the child, such as a guardian or grandparent. (If Cubbies will be gluing decorations or clothes on the dolls, it is best to print the dolls on card stock.) The resource CD also includes several clothes patterns for the dolls, which can be printed on colored paper and cut out or used to make doll clothes from fabric. Remind Cubbies that God has created and chosen the people in each of their families. Cubbies can glue their dolls on a sheet of construction paper. Dolls could also be sent home for families to work on together.

Idea 3: Paper Bag Puppet

What You Need

- A paper lunch bag for each Cubbie
- Art supplies (crayons, markers, colorful paper or fabric scraps, yarn or dried noodles for hair, etc.)
- Glue sticks
- *Optional* — eye and nose patterns to glue on the puppet (resource CD)

Tell Cubbies to choose one person in their family and make a puppet that resembles that person. Let Cubbies use art supplies to decorate the puppet. Cubbies stick their arm in the bag and place their hand in the flap at the bottom of the bag to make the puppet talk. Ask each Cubbie to tell you about the person whom his or her puppet resembles. Talk about that person's role in the Cubbie's family.

IDEA 4: Play Centers

What You Need

- Toy kitchen, table, dishes, eating utensils and toy food
- Blocks
- Toy families or pictures of families (resource CD)

Set up a kitchen center and a block center. In the kitchen center, set up a toy kitchen, table and props for serving a meal. Ask Cubbies about the jobs that different family members do in their homes. (Expect that situations may be different in each Cubbie's home.) Ask Cubbies to play the roles of various family members as they set the table and pretend to prepare a meal and serve it. In the block center, set out toy families or pictures of families. Encourage Cubbies to build a home for each family.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions. Review the unit Core Truth: God Is Creator.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Picture (in color) of bears from the resource CD or your own picture

LEADER: Boys and girls, I wonder what Cubbie Bear has been up to today? Let's see if he will come and talk with us. On the count of three, say "Hi, Cubbie!" Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Beforehand, set the bear picture within easy reach of your free hand. To begin, bring the Cubbie Bear puppet into view. Move the puppet from side to side and turn his head to look around the room, as if he's searching for something.)

LEADER: Hi, Cubbie *(pauses)*. Cubbie? Are you OK?

CUBBIE *(distracted, looking around)*: Oh, hi.

LEADER: Cubbie, are you looking for something? Can we help?

CUBBIE: Yeah! I'm looking for my family. Can the boys and girls help me look for them?

LEADER: Well, why don't you tell us a little more about your family so that we know who we are looking for?

(Remove the Cubbie puppet from view and put the picture in his mouth or between his paws. Then bring him back into view.)

LEADER: What's that you're holding, Cubbie Bear? *(If necessary, pull the picture out of Cubbie's mouth so he can talk.)*

CUBBIE: This is a picture of what I think my family will look like. They will have brown fur, just like mine, and they will have black eyes like me. I'm sure they will love apples just as much as I do.

(With your free hand, take the picture from Cubbie and display it to the Cubbies.)

LEADER: Boys and girls, do you see any of Cubbie Bear's family in our room today? *(Have children look around the room and respond.)* I'm sorry, Cubbie. We don't see them anywhere around here.

CUBBIE *(sadly)*: That's OK. Timothy and I looked for my family all over the farm today. We found other animals that looked a little like me. Kitty has brown fur, but she has pointy ears and whiskers. She said she isn't part of my family.

LEADER: She's right! Cats are different from bears. Were there any other animals like you on the farm?

CUBBIE: Well, I talked with Mr. Chuck, the woodchuck. He has brown fur and black eyes, and he even likes apples. But his family lives in holes on the farm, and I live in my favorite apple tree.

LEADER: Hmm ... *(looks at Cubbie and then looks at the boys and girls)*. You know what, Cubbie Bear? These boys and girls don't have brown, fuzzy fur like you, and they don't have shiny black eyes like yours. But these boys and girls DO have blue vests, just like you!

CUBBIE *(looking at the Cubbies)*: They sure do!

LEADER: Even though we are not your family, we still love you, Cubbie Bear. Boys and girls, let's count to three together and say, "We love you, Cubbie!" Ready? One — two — three. "We love you, Cubbie!"

CUBBIE *(laughing)*: Ah ... thanks, everybody! I'm so glad I have good friends like you. *(Looks around.)* Since I don't see my family anywhere in here, I think I will check the barn before I go to bed. I'll see you next week.

LEADER: Bye, Cubbie!

(Allow children to say goodbye as the puppet is put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during club. If you want a family to bring a favorite snack for next week (as suggested in the next lesson), let them know ahead of time.

IDEA 1: Crispy Heart Treats**What You Need**

- Rice Krispies Treats®
- Heart cookie cutter
- *Optional* — red and pink ball sprinkles

Make Rice Krispies Treats. To make the treats, coat Rice Krispies cereal with a mixture of melted marshmallows and butter. Press the cereal mixture into a greased pan. Top with colored sprinkles, if desired. When cool, cut out treats with the heart cookie cutter. Serve the snack, and explain that God can help families stay close and stick together just like marshmallows and Rice Krispies® stick together.

IDEA 2: Mini Muffins**What You Need**

- Mini muffins or another snack that parents often make for their children

As you serve the snack, ask Cubbies if anyone in their family ever makes muffins. Say, "Isn't it great that God gives us people who love us and take care of us? What are some things we can do to show people in our family that we love them?"

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **"God Made All Things"** (from Bear Hug 3)
- **"Jesus Loves the Little Children"** (from Bear Hug 4) Insert various Cubbies' names in place of the line "Red and yellow, black and white."
- **"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"** When you sing about the different things God has in His hands, insert various types of family members. For example, he's got the brothers and the sisters, the grandmas and the grandpas, and the mothers and the fathers in His hands.
- **"With My Family"** to the tune of **"Do You Know the Muffin Man?"** Each time you sing the song, choose a child to share an activity he likes to do with his family (e.g., go to the park, play a game, eat dinner).
Oh, tell us what you like to do,
Like to do, like to do.
Tell us what you like to do with your family.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

God gave each of us a family. God wants the people in each family to love one another and help one another. I love my family and I am glad that God gave them to me, but sometimes it is hard for me to be kind and loving to people in my family. *(Share real examples from your own life. For example, share that you're not always patient when a family member is late or you get upset when someone forgets to clean up after themselves.)* God can help me, and God can help you love and be kind to your family! Let's pray and ask God to help us.

(Lead Cubbies in a time of prayer, asking for God's help to love and care for the people in your families.)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 27–33
- Bible with a bookmark placed at Ephesians 6:1
- *Optional* — family photo or photo album or portrait

Cubbie has been looking all over for his family. I hope he finds them soon. I wonder who is in his family. Do you think he has a mom and a dad? What about a brother and a sister? Where do you think his family lives? **(Allow Cubbies to share ideas.)**

Cubbies, I have a family. God gave me my family, and they are special to me. **(Give details of your family. If desired, let Cubbies look at your family photo, portrait or album as you describe the people in your family.)**

Cubbies, God gave each of you a family too. Families have different people in them. Some of you may live with a mommy and a daddy, just a mommy or just a daddy. Some boys and girls may live with their grandmas and grandpas. Other boys and girls live with special grown-ups who take care of them. You may have only one brother or sister, or you may have LOTS of brothers and sisters — or none at all. **(Be sensitive to any Cubbies who may have unusual circumstances in the home.)**

Remember, **God is Creator. (Repeat the Core Truth, God is Creator, two times with Cubbies.)** He made all people, and He made all families. God knew EXACTLY who He wanted to be a part of your family. And He chose to give you a special family who loves you and takes care of you.

(Open your Bible to Ephesians 6.) Did you know that God has a special job for each person in the family? Let's look at some pictures of different families and learn more about what God wants each person in the family to do.

(Display TC27. Point out that this family unit includes a mom and two children.) God wants parents to love and take good care of their children. This mommy is obeying God by

praying with her little girls and giving them good food to eat. There are LOTS of ways that your parents take good care of you. Can you help me think of ways that your parents take care of you? **(Allow children to respond. Answers may include parents working at their jobs, cleaning the house, giving Cubbies medicine when they are sick, taking them to school or to play with friends, playing with them.)**

Optional: To emphasize ways that parents care for their children, have Cubbies pantomime several of the following activities: cooking a meal, cleaning the house, working at the office, mowing the lawn, driving their child to Cubbies.

(Display TC28. Point out the two parents, the grandma and the many siblings in this family.) It's good for families to do fun things together. Your parents take care of you by bringing you to many fun places. Have any of you gone somewhere fun with your family this week? **(Allow response.)**

(Display TC29. Point out that this family includes a father and two children.) God also wants parents to teach their children about God. The dad in the picture is reading the Bible to his children. Maybe your mom and dad read to you from the Bible or from your Cubbies handbook. Your parents are obeying God when they teach you all about Him.

(Display TC30.) How are these parents teaching their little girl about God? **(Allow response.)** That's right! Whenever your mom or dad brings you to church or Awana, they are helping you learn more about God. If your parents don't take you to church or Cubbies, you can ask them to take you sometime.

God wants moms and dads to love their children, take care of them, and teach them about God. That is the parents' job in their family. But parents aren't the only ones with special jobs. You have TWO special jobs in your family! Our Bible verse tells you one thing you are to do. **(Read the verse from your open Bible.)** Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is

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right (Ephesians 6:1). Let's stand and say our verse together. **(Repeat the verse two times.)**

We obey our parents when we quickly and happily do whatever they ask us to do. **(Display TC31. Point out that the little boy is obeying his mother quickly and happily.)** Can you think of some things that your mom or dad might ask you to do? **(Allow children to respond. Answers may include picking up their toys, setting the table, helping with laundry.)**

Optional: Have children pantomime several simple chores a preschooler might do: e.g., picking up their toys, setting the table. As children role-play these activities, remind them of the importance of obeying quickly and happily.

The other special job that God wants boys and girls to do is to be kind to their brothers and sisters **(based on Ephesians 4:32)**. How many of you have a brother or a sister? **(Allow children to respond.)**

(Display TC32.) Is this brother being kind? Is this sister being kind? **(Discuss how the sister stole her brother's toy and the brother pulled her hair.)** Sometimes it is hard to love and be kind to our brothers or sisters, especially if they do something to hurt us. But in the Bible, God says to be kind to others.

(Display TC33.) God is happy when we choose to be kind and to forgive our brothers or sisters if they do something bad to us. To *forgive* means "to stop being mad and to not be mean back." How are the brother and sister being kind to each other now? **(Discuss how the sister gave the toy back, the brother stopped pulling her hair and they forgave each other and hugged.)**

Cubbies, when we choose to obey our parents and to be kind to our brothers and sisters, we are doing what God wants us to do, and our family will probably be much happier too! **(Close in prayer, thanking God for families and praying that He would help Cubbies to obey and be kind to those in their families.)**

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 5 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

IDEA 1: Bear Hug 5 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Bear Hug 5 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — brother and sister card patterns (resource CD), glue sticks, pairs of child-sized scissors

Direct Cubbies to circle the pictures of the brothers and sisters who are being kind and mark an X through the pictures of the brothers and sisters who are being unkind. Remind Cubbies that God wants children to be kind and forgiving to their brothers and sisters and friends. God also wants children to obey their parents happily and quickly. Recite Ephesians 6:1 together. As a fun option, let Cubbies cut out the two pictures they circled and glue them onto a card for a brother or sister or friend. (Cubbies can use the card patterns from the resource CD.)

IDEA 2: Play-Doh Families

What You Need

- Play-Doh for each handbook group table
- Various sizes of gingerbread people cookie cutters

While Cubbies wait to recite the verse to a leader, tell them to use the cookie cutters to shape their family members from the Play-Doh.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)**IDEA 1: Clean Your Room****What You Need**

- Several soft balls (or newspaper wads)
- Cones or masking tape
- Whistle

Divide the play area into different quadrants with cones or lines of masking tape on the floor. Scatter balls over the entire area. Place approximately the same number of Cubbies in each quadrant. Recite Ephesians 6:1 together and say, "Cubbies, you obey your parents when you quickly and happily do what they ask you to do. Let's pretend now that our parents asked us to clean our room." Explain that when the whistle blows they are to "clean their room" (the quadrant to which they are assigned) by tossing the balls out of their quadrant and into another quadrant. When the whistle blows again, everyone must stop. Which "room" looks the cleanest? (Note: This is a high energy game that Cubbies love. Do not play more than a few rounds. They will tire quickly.)

IDEA 2: Laundry Basket Toss**What You Need**

- Laundry basket(s)
- Several rolled socks (or beanbags or soft balls)

Recite Ephesians 6:1 together. Explain that parents often ask their children to do many things around the house. For example, they may ask children to clean their room, set the table or pick up their dirty clothes and put them in the laundry basket. Let Cubbies take turns trying to toss socks into the laundry basket from a distance. If you have a large club, divide the Cubbies into smaller groups and include several laundry baskets so Cubbies do not have to wait long for their turn.

IDEA 3: Helper Action Song**What You Need**

- Nothing

As a group, sing "This Is the Way I Help at Home" to the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush." Cubbies will act out the lyrics while singing.

This is the way I help at home,
Help at home, help at home.
This is the way I help at home
All through the day.

This is the way I make my bed,
Make my bed, make my bed.
This is the way I make my bed,
So early in the morning.

Ask Cubbies to think of other ways they help their families. Repeat the song and insert those actions in the place of make my bed (e.g., dress myself, brush my teeth, pick up my toys). Feel free to adjust early in the morning to other times of day.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

Have any of your Cubbies recently welcomed a new sibling to their family through birth or adoption? Help them celebrate by awarding them a Big Brother or Big Sister Certificate. See the resource CD for templates.

If you are doing Bear Hug 6 Coming In IDEA 1: Family Photo Picture Frame next week, consider obtaining a picture of each Cubbie and his or her family.

As you help Cubbies understand what it means to obey the Lord and their parents, be sure to take time to examine your own heart. Are there authorities in your life you need to obey? Are you quick to obey God's will in ALL areas of your life? Allow God to teach and convict you prior to teaching the children. Remember, your Cubbies are watching you and will often follow your example more than your words.

**Children, obey your parents in the Lord:
for this is right. (Ephesians 6:1)**

NAME: _____



Basic Instructions: God gave you your family! God wants children to obey their parents and be kind and forgiving to their brothers and sisters. Circle the pictures of the brothers and sisters who are being kind. Mark an X through the pictures of the brothers and sisters who are being unkind.

Even More Fun: Color the two pictures you circled.

Ultimate Fun: Make a card for a brother or sister or friend. Cut out the two pictures you colored and glue them onto the card. Ask your Cubbies leader to give you a pattern to help you make your card.


**BEAR
HUG 6**

Unit I Review

Make It Stick: Revelation 4:11: “*Thou art worthy, O Lord ... **for Thou hast created all things ...***” (Short version is in **bold**. This verse was first learned in Bear Hug 3.)

The Big Buzz: God is the Creator. He created the world in six days. He made all people in His image. He designed families to love and serve each other.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Genesis 1:26-31; 1 John 1

Review: Revelation 4:11

Have you ever observed the differences among your fellow diners in a crowded restaurant? Some distinctions are easily visible: hair or eye color, height and weight. Others? Not so much. Consider, for instance, the different tastes of each customer. A certain item on the menu will appeal to some, while others would turn up their noses at such a meal. The preferences of each person will be as unique as his or her facial features, revealing that God’s specific detail in each individual goes much deeper than surface qualities.

Yet despite our individualism, all of us have one thing in common. We are made in the image of our Creator. Each of us has the ability to reason, to logically think through situations, and make personal decisions. And while this alone sets us apart from the rest of creation, the greatest difference affords us the highest blessing. Humans were created to be in fellowship with God (1 John 1).

You have the opportunity to become personally and intimately acquainted with God through His Word, and you get to teach these truths to your Cubbies. This week, cultivate your Cubbies’ desire to learn more about God.

- Be enthusiastic as you review the wonderful things God has created. Be enthusiastic about the Bible because it helps us to know God.
- Show genuine love to each child as you share how special he or she is to God. (Stoop to their eye level; praise their efforts in class; gently direct any disobedient child to a better choice in that situation.)

Praise your Creator together as you thank God for all that He has made.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good (Psalm 34:8)*! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Remember that God made all things in six days and rested on the seventh day.
2. Remember that they are made in God’s image and discuss a few ways they are like God and can obey Him.
3. Review that God gave them their families and that God wants them to obey their parents and be kind and forgiving to their siblings.
4. Identify practical ways they can obey, love and serve others in their families.
5. Praise God for being the Creator.

6. _____
(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

If desired, repeat Coming In activities that Cubbies enjoyed from the past few lessons. For example, repeat IDEA 2: Creation Riddles (from Bear Hug 3) or IDEA 2: Shaving Cream Portraits (from Bear Hug 4). In the shaving cream, Cubbies could draw anything God created. Repeat IDEA 4: Play Centers (from Bear Hug 5) and add additional items, such as baby dolls, baby supplies and cradles. Cubbies can take turns pretending to be a parent or big brother or sister caring for the baby.

You may also choose one or more of the following activities.

IDEA 1: Family Photo Picture Frame

What You Need

- Colored jumbo craft sticks
- Tacky glue or a hot glue gun
- Permanent marker
- Decorating materials (e.g., washable markers, craft foam shapes, colorful buttons)
- Lengths of ribbon or yarn
- *Optional* — Photo of each Cubbie's family.

Ahead of time, make a frame for each Cubbie by gluing four craft sticks together in a square shape. Use a permanent marker to write "I love" on the top stick and "my family" on the bottom stick. Let Cubbies decorate their frames. Glue the ends of the ribbon or yarn length to the top of each frame to make a hanger. If you have photos, glue the Cubbie's family photo to the back of his or her frame. (You may need to trim the photo to fit.) Otherwise, tell families to add a picture to the frame at home. Remind Cubbies that God gave them their family and that each family is special.

IDEA 2: Creation Accordion Book

What You Need

- Precut book covers printed on card stock (resource CD)
- Construction paper (12" x 18" [30 x 46 cm] size)
- Scissors for leader's use

- Precut creation pictures (resource CD)
- Crayons
- Glue sticks

Beforehand, print and cut out a book cover for each Cubbie. Cut strips of construction paper 4 inches (10 cm) wide and 18 inches (46 cm) long. Fold up 3 inches (8 cm) at the bottom of each strip and glue a book cover on the folded portion. Continue making 3-inch downwards and upwards folds in the strip so it becomes a book that opens and closes like an accordion. Give each Cubbie a book. Show Cubbies how the book opens. Instruct Cubbies to glue a picture of an item God created on each page of the book. Review that God created all things and recite Revelation 4:11.

IDEA 3: Paint Stick Creation Review

What You Need

- 6 large paint sticks for each table
- Marker
- Adhesive VELCRO strips
- Scissors for leader's use
- A set of precut creation pictures for each table (resource CD)
- *Optional* — Laminate pictures for durability.

With a marker, number the paint sticks from one to six. Adhere the hook side (nonfuzzy side) of the VELCRO to each paint stick. Cut the loop side (fuzzy side) of the VELCRO into pieces and adhere a piece to the back of each picture. As a leader reviews each day of creation, Cubbies attach the correct picture(s) to each stick. For example, for Day One, Cubbies attach the picture of light and dark to stick one. For Day Two, they attach the picture of the sky to stick two, etc. If you do not have VELCRO or paint sticks, give each table a large paper divided into six numbered sections. Cubbies can move the right picture(s) into each section.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, and the A and C verses. Be sure to review the unit Core Truth: God Is Creator.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — toy camera, inexpensive camera or cell phone camera

LEADER: Last week Cubbie Bear was looking for his family. I wonder if he found them. Let's see if he will come out and tell us, OK? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Beforehand, set the optional camera in a place that will be near to you and the Cubbie Bear puppet. To start, Cubbie comes hopping into view.)

CUBBIE *(hopping excitedly)*: Hi, everybody!

LEADER: Hi, Cubbie! Why are you so excited today?

(If you have the camera, point to it and ask Cubbie what it is. He will say, "It's a camera!" or "It's a phone with a camera!")

CUBBIE: In a few minutes, I'm going to take a picture of my family.

LEADER *(excitedly)*: Oh, Cubbie, you must have found your family! Where did you find them?

CUBBIE *(laughing)*: Well, it all started this morning. Timothy, Katie and Luvie came running to meet me under my favorite apple tree. They were in a hurry! Timothy figured out that since I was a bear, my family would be bears too!

(Bring Katie Collie puppet into view, barking.)

KATIE: Ruff, ruff! Most bears live in the forest. There are no bear families who live at Apple Acres Farm.

LEADER: Does that mean that you have to live in the forest now, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: That's what I thought at first. I really wanted to find my family, but I didn't want to

leave Apple Acres Farm. Timothy lives there, and so do Katie and Luvie.

LEADER: I'm sure you would really miss them.

CUBBIE: Yeah, and I'd miss all the apple trees filled with yummy apples. Mmm!

(Cubbie moves his mouth and makes lip smacking sounds.)

LEADER: So what did you do? Did you decide to leave the farm to go find your family in the forest?

KATIE: Nope, he didn't! Cubbie had a better plan.

CUBBIE: I did! Timothy said that the people in families love each other and take care of one another.

LEADER: That's right, they do.

CUBBIE: Timothy, Katie Collie and Luvie Lamb all love me and help take care of me. So I asked them if they would be my family. Someday, maybe my bear family will come and find me, but until then, I'll be happy with my Apple Acres family.

LEADER: I'm so happy for you, Cubbie!

KATIE *(to Cubbie Bear)*: So am I. You are my favorite bear on our farm.

CUBBIE *(laughing)*: I'm the only bear on our farm.

LEADER: It looks like the search is over. You have found your family.

CUBBIE: Yep, and now I am going to take a picture of my new family. Are you ready to get our picture taken, Katie? Let's go find Timothy and Luvie Lamb! Bye, everyone!

(Cubbie can grab the camera with his paws or you can simply pick up the camera and remove it as you remove the Cubbie puppet. Children wave goodbye as the puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during the club meeting.

IDEA 1: Cracker Sandwiches**What You Need**

- Cracker sandwiches with cheese filling
- Napkins

As you serve the cracker sandwiches, say, "These crackers look like little sandwiches. Who makes sandwiches at your house? Isn't it good that God gave us people to love us and help take care of us? What are some other ways people in your family take care of you?"

IDEA 2: Family Snack Treats

Choose one or more families to bring a snack that their family often enjoys together. Ideas are pizza bites, chips and dip, vegetables and hummus or another type of dip, cheese and crackers or fruit. Let families know of any allergies in your club and give them copies of the "Safe Snack Guidelines" document on the resource CD.

IDEA 3: Fruit Pizza Hearts**What You Need**

- Heart-shaped sugar cookies
- Reduced fat cream cheese, softened
- Marshmallow cream
- Assorted fresh fruit (strawberries, blueberries, etc.)

In small bowl, stir together 4 ounces (113 g) cream cheese with 1 cup (150 g) marshmallow cream. Following the same ratio, you can adjust the amount made based on the size of the cookies and the number of Cubbies. Spread the mixture on top of the cookies. Arrange a variety of fresh fruit on top. As Cubbies eat their snack, talk about some practical ways they can obey, love and serve the people in their families.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **"My God Is So Big" or "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"**
- **"God Made All Things"** (from Bear Hug 3) This is the unit theme song.
- **"Yes, I'm a Helper"** to the tune of the chorus of "Jesus Loves Me."
Yes, I'm a helper (*repeat three times*)
I'll help my family!
- Any favorite animal song for kids, such as **"The Butterfly Song," "Old MacDonald Had a Farm"** or **"The Cows in the Barn"** (from Bear Hug 3)

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, God is our Creator. He made all things, including me and you. You are special to God, and He placed you in a family with people who love and care for you. Sometimes it's hard to obey your parents and be kind to your brother or sister, but God can help you. Is there something we can pray about for you and your family? *(If Cubbies are reluctant to share, give them some ideas of simple requests. Requests might include prayer for parents while they are at work, prayer for a sick family member, prayer to obey Mom or Dad, prayer to not fight with a sibling. Pray specifically for each Cubbie's request. Large groups can enlist other leaders to pray with small groups of Cubbies.)*

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)**What You Need**

- Teaching Cards (TC) 20-21, 23-24, 26, 29, 31-33
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Genesis 1 and Revelation 4:11
- *Optional* – tote bag, flashlight, cotton ball, silk flower, plastic or real fruit or vegetable, star shape or black paper with star stickers on it, toy fish or bird, stuffed animal, boy doll and girl doll (items may have been used for the Creation Day Bins from Bear Hug 3)

(Adapt this lesson to fit you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

Cubbies, I'm glad Cubbie Bear found a family that loves him, even though it's not his bear family. There are many different kinds of families. We thank God for making all kinds of families!

(Open your Bible to Genesis 1.) Let's remember what we learned in club these last few weeks. God created all things in six days. *Created* means "to make something out of nothing." *(To illustrate, open your hands to show they are empty.)*

(Choose a Cubbie to display TC20. Point to images as they are mentioned.) God made the light, the sky, the sun and all the plants and trees.

(Choose a Cubbie to display TC21.) God made the moon and stars to light the night.

(Choose a Cubbie to display TC23.) God made the birds, the fish, the animals, and people!

Option 1: Let Cubbies participate in the following action rhyme to review the creation account. Repeat the rhyme several times so kids get used to it and enjoy it more fully.

God made light so we could see. (Hold hands above your eyes and look around.)

God made the sky and the deep blue sea. (Point up to the sky; move hands in wavy motion in front of you.)

God made the plants that grow food to eat. (Bring hands to mouth.)

The pretty flowers (pretend to smell a flower) and tall, tall trees (look up and pretend to climb a tree).

God made the sun that shines so bright. (Use a finger to trace a circle in the air.)

God made the moon and stars for night. (Reach hands above head and wiggle fingers to represent stars twinkling.)

God made the fish that swim in the sea. (Place palms together and move your hands to mimic a fish swimming.)

And the colorful birds that fly in the breeze. (Move arms as if flying.)

God made the animals big and small. (Open hands wide in front of you; bring hands close together in front of you.)

Animals that hop and animals that crawl. (Hop in place; walk two fingers across your other arm to mimic crawling.)

God made all the things I see. (Place hand above your eyes.)

And I'm so glad that God made ME! (Point to God and then point to self.)

Option 2: Beforehand, fill a tote bag with items that represent each day of creation. To review the creation account, pull out each item, and encourage Cubbies to guess what part of creation the item represents. For example, the cotton ball represents the clouds in the sky, the flashlight represents light.

(Point to Adam and Eve on TC23.) Adam and Eve were different from all the other things that God had made. They were made in God's image. They could know *(make an open Bible with your hands)*, love *(cross hands over chest)* and serve God *(lift your hands up to God)*.

Cubbies, you are all made in God's image too! Let's think of ways that we are like God. We use

continued on next page

continued from previous page

our heads to think and learn. Count to five with me. *(Use fingers as you count aloud to five.)*

We can love others, especially the people in our families. Can you pretend to give your mom or dad a hug? *(Have children hug themselves tightly.)*

We can choose to serve God by obeying what He tells us in the Bible. Cubbies, what are some ways we can obey God? *(Allow response. Possible answers are singing praises to God, praying, reading and memorizing the Bible, obeying parents, loving siblings and helping others.)*

(If the activities above filled most of the time, you may choose to skip to the lesson closing.)

(Display TC26.) Adam and Eve were God's special creation, and so are you! God made you special, and He knows EVERYTHING about you. He even gave you special people to love and take care of you. God gave you a family!

(Display TC29.) Each person in your family has a special job that God wants him or her to do. God wants moms and dads to love and care for their children and teach them about God.

God has special jobs for YOU to do in your family too! First, He wants you to love and obey your parents. *(Display TC31.)* How is the little boy in this picture choosing to obey his mother? *(Allow response.)*

God wants you to obey your parents, and He also wants you to love the other people in your family. How many of you have brothers or sisters? *(Allow response.) (Display TC32.)* What do you think happened in this picture? *(Allow response.)* Sometimes we get angry at our brothers and sisters and do unkind things. *(Display TC33.)* But God wants us to be kind to one another and forgive each other.

Option 1: Have a leader dump toys on the floor. Remind Cubbies that they can show love to their parents by obeying. Encourage the children to work together to pick up the toys. For large classes, pantomime picking up toys. They could sing the "Yes, I'm a Helper" song from the song section as they pick up toys.

Option 2: You and other leaders can pantomime ways children could obey parents or display love toward siblings. Suggestions include brushing your teeth, sharing toys, setting the table, helping a sibling who is hurt, etc. After Cubbies guess what you are doing in each pantomime, the group can say together, "I love my family!"

I am so glad that our wonderful Creator made each of us so that we could love Him and love our families.

(Display TC24. Close by repeating the Core Truth on the card and reviewing Revelation 4:11 with Cubbies. Then pray together, thanking God for being our Creator.)

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 6 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Bear Hug 6 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of Bear Hug 6 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons

Tell Cubbies to find and circle the one object that is different in each row. Do the first row together. Remind Cubbies that God made so many different things for us to enjoy. Say Revelation 4:11 together and say a prayer of thanksgiving to God for some of your favorite things that God created.

NOTE: Additional Handbook Time idea is on the Bear Hug 6 Handbook Leader Sheet.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Cubbies enjoy repetition. Repeat the Cubbies' favorite games from this unit as a review. For example, repeat Sleeping Cubbies or Feed Cubbie Bear from Bear Hug 3. Repeat the "I Can ..." Game or Tail Tag from Bear Hug 4. Repeat the Clean Your Room game from Bear Hug 5. If you have time left, play one of the new games below.

IDEA 1: Peek-a-Zoo Card Game**What You Need**

- Construction paper (9" x 12" [23 x 30 cm] size)
- Pictures of zoo animals (resource CD)
- Glue stick
- Stapler
- Scissors for leader's use

Ahead of time, print the four zoo animal pictures from the resource CD. With glue, mount each picture on a sheet of construction paper to add sturdiness. Place another sheet of construction paper over each picture and staple the sheets together at the top. Cut a square out of the top sheet that is big enough to show Cubbies a visual clue about the animal behind the sheet. To play, hold up one covered picture and give Cubbies three chances to guess what animal is behind the sheet. Whether or not Cubbies guess right, lift up the top sheet so Cubbies see the animal. Direct Cubbies to make sounds and act like the animal for a few moments. Continue this pattern with the other three pictures. End the game by praying to thank God for creating so many wonderful and different animals.

IDEA 2: Grow, Apple Seed!**What You Need**

- Small brown pom-pom(s)
- Small toy watering can

Direct Cubbies to sit in a circle. Choose one Cubbie to be the "farmer." She hides her eyes while a leader gives the pom-pom, which represents an apple seed, to another

child to hide (in his hands, in his pocket, under his legs, etc.). Holding the watering can, the farmer walks up to someone, pretends to water him and says, "Grow, apple seed!" If that child is holding the seed, he jumps up and pretends to grow into a tree. Otherwise the farmer gets two more guesses. Repeat the game again with a new farmer. If your club is large, give out more than one seed or divide into smaller groups to lessen wait times.


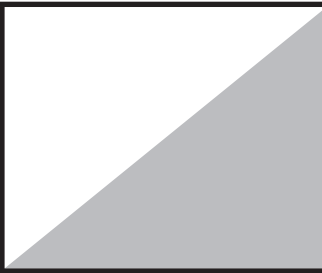

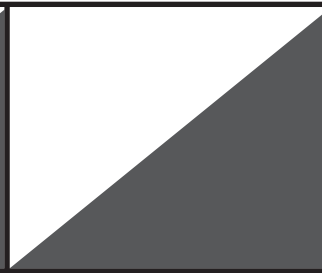

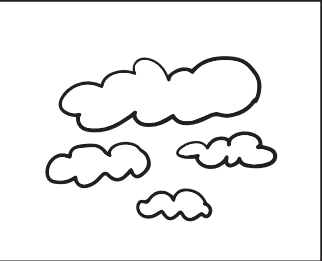
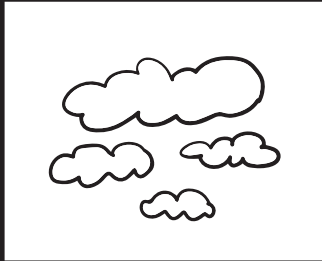
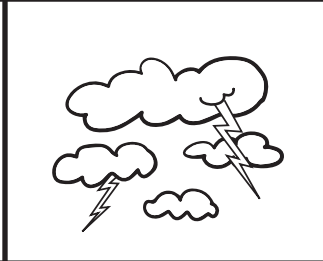
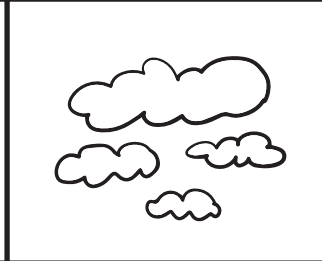

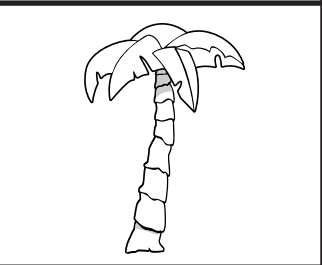
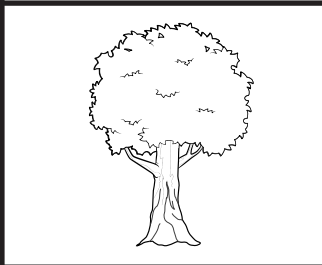
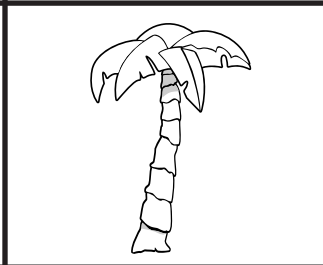
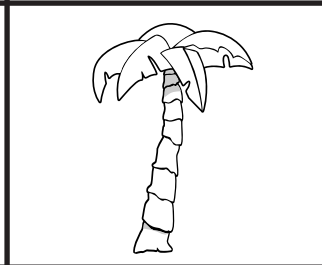
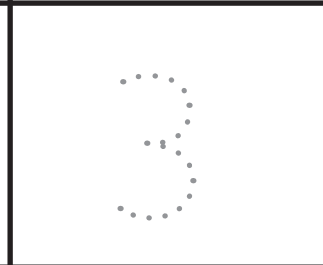
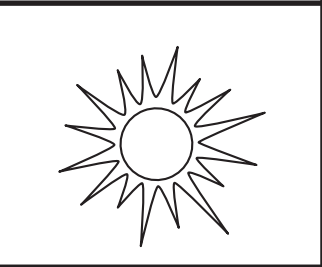
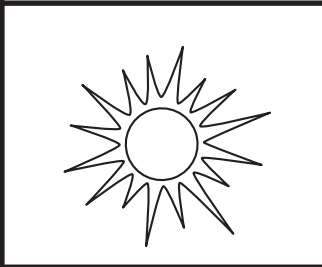
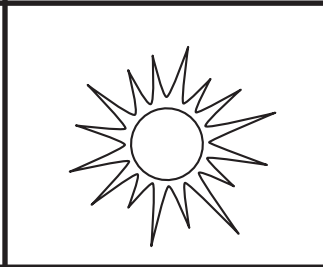
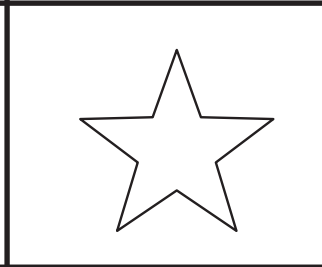

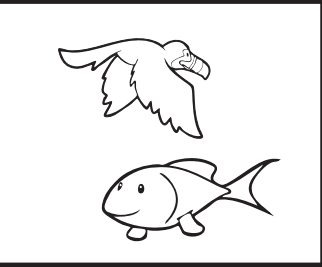
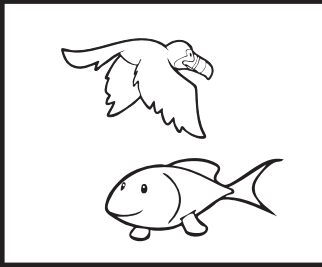
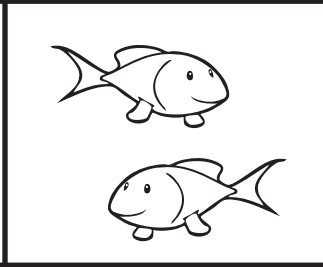
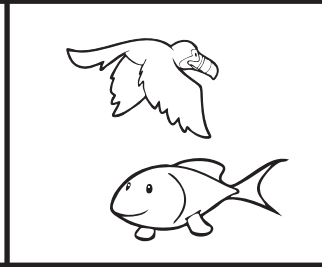

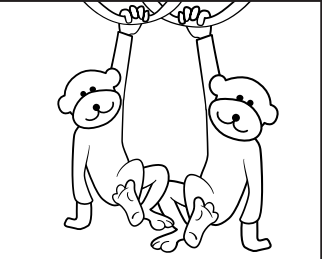



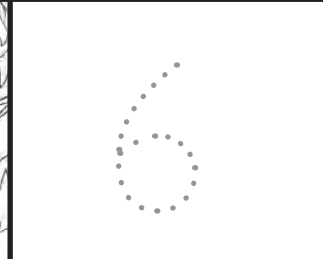
GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)**AWARD ALERT!**

Cubbies will earn a Green Apple emblem for completing Unit 1. Invite parents to arrive early to see their child receive the award. Remind parents to attach the emblem to the C on their child's vest.

Remember, consistent communication with parents is critical. Consider printing clip art of Cubbie or his friends from ART on awana.org. Enlarge and laminate the clip art to make a poster to hang outside your club room door. By laminating it, you can write on it with a dry erase or wet marker and erase the paper with a dry or wet cloth. This allows the paper to be reused. Hang the paper below the character poster. Train parents to look at this paper for important updates such as theme nights, needing to bring photo to club, award nights and even upcoming church events.

“Thou art worthy, O Lord ... for Thou hast created all things ...” (Revelation 4:11)

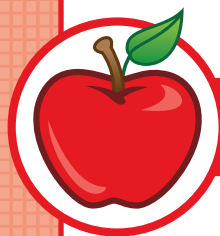
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Basic Instructions: God created many different things. Look at each row and draw an X over the square that is different.

Even More Fun: Color all the pictures.

Ultimate Fun: Do you remember what God created on each day? In the empty box beside each row, trace the number of the day on which the items were created. Here is a review: On Day 1, God created light and gave us day and night. On Day 2, God created the sky. On Day 3, God created dry land, plants and trees. On Day 4, God created the sun, moon and stars. On Day 5, God created fish and birds. On Day 6, God created the rest of the animals and people, like you and me!


**BEAR
HUG 7**

The Israelites Worship God at the Temple

Make It Stick: Matthew 4:10: ... "**Worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.**" (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: The Israelites worshiped God at the temple; we can worship God too, in many ways, and at any time and any place. We must worship only the one true God.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: 1 Chronicles 29:1-9; 2 Chronicles 5-7; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Hebrews 12:28-29; Psalm 100

Memorize: Matthew 4:10

The word *worship* is derived from the Old English word *weorthscipe*, which means "worth-ship" or "worthiness." To worship is to acknowledge the worth of another person or object and act in a manner that expresses that worth.

As Christians, we worship a God of supreme worth. There is no one like Him; no one can do what He does. He is uniquely awesome.

From the beginning, God sought a people who would worship only Him. He founded the nation of Israel and gave them specific instructions on how to worship Him. He expected a lifestyle of worship that shaped their attitudes and actions. God wanted the Israelites to love Him with all their hearts, to humbly revere and respect Him, to come to Him with joy and thankfulness, to obey Him, to love others and pursue justice (Amos 5:21-24). The temple was a focal point of their worship, and it was also the place where they could make sacrifices to atone for those times when they didn't worship God as they should.

In this unit, you will teach Cubbies the Core Truth that God is the one true God. He alone is worthy of our worship. Give your Cubbies a simple definition of worship: Worship is showing love and respect to God because of how awesome He is. Help Cubbies explore various ways they can worship God anywhere and anytime.

Before teaching Cubbies about worship, analyze your own heart. Thank God for His indwelling Spirit that aids you in worship (Philippians 3:3; Ephesians 2:18). Pray you would bring joy to God's heart as your attitudes and actions express His supreme worth.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see* that the LORD is good (Psalm 34:8)! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Hear the ways the Israelites worshiped God by giving their best gifts, praying, singing, playing instruments and praising God at the temple.
2. Know that God is the one true God and we should worship only Him.
3. Understand that worship is showing love and respect to God because of how awesome He is.
4. Name and experience some ways to worship God anywhere and any time.

5. _____

(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

Welcome Cubbies and reinforce what they learned at home with one or more of the following activities.

IDEA 1: Build a Temple

What You Need

- Blocks of various sizes
- Construction paper
- Crayons
- *Optional* — Teaching Cards (TC) 35-36; gold-colored aluminum foil; a variety of rulers, yardsticks, tape measures

Beforehand, you may want to cover some blocks with the gold aluminum foil to represent the gold used for the temple. Remind Cubbies that God told the Israelites to build a temple where they could go to worship Him. To give Cubbies a visual, display TC35-36. Encourage groups of Cubbies to work together to build a temple using the blocks. Some Cubbies may prefer to draw a temple instead of building it. Applaud their imagination and creativity.

As an alternative, make a sample block structure and direct Cubbies to build an exact duplicate. Explain that God told King Solomon exactly how to make the temple. Show Cubbies how to use measuring tools to measure your structure, various blocks or other items in the room. Emphasize that temple builders had to measure very carefully.

IDEA 2: Temple Trumpets

What You Need

- Yellow construction paper
- Colored markers
- Tape
- Matthew 4:10 verse labels (resource CD)
- Pairs of scissors for leaders' use
- *Optional* — stickers, yellow duct tape

Explain that the Israelites played trumpets and other instruments to worship God at the temple (2 Chronicles 5:12). Let each Cubbie use markers and stickers to decorate one side of a sheet of yellow construction paper. A leader will roll the sheet into a cone shape (with the decorated side showing), tape the cone in place and attach a verse label. Leaders should trim any edges that stick out so the cone has flat ends. Yellow duct tape may be placed around the small end where the child blows to prevent soggy paper. Recite Matthew 4:10 with Cubbies and explain that God told the Israelites to worship only Him. He is the one true God!

IDEA 3: Lacing Harps and Lyres

What You Need

- Precut stringed instruments (resource CD; print on card stock)
- Hole punch and scissors for leader's use
- Yarn pieces or shoelaces
- *Optional* — tape for yarn pieces

Beforehand, print and cut out an instrument for each Cubbie. Punch holes where indicated. Wrap tape around one end of each yarn piece to make lacing easier for Cubbies. Tie a knot at the other end. If using shoelaces, tie a knot at one end. Show Cubbies how to lace yarn or a shoelace through the holes on an instrument to look like strings. Explain that the Israelites used instruments like these to worship God at the temple. Review that worship is showing love and respect to God because of how awesome He is. Talk about various ways we can worship God.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, and the A and C verses. Be sure to review the unit Core Truth: God Is the One True God.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Luvie Lamb puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — flower, empty bear-shaped honey bottle, full honey bottle, ball that fits in Katie's mouth

(To prepare, set the optional props within reach of the puppets.)

LEADER: I wonder what our friend, Cubbie Bear, is doing today. Will you help me call him? Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Bring the Cubbie and Luvie puppets into view.)

CUBBIE (*hopping around excitedly*): Hello, everybody!

LUVIE: Baa, baa! Hi, Cubbies!

LEADER (*smiling*): It's great to see you, Cubbie Bear, and you too, Luvie Lamb. Are you doing something fun on the farm today?

CUBBIE: Yes, we've been looking for our best gifts.

LEADER: Your best gifts? Are these gifts for you?

LUVIE: No, they're not for us. We're giving the gifts to two children. Timothy said the children don't have many nice things. He thought we should each give them something that's our very best.

LEADER: I'm sure the kids will really like that! Luvie, what are you giving to the children?

LUVIE: Well, I was looking around at the petting zoo for a gift, and then I remembered how much I like flowers. So I skipped over to Lamb's Meadow and picked the prettiest flower I could find. I hope the kids like it!

(Remove Luvie from view and hold the flower in her mouth or between her hooves. Return her into view.)

LEADER: What a nice gift, Luvie!

(Remove Luvie from view.)

LEADER: Cubbie, what will you give the children?

CUBBIE (*flustered*): Hmm. Ah ... um. I'm not sure yet, but I thought I might give them a honey bottle.

(Remove Cubbie from view and bring him back in to view, holding the empty honey bottle between his paws. Then bring Katie Collie into view, barking.)

KATIE: Ruff, ruff! Hi, boys and girls. Hi, Cubbie! Cubbie Bear, are you talking about giving the kids an empty honey bottle?

CUBBIE: Yes, I was hungry, so I ate the honey. But the kids can put the bottle on a shelf. The bear on the bottle sort of looks like me! (*laughing a little*)

KATIE (*in a motherly tone*): Cubbie, are you sure that's your best gift?

CUBBIE (*hanging his head down; ashamed*): Um ... no. Probably not.

LEADER: Katie, what are you giving to the children?

KATIE: I'm giving them my favorite ball. It lights up when you throw it!

(Remove Katie from view, hold the ball in her mouth and return her to view.)

LEADER: That's very kind of you to give your favorite ball, Katie.

CUBBIE: I have an idea! I was saving a full bottle of honey for my snack, but now I want the kids to have it.

(Move Cubbie to set down the empty bottle of honey and pick up the full bottle of honey.)

LEADER: Oh, Cubbie! That's a great idea. People feel special when we give them our very best. Why don't you two go bring your gifts to Timothy? He's putting all the gifts in a box for the children right now.

KATIE and CUBBIE: OK! Bye, boys and girls.

(Children wave goodbye as the puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during the club meeting. Use the snack time song from prior weeks to transition Cubbies.

IDEA 1: Chocolate Coins**What You Need**

- Chocolate coin candies wrapped in gold and silver paper

Tell Cubbies the gold and silver coins remind you of when the Israelites gave their best gifts to God (gold, silver, jewels and more) so the temple could be built. Ask Cubbies, "If you decided to give a gift to God, what would it be?" Let Cubbies know that gifts can be something they make or do rather than money or a possession. Explain that giving God our best is one way to worship Him and show that we love Him.

IDEA 2: Temple Cakes**What You Need**

- Pound cake cut into blocks of various sizes
- Strawberry slices or fruit snacks made from real fruit
- Small paper plates
- *Optional* — Serve pretzel rods to resemble logs.

Place three or more cake blocks and fruit pieces on each plate. Let Cubbies stack the cake blocks to build a temple. The fruit pieces can be placed on the temple to resemble jewels. Explain that we don't go to a temple to worship God like the Israelites did. We can worship God anytime and anywhere. Ask Cubbies to name various places where they can worship God.

Instead, simplify the snack by serving only pretzel rods. Talk about how the rods look like the logs that were cut from trees to build the temple (2 Chronicles 2:8-9).

IDEA 3: Bugles Snacks**What You Need**

Bugles® original corn snacks

As Cubbies eat the snack, ask them if the Bugles remind them of little horns. Explain that God's people, the Israelites, played horns, or trumpets,

to worship God at the temple. Talk about other instruments that we can play to worship God. Review that worship is showing love and respect to God because of how awesome He is. Ask Cubbies to name other ways to worship God besides singing and playing instruments.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **"God Made All Things"** (from Bear Hug 3) as a review
- **"My God Is So Big"** or the chorus of **"Our God Is an Awesome God"** by Rich Mullins
- **"Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children"** Add additional verses, replacing "praise Him" with "love Him," "thank Him" and "serve Him."
- **"God Is So Good"**

For extra fun, let Cubbies play rhythm instruments as they sing. Consider inviting some of your church's musicians to come and show their instruments to the Cubbies. They could let the Cubbies touch the instruments or make noise with them. They could share why they enjoy worshiping God through music and lead Cubbies in a few upbeat praise songs.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

Cubbies, do you know what I like about you? I like the way you sing and praise God. (*You may add other specific things you like about the Cubbies.*) When we pray, we can tell God what we like about Him! I like that God is the one true God. There are no other gods except Him. God is very special; there is no one like God. Cubbies, what do YOU like about God? (He is loving, He never sins, He keeps His promises, He is powerful, etc.)

(Ask if a few Cubbies would like to pray aloud and tell God some of the things the group said they like about Him. They can say, "God, we like that you are the one true God!" or "God we like that you are loving!")

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 34-37
- Bible with bookmarks placed at 1 Chronicles 29:1-9, 2 Chronicles 5-7 and Matthew 4:10
- *Optional* — gold, silver and jeweled items or pictures of these items (resource CD); rhythm instruments; construction paper crown

(Adapt the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

Wow! It was very kind of Cubbie and his friends to give their best gifts to the children. Boys and girls, what would you have given to the children? Would it be hard to give your best gift? Why or why not? *(Engage in a brief discussion with Cubbies.)*

(Display TC34 and open your Bible to 1 Chronicles 29:1-9.) Here is a group of people, called the Israelites. The Bible tells us about a time when the Israelites all decided to give their best gifts to a very important person. Cubbies, can you guess who the Israelites gave their gifts to? *(Allow response.)* The Israelites gave their best gifts to God!

The Israelites were God's special people, and God had given them a special land to live in, called Canaan. One day God said it was time to build a big, beautiful temple in the land, where they could go to worship God.

(Display your gold, silver and jeweled items or pictures of these items.) The Israelites were excited to bring their best gifts to decorate the temple and make it beautiful for God. Some brought gold. Some brought silver. Others brought precious shiny and colorful jewels. The people were so happy to give gifts to God, because He had given so much to them!

After many years of hard work, the temple was built. *(Display TC35.)* Cubbies, here is the outside of the temple. Isn't it beautiful? *(Display TC36.)* Here is a place inside the temple. Look at all the shiny, gold things and the colorful curtains!

(Turn in your Bible to 2 Chronicles 5-7.) The Israelites had a big party to celebrate because the temple was built. The people sang and played instruments for the Lord. They sang, "God is good, and His love lasts forever!"

Optional: Let Cubbies each pretend to play an instrument or give them rhythm instruments to make a sound of praise to the Lord.

Optional: Choose a Cubbie to play King Solomon and kneel with his hands raised. Let the Cubbie wear a construction paper crown.

The king of the Israelites, King Solomon, led the people in prayer. He knelt down and spread his hands up to heaven. He prayed, "Oh, God, there is no God like You, in heaven or on earth. Thank you for keeping Your promises. Thank you for Your love!" After King Solomon finished praying, God let the people know He was with them at the temple. The people bowed down, with their faces to the ground, and gave thanks to God. They said, "God is good, and His love lasts forever!" *(Direct Cubbies to bow with their faces to the ground and say with you, "God, you are good. Thank You for Your love!" Let them say some of their own prayers of thanks.)*

(Display TC35 again.) The people were glad to have a temple where they could go to worship the Lord. But God gave the Israelites a warning. It was very serious. *(Change to a serious tone of voice and make sure all Cubbies' eyes are looking at you.)* He said, "Do not worship any other gods but Me!" If the Israelites DID worship other gods, God said He would make them leave the special land He had given them. The beautiful temple would be burned down! That would be a very sad day.

(Hold up one finger and invite Cubbies to do the same.) Cubbies, **God is the one true God.** God wanted the Israelites to worship only Him. In our verse, Matthew 4:10, Jesus says: ... "Worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." *(Turn in your Bible to Matthew 4:10 and tell Cubbies to stand and recite the verse twice with you.)*

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Cubbies, we can worship God, just like the Israelites did. God is awesome! There is no one like God. When you show love and respect to God because of how awesome He is, we call that *worship*.

(Display TC37.) What are the children in this picture doing to worship God? (Reading the Bible, singing to God, giving money to God at church.) Cubbies, can you think of other ways you can worship God? (Pray, give God your best, memorize and obey God's Word, help out at Cubbies or church, be kind to others, etc.)

Cubbies, we don't go to a temple to worship God like the Israelites did. We can worship God anywhere and at anytime: at church, at home, in the car, at Cubbies, at the park. Let's worship God right now by praying to Him.

(Close in prayer, asking God to help you and the Cubbies to worship Him by showing love and respect to Him.)

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 7 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

IDEA 1: Bear Hug 7 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of Bear Hug 7 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — gold glitter glue, adhesive plastic jewels, copies of Who Is Worshipping? page (resource CD)

Explain that God told King Solomon to build a temple where the Israelites could worship God. After Cubbies color the temple, they may decorate the temple with gold glitter and jewel stickers. They may also cut out pictures of children worshipping God and glue them to the back of the sheet. Review that worship is showing love and respect to God because of how awesome He is. Emphasize that we don't worship God at a temple; we can worship Him anywhere and at any time.

IDEA 2: Who Is Worshipping?

What You Need

- Copy of Who Is Worshipping? page for each Cubbie (resource CD)
- Crayons
- Pairs of child-sized scissors
- Glue sticks
- Construction paper
- Matthew 4:10 verse labels (resource CD)

Talk about various ways Cubbies can worship God (read the Bible, sing, give an offering, pray, love others, etc.). Tell Cubbies to cross off pictures of children who are NOT worshipping God and cut out those who ARE worshipping God. Cubbies will glue worshipping children onto a construction paper or onto the back of the Bear Hug 7 Activity Sheet. Attach a verse label.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Cubbies enjoy and learn through repetition. Repeat one or more of the Cubbies' favorite games from prior lessons as a review. For example repeat IDEA 2: Letter A Action Game (from Bear Hug 1) or IDEA 1: A/C Jumping Bean (from Bear Hug 2). Repeat IDEA 1: Cubbie See, Cubbie Do or IDEA 2: Follow the Honeybee (from Bear Hug 1) and use Matthew 4:10 as the verse in either game. Choose one new game below to fit this week's lesson theme.

IDEA 1: Best Gifts Relay**What You Need**

- Assortment of plastic coins, plastic jewels, toy jewelry
- Bucket for each group

Divide Cubbies into groups. Give each Cubbie an item to hold. Set buckets at an equal distance from each group. The first person in each group will run to drop his gift in the bucket before returning to tag the next person in line that runs to drop her gift in the bucket. Play continues in this pattern until all Cubbies take a turn. Remind Cubbies that the Israelites were excited to bring their best gifts of gold, silver and jewels to help decorate the temple and make it beautiful for God.

Another option is to scatter the items on the game floor and let Cubbies quickly gather items to place in a bucket.

IDEA 2: Gold Coin Toss**What You Need**

- Assortment of plastic coins
- Bucket for each group

Divide Cubbies into groups. Let Cubbies take turns tossing coins into the bucket from a short distance away. Tell Cubbies the Israelites were happy to give their gifts of gold and silver to God so His temple could be beautiful. Ask Cubbies to name ways the

Israelites worshiped God at the temple (they prayed, sang, played instruments, thanked God, etc.). Ask Cubbies to name some ways they would like to worship God.

IDEA 3: Stone Movers**What You Need**

- Blocks
- Towel for each group

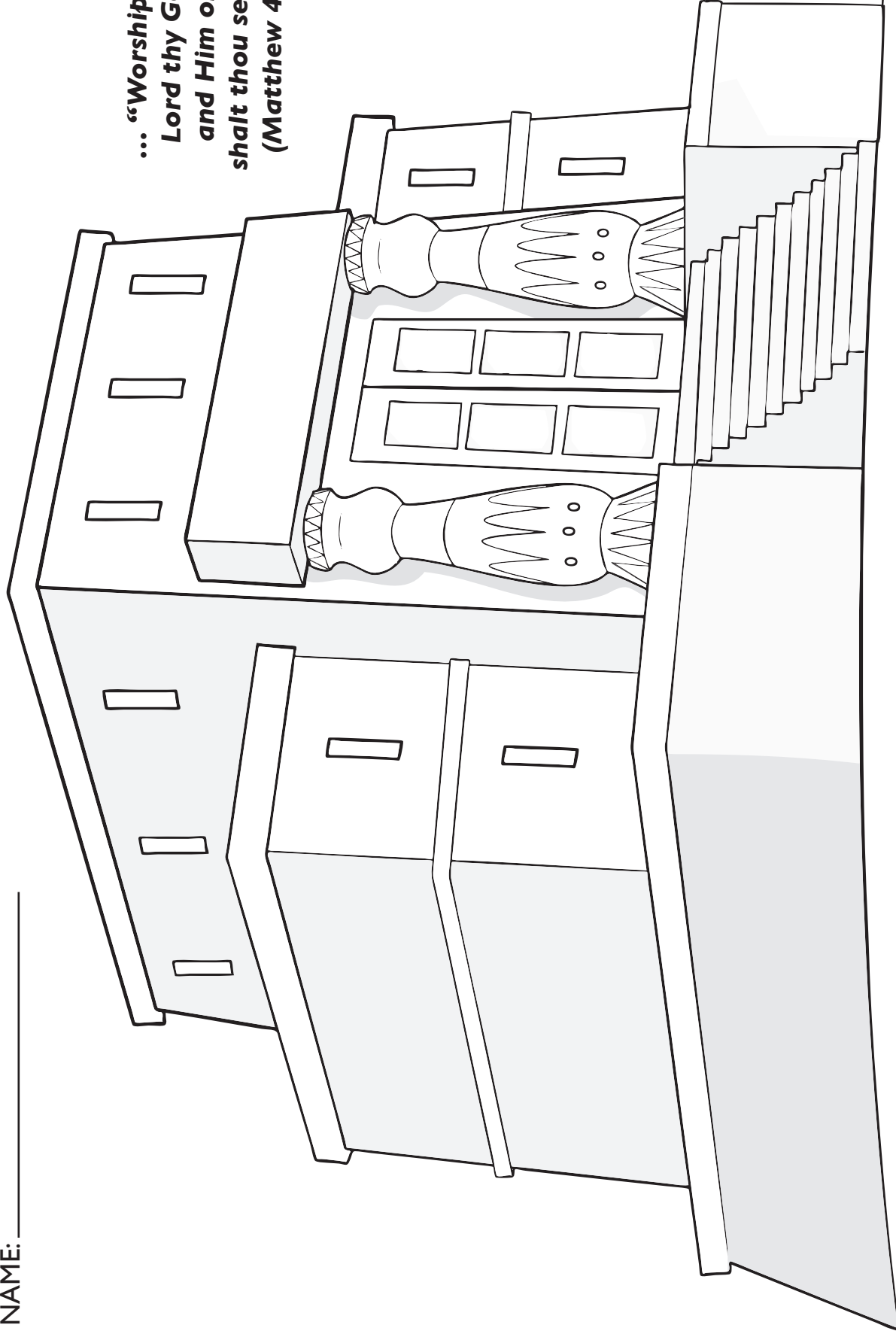
Tell Cubbies that King Solomon hired many workers to build the temple (2 Chronicles 2:2, 17-18). The workers had to move huge amounts of cut stones to where the temple was being built. In this game, Cubbies will pretend to move stones. Set blocks at one end of the room. Divide Cubbies into groups with an even number of members. Within a group, two Cubbies will work together to load some "stones" (blocks) onto the towel and then pull the towel to the other end of the room. Once they have unloaded the stones, they will return the towel to the next pair on their team who will begin loading stones. Continue in this pattern until all Cubbies have had a turn to load stones. Ask Cubbies, "Why did the Israelites build the temple?" (God told them to build it. So they could worship God there.) Explain that we do not worship God at a temple now; we can worship God anywhere and anytime! Review that worship is showing love and respect to God because of how awesome He is.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

Give your Cubbies leaders opportunities to use their God-given gifts and abilities at club. Encourage them to try leading songs, the puppet show, the Bible lesson or games. Watch what they are good at as well as what they enjoy doing. Stress that we are each bringing our best gifts as an offering for the Lord. Just as the Israelites brought tangible items to build God's temple, we bring our gifts and talents to build His new temple — the Church (Ephesians 2:19-22). Thank your leaders for their selfless giving.

NAME: _____

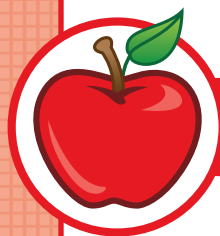
... **“Worship the
Lord thy God,
and Him only
shalt thou serve.”
(Matthew 4:10)**



Basic Instructions: God told His people, the Israelites, to worship only Him. The Israelites worshiped God at the temple. Color the picture of the temple.

Even More Fun: Decorate the doors and pillars of the temple with gold glitter and jewel stickers.

Ultimate Fun: Worship is showing love and respect to God because of how awesome He is. We don't worship God at the temple like the Israelites did; we can worship Him anywhere and at any time. On the back of your sheet, draw or paste pictures from your Cubbies leader of children worshipping God.


**BEAR
HUG 8**

Elijah Reminds the Israelites to Worship Only God

Make It Stick: Jeremiah 10:10: ... ***The LORD is the true God, He is the living God, and an everlasting king ...*** (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: At Mount Carmel, the Israelites saw that God was more powerful than the idol Baal. We should worship the one true God, not idols.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: 1 Kings 18; Isaiah 42:8; Psalm 115

Memorize: Jeremiah 10:10

When you have a problem, where do you go for help? Depending on the problem, you might go to a family member or friend, a trusted advisor, an expert in the field, a how-to book or the Internet. It is not wrong to seek help in these places. God, in His grace, gives us various people and resources to benefit our lives. However, it IS wrong to put a level of trust in these things that matches or surpasses the trust we have in God.

At Mount Carmel, Elijah rebuked the Israelites for trusting in both Baal and God. The people were in the midst of a famine due to a drought that had lasted three-and-a-half years (Luke 4:25). The drought was a judgment from the Lord because of their idolatry (1 Kings 17:1; 18:18). The Israelites could have gotten rid of their gods and sought God alone to bring the rain, but they were too attached to the supposed “help” of their gods, especially Baal. (The name Baal was used for a variety of gods, including Hadad, the storm god. Hadad was said to control the rain and the fertility of the land.)

You probably aren't tempted to trust in idols of wood or stone, but watch for other idols in your life. An idol is anything that takes God's place as a source of help or trust. Your Cubbies are literal thinkers; they will not understand how a person or money or sports could become an idol. But they can understand the futility of praying to a stone statue rather than the true God. This is a good place to start in this lesson.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good* (Psalm 34:8)! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Understand what an idol is and why it can't help us.
2. Hear how God showed His power to the Israelites at Mount Carmel.
3. Believe that there is no other god except the one true God and desire to worship only Him.
4. Know that only God is living and powerful to answer our prayers.
5. Name ways to love and worship the one true God.

6. _____

(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

Welcome Cubbies and reinforce what they learned at home with one or more of the following activities.

IDEA 1: Alive or Not?

What You Need

- Set of picture cards for each table (resource CD; print on card stock)

Beforehand, print and cut out sets of picture cards. (A page makes a set.) Station a leader at each table to help Cubbies at the table sort pictures into two piles: things that are alive and things that are not alive. Ask Cubbies, "Is God alive? Is Jesus alive? How do you know?" Explain that their memory verse, Jeremiah 10:10, tells us that God is living (which means He's alive). Recite the verse together. Show Cubbies the picture cards of Baal and Buddha. Ask Cubbies, "Would you pray to gods like these who are not alive? Would a god who is not alive be able to hear your prayers or help you? Why or why not?" Review that God is the one true God. There is no other God but Him, and we must worship only Him..

IDEA 2: Block Altar

What You Need

- Large blocks or assorted boxes
- *Optional* — sticks from outside to place on the altar

Explain to Cubbies that sometimes people in the Bible worshiped God by building altars to Him. These altars were often made from large stones piled up. The people placed sticks on top of the altar to build a fire. They burned meat from animals, such as bulls, lambs or goats, as a gift (called an offering or sacrifice) to honor God. Let Cubbies pretend the blocks are stones and try to build an altar to honor God.

IDEA 3: Altar Pictures

What You Need

- Construction paper, including brown and gray paper
- Red, orange and yellow tissue paper
- Glue sticks
- Jeremiah 10:10 verse labels (resource CD)
- *Optional* — red and yellow paint, small paper plate for each Cubbie, paint brushes or cotton swabs, flat toothpicks

Beforehand, make a sample altar picture to show Cubbies. To make your picture, tear small pieces of gray paper and glue them to another paper to look like piled stones. (This is the bottom of the altar.) Rip small brown paper strips and glue them to the top of the altar to look like sticks of wood. Flat toothpicks may also be glued on as sticks. Tear long strips of tissue paper and glue them above the sticks to look like flames. Show Cubbies your sample picture and help them make their own altar pictures. Ask the Cubbies if they remember any altars from this week's Bible lesson in their handbooks. See if any of them can retell the events at Mount Carmel.

Instead of using tissue paper, Cubbies may paint flames on their altars. Give each Cubbie a paper plate containing small puddles of red and yellow paint. Cubbies will use a paint brush or cotton swab to paint flames on top of their altar. See if Cubbies notice the orange color that appears when red and yellow paint are mixed.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, and the A and C verses. Be sure to review the unit Core Truth: God Is the One True God.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — toy elephant that can be held in Katie Collie's mouth or picture of a toy elephant (resource CD), flashlight

(If you are using the optional props, practice beforehand making a shadow on the wall by shining a flashlight on the toy elephant or the cutout picture from the resource CD. Position the flashlight so the shadow is as large as possible.)

LEADER: Hi, Cubbies! Are you ready to see our friend, Cubbie Bear? Let's call him together. One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Bring the Cubbie puppet into view, hopping around excitedly.)

CUBBIE: Hi, boys and girls! Guess what! Timothy and I just saw an elephant on the farm.

LEADER (surprised): An elephant? No way! *(Turning to Cubbies)* Elephants don't belong on farms, do they, Cubbies? *(Allow response.)* Cubbies, where do we usually see elephants? *(Children may suggest the zoo or a jungle.)*

CUBBIE: I know elephants don't belong on a farm, but believe me, I saw one! He was over at the woodshed.

LEADER: What was the elephant doing at the woodshed?

CUBBIE: He wasn't doing anything at all. Timothy tried to talk to him. He said, "Mr. Elephant, what is your name?" But the elephant didn't answer.

LEADER: What did you do then?

CUBBIE: Timothy talked to the elephant again. He said, "Mr. Elephant, can you hear me?" But the elephant didn't make a sound. He didn't even move.

LEADER: That's strange! Maybe he was scared of you and Timothy.

CUBBIE: US? Why would he be scared of us? He is much, much bigger than we are. Timothy walked up really close to the elephant and waved his arm above his head. He said, "Mr. Elephant, if you see me, lift up your trunk and stomp your foot one time!"

LEADER: What happened then? I'm sure the elephant saw Timothy when he was standing so close.

CUBBIE: Nothing happened! The elephant didn't even blink an eye. He looked frozen, like a statue.

(Bring Katie Collie into view, barking. If you have the toy elephant or a picture of the toy elephant, hold it in her mouth.)

KATIE (nudging Cubbie to get his attention): RUFF, RUFF!

(Take the elephant out of Katie's mouth before she begins to speak and display it to the Cubbies.)

KATIE: I found a toy elephant sitting on a bench near the woodshed.

CUBBIE: Thanks, Katie! Did you see the big elephant by the woodshed too?

KATIE: No, I didn't see a big elephant. I only saw this one.

LEADER (laughing): Oh, Cubbie, I think I know what happened. That big elephant you saw wasn't real! The sun was making a shadow of the toy elephant on the side of the woodshed.

CUBBIE (laughing): OH! That's why the elephant wasn't moving or talking. The elephant wasn't alive; he was just a toy.

LEADER: That's right!

CUBBIE (tilting his head to the side): I think I hear Timothy calling me from the playground. C'mon, Katie, let's go play. I'll see you later.

LEADER: Bye, Cubbie! Bye, Katie!

(Children wave goodbye as the puppets are put away. For fun, and so kids understand the concept of a shadow, dim the lights and make the elephant shadow on the wall.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during the club meeting. Use the snack time song from prior weeks to transition Cubbies.

IDEA 1: Fake and Real Food**What You Need**

- Toy food or cookies shaped from Play-Doh
- Real snack that Cubbies enjoy
- Fancy plate

Tell Cubbies you have been working hard all afternoon to prepare a great snack for them. Then, with great fanfare, bring out the toy food on the fancy plate. When Cubbies express their disappointment, show them the real snack and ask, "Which snack would you rather have? Why?" Explain that you really did not work hard to prepare the fake snack; you were just joking. Talk about the differences between the real and fake food. Tie this into the Bible story by mentioning that the Israelites began worshiping fake gods, like Baal, but Elijah built an altar to the real God, the true and living God. Talk about the differences between the real God and fake gods. Fake gods may look nice, but they do not help us when we call.

IDEA 2: Edible Altar**What You Need**

- Rectangular or square crackers
- Shredded cheddar cheese
- Pretzel sticks
- Small paper plates
- Cups of water

Let Cubbies each use a few crackers to build an "altar" on a plate. They can place pretzel sticks on top for "wood" and sprinkle the altar with cheese "flames." Ask Cubbies, "What did God do to show His power at Mount Carmel? How do we know that God, not Baal, is the true God?" As they drink water, remind them of the water Elijah poured on his altar. Encourage Cubbies to eat EVERYTHING on their plate. Talk about how the fire God sent burned up the altar and EVERYTHING on it. The fire even licked up the water and the dirt on the ground!

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **"My God Is So Big"** or the chorus of **"Our God Is an Awesome God"** by Rich Mullins
- **"Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children"** Add additional verses, replacing "praise Him" with "love Him," "thank Him" and "serve Him."
- **"What a Mighty God We Serve"**

If you did not invite some of your church's musicians to come last week, consider inviting them this week or in the next unit lessons. They could show their instruments to the Cubbies, share why they enjoy worshiping God through music and lead Cubbies in a few upbeat praise songs.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, it's time to talk to God in prayer. When we pray, we can tell God we are sorry for our sin. The Israelites sinned by disobeying God and worshiping idols instead of the one true God. *(If necessary, define the word idol for Cubbies.)* We disobey God too. We disobey God when we don't listen to our parents, fight with a sister or brother, whine and complain or push others out of line at Cubbies. Cubbies, can you think of other ways children might sin? *(Let Cubbies share ideas.)*

(Model a short prayer of admitting a sin to God. For example, you could say, "We are sorry, God, for the times we have said unkind things to others. We know that You say that is a sin. Thank you, God, that all our sins are forgiven because of what Jesus did for us on the cross.")

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 20, 37-43
- Bible with bookmarks placed at 1 Kings 18 and Jeremiah 10:10
- *Optional* — figurine, toy animal or doll; blocks; four pitchers or buckets; red sheet or blanket with flame shapes attached

(Adapt the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

Today Cubbie and Timothy saw an elephant on the farm. Cubbies, why didn't the elephant talk or move? **(Allow response.)** The elephant wasn't real. The elephant was only a shadow of a toy. It's silly to talk to a toy or ask the toy for help, because it's not alive.

Optional: Hold up the figurine, doll or toy and ask the Cubbies: "Can this doll see you or hear you? Can the doll talk to you? Would the doll be able to help you if you asked for help? Why not?" Let the Cubbies ask the toy to help them with a certain task, such as tying their shoes or lifting a book. Talk about how silly it was for the Israelites to pray to idols.

(Display TC38.) God's people, the Israelites, did something silly. They started praying to idols, which are statues made of wood, stone or gold. They thought these idols were real gods like the one true God. **(Point to Baal on TC38.)** This idol was named Baal. The people asked Baal to bring rain to their land so the food would grow. The rain had not come for a very long time.

Cubbies, do you think Baal could bring rain to the land? **(Allow response.)** No, only God can bring rain. **(Display TC20.)** God made the sky, the sun, the water and the clouds. He created the whole world. God decides when to give us rainy days or sunny days.

God was NOT happy that the Israelites were worshiping idols. God is the one who had stopped the rain because the Israelites were disobeying Him. **(Direct Cubbies to hold up one finger.)** Remember, **God is the one true God.** There are no other gods except God. God

wanted the Israelites to worship only Him.

(Display TC39 and open your Bible to 1 Kings 18.)

God sent prophets to remind the people to worship only God. One of those prophets was Elijah. **(Point to Elijah.)** One day Elijah told the Israelites to meet him at Mount Carmel. Elijah had a message from God. "How long will you worship BOTH Baal and God?" said Elijah.

The people didn't answer him a word.

"Let's get two altars ready," said Elijah. "You call to Baal at your altar. I will call to the Lord God at my altar. The God who answers with fire is the true God."

(Display TC40.) The people thought this was a good idea, so the prophets of Baal got their altar ready. They prayed, "Oh, Baal, answer us!" They leaped and danced around their altar. They called to Baal from morning until lunch time, but no one answered them.

Elijah started to tease them. "Call louder," said Elijah. "Maybe your god is busy or away on a trip. Or maybe he is sleeping!" He knew their god wasn't sleeping or busy doing anything; their god wasn't real at all.

The prophets cried louder. They shouted and screamed until almost dinner time. Still, no one answered.

Optional: Chose a group of Cubbies to play the prophets of Baal. They will build an altar with blocks and shout as they jump and dance around it. Then choose one Cubbie to play Elijah and two Cubbies to be water pourers. Elijah will build his altar with blocks. Give the water pourers four large pitchers or buckets. They can pretend to pour water over the altar with each bucket. Tell them to pour all four jars a second time and a third time.

(Display TC41.) Then Elijah used 12 stones to build an altar for the Lord. He told people to pour four jars of water over his altar. He told them to do this a second time and a third time, until the altar and the meat and wood on top of it were soaked with water. The water even spilled down to fill the ground around the altar.

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No one could burn an altar with that much water on it — no one, except God!

Elijah prayed, “Oh, Lord, answer me, so the people know that You are God.”

(Display TC42.) Right away, the fire of the Lord came down and burned up the altar and everything on it. The fire even licked up the water and the dirt on the ground.

Optional: If you had a Cubbie build Elijah’s altar, bring a red sheet or blanket to represent fire. If desired, attach flame shapes cut from orange and red tissue paper or cellophane to the sheet. When you speak about the fire burning up the altar, throw the sheet over the altar to cover it. Talk about everything that was burned up and disappeared because of the fire.

When all the people saw it, they were amazed. They fell with their faces to the ground and said, “The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!”

Soon after, dark clouds came into the sky, and God sent a mighty rain to the land.

Cubbies, **God is the one true God.** There is no one like Him. Only He can send the fire and the rain. He did this to show Israel that He was God, but we have the Bible to show us. **(Turn in your Bible to Jeremiah 10:10.)** Jeremiah 10:10 says: ... *The LORD is the true God, He is the living God, and an everlasting king ...* **(Repeat the verse twice with Cubbies.)**

Cubbies, the word *everlasting* means “forever.” God is alive, and He is our God and King forever. We must worship only Him.

(Display TC43.) Many people who live in the world today do not worship the one true God. They worship other gods, and these gods often look funny and strange. See the statue of the man with four arms and an elephant head? These gods are not alive like our God, and they cannot help us when we need them.

Optional: If you know your Cubbies have had exposure to some of the religions on the card, spend more time talking about them. For example, maybe a parent has a Buddha figure in the house. Perhaps the Cubbies live near a

mosque. TC43 shows a Muslim worshiping Allah at a mosque, a Hindu worshiping the elephant-head god, Ganesha, and a Buddhist worshiping Buddha.

(Display TC37.) Cubbies, you can worship the one true God. God is awesome! When you show love and respect to God because of how awesome He is, we call that *worship*. Cubbies, what are some ways you can love God? (Reading the Bible, singing to God, giving God a special gift, praying, memorizing and obey His words in the Bible, helping out at Cubbies or church, etc.) **(After Cubbies name a suggestion, pantomime it together. For example, pretend to open a Bible and read it.)**

Let’s worship God right now by praying to Him. **(Close in prayer, asking God to help you worship Him with love and respect.**

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 8 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Bear Hug 8 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of Bear Hug 8 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — glue sticks, brown paper, flat toothpicks, red and orange tissue paper, pairs of child-sized scissors, drinking straw for each Cubbie

Review the events at Mount Carmel with Cubbies and recite Jeremiah 10:10 together. Make sure Cubbies understand that the word *everlasting* means “forever.” God is alive forever, and He is the one true God. Only He controls the fire and the rain. Only He can help us when we call. If desired, help Cubbies follow directions at the bottom of the sheet to glue some of the optional items on t

NOTE: Additional Handbook Time idea is on the Bear Hug 8 Handbook Leader Sheet.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)**IDEA 1: Altar Building Relay****What You Need**

- A supply of large blocks or stacking cups (available in the Awana Catalog)
- Pretend flames (Flames can be cut from yellow, orange or red felt or tissue paper. Red bandanas or bean bags can also be used as flames.)

Divide Cubbies into groups and give each Cubbie a block except the last person in each group. The last person will receive a few pretend flames. To start, the first Cubbie will run to the spot where his group is going to build an altar. After placing his block, he runs back to his group to tag the next person. The next person runs to place her block. Play continues in this pattern until the last person in each group runs down and places the pretend flames on the top to "light" their altar. If the altar topples before it is lit, it must be rebuilt by the person who knocked it down.

IDEA 2: Flame Throwers**What You Need**

- Several pretend flames (see ideas for making flames above)
- Music player

Cubbies stand in a circle. Give every other child a pretend flame. While music plays, Cubbies pass the flames to the person on their right. When music stops, everyone yells "God is the one true God!" and then throws their "flames" up into the air inside the circle. Repeat the game a few times. As flames fall, talk about how the fire of the Lord fell down and burned up Elijah's altar and everything on it or near it, including the dust and water. God did this to show He is more powerful than anyone and anything else. He is the one true God.

IDEA 3: Four Corners**What You Need**

- Four sheets of paper numbered 1 to 4
- Masking tape
- Music player

Hang the numbers in the four corners of your room at Cubbies' height. Begin the game with the Cubbies in the middle of the room. Review the numbers and the Bible story by saying,

- "In our Bible story there were two altars. Run to the number 2!"
- "Elijah had the people bring water in four jars. Run to the number 4!"
- "They dumped water on his altar three times. Run to the number 3!"
- "The one and only true God answered with fire. Run to the number 1!"

Then play some upbeat worship music. As the music plays, Cubbies will WALK around the room. When the music stops, the leader will call a number (without looking at the corners). Anyone in that corner must shout "God is the one true God!"

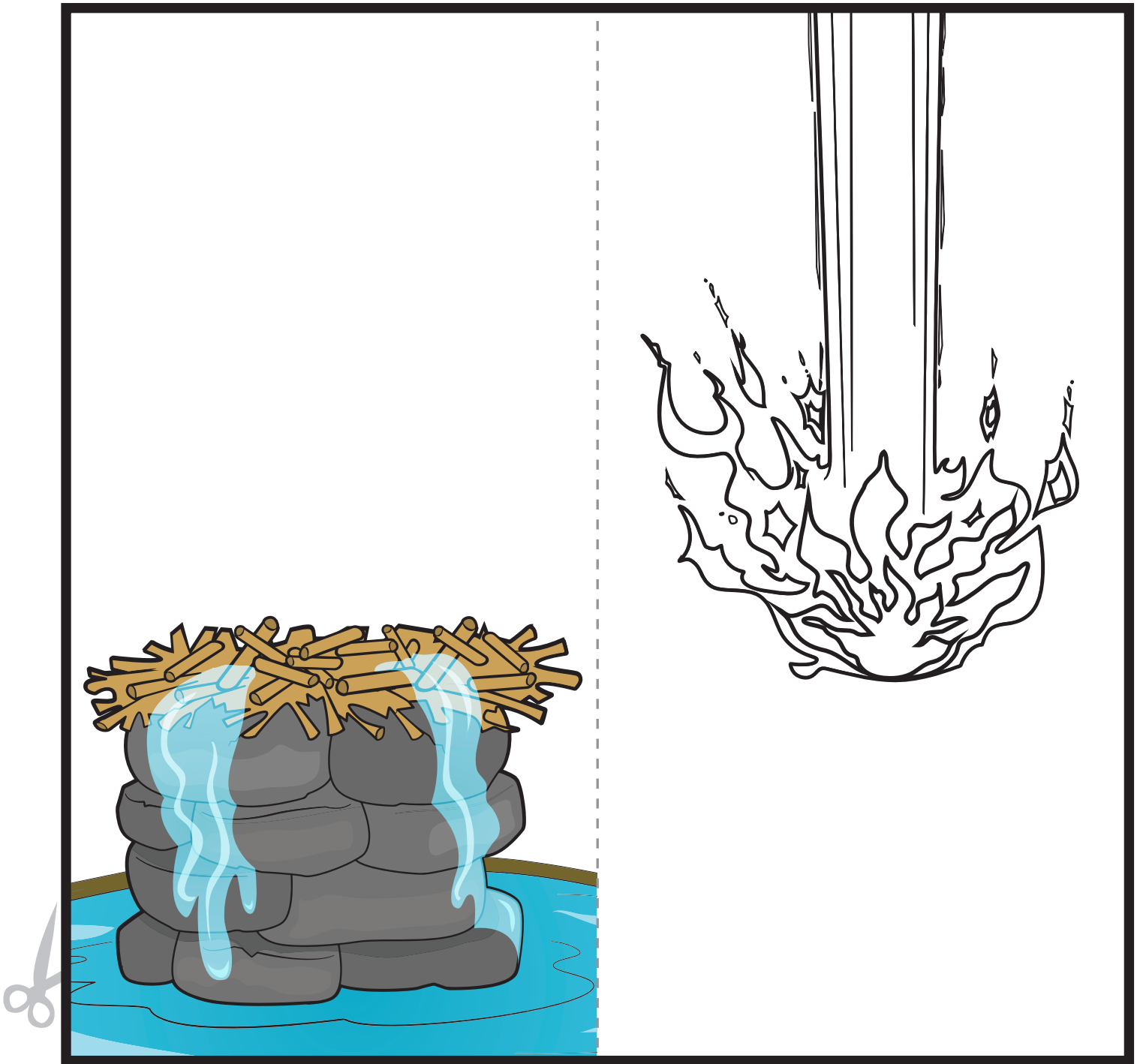
GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

Wrap up the time with Cubbies by reviewing the definition of worship: Worship is showing love and respect to God because of how awesome He is. Ask Cubbies to name ways they can worship God. As Cubbies offer ideas, ask specific questions to help them think more about applications (e.g., "What are your favorite songs to sing to God? What are some of the words in the Bible that we should obey? How could we help at Cubbies?").

Remember, preschoolers are still trying to discern the difference between reality and make-believe. It is best not to have puppets teach the Bible truth or verse. The puppets are make-believe, but God and His Word are real. Let's be careful to not confuse Cubbies. May they come to know that God is truly alive and only He is worthy of worship.

**... The LORD is the true God, He is the living God, and an everlasting king ...
(Jeremiah 10:10)**

NAME: _____



Basic Instructions: Color the flames on the right side of the box. Do you remember what happened when the prophet Elijah built an altar to the Lord on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18)?

Even More Fun: Glue strips of brown paper or flat toothpicks on top of the altar to look like wood. Glue red and orange tissue paper pieces on the flames. After Elijah prayed, God sent a fire to burn up the altar and everything on it. The people knew that God was the true God!

Ultimate Fun: (Best if printed on card stock.) Cut out the box. Fold the box on the dashed line so pictures face outward. Tape the top of a drinking straw or skewer on the backside of the pictures where indicated. Tape or glue picture backs together. Hold the end of the straw between your palms and rub your hands back and forth quickly to spin the picture before your eyes. Do you see flames appearing on the altar?



Tape straw or skewer here, centered on the backside of this panel.




**BEAR
HUG 9**

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego Worship Only God

Make It Stick: Psalm 31:14: ***But I trusted in Thee, O LORD: I said, "Thou art my God."*** (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: God exiled the Israelites into Babylon because they disobeyed Him and worshiped other gods. In Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego trusted God and were faithful to worship only Him. We can trust and obey God too.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: 2 Chronicles 36:15-21; Daniel 1, 3; Psalm 31

Memorize: Psalm 31:14

Even though they were young men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego understood an important truth about God: God does not always save His people from dangerous situations.

Surely their experiences had taught them this. During the exile, they had likely seen many of their Jewish relatives and neighbors starve to death or die by the sword of the Babylonians. Others were taken captive like they were. Of course, the exile was Israel's punishment for disobedience, but Shadrach and his friends knew that obedience to God did not necessarily bring protection from trouble. Many of God's faithful prophets were killed for delivering His message to the people.

When King Nebuchadnezzar threatened the three men with the fiery furnace, they showed confidence in God's power to save them, but they did not assume that He would (Daniel 3:14-18). In either outcome, they would be faithful to Him.

Your message to the Cubbies is not "Trust God, and He will protect you from fires and other dangers!" What if their family's house does burn down? What if the mean dog next door does bite? What if Grandpa does die? Did God forget to protect that day?

God doesn't promise immunity from trouble (Matthew 5:45; John 16:33), but He does promise to help us through it. He also gives us the ultimate hope of heaven and His future redemption. Your message to Cubbies should be: "Trust God at all times, even when bad things happen. Know that God loves you, and He is with you always." This is a good message for us to remember too!

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good* (Psalm 34:8)! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Review that God is the one true God, and we should worship only Him.
2. Hear how the Israelites were punished and sent away from their special land because they continued to disobey God and worship idols.
3. See how Shadrach and his friends trusted and obeyed God by not worshipping the king's statue.
4. See the powerful way God rescued Shadrach and his friends.
5. Believe that God loves us and is always with us, even if bad things happen.
6. _____

(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

Welcome Cubbies and reinforce what they learned at home with one or more of the following activities.

IDEA 1: Fiery Furnace Paper Plate

What You Need

- Paper plate for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- Cut-out of men in furnace for each Cubbie (resource CD)
- Glue sticks
- Psalm 31:14 verse labels (resource CD)
- *Optional* — orange tempera or water color paint; brushes of pieces of sponge

Cubbies will use brown or gray crayons to color around the bumpy edge of the plate. This will be the furnace. Then Cubbies will glue the cutout of the men in the furnace to the inside circle of the plate. Cubbies may color or paint flames around the men. Show Cubbies how to fold back about three inches of the bottom side of the paper plate so that it will stand by itself. (Front of plate should be facing you when it stands.) Attach a Psalm 31:14 verse label above the men on each plate.

Ask Cubbies if they remember hearing about a fiery furnace when they read their handbook section with a parent or another grown-up at home. Ask Cubbies, "How did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego trust and obey God?"

IDEA 2: Bible Story Review

What You Need

- Two boxes or baskets
- Two index cards
- Green and red markers
- Tape
- Beanbag(s)

In large letters, use the green marker to write "True" on one index card. Use the red marker to write "False" on the other index card. Tape one card to each box. Remind Cubbies of what true and false mean. Give the beanbag to one Cubbie. Set the boxes a short distance away. Make a statement pertaining to the Bible story, such as "The king saw five men walking around in the furnace" or "When the music played, Shadrach and his friends did not bow down to the statue." The Cubbie will toss the beanbag into the correct box, based on whether the statement was true or false. Repeat this pattern with the next Cubbie to continue reviewing the facts of the Bible story. Recognize that some Cubbies may not have read the Bible story in their handbook at home. Other Cubbies may recognize the story from other church classes. Play this game during Going Home and see if Cubbies seem to know the story better.

IDEA 3: Fiery Furnace Mural

What You Need

- Red, orange and yellow tempera paint
- Paint brushes
- Large piece of white or black mural paper
- Masking tape
- Recycled newspapers

Hang paper on the wall at Cubbies' height. Cover the floor below the paper with newspapers. Let Cubbies take turns painting flames on the paper to make a fiery furnace. (Their flames can just be straight lines or arcs. They do not have to look like actual flames.) Use this mural in your Lesson Time to represent the fiery furnace.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, and the A and C verses. Be sure to review the unit Core Truth: God Is the One True God.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Luvie Lamb puppet
- *Optional* — stick with a large marshmallow on it

LEADER: Hi, Cubbies! Are you ready to see our friend, Cubbie Bear? Let's call him together. One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Bring the Cubbie puppet into view, with his head bowed.)

CUBBIE *(making crying, sniffing sounds):* Hi, Cubbies, I'm feeling very sad today.

LEADER: Why are you so sad, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: I'm sad because Timothy's marshmallow got burnt in the fire.

LEADER: Oh, no! How did that happen?

CUBBIE: Timothy and I were toasting marshmallows over a campfire. That's one of the fun things we like to do on the farm.

LEADER *(to the Cubbies):* Cubbies, have you ever toasted marshmallows over a fire? *(Explain how to toast a marshmallow if any Cubbies seem confused or unfamiliar with the activity.)*

CUBBIE: I had my own marshmallow on a stick, and Timothy had his own marshmallow on a stick. We couldn't wait to eat them!

LEADER: How did Timothy's marshmallow get burnt?

CUBBIE: Timothy moved his marshmallow too far into the fire. Then a giant flame covered his marshmallow, and it caught on fire! Timothy's dad pulled Timothy's stick out of the fire and waved it in the air so the fire would go out. But it was too late! Timothy's marshmallow was black and crispy. He didn't want to eat it anymore.

LEADER: Oh, that's too bad. Could he get another marshmallow?

CUBBIE: No, all the marshmallow bags were empty. Lots of kids were there roasting marshmallows with their families. They had already taken all the marshmallows. Timothy was so sad!

(Hold the optional stick with a marshmallow on it in Luvie's mouth or between her hooves. Bring Luvie into view, giggling.)

LUVIE: There was still ONE marshmallow left!

LEADER: Luvie, how did you get a marshmallow?

LUVIE: A kid at the petting zoo tried to feed me a marshmallow, but lambs don't like marshmallows, so I thought I'd give it to Timothy!

CUBBIE: Wow, Luvie, that's a great idea! Timothy will be so happy. Let's go bring the marshmallow to Timothy right now.

LUVIE: OK, let's go! Bye-bye, boys and girls.

LEADER: Cubbie and Luvie, be very careful not to get too close to the fire. Fires have hot flames that can burn marshmallows and lots of other things. You could get hurt.

LUVIE and CUBBIE: Don't worry, we'll be careful.

(Children wave goodbye as the puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during the club meeting. Use the snack time song from prior weeks to transition Cubbies.

IDEA 1: S'mores Snacks**What You Need**

- Graham crackers
- Marshmallow cream
- Chocolate chips
- White nonpareils
- Butter knife
- Wax paper

The Cubbie Bear puppet talked about roasting marshmallows. A favorite campfire treat with roasted marshmallows is S'mores. Mimic s'mores with this snack. Break graham cracker into four rectangles. Spread one rectangle with marshmallow cream and top with another rectangle. Repeat until you have several sandwiches. Melt chocolate chips in microwave. Dip each sandwich halfway in chocolate. Lay on wax paper to dry. If desired, sprinkle the chocolate with white nonpareils.

IDEA 2: Fiery Peppers**What You Need**

- Slices of red, yellow and orange bell peppers
- Vegetable dip or cream cheese and crackers
- Small paper plates

Give each Cubbie a few pepper slices and a small spoonful of vegetable dip on a paper plate. As Cubbies eat, ask them if the colors of the peppers remind them of anything from the Bible lesson. If necessary, hint that the peppers are the same color as flames. Instead of serving vegetable dip, you could spread crackers with cream cheese and place a few pepper slices on each cracker.

IDEA 3: Cheese Flames**What You Need**

- Slices of yellow and orange cheese
- Pretzel nibblers (or other small pretzel shapes)
- Small paper plates

Cut cheese slices to resemble flames and place some on each plate. Place four pretzels on top of the flames and serve. Ask Cubbies if the four pretzels remind them of anything from the Bible lesson. If necessary, hint that there were four men in the fiery furnace. Ask Cubbies, "How do you think Shadrach and his friends felt when they saw the fourth man with them?"

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- The chorus of the hymn **"Trust and Obey"**
- **"My God Is So Big"** or the chorus of **"Our God Is an Awesome God"** by Rich Mullins
- **"Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children"** Add additional verses, replacing "praise Him" with "love Him," "thank Him" and "serve Him."
- **"What a Mighty God We Serve"**

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, when do you feel afraid? When do you feel sad? *(Let Cubbies share experiences. Give examples to get them started. For example, maybe they feel scared during a thunderstorm. Maybe they were sad when a pet died.)* Even when we feel scared or sad, we know God is with us and He loves us. We can trust God to take care of us. What is something you think God wants you to do when you feel scared or sad? *(Pray to Him, remember His true words from the Bible, ask a parent or a friend for help, sing a praise song, etc.)* Is there anyone who feels scared or sad about something right now? *(Allow Cubbies to share.)*

(Pray for any individual Cubbies who share. Pray that all the Cubbies would learn to trust God when they feel scared or sad.)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 38, 40-42, 44-49
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Daniel 3 and Psalm 31:14
- *Optional* — red, orange and yellow streamers; furnace made from appliance box; red sheet with orange and red flame shapes on it (use the sheet from Bear Hug 8); construction paper crown

(Adapt the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

I'm glad Luvie had a marshmallow for Timothy. Cubbies, what happened to Timothy's first marshmallow? *(Allow response.)* Fires have hot flames that burn things. We need to be careful around fires.

(Display TC42.) In our Bible lesson today, you will hear about many different fires. We talked about this fire last week. Does anyone remember how this fire started? *(See if any Cubbies can retell the events at Mount Carmel from 1 Kings 18. Display TC40-41 to them, if necessary.)*

After the Israelites saw the amazing fire God sent, they knew that God, NOT Baal, was the one true God. *(Direct Cubbies to lift up one finger to represent the one God.)* Cubbies, do you think the Israelites started worshiping only the one true God after that? *(Allow response.)*

(Display TC38.) Sadly, most of the Israelites kept on disobeying God and worshiping idols. God sent many more prophets, like Elijah, to warn them. The prophets said: "If you don't stop worshiping idols, God will make you leave the special land He gave you. The temple will be burned down." The Israelites didn't listen to the prophets. They kept on worshiping idols.

(Display TC44.) Finally, the prophets' words came true. God loved the Israelites, but He had to punish them because they disobeyed Him. He sent an army from Babylon to take the Israelites out of the special land He had given them. The

army took them far away to the land of Babylon. It was a very sad time!

(Display TC45.) Then, the Babylonian army took all the shiny, gold things out of God's beautiful temple and set the temple on fire. The temple burned down to the ground. All these sad things happened because the Israelites disobeyed God and worshiped idols.

(Display TC46.) But there were a few Israelites that obeyed God and did not worship idols. Meet Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. *(Point to the three men on the right of the picture.)* These three young men were chosen to study at a school so they would be ready to work for King Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon. *(Point to the king.)* God helped them to learn well in school, and the king gave them important jobs to do.

Optional: Choose a group of Cubbies to stand up front and represent fire by waving red, orange and yellow streamers whenever you say the phrase fiery furnace. Choose a new group each time you begin a new paragraph or section so multiple Cubbies get a turn.

Optional: Use an appliance box to build a furnace. Cut a door in the front of the furnace and cut off the back side of the furnace. Hang a red sheet decorated with flame shapes to the wall behind the furnace so it shows through the furnace door. Cubbies with streamers mentioned above could also stand in the furnace to represent fire. Choose Cubbies to act out the events, using the furnace. The Cubbie who plays the king can wear a crown. A leader could slip into the furnace from behind and pretend to be Jesus walking with the three friends.

(Open your Bible to Daniel 3 and display TC47.) One day King Nebuchadnezzar decided to make a giant, golden statue. He told all his important men to come together to see the statue he had made.

"Attention, everyone!" said the king's servant. "When you hear the music, you must all fall

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down and worship the golden statue. If you don't, you will be thrown into a fiery furnace."

The music began to play, and all the men dropped to the ground — all the men except Shadrach, Meschach and Abednego. They refused to worship anything or anybody except God. *(See if the Cubbies can find the three men standing in the picture.)*

(Display TC48.) King Nebuchadnezzar was furious with them. "If you do not worship my statue, I will throw you into the fiery furnace," he said. "What god will save you then?"

Shadrach and his friends answered, "Oh, king, our God is able to save us from the fiery furnace. But even if God chooses not to save us, we will NOT worship your statue!"

Now the king was madder than mad. He made the furnace extra hot. His soldiers tied up the three men and threw them into the flaming, fiery furnace. The furnace was so hot that it killed the king's soldiers.

(Display TC49.) Suddenly, the king stood up, surprised. "I see FOUR men walking around in the fire, and they are not hurt at all!"

Cubbies, who do you think was with Shadrach, Meschach and Abednego in the fire? *(Explain to Cubbies that it was either Jesus Christ or an angel; the Bible does not specify. Either way, we know God was with them.)*

"Come out!" said the king. When the three men came out of the fiery furnace, everyone saw that the fire had not even touched them. Not a hair on their heads was burnt! They didn't even SMELL like smoke.

The king was glad that Shadrach and his friends trusted in God. He said, "No other god can save like their God does!"

(Turn in your Bible to Psalm 31:14.) Cubbies, the word *trusted* reminds me of our Bible verse today. Psalm 31:14 says: *But I trusted in Thee,*

O LORD: I said, "Thou art my God." (Repeat the verse twice with Cubbies.)

Shadrach and his friends trusted in God. *(Hold up one finger with Cubbies.)* They knew that **God is the one true God**. They would not worship any other gods but Him. They also knew that God loved them and He would be with them, even if they had to be thrown in the fiery furnace.

Cubbies, we can trust God too. We can trust God and obey Him, even if bad things happen. We know that God loves us and He is always with us. *(Close in prayer, thanking God for His love and presence. Pray that you and the Cubbies would always trust Him.)*

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 9 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Bear Hug 9 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of Bear Hug 9 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — glue sticks, pairs of child-sized scissors, five plastic spoons for each Cubbie

Tell Cubbies to find the picture that is the same in each row. (You may want to do the first row together.) Use the pictures on the sheet to review the Bible story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Emphasize that Shadrach and his friends obeyed God by not bowing down to the king's statue. They also trusted God to be with them, even if they had to be thrown in a fiery furnace. Recite Psalm 31:14 together. If desired, Cubbies may follow the optional instructions to make spoon puppets to act out the story.

NOTE: Additional idea for Handbook Time idea is on the Bear Hug 9 Handbook Leader Sheet.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)**IDEA 1: Fiery Furnace Game****What You Need**

- Music player
- *Optional* — paper crown; blanket; table; Hula-Hoop®; red, orange and yellow streamers

Choose three Cubbies to play the roles of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Choose one Cubbie to play King Nebuchadnezzar, who wears a crown. His role is to observe the game and make sure everyone sits at the right time. The rest of the Cubbies will play the people who chose to bow down to the king's statue. Everyone can walk or run around the room, but when they hear music, they will sit on the ground as quickly as possible. All will sit, except for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who will stand in place and say, "O king, we will NOT worship your statue." Then King Nebuchadnezzar will say, "Then you will be thrown into the fiery furnace." Shadrach and the two friends go to a place you have designated as the furnace. Choose a new king, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego for the next round.

For fun, make a furnace by draping a blanket over a table or hanging streamers off the sides of a table. You could also tape streamers all around a Hula-Hoop. Place the Hula-Hoop on the ground with streamers outside the circle (so kids will not step on them so much). Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego will stand inside the hoop or pull it up about waist high during the game round.

IDEA 2: Fire Storm**What You Need**

- Large supply of red, yellow and orange tissue paper wads
- *Optional* — rope or masking tape

Divide play area in half. (If you do not already have a line on the floor, place a rope or a

strip of masking tape in the middle of the room.) Place half of the Cubbies on each side and evenly scatter the paper wad "flames" on the floor. On the leader's signal, Cubbies race to throw the flames onto the other group's side. After a few minutes, stop the action and see which side has more flames on their side. Play again.

IDEA 3: Number Search**What You Need**

- Set of number cards for each group (resource CD; print on card stock)
- *Optional* — Instead of number cards use dominos.

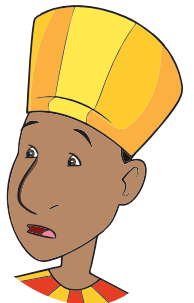
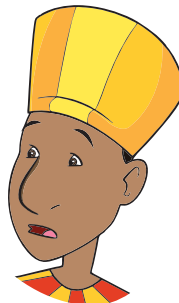
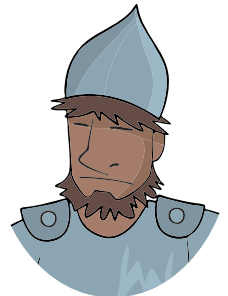
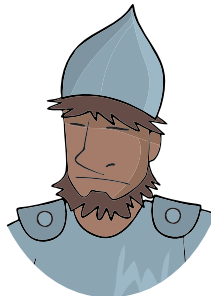
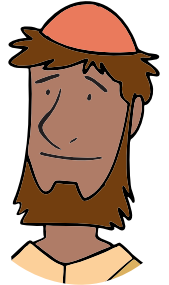
Beforehand, print and cut apart number cards. (Duplicate the page of number cards to make a set.) To start, direct all Cubbies to hold up one finger and say with you, "God is the one true God." Show Cubbies a card with a number one on it. Then divide Cubbies into groups of five to seven members. Scatter a set of number cards on the floor at an equal distance from each group. (Numbers should be facing up.) The first person in each group will run to pick up a number one card before returning to say "God is the one true God" and to tag the next person in line. The next person will run to get a number one card and repeat the pattern. (If you are using dominoes, Cubbies choose a domino with one dot on a half.) Cubbies keep their cards or dominoes for the duration of the game.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

Have you been memorizing the Bible verses along with the Cubbies? One of the best ways to learn to trust and obey God is to know His Word. Then when difficult times come, you can count on the one true God to carry you through, no matter if your "fiery furnace" is a health, economic or family issue. God is indeed able. He can be trusted to keep His promises.

**But I trusted in Thee, O Lord: I said,
"Thou art my God." (Psalm 31:14)**

NAME: _____

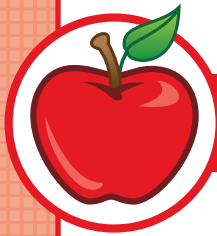


Basic Instructions: Circle the picture in each row that is the **same** as the picture in the oval.

Even More Fun: Cut out the heads in the ovals of each of these characters: Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, King Nebuchadnezzar and Jesus. Glue each head to the back of the scoop portion of a plastic spoon to make a puppet.

Ultimate Fun: Act out the Bible story with your puppets. Remember, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego obeyed God by not bowing down to the king's golden statue. King Nebuchadnezzar got angry and threw them into a fiery furnace. Shadrach and his friends trusted God in the fiery furnace. God protected them so they did not get burned (Daniel 3).




**BEAR
HUG 10**

Unit 2 Review

Make It Stick: Matthew 4:10: ... ***“Worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.”*** (Short version is in bold. This verse was first learned in Bear Hug 7.)

The Big Buzz: The Israelites did not stay faithful to worship the one true God because they had a problem with sin. We have a problem with sin too. God sent Jesus to save us from our sin. When we trust Jesus as Savior, God helps us to obey and worship Him.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Exodus 20:1-5; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Isaiah 29:13; Hebrews 12:28-29; Psalm 95; Philippians 3:3-4; Ephesians 5:18-21; 1 Samuel 15:22; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 5:23; James 1:27

Review: Matthew 4:10

Complete your own Bible study on worship. Look up each reference above and write what it teaches you about worship. Look for insight into God's character, God's expectations and desires for our worship, our identity and posture in worship, promises to believe, warnings to heed and applications for your own life. Summarize your thoughts in the space below:

From your study, it should become clear that God expects worship that is more than weekly attendance at a church service. Rather, He calls us to a lifestyle of worship that shapes our attitudes and actions. He wants us to love Him with all our hearts, to humbly revere and respect Him, to come to Him with joy and thankfulness, to obey Him and to love others and pursue justice. Thankfully, God has not left us alone to worship Him. He gives us His indwelling Spirit to aid us in worship.

Help Cubbies to understand this broad definition of worship too. They should know that worship is more than singing songs to God at Cubbies, although that is one way to worship. We can worship God in many different ways and at any time or place. In this lesson, you will be helping Cubbies explore various ways they can worship God. In the space below, write two new ways that you would like to worship God this week.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good (Psalm 34:8)*! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Review that God is the one true God.
2. Remember how God punished the Israelites because they continued to disobey Him by worshipping other gods.
3. Understand that we have a problem with sin, just like the Israelites did. God sent Jesus to save us from our sin.
4. Review that worship is showing love and respect to God because of how awesome He is.
5. Name and experience some ways to worship God anywhere and anytime.

6. _____
(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

Leaders, repeat any of the Coming In ideas from prior weeks that Cubbies really liked or that you did not have time to include or finish in your club meeting time.

IDEA 1: Helping at Church

What You Need

- *Optional* — antibacterial wipes

Remind Cubbies that one way we worship God is by loving and helping other people. Look around your Cubbies room and find jobs that your Cubbies could help with, such as cleaning and organizing the toys in the room, straightening the bookshelves, organizing the crayon bins or checking to see if the markers still work. Continue tasks during Play Time or Going Home.

IDEA 2: Love Poem for God

What You Need

- Pencil and paper for leader at each table

As Cubbies enter the room, divide them into handbook groups. The handbook group leader at each table should direct Cubbies in composing a group love poem for God (or Jesus, to be more specific). Cubbies could each share one thing they like about God, one reason why they love Him or one thing for which to thank Him. Leaders will take notes and combine the comments into a poem. The poem does not have to rhyme. Poems can be shared with the large group during Going Home.

IDEA 3: Bible Reading Center

What You Need

- Several children's Bibles
- *Optional* — children's books about Bible stories, beanbag chairs or floor pillows, child-sized rocking chairs, headsets or CD players with recorded books, iPad® with Bible apps, felt board and flannel story pieces

Set up an inviting reading area to help stimulate Cubbies' interest in "reading" the Bible either alone or with friends. While most of them cannot read words, they can do picture walks through the Bible and love to retell familiar Bible stories. Arrange the furniture and materials in a comfortable, accessible manner. Reading God's Word and treating it with respect is one way Cubbies can show love and respect to God. Leaders can invite Cubbies to hold the Bibles, use bookmarks to guide them to familiar stories, encourage them to turn the pages and "read" the stories. If Cubbies ask leaders to read the stories to them, do so enthusiastically and as often as possible.

Screen books and apps before you put them in your center. Select those that support biblical truth. Avoid any which use fantasy characters or present false messages

IDEA 4: Who Is Worshiping? Picture Cards

What You Need

- Set of Who Is Worshiping? picture cards for each table (resource CD; print on card stock)

Beforehand, print and cut out sets of picture cards. (A page makes a set.) Station a leader at each table to help Cubbies at the table sort pictures into two piles: children that are worshiping God and children that are not worshiping God. The leader should talk with Cubbies about the ways children are worshiping God in the pictures. Leaders can encourage Cubbies to name a few specific ways they might like to worship God this week. Help Cubbies to view worship as much more than singing in church.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, and the A and C verses. Be sure to review the unit Core Truth: God Is the One True God.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- Luvie Lamb puppet

LEADER: Hi, Cubbies! Are you ready to see our friend, Cubbie Bear? Let's call him together! One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Bring the Cubbie puppet into view. He should be humming the first line of the "Cubbies Song.")

CUBBIE: There's a song I hear you all sing each week, and I can't remember the words. I just know it goes something like this — *(Cubbie starts to hum the "Cubbies Song" again.)*

LEADER: Cubbies, do you know the song that Cubbie Bear is humming? *(Allow response.)*

(Children should recognize the "Cubbies Song" if your club regularly sings it. If not, teach the song to them now. The song is on each child's HoneyComb handbook CD.)

CUBBIE: Boys and girls, could you sing the song for me? I love the part about hopping and jumping. *(Cubbie starts hopping around.)* You all know how much I like to hop and jump when I'm excited.

(Lead the children in singing the song together, while Cubbie Bear hops and jumps to the beat.)

CUBBIE: Thank you so much, boys and girls. I love that song!

(Bring the Katie Collie puppet into view, barking.)

KATIE: Ruff, ruff! Hi, everybody. Did I just hear singing in here?

CUBBIE: Yeah, Katie, the kids were singing the "Cubbies Song" for me!

KATIE: Oh, good. I like songs! I know a song about an old man and a dog. It goes like this —

(Katie starts to sing the traditional nursery rhyme song, "This Old Man.")

This old man, he played one,
He played knick-knack on my thumb;
With a knick-knack paddy whack,
Give a dog a bone,
This old man came rolling home.

LEADER (laughing): That's a funny song, Katie!

KATIE: Yeah, I like the part about giving a dog a bone. Sometimes Timothy gives me a bone when I do one of my dog tricks for him. Cubbies, would you sing YOUR song for me?

(Lead the children in singing the song while the puppets hop and jump to the beat. Then bring the Luvie Lamb puppet into view. If necessary, remove the Katie Collie puppet.)

LUVIE: Baa, baa! Hello, boys and girls. I was eating grass outside, and then I heard some singing. It sounded like such a happy song. At first, I thought it was the birds singing, but I didn't see any birds. Do you know who was singing?

CUBBIE: It was the children, Luvie. They just sang a song for me and Katie Collie!

LUVIE: Oh! Could I hear it too? Pretty please! I love to hear songs.

(Lead the children in singing the song, while the puppets hop and jump to the beat.)

LUVIE: Thank you so much, Cubbies! That song makes me feel so happy.

LEADER: We are happy to share our song with our friends, aren't we Cubbies? *(Allow response.)* If you come back next week, we can sing it for you again.

LUVIE: That would be great! I'm going to eat some more grass now. See you later!

CUBBIE: Bye, boys and girls. Thanks for singing your song. I'll see you next week.

(Children wave goodbye as the puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during the club meeting.

IDEA 1: Fruit Salad**What You Need**

- Various fruits (apples, bananas, blueberries, canned pineapple or mandarin oranges, etc.)
- Serving bowl and small mixing bowl
- Can opener, knife and spoon for leader's use
- Small serving bowls and forks for Cubbies
- *Optional* — strawberry yogurt, orange juice

Pour pineapple, with its juice, into a serving bowl. Drain mandarin oranges and add to bowl. Wash and slice fresh fruit into small, bite-size pieces. (Cut harder fruits, like apples into half-inch pieces to minimize choking hazards.) Add fruit to the bowl. Stir to coat with juice. Slice and add bananas just before serving.

To make dressing, pour one cup of yogurt into a small mixing bowl and add 4 tablespoons of orange juice. Mix thoroughly. Refrigerate until ready to serve, up to 24 hours.

Serve fruit salad in small bowls, topped with a spoonful of dressing. Talk with Cubbies about our awesome God who created so many wonderful fruits for us to enjoy. God is the one true God. Only God can create fruit.

IDEA 2: Leader's or Parent's Choice

On review weeks, you could let a leader or parent (or whoever is supplying the snack) bring in his or her favorite snack.

IDEA 3: Cubbie Birthday Snacks**What You Need**

- Cupcakes
- Red, orange, yellow frosting (and sprinkles)

On review weeks, you could serve cupcakes to celebrate all the birthdays of Cubbies in the current month. To fit this unit's theme, decorate the cupcakes with red, orange or

yellow frosting to resemble flames. Review all Bible stories from the unit that involve flames: Elijah on Mount Carmel, the fiery furnace and the exile and burning of the temple.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **“What a Mighty God We Serve” or “My God Is So Big”**
- **“Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children”** Add additional verses, replacing “praise Him” with “love Him,” “thank Him” and “serve Him.”
- The chorus of the hymn **“Trust and Obey”**

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, I like to worship God by singing to Him (*or name another way you like to worship God*). Another way we can worship God is by praying and thanking Him for what He's done for us. What are some things God has done for us? (He loved us and sent Jesus to be our Savior, created the world and all of us, gave us a family, gave us the Bible so we can know Him, promised us a home in heaven when we trust Christ as Savior, etc.)

(Pray various short statements of thanks to God and let Cubbies repeat each statement in unison. For example, pray, “Thank you God for loving us” or “Thank you God for sending Jesus to be our Savior.”)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 5, 34-35, 37-42, 44-49
- Bible with a bookmark placed at Matthew 4:10
- *Optional* — beanbags, any items needed to help Cubbies do the worship activity at the end of the lesson

(Adapt and personalize this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

Cubbies, it was fun to sing the “Cubbies Song” to our friends today, wasn’t it? Our friends, Cubbie, Katie and Luvie, liked to hear our song. Cubbies, do you know that we can sing songs to God? When we sing a song for God, God listens to our singing, and He really enjoys it — even if we don’t sing every note just perfectly! Singing is one way we can worship God.

Today we’re going to remember the things we have learned about worshipping God. We will also remember the ways the Israelites DID and DID NOT worship God.

(Choose one of the following ways to help Cubbies review the unit lessons.)

Option 1: Lay some or all of these teaching cards on the floor in short rows: TC34-35, 37-42 and 44-49. The correct card pictures should be face-up and in random order. Let Cubbies sit around the cards on the floor in a circle and take turns tossing a beanbag onto the cards. When the beanbag lands on a card, hold up that card and ask the Cubbies to tell you about the picture. Ask them: “Who are the people in this picture? What other things do you see? What is happening?” Remove each card after it is reviewed and keep playing until all the cards have been reviewed.

Option 2: Start telling the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel, using TC38-42. At several points in the story, stop and ask the Cubbies to tell you what happened next. Do the same thing with the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, using TC44-49.

(After either option, continue the lesson as directed below.)

(Display TC35.) Remember, Cubbies, God told the Israelites to build a big, beautiful temple where they could go to worship Him. But God gave the Israelites a warning. It was very serious. **(Change to a serious tone of voice and make sure all Cubbies’ eyes are looking at you.)** He said, “Do not worship any other gods but Me!” If the Israelites DID worship other gods, God said He would make them leave the special land He had given them. The beautiful temple would be burned down! That would be a very sad day.

(Hold up one finger and invite Cubbies to do the same.) Cubbies, **God is the one true God.** **(Direct Cubbies to repeat this Core Truth twice.)** God wanted the Israelites to worship only Him. In our verse, Matthew 4:10, Jesus says: ... “Worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.” **(Turn in your Bible to Matthew 4:10 and tell Cubbies to stand and recite the verse twice with you.)**

Cubbies, did the Israelites remember to obey God by worshipping only Him? **(Allow response.)** Sadly, the Israelites did not obey. They chose to worship many fake gods, like Baal, instead of the one true God. God sent Elijah and other prophets to remind the people to obey, but the people still did not listen!

(Display TC44.) Finally, because the Israelites disobeyed, they had to leave the special land of Canaan that God had given them. An army took them far away to the land of Babylon. **(Display TC45.)** The army burned down their beautiful temple. It was a very sad time.

(Display TC34.) But after 70 long years, God said the Israelites could come back to their special land of Canaan! God helped them to build the temple again. They were so happy! Cubbies, do you think the Israelites started obeying God all the time then? **(Allow speculation.)**

They tried, but no matter how hard they tried, they could never obey God all the time. They had a problem with sin, just like we have a

continued on next page

continued from previous page

problem with sin. Remember, Romans 3:23 says that ... *All have sinned* ... Sin is anything we think (**point to forehead**), say (**point to mouth**) or do (**hit one fist on palm**) that disobeys God.

(Display TC5.) God still loved the Israelites. He promised that at just the right time, He would send a Savior to save the Israelites and US TOO from our problem with sin. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and then He came alive again three days later. Those of us who trust Him as Savior will be saved from sin. That means God will forgive all our sin, and one day we will be able to go to heaven and live there with Jesus forever.

(Display TC37.) Once we trust Jesus as Savior, God helps us to worship and obey Him. We worship God by showing love and respect to Him because of how awesome He is. We can worship God anywhere, and at any time. Cubbies, what are some ways you can worship God? (Read and memorize the Bible, sing, give money or a special gift to God, pray, be kind and help others, etc.)

We worship God when we respect Him and treat Him as the awesome God He is. Cubbies, what are some ways you can show respect to God? (Bowing our heads when we pray, believing and obeying what He says in the Bible, being quiet and focusing on God during the worship service, treating the church building and other people with respect.)

(Let Cubbies choose one of the options named to worship God as you close the lesson. For example, you could all pray or sing a song together, make a special craft for God or prepare to give a special offering, make a card for a sick Cubbie, clean up an area of the church building, or let Cubbies each name one way they want to obey God this week. You could place Cubbies into handbook groups with a leader, and each group could decide together a way to worship God. One idea would be to create a love poem for God. See Coming In Idea 2. Worship activities could be continued in Handbook Time or Play Time.)

Optional: In the handbook story, Timothy's dad reviewed Bible stories around a campfire. Invite Cubbies and their parents to a fall event. Roast marshmallows around a bonfire, sing praise songs and review unit Bible stories.

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 10 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Idea 1: Bear Hug 10 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of Bear Hug 10 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — pairs of child-sized scissors

Tell Cubbies to draw a line to connect each matching picture. See if Cubbies can identify the objects and people in the pictures. Use the pictures to review the Bible stories from the unit. Recite the Core Truth: God is the one true God. Recite Matthew 4:10 as a group.

IDEA 2: Chain Game Review

What You Need

- Plastic toy chain (with removable links)
- Box or bowl

Ahead of time, hook chain links together to form short chains of differing lengths. Place all chains in a box. Ask each Cubbie a review question related to the unit. If a Cubbie can answer correctly, she pulls one chain out of the box and adds it to the group's chain. Watch as each group's chain grows longer.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Cubbies enjoy and learn through repetition. Play two or three games from prior lessons in this unit as a review. Reinforce lesson truths from the unit with each game.

- **Best Gifts Relay** from Bear Hug 7. Remind Cubbies that the Israelites were excited to bring their best gifts to help make the temple beautiful for God.
- **Four Corners** from Bear Hug 8. Be sure to review how the numbers one through four were significant in the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel, emphasizing how God is the one true God. (Refer back to Bear Hug 8 Play Time if necessary.)
- **Fire Storm** or **Number Search** from Bear Hug 9. Remind Cubbies how Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego believed that God is the one true God. They refused to worship the king's golden statue, so he had them thrown into a fiery furnace but God protected them.

If you have time, try this new game:

Worship Charades**What You Need**

- Worship Charades slips of paper naming concrete ways we can worship and serve God (resource CD)
- Paper bag

To prepare, print and cut out the Worship Charades slips from the resource CD. Feel free to add some slips of your own. To play, review the definition of worship with Cubbies: Worship is showing love and respect to God because of how awesome He is. Emphasize that we can worship God anytime and anywhere. Leader will pull a slip from the bag and read it to the group. Everyone will act out what it says. Let the Cubbies think of additional things to act out.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)**AWARD ALERT!**

Cubbies will earn a Red Apple emblem for completing Unit 2.

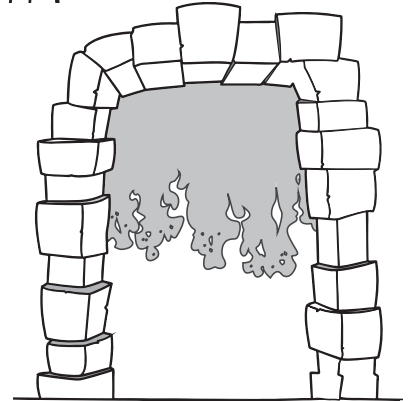
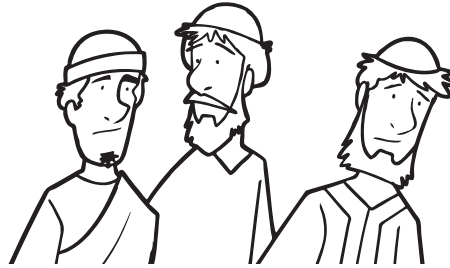
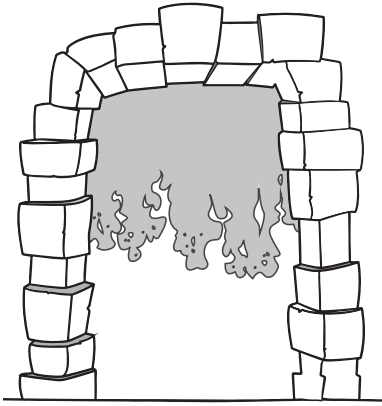
Invite parents to arrive early to see their child receive the award. Remind parents to attach the emblem to the C on their child's vest.

Award time is a great time to hand out or email parents the current month's copy of the *Parent Pause* newsletter, available as a free download in the ART (Awana Resources and Tools) section of awana.org. This newsletter gives parents ideas for growing their preschooler's faith at home. It also includes a page for leaders to add Cubbies club news.

Award time is also a great time to connect with parents face-to-face and share parenting tips. For example, share some ways to worship God through family fun activities. Maybe they could go on a walk, collecting things that God created. Marveling over God's creation creates a natural form of worship. Or perhaps families can roast marshmallows and sing some favorite worship songs around a campfire. Parents could ask Cubbies to teach them the songs learned during Cubbies. Remind parents to consistently point their child back to God and His awesomeness – only God is the one true God.

... **“Worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.” (Matthew 4:10)**

NAME: _____



**Core Truth:
God Is the One
True God**



Basic Instructions: Draw a line to connect the pictures that are the same. Can you identify all the people and objects? Do you remember the Bible story that goes with each pair of pictures?

Even More Fun: Color the pictures and cut them out. Group pictures from the same Bible story together. (Put the Elijah pictures with the altar pictures. Put the Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego pictures with the furnace pictures.)

Ultimate Fun: Play a game with a friend using the pictures. Set the picture face-up on a table. While your eyes are closed, your friend removes one picture. Open your eyes and try to guess what picture is missing its pair.



BEAR
HUG II

The Good Shepherd Knows and Leads His Sheep

Make It Stick: John 10:27: ***My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*** (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: Jesus is the Good Shepherd to those who trust in Him as Savior. He intimately knows His sheep, leads them and sacrificially cares for their needs.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Psalm 23; John 10

Memorize: John 10:27

In John 10, Christ used the metaphor of a shepherd to teach the audience more about Himself. To the puzzled crowd He offered this simple statement: *I am the good shepherd (John 10:11a)*. While this statement was confusing to those who did not believe in Jesus, the descriptions of the Good Shepherd offer comfort and hope to those who do believe in Him.

My sheep hear My voice. When we trust in Jesus as Savior, we become His sheep. As such, we have the precious opportunity to hear the voice of Christ as His Spirit speaks to us through Scripture.

I know them. Our Good Shepherd intimately knows and cares for us. Christ has planned our days to bring about His greatest purpose for our lives (Psalm 139; Psalm 31:14-15; Romans 8:28-30).

They follow Me. As we grow closer to our Good Shepherd, we will willingly obey Him and follow where He leads, knowing that He is good and His plan is good.

- This week you will introduce this Shepherd to your Cubbies. Take every opportunity God gives you to direct their hearts toward the Good Shepherd.
- Call each child by name and remind him or her that Jesus also knows their names.
- Praise a Cubbie for an accomplishment, and remind the child that Jesus knows every detail about them.
- Remind Cubbies that when they make a good choice to quickly obey, they are choosing to follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

As you model the role of a follower of Christ, your Cubbies will see the joy and peace they can find in trusting the Good Shepherd.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good (Psalm 34:8)*! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Learn the characteristics and roles of a shepherd.
2. Discuss the concrete ways that Jesus is like a Good Shepherd to us: He loves us and cares for our needs; He knows our names and everything about us; He tells us how to obey Him in the Bible.
3. Know that we become one of Jesus' sheep when we believe He is God's Son and trust Him as Savior.
4. Name ways we can follow our Shepherd by listening to His words in the Bible, obeying Him and making good choices.

5. _____

(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

Welcome Cubbies and reinforce what they learned at home in their handbooks with one or more of the following activities.

IDEA 1: Sheep Craft or Sheep Bulletin Board

What You Need

- Small white paper plates
- Sheep heads with ears cut from white construction paper (resource CD)
- Sheep legs cut from gray or black construction paper (resource CD)
- Crayons
- Cotton balls
- Glue sticks
- *Optional* — green bulletin board paper, stapler, craft grass to decorate the bulletin board

This can be a sheep craft that goes home with Cubbies, or the sheep can be attached to a bulletin board for display during the unit. Cubbies follow these steps to make sheep: 1. With crayons, draw a simple sheep face on a sheep head. Color pink inside the ears. (Show Cubbies a sample sheep face.) 2. Glue the head to the top edge of the paper plate. 3. Glue two legs to the bottom edge of the plate back. 4. Cover the sheep's body by gluing cotton balls to the inside portion of the plate. Cotton balls can also be glued at the top of the head.

If applicable, cover your bulletin board with green paper to represent a green pasture. At the top of the board, write John 10:27. If desired, glue tufts of craft grass at various spots on the board. Write each Cubbie's name above his or her sheep once it is attached to the board.

IDEA 2: Whose Voice?

What You Need

- Voice recorder on a phone or other device

As Cubbies and leaders arrive, record individuals saying phrases such as "Jesus loves me" or "Jesus is the Good Shepherd." They could also recite John 10:27. After several voices have been recorded, gather the group and play back each recording. Let Cubbies try to identify whose voice they hear. Explain that in the Bible, Jesus calls us His sheep if we have trusted Him as Savior. Jesus says His sheep hear His voice, which means we listen to what He tells us in the Bible.

IDEA 3: Jesus Knows My Name

What You Need

- Construction paper (9" x 12" [30x46 cm] size)
- Marker
- White liquid glue
- "Jesus Knows My Name!" craft sheets printed on thin paper (resource CD)
- Crayons
- *Optional* — stickers to decorate sheets, colored highlighter pen

A day before, write each Cubbie's name on a sheet of construction paper. (Include one name on each sheet. Make the name the right size to appear when the separate craft sheet is rubbed.) Trace over each letter with a thick line of glue and let the glue dry. Each Cubbie can lay the "Jesus Knows My Name!" craft sheet over his or her name and rub over the sheet with the edge of a crayon to cause the letters to appear in the blank space on the sheet. Remind Cubbies that Jesus not only knows their names (John 10:3), He knows everything about them! He even knows that they are at Cubbies right now.

Instead of tracing letters with glue, leaders can write each name with a highlighter pen on the bottom half of the craft sheet. Cubbies can trace the highlighted name with a crayon.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, unit Core Truth and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Luvie Lamb puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — green towel or felt, whistle

(To prepare, set the towel or felt nearby where Cubbies can see it.)

LEADER: I'm excited to hear how Cubbie Bear is doing today. Can you help me call him? Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(After children call out, bring the Cubbie and Luvie puppets into view.)

CUBBIE *(hopping around excitedly)*: Hello, everybody!

LUVIE *(giggling)*: Hi!

(Cubbie and Luvie puppets put their heads together, whispering and giggling.)

LEADER: Cubbie and Luvie, you look like you are sharing a special secret.

LUVIE *(giggling)*: No, I was just telling Cubbie Bear about my wonderful day with all of the other sheep.

CUBBIE: Why don't you tell everyone, Luvie? *(Cubbie looks at the children.)* I'm sure the boys and girls would love to hear about your day, wouldn't you? *(Encourage Cubbies to respond.)* Besides, I'm getting hungry, and Timothy said I could share some of his snack. I'm going to go find him!

(Remove Cubbie Bear from view and prepare to use the Katie Collie puppet.)

LUVIE: I woke up early at the petting zoo today, when I heard the special whistle from Timothy's dad.

LEADER: Did it sound like this? *(Whistle or blow a whistle.)*

LUVIE *(shaking head)*: Oh, no! His whistle sounds different from any other whistle. His special whistle means that he wants me and the other sheep to come to him and follow him

all the way to Lamb's Meadow. As soon as we heard our special whistle, we came running to him at the gate!

(Make a barking noise as you bring the Katie Collie puppet into view.)

KATIE *(barking)*: It's my job to make sure all the sheep stay together as they follow Timothy's dad. I run behind them and beside them to keep them moving the right way.

LEADER: It sounds like you are a good sheep-dog, Katie.

LUVIE: She sure is! She stayed right by us as we passed the apple orchard and the pumpkin patch until we *finally* reached Lamb's Meadow.

LEADER: Luvie, what did you do in Lamb's Meadow?

LUVIE: First, I ate some of the sweet, green grass. I munched and munched and MUNCED until my tummy was full.

(If you are using the felt or towel, have Luvie point to it and say, "The meadow is soft and green, like this!")

LUVIE: Then I played King of the Hill with some of the other lambs!

LEADER: How do you play that, Luvie?

LUVIE: Well, we race to the top of the hill, and the first one to the top is the king. I won lots of times.

KATIE: Luvie is the fastest lamb on Apple Acres Farm.

LUVIE: I like to run, but all that running made me tired! *(Yawning)* I found a shady spot under a tree and took a nap. I felt safe with Timothy's dad and Katie Collie watching over me.

LEADER: I'm so glad you had a special day, Luvie.

LUVIE: Me too! *(Yawn)*

KATIE: Luvie, it's time for me to take you back to the meadow. Timothy's dad wants all the sheep to stay close to him so he can watch them and make sure they are safe.

LEADER: Boys and girls, can you say goodbye to Katie and Luvie?

(Children wave goodbye as puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during the club meeting.

IDEA 1: Cottage Cheese Sheep**What You Need**

- Non-white paper plates
- Tubs of cottage cheese
- White cheese slices
- Circular crackers
- Spoons

For each Cubbie, arrange a spoonful of cottage cheese on a plate to resemble a sheep's woolly body. Cut two rectangular cheese slices to look like front and back legs. Use a circular cracker or cut a cheese circle to represent a head. Arrange all items on sheep. Before serving, ask Cubbies, "What kind of animal does God say we are like sometimes?" Later ask Cubbies, "Whose voice do sheep listen to? Whose voice should we listen to? Who's our Good Shepherd?"

IDEA 2: Green Pastures**What You Need**

- Graham crackers
- Green frosting
- Knife for leader's use
- Mini marshmallows

For each Cubbie, spread green frosting on top of a graham cracker to make a "pasture." Top the frosting with a few marshmallow (sheep). As Cubbies are eating, discuss some of the ways a shepherd takes care of his sheep. Transition into talking about how Jesus takes care of us. Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

NOTE: Supervise Cubbies carefully while they eat mini marshmallows. Small, chewy snacks can become a choking hazard.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **"Jesus Loves Me"**
- **"The B-I-B-L-E"** Explain that Jesus talks to us in the Bible. He wants us to listen and obey Him. To help, literal-minded preschoolers, change the last line of the song from "I stand alone on the Word of God ..." to "I like to hear the Word of God. The B-I-B-L-E!"
- **"The Shepherd Knows His Little Lambs"** to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb." This is a good theme song to repeat during the unit. New verses will be added in future lessons.

The Shepherd knows His little lambs,
Little lambs, little lambs.
The Shepherd knows His little lambs,
He knows them each by name.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. When we choose to trust Him as our Savior, we become His sheep. Just like a shepherd loves and takes good care of His sheep, Jesus loves and cares for us. Can you help me think of ways that Jesus cares for us? *(Responses from Cubbies may include: He keeps us safe; He provides food and shelter; He teaches us how to make good choices; He gives us families.)* Let's thank God that we have a Good Shepherd who takes care of us. *(Pray a model prayer, like this: "Thank You, God, that Jesus, our Good Shepherd, provides food for us." Encourage any Cubbies who wish to pray to thank God for one way the Good Shepherd loves or cares for us. If you have a large group, have Cubbies pray aloud in unison, "Thank You, God, for a Good Shepherd who loves us.")*

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 50-54 or Good Shepherd stand-up figures (resource CD)
- Bible with a bookmark placed at John 10
- *Optional* — Lincoln Logs® or blocks, green felt square or green hand towel, blue felt circle or blue paper circle, shoe box to store stand-up figures, bath robe, cane

(If you are using the stand-up figures, make them in advance as directed in the instructions on the resource CD. Enlarge the figures depending on visibility and the size of your group. Before the lesson starts, prepare your scene. Build a sheep pen on the floor near you with Lincoln Logs or blocks. The sheep pen should have an opening for the gate and no roof. It should be big enough to contain the six stand-up sheep. Lay a green felt square or towel on the floor to represent a grassy pasture. Lay a blue felt or paper circle on the floor to represent water. When you teach, sit on the floor with Cubbies seated on the floor in a semicircle in front of you. Move the figures, as directed in the lesson, in the floor space directly in front of you.)

(Adapt and personalize this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

Luvie sure had fun today at Lamb's Meadow. Who watches over Luvie and the other sheep when they play in the meadow? *(Timothy's dad, Katie Collie.)* A person who watches and takes care of sheep is called a shepherd. Shepherds make sure their sheep stay safe. Sometimes, shepherds have sheepdogs, like Katie Collie, to help them watch the sheep.

(Open your Bible to John 10. Stand the shepherd figure near your sheep pen on the floor in front of you. Instead of using figures, you may display TC50 and point to the shepherd.) When Jesus lived on earth, people didn't know that He is God's Son and that He loved them very much. To help them understand, Jesus told them that He is like a good shepherd.

(Keep displaying TC50 or stand the six sheep figures inside your sheep pen.) A shepherd

would get up early each day and go to the sheep pen. He called the names of the sheep that belonged to him, and they came out to follow him. His sheep listened because he was their shepherd and they knew the sound of his voice. They wouldn't follow anyone else except their shepherd.

(Slowly move four of the six sheep figures through the gate of the pen and position them behind the shepherd. Two sheep remain in the pen because they don't belong to the shepherd.)

Optional: Think together with Cubbies of a name for each of the shepherd's four sheep figures and use the sheep's names through your demonstration. Emphasize that the shepherd knows each sheep's name. Likewise, Jesus knows all the Cubbies' names.

Optional: Tell Cubbies to pretend you are their shepherd and they are your sheep. Wear a bathrobe and carry a cane to represent a staff. As you call each Cubbie by name, direct the Cubbie to come up and stand beside you and form a line. When all Cubbies are lined up beside you, lead the group around the room or down a hallway and then back to their seats. For added fun, ask another leader to try to call the Cubbies too. Remind Cubbies that sheep should only listen to their shepherd.

(Display TC51 or move the shepherd first and sheep figures after him in a line to the green felt.)

The shepherd would lead the sheep to a green pasture where they could eat grass, rest and play. The shepherd watched over the sheep to make sure there was nothing that would hurt his sheep.

(Display TC52 or move the shepherd and sheep figures to the blue felt.) The shepherd also led the sheep to good, clean water. He would make sure that even the smallest lamb had fresh, cool water to drink.

(Display TC53 or move the shepherd and sheep figures back to the prepared sheep pen.) After a long day in the pasture, the shepherd would

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lead the sheep back home to their pen. The shepherd would count the sheep as they went back into the pen to make sure no sheep was missing. **(Count each sheep figure with Cubbies as you move it back into the pen.)**

(Display TC54.) Jesus said that He is the Good Shepherd. Those who followed Him and believed that He is God's Son were His sheep. Now they were not *really* sheep. They didn't have white woolly coats and four hooves! But just like sheep follow and obey their shepherd, the people who followed Jesus and obeyed Him were like HIS sheep. **(Open your Bible to John 10:27.)** In John 10:27, Jesus says: *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.* **(Repeat the verse twice with Cubbies. For fun, say the verse in different voices, and tell Cubbies to raise their hands when they hear your true voice. Remind Cubbies that the sheep know the shepherd's voice.)**

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, wants ALL people to be His sheep. But in order for us to be His sheep, we must belong to Him. We belong to the Good Shepherd when we trust Jesus as our Savior. That means we each believe that Jesus is God's Son, who died on the cross for our sins and then came alive again. When you trust Jesus as your Savior, then you belong to Him, just like one of His sheep. **(Point to the boys and girls in TC54.)**

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, loves you very much. He knows your name and everything about you! He takes care of you, just like the shepherd takes care of his sheep.

Just like sheep follow their shepherd, we can follow our Good Shepherd by listening to His words in the Bible, obeying Him and making good choices. **(Encourage children to think of ways they can make good choices. Answers may include obeying parents, loving others.)**

(Close in prayer, thanking Jesus for being our Good Shepherd. Pray that the Cubbies would trust Him as Savior and follow Him.)

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug II Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

IDEA 1: Bear Hug II Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of Bear Hug II Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — pairs of child-sized scissors, two empty bath tissue rolls for each Cubbie (cut one roll in half), glue sticks, blocks, extra sheep patterns (resource CD)

Direct Cubbies to color the shepherd and his sheep. Explain that Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd, and He calls us His sheep if we have trusted Him as Savior. Clarify that we are not really sheep, but we are *like* sheep because we are known and cared for by our Shepherd, the Lord Jesus, and we can listen to and obey Him. As a fun option, let Cubbies follow the directions on the bottom of the page to make stand-up figures and a sheep pen. To make extra sheep, Cubbies can use patterns on the resource CD.

IDEA 2: Sheep Lacing Shapes

What You Need

- Sheep shapes cut from card stock (resource CD)
- Hole punch
- Yarn lengths
- Tape

Beforehand, punch holes as indicated along the edge of each sheep. Tape a length of yarn onto the back of each sheep. Wrap a small piece of tape around one end of the yarn to make threading easier. As Cubbies thread the yarn through the holes, say John 10:27 together and talk about the ways Jesus, our Shepherd, cares for us, His sheep.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)**IDEA 1: Shepherd Says****What You Need**

- Nothing

Say to Cubbies, "I will be your shepherd, and you will be my sheep. Listen closely and do **ONLY** the things I tell you to do. If another person, comes and tells you to do something, don't do it, because sheep should only listen to their shepherd." Ask Cubbies to perform various actions, such as say baa, lie down and run in place, pretend to eat grass or drink from a stream, jump over an imaginary rock or follow you around. Call on individual Cubbies to perform an action: e.g., "Grant, shake a hand. Lily, touch your toes. Tristan, count to five. Madelyn, spin in a circle." At some point, another leader will start directing Cubbies to perform actions. No Cubbies will be out for obeying the imposter, but remind them to only listen to the voice of the shepherd. End by reciting John 10:27 together and saying, "It's important to listen to Jesus, our Good Shepherd. His words are in the Bible." Pray and ask God to help you and the Cubbies obey Jesus better.

IDEA 2: Pin the Wool on Luvie**What You Need**

- White poster board
- Mounting putty
- Enlarged picture of Luvie Lamb (resource CD)
- Glue stick
- Cotton balls
- Clear tape
- Blindfold
- *Optional* — Laminate your poster for durability and reuse. Instead of cotton balls and tape, use white pom-poms and self-adhesive VELCRO dots. Attach hook (nonfuzzy) dots all over Luvie's body. Attach a loop (fuzzy) dot to each pom-pom.

Enlarge the picture of Luvie Lamb and print it on the largest size of paper. Glue the picture to the poster board and mount it on your wall within the children's reach. Attach a tape loop to each cotton ball. Blindfold one Cubbie at a time and let him or her try to stick a cotton ball on Luvie's body. If you have a large club, make several posters.

IDEA 3: The Shepherd Calls His Sheep**What You Need**

- Nothing

Sing "The Shepherd Calls His Sheep" to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." Cubbies pretend to be sheep in a pen. A leader pretends to be the Good Shepherd, Jesus. When each Cubbie hears his or her name, he or she comes out of the pen to join the Shepherd.

The Shepherd calls His sheep. (Repeat)
Baa, baa. They follow Him.
The Shepherd calls His sheep.

The Shepherd calls (*name of child 1*)
The Shepherd calls (*name of child 2*)
Baa, baa. They follow Him.
The Shepherd calls (*name of child 3*)

Continue the song until all children have been called. Then sing the following verse as you lead children around the room. Tell Cubbies that we follow our Good Shepherd, Jesus, by listening to His words in the Bible, obeying Him and making good choices.

His sheep follow Him. (Repeat)
Baa, baa. They follow Him.
His sheep follow Him.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

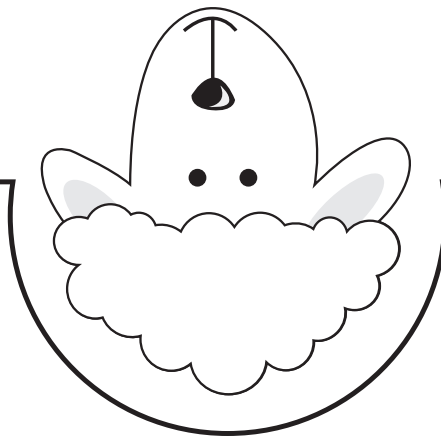
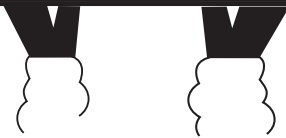
Continue the IDEA 2: Whose Voice game from Coming In or play a similar game, using a blanket. Two leaders hold the blanket. Half of the Cubbies sit on one side of the blanket; the other half sits on the other side. A leader points to a child on one side. The child says, "Jesus is the Good Shepherd." Cubbies on the other side of the blanket try to guess who spoke. Once they have correctly guessed, a child on the other side says the phrase.

Do you pray for your Cubbies specifically by name? Use prompts to remind you. For example, if you know Joey loves trains, pray for him each time you see a train. Some leaders post Cubbies' photos on their refrigerator or in a photo album by their nightstand as a reminder. Pray that each Cubbie would learn to follow and obey the Good Shepherd as He calls them each by name.

NAME: _____



***My sheep hear My voice,
and I know them, and they
follow Me. (John 10:27)***



Basic Instructions: Color the shepherd and sheep. Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd. He calls us His sheep. We become sheep of the Lord Jesus when we trust Him as Savior. (To trust Jesus as Savior means you believe He died on the cross for your sin and came alive again.)

Even More Fun: Cut out the shepherd and sheep. Hold the shepherd upright and glue him around an empty cardboard bath tissue roll so he can stand. Cut another bath tissue roll in half. Glue each sheep around a half-roll. (Ask your Cubbies leader for extra sheep patterns.)

Ultimate Fun: Make a pen for your sheep from blocks. Move the sheep out of the pen behind the shepherd. Pretend the sheep are following the shepherd to a grassy pasture or a cool stream. Then move the sheep back to the pen again.



BEAR
HUG 12

The Good Shepherd Looks for Lost Sheep

Make It Stick: Isaiah 53:6: ***All we like sheep have gone astray;** we have turned every one to his own way ...* (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: Jesus is the Good Shepherd. As a good shepherd loves and seeks his sheep who are lost, Jesus loves and seeks us when we are lost in sin. He came to earth to save us from sin and help us to follow Him.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Ezekiel 34:11-16; Luke 15:1-7; Isaiah 53:4-6

Memorize: Isaiah 53:6

Have you ever been lost? If so, do you remember the moment when you realized you were alone? Your happy, calm spirit probably evaporated as panic and fear crept in.

Is it any wonder that Christ refers to sinners as being "lost"? Nonbelievers seem carefree, not knowing that sin has separated them from their Creator, not understanding that they face an eternity of punishment for their sin. At one point, you were there.

Yet even while you were lost in sin, God provided a way for you to be right with Him. Christ bore the punishment for your sin. He took the wrath and the agony of your punishment and paid the price to redeem you. Those of us who have realized our lost state and placed our faith in Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, are saved.

But consider this. Some of your Cubbies' parents may still be "lost." They still need someone to awaken them to their desperate condition. Here are some suggestions for sharing the good news of the gospel with unsaved parents:

1. Periodically send a letter to parents offering to answer any questions they may have about what their child is learning in Cubbies.
2. Invite parents to attend your church services.
3. Be friendly to the parents. The more comfortable they feel with you, the more comfortable they'll be asking questions.
4. Have a few parent nights during the club year and be sure to clearly present the gospel during those nights.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good* (Psalm 34:8)! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Know that Jesus is like a shepherd who loves His lost sheep. When he finds His lost sheep, He is very happy!
2. Grasp the concept that they too have gone astray.
3. Believe that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, loves them even though they sin. He died on the cross and came alive again to save them from their sin.
4. Name ways to follow and obey Jesus. This means that they must trust in Jesus as their Savior.

5. _____

(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

Welcome Cubbies and reinforce what they learned at home in their in their handbooks with one or more of the following activities.

IDEA 1: Sheep Search

What You Need

- Set of five numbered sheep and parent note for each Cubbie (resource CD)
- Scissors for leader's use
- Envelopes (6 ¾ regular size, #7)
- Glue sticks
- Crayons

In advance, print and cut out parent notes and a set of five numbered sheep cards for each Cubbie. Before Cubbies arrive, leaders hide all the sheep cards, except one card, around the room. Hide the remaining card in a Bible. Cubbies search for the cards and bring them to a table, where a leader sorts the cards into sets numbering one to five. When all the cards have been found except the one in the Bible, express concern about the one missing sheep and look around the room frantically for it. Finally, open the Bible to find the sheep. Tell Cubbies that today's Bible lesson is about a lost sheep. Give each Cubbie a complete set of five sheep and an envelope in which to store the sheep. The Cubbie will glue a parent note on the front of the envelope and write his or her name on the back. Cubbies and parents can play a game with the cards at home.

IDEA 2: Cotton Ball Painting

What You Need

- Sheep cut from black and white construction paper (pattern on resource CD)
- Black and white crayons
- Black and white tempera paint
- Wooden spring-type clothespins
- Small paper plates • Cotton balls
- *Optional* — Beforehand, spray-paint clothespins black and let dry.

Ahead of time, cut out sheep shapes from black and white construction paper. Cubbies can choose a black or white sheep and draw eyes, mouth and ears on the head with a black or white crayon. Pour a small puddle of black paint on one plate and a small puddle of white paint on another plate. (Black paint is for white sheep. White paint is for black sheep.) Cubbies will each pick up a cotton ball with a clothespin, dip the cotton ball in the paint and dab the paint on the sheep. When the paint is dry, Cubbies clip two clothespins on the sheep's body for legs. Leaders reposition legs, if necessary, so sheep can stand. Review the story of the lost sheep from Luke 15:3-7.

IDEA 3: Counting Sheep

What You Need

- Five plastic berry produce baskets (or sheets of brown construction paper) for each table, numbered one to five
- Cotton balls or small and large white, brown and black pom-poms • Crayons
- Brown construction paper • Glue sticks

At each table, set out five numbered berry baskets or numbered sheets of brown construction paper. These represent sheep pens. Dump a pile of cotton balls or pom-poms at each table to represent sheep. Talk about how a shepherd counted the sheep in his pen every night to make sure no sheep were missing. Cubbies will work together to place the correct number of sheep in each pen. If you have pom-poms, you could add challenges like "Place only brown sheep in pen number 2" or "Place only large sheep in pen number 5." Give each Cubbie a sheet of construction paper. Cubbies can draw a square pen on the sheet and count and glue sheep inside the pen. At the bottom of the sheet a leader can write "(Cubbie's name) counted (number of sheep on paper) in her pen."

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, unit Core Truth and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Luvie Lamb puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — real red flower to smell

LEADER: Hi, Cubbies! Let's see if Cubbie Bear will come out and say hello. Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(After children call out, bring the Cubbie puppet into view.)

CUBBIE *(looking around and calling):* Luvie, Luvie?

LEADER: What's wrong, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: I'm looking for Luvie. I want to hear more about her day at Lamb's Meadow. Have you seen her, boys and girls?

(Encourage children to respond.)

LEADER: Not tonight, Cubbie.

CUBBIE: Hmm ... I'm going to go look for her in the petting zoo again. *(Cubbie puppet exits while calling)* Luvie! Oh, Luvie!

(Pop the Luvie Lamb puppet into view.)

LUVIE: Here I am! Was someone calling me?

LEADER: Oh, there you are, Luvie! Cubbie Bear has been looking all over for you. He thought you were lost!

LUVIE *(giggling):* Well, as a matter of fact, I was lost, but then I was found!

LEADER: Really, Luvie? What happened?

LUVIE: Well, yesterday I went with the other sheep to Lamb's Meadow. We ate lots of grass and played fun games. Then I took a long nap. When I woke up, I noticed a beautiful flower.

(If you have a red flower, ask, "Like that one?" Ask a leader to pass it along for the Cubbies to smell.)

LUVIE: I stopped to smell that flower, and then the next flower and the next flower. There were so many beautiful flowers, and each one smelled so pretty. But soon I looked up, and I realized that I was far, far away from Lamb's Meadow.

LEADER: Oh, no! Were you scared?

LUVIE: I was *really* scared. I looked one way *(Luvie looks left)*, and then the other way *(Luvie looks right)*. I couldn't see any one! I began to cry.

LEADER: What happened next, Luvie?

(Bark from offstage and bring Katie Collie puppet into view.)

KATIE: I noticed that Luvie was missing from Lamb's Meadow, so I went to look for her. At first I couldn't find Luvie ANYWHERE, but I didn't give up! I lifted up my ears and listened carefully. Soon I heard a "Baaa, baa!" from far away. I knew it was Luvie. I ran as fast as I could, and I found Luvie in the apple orchard, between some apple trees.

LUVIE: I'm so glad that Katie came and found me. I was alone and scared.

LEADER: I'm glad too. Did you learn a lesson yesterday, Luvie?

LUVIE: I sure did. I should have obeyed Timothy's dad and not wandered off from the rest of the sheep. *(Giggles)* And I'm sure glad that Katie Collie is such a smart sheepdog.

LEADER: Me too, Luvie! Well, you had better go and find Cubbie Bear. He will want to know that you are safe. Boys and girls, can you say goodbye to Katie and Luvie?

(Have the children say goodbye as the puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during the club meeting.

IDEA 1: Shepherd's Party**What You Need**

- Cupcakes, Rice Krispie Treats or other preschool party food

Serve the party snack. Remind Cubbies that the shepherd in the story was so happy when he found his lost sheep that he celebrated with his friends. The Bible tells us that Jesus still loves us even when we sin. In fact, He came to save us from our sin. When we trust Him as Savior, He helps us to obey Him. That is something we can celebrate.

IDEA 2: Snack Counting**What You Need**

- Small paper cups
- Small crackers or dry cereal pieces
- Napkins

Give each Cubbie a cup with up to 10 small crackers or dry cereal pieces in it. Tell the children to take the pieces out of the cup and count them on the napkin. Talk about how a shepherd would count his sheep each night to make sure none were missing. Explain that it's easy to count a snack but probably hard to count moving sheep.

IDEA 3: Bread and Butter Sheep**What You Need**

- Bread
- Sheep cookie cutter
- Butter
- Knife for leader's use
- *Optional* — Make cheese sandwiches by placing a slice of cheese between two pieces of bread before cutting with the cookie cutter.

Use the cookie cutter to cut sheep shapes from bread and serve. If desired, spread the bread with butter before serving.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **"Jesus Loves Me"**
- **"The Shepherd Knows His Little Lambs"** to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" (from Bear Hug 11). Add this new verse:
 The shepherd looks for His lost sheep,
 His lost sheep, His lost sheep.
 The Shepherd looks for His lost sheep,
 He loves them each the same.
- **"The Scared Lost Sheep"** to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus"
 The scared lost sheep cries, "Baa, baa, baa."
 "Baa, baa, baa. Baa, baa, baa."
 The scared lost sheep cries, "Baa, baa, baa."
 All through the night.
 The good shepherd calls, "Where are you?"
 "Where are you? Where are you?"
 The good shepherd calls, "Where are you?"
 All through the night.
 The happy shepherd says, "I found you!"
 "I found you! I found you!"
 The happy shepherd says, "I found you!"
 All the way home.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He wants us to listen to Him and obey what He says in the Bible. But sometimes we sin and do what we want to do instead of what Jesus wants us to do. A sin is anything we think (*point to head*), say (*point to mouth*) or do (*hit your fist in your hand*) that disobeys God. (*Name a few sins that are relevant to preschoolers. Consider sharing a personal example.*) God promises that He will always forgive us. Let's thank God for His forgiveness right now. You can pray this quietly in your head while I pray out loud.

(Pray a short prayer before starting Lesson Time.)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 53-57
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Luke 15:3-7 and Isaiah 53:6
- *Optional* — ten cotton balls, toy lamb, sheet of brown construction paper, bottle of peroxide, gauze, stand-up figures used in Bear Hug 11 and stand-up thorn bush (resource CD)

(Adapt the words of this lesson to fit you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

Poor Luvie Lamb! I am sad that she was lost, but I am so glad that Katie Collie was able to find her! That reminds me of a story Jesus told in the Bible about another sheep who was lost.

(Open your Bible to Luke 15:3-7.) One day, Jesus was talking to some men who didn't understand who He was. To help them understand, Jesus told a special story about a shepherd who had 100 sheep.

Optional: In front of you, set out 10 cotton balls (to represent sheep) on a brown piece of construction paper (to represent the sheepfold). Follow instructions involving the cotton balls included throughout this lesson.

Optional: To tell the story, set up the stand-up figures as directed in Bear Hug 11 and add the thorn bush figure somewhere in the scene. Repeat the demonstration with the figures from Bear Hug 11, but as the sheep are returning to the sheep pen, slip one sheep behind the thorn bush. When the shepherd counts his sheep and discovers that one is missing, move him out to find the sheep and lead it home.

(Display TC53.) That shepherd loved his sheep. He took good care of them! Each night, the shepherd counted his sheep as they walked into their sheepfold. "One, two, three, four ..." he counted. He kept counting until he reached the last of the sheep. "97, 98, 99 ..." Oh, no! One of the sheep was missing! *(While you talk, discreetly*

hide one cotton ball sheep from your set of 10 under your lap or in a pocket. You may also choose to hide this sheep or toy lamb somewhere in the room before the lesson starts. Count the remaining sheep, expressing alarm that one sheep is missing.)

The shepherd was worried. Even though there were 99 sheep who were safe in the fold, he wanted to find the one missing sheep. Each sheep was very special to him.

(Display TC55.) Off he went, looking for his lost sheep. *(Have children mimic your actions.)* He called out for his sheep. *(With children, make up a name for the lost sheep, place hands over mouth and call the sheep's name.)* He looked everywhere for his sheep! He looked high up on the mountains *(place a hand over your eyes and look up)*; he looked low in the grassy meadows *(get down on your knees and look on the ground)*. He looked behind rocks and trees *(place a hand over your eyes and pretend to look behind something)*.

(Ask a child to come up front and find the lamb in TC55.) Cubbies, how do you think this sheep got lost from the other sheep and the shepherd? *(Let children suggest ideas.)* Jesus didn't tell us how this sheep got lost, but usually sheep get lost when they wander off and go where THEY want to go rather than following the shepherd. This is dangerous for the sheep! Its leg might get caught in a bush with sharp thorns, like this one. Then the shepherd would have to gently pull it out.

(Display TC56.) Finally, the shepherd found his sheep! If the sheep's leg was scratched, the shepherd would put oil or medicine on its sores *(hold up the peroxide)* and wrap the hurt leg in a bandage *(pass around the gauze for children to feel)*.

(Display TC57.) Then the strong shepherd carried his sheep home on his shoulders. Do you see the big smile on his face? He was so happy that his lost sheep was found! He had a big party with all his friends. *(You and the children should "find" the hidden toy lamb or cotton ball sheep in the room or in your lap and cheer.)*

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(Display TC54.) Cubbies, Jesus told this story to help people understand who He was. Jesus wanted them to know that He is like a good shepherd who loves all of His sheep, even the ones that are lost. This card says, **Jesus is the Good Shepherd.** Can you say that with me? *(Ask children to repeat the Core Truth with you twice.)*

Like a shepherd loves that one lost sheep, Jesus loves each one of us. Cubbies, do you remember how that sheep got lost because it did what it wanted to do instead of listening to the shepherd? We are like that too. We all sin and do what we want to do instead of what God tells us to do in the Bible. **(Turn in your Bible to Isaiah 53:6.)** The Bible says: *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way ... (Isaiah 53:6).* **(Have children repeat the memory verse with you twice.)**

To go astray means that we sin and do what we want to do instead of obeying Jesus. Do you remember what a sin is? A sin is anything we think **(point to your head)**, say **(point to your mouth)**, or do **(hit your fist in your hand)** that disobeys God. Can you think of a sin that someone might do? **(Help Cubbies think of typical sins of preschoolers: e.g., disobeying parents, getting angry and hitting a sibling.)**

I'm so glad Jesus loves us even though we sin. He came to earth to save us from our sin by dying on the cross and coming alive again! **(Display TC54 again.)** When you trust Jesus as your Savior, Jesus helps you learn to follow Him. What are some ways you can follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd? **(Responses may include listening to the Bible, learning Cubbies verses, attending Awana, being kind to others.)**

(If necessary, review with Cubbies what it means to trust Jesus as Savior. Then close in prayer, thanking Jesus for loving us even though we sin. Pray that you and the Cubbies would obey the Good Shepherd.)

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 12 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

IDEA 1: Bear Hug 12 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of Bear Hug 12 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — cotton balls, glue sticks, clear tape, poster with a sheep pen drawn on it or a poster of Luvie Lamb (resource CD), mounting putty

Help Cubbies find a sheep on the sheet. Then let Cubbies look for the rest of the sheep on their own and circle them. For fun, tell Cubbies to say “Baa” when they are ready to recite the verse. Once each Cubbie completes the section, give him or her a cotton ball with a tape loop attached to it. They can stick the cotton ball on the poster you have hung on the wall either inside the sheep pen or on Luvie Lamb's body. Keep the poster up through the unit and see how long it takes your club to fill the appropriate spaces on the poster.

IDEA 2: Find the Lost Sheep Game

What You Need

- Green construction paper
- Scissors for leader's use
- Crayons
- Sheep stickers or cutouts (resource CD)
- Glue sticks (if you are not using stickers)

Cut a sheet of construction paper into four equal rectangles for each Cubbie. Let Cubbies use crayons to draw a bush on the front side of each rectangle. Give each Cubbie one sheep sticker or cutout to attach to the back of one rectangle. To play, Cubbies pair up. One player lays his bushes down. The other player flips over one bush at a time to find the lost sheep. Then the Cubbies reverse roles and play again.

PLAY TIME (15-0 minutes)**IDEA 1: Gather the Sheep****What You Need**

- Many white, brown and black pom-poms or large cotton balls
- Box (size of box will depend on how many cotton balls or pom-poms)
- Music player
- *Optional* — Hula-Hoops, Awana game batons (or empty paper towel tubes)

Scatter pompoms or cotton balls all over your play area. These represent sheep. (Know the exact number of sheep you are scattering so that later you will know if one is missing.) Place the empty box in the middle of the room. This represents the sheep pen. While music is playing, Cubbies each run to pick up ONE sheep and place it in the pen before they get another sheep. See if they can gather all the sheep, getting them home safely before the music stops. When you stop the music, count the sheep in the box together. If one or more sheep are missing, look for them together. Say, "A good shepherd always looks for his lost sheep. He loves each one of his sheep very much." If all the sheep are in the box, commend Cubbies by saying, "You were good shepherds. You took good care of your sheep, just like Jesus takes good care of us." Ask them to name some of the ways Jesus takes care of them.

As an alternative game, set Hula-Hoops on the floor as pens. Cubbies use game batons to push, or "herd," the sheep across the floor and into the Hula-Hoop pens.

IDEA 2: Hide the Sheep**What You Need**

- Stuffed toy sheep or large cotton ball

Hide the toy sheep or cotton ball in your game area or in a classroom. Lead Cubbies around the room or down the hall and into different rooms to look for the lost sheep. With Cubbies, think of a name for the lost sheep, such as Marshmallow. As you walk, call together, "Marshmallow! Marshmallow! Where are you?" When a Cubbie finally spots the sheep, cheer together. Review the

story from Luke 15:3-7. Talk about how happy the shepherd was to find his lost sheep. Explain that like that shepherd loved his lost sheep, Jesus loves each one of us very much.

IDEA 3: Sheep Freeze Tag**What You Need**

- Nothing

Choose one child to be the shepherd. The rest of the children are sheep. On the leader's signal, the sheep scatter. The shepherd tries to tag the sheep in order to keep them from running away and getting "lost." Once they are tagged, they must sit down. (Or instead, the tagged sheep could form a line behind the shepherd as he continues to tag sheep. Each Cubbie holds onto the shoulders or waist of the person in front of him or her.) If your club is large, designate a few Cubbies as sheepdogs that help the shepherd tag the sheep. Once everyone has been tagged, choose a new shepherd and play again. Recite Isaiah 53:6 together. Explain that sometimes sheep go astray, which means they go where they want to go and do what they want to do instead of following the shepherd. The Bible says we are like sheep that go astray. We go astray when we sin and do what we want to do instead of obeying what Jesus says in the Bible.

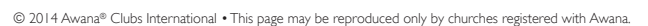
GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

Make sure Cubbies do not forget envelopes made for IDEA 1: Sheep Search. Tell parents about the game when they come to the door.

Play IDEA 5: Shepherd, Shepherd, Where's Your Sheep? from the "Anytime Games" document on the resource CD.

Cubbies is almost at the halfway mark. What are some things you can do to celebrate your leaders? Here are a few ideas: Send a note stating that you can always count on them, give them more responsibility as you experience their spiritual gifts, pray specifically for them and send them birthday cards. Count them as your most important resource and acknowledge their service.

NAME: _____





BEAR
HUG 13

The Good Shepherd Is With Us in Scary Times

Make It Stick: Psalm 23:4: ... ***I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.*** (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: Jesus is the Good Shepherd. We do not have to be afraid because He loves us and promises that He is always with us.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Psalm 23; John 10:11-15; Psalm 56

Memorize: Psalm 23:4

Did you know that there are over 365 verses in the Bible that deal with the issue of fear? That's more than one verse for each day of the year! Each of us faces fear, especially your little Cubbies. We know that we are not *supposed* to fear, but how can we stop the anxiety in stressful situations?

Psalm 56:3 and 4 offer hope: *What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee. In God I will praise His word ...* When we face moments of fear, we have a solution: we can trust God and rejoice in His Word! We can remember verses like Psalm 23:4 and rejoice that our Good Shepherd is always with us. We can rejoice that peace is already ours in Christ (John 16:33). We can rejoice that nothing separates us from God's love, and He works all things together for good (Romans 8:28-39). What other verses can help you praise God in times of anxiety?

Preschool children have many fears: dogs, the dark, loud noises, monsters, the bathtub drain, doctor's visits, and separation from Mom or Dad. When a child shares a fear, don't lecture with logic or try to talk him out of it. Rather, listen and let him know you understand how it feels to be afraid. Ask the child if he can think of ways to help him feel less afraid. For example, maybe he could hold his dad's hand when he walks by the dog or keep a flashlight near his bed at night. Suggest that he can also pray and remember Psalm 23:4. His Good Shepherd is with him and He loves him very much!

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good* (Psalm 34:8)! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Review that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and we are His sheep when we trust Him as Savior.
2. Identify and discuss situations that make them feel scared.
3. Learn the ways the shepherd used his staff and rod to rescue, protect and count his sheep.
4. Know that Jesus loves them and is always with them.
5. Name practical ways to remember to trust in Jesus when they feel afraid.

6. _____

(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

IDEA 1: Shepherd's Staff

What You Need

- Pipe cleaners
- Brown and tan pony beads

Cubbies can each make a shepherd's staff by threading pony beads onto a pipe cleaner. Encourage older Cubbies to make color patterns with the beads. Help Cubbies fold a small portion of the pipe cleaner over the first and last beads to keep all the beads in place. Show Cubbies how to curve the top of the pipe cleaner to make the staff shape. Ask if anyone knows why a shepherd needs a staff. Explain that a shepherd sometimes touches the sheep with his staff to show them where to go. The shepherd uses the hook of his staff to pull the sheep away from danger. Recite Psalm 23:4 together.

NOTE: Supervise Cubbies carefully around pony beads. Small objects can become a choking hazard.

IDEA 2: Don't-Be-Scared Bags

What You Need

- Several paper lunch bags
- Objects or pictures that represent fears of children (e.g., toy snake, picture of a roller coaster or storm, clown nose or mask, toothbrush from the dentist's office, picture of a child alone)

Insert one object or picture into each lunch bag. Set the bags on a table. Let Cubbies take turns choosing a bag and pulling out the item inside. Talk about each item. For example, if a Cubbie pulls out the picture of a child alone, ask the group: Are you afraid to be alone? Why? When have you been alone? What can you do when you are alone to make you feel less afraid? Help Cubbies think of practical solutions to ease their fears. For example, when they are afraid, they can pray, sing "Jesus Is With Me" (see Songs section) or recite Psalm 23:4. The items in the bags can also be used during Lesson Time.

IDEA 3: Sheep and Wolf Masks

What You Need

- Sheep and wolf masks printed on card stock (resource CD)
- Scissors for leaders' use
- Crayons
- Hole punch
- Yarn
- Clear tape
- *Optional* — Mount each mask to a jumbo craft stick instead of using yarn. Cubbies can glue cotton balls on the sheep mask.

Beforehand, cut out each mask, including the eye holes. Let each child choose a wolf or a sheep mask to color. After Cubbies finish coloring, leaders punch holes in the sides of the mask (reinforce with tape) and thread yarn through the holes to fit the mask around the Cubbie's head. The masks can be worn during Play Time or Going Home.

IDEA 4: Build a Sheep Pen

What You Need

- Blocks, rocks or Lincoln Logs®
- Toy sheep or white, brown and black pom-poms
- Toy wolf or gray pom-pom (or toy bear or lion)
- *Optional* — green felt squares, blue felt circles, stand-up wolf and sheep and shepherd figures from prior lessons (resource CD)

Let Cubbies use blocks or other materials to build a sheep pen. Give them toy or pom-pom sheep and tell them to count the sheep and place them in the pen. Cubbies can pretend they are the shepherd and name the sheep, take them out to green pastures (felt squares) and still waters (felt circles). They can protect their sheep from predators or pretend a sheep gets lost.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, unit Core Truth: Jesus is the Good Shepherd and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- *Optional* — flashlight, blanket or sheet, two chairs

(Set up two chairs near the puppet area, which another leader will use later to make a tent with the blanket or sheet.)

LEADER: Boys and girls, let's call our friend, Cubbie Bear! Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Bring the Cubbie puppet into view. Move his head from side to side as if he is looking for something.)

LEADER: Hi, Cubbie! *(Cubbie Bear doesn't respond. He keeps looking around.)* Cubbie, is something wrong?

CUBBIE *(in a fearful voice):* I-I was j-just ch-checking to make sure everything was OK. B-boys and girls, have you h-heard a loud, s-scary noise?

LEADER: No. We haven't heard any loud or scary noises here, have we, Cubbies? *(Encourage response from Cubbies.)*

CUBBIE: Oh, OK. I feel better now. Yesterday Timothy and I heard a scary noise, and I don't like scary noises.

LEADER: Can you tell us what happened, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: Timothy wanted to go camping with his family, but it was raining outside. So Timothy's mom said he could make a tent and camp in his room. Timothy asked me to come along too! I've never been camping before, but it sounded like fun!

LEADER: Camping IS a lot of fun!

CUBBIE: I packed two shiny red apples for a snack and hurried into Timothy's room. Timothy even had a flashlight for us!

(If you brought a flashlight, hold it up now.)

LEADER: Cool! Did you make a tent?

CUBBIE *(nodding his head):* Yes, we made a tent with a sheet and two chairs. As soon as it was dark, we climbed into the tent. I ate my apples

while Timothy made funny shadows on the wall with his flashlight.

(Ask another leader to make a tent by draping a sheet over the two chairs you set up. If you are using a flashlight, dim the lights, point the flashlight at a wall or the ceiling and shine it off and on.)

CUBBIE: We were having so much fun, but then we heard a strange noise. It sounded like something was scratching on the door.

LEADER: Did you know what it was?

CUBBIE *(acting fearful again):* No, but I was really, REALLY scared. I thought it was a tractor at the door. Tractors have big wheels that scare me!

LEADER: Hmm ... I don't think a tractor would scratch at the door. And I'm SURE Timothy's dad wouldn't drive the tractor in the house!

CUBBIE: Yes, you're right. But I was still scared. Then Timothy decided to go to the door and see what it was.

LEADER: Wow, Timothy is a brave boy! What was it?

CUBBIE: Well, I'm not supposed to tell you this week. The Cubbies need to read the story in their handbook at home. But I WILL say that it wasn't very scary at all!

LEADER *(sighing with relief):* Whew! That's good.

CUBBIE: But I still don't like scary noises. Are you sure you haven't heard any scary noises here tonight?

LEADER *(looking at Cubbies):* No, we haven't heard any scary noises, have we, Cubbies? *(Allow response.)*

CUBBIE *(sighing with relief):* Well, that's good to know. I'll go and tell Timothy everything is OK.

LEADER: OK, Cubbie. We'll see you next time!

(Have children say goodbye as the Cubbie Bear puppet is put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during the club meeting.

IDEA 1: Shepherd's Rods**What You Need**

- 24 large pretzel rods
- 24 ounces of milk chocolate chips or white chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Microwave
- Spoon
- Wax paper
- *Optional* — sprinkles

Place chocolate chips in a bowl and microwave on high for 1 minute. Remove from microwave and stir. Chips will melt as you are stirring. If necessary, microwave for 15 more seconds.

Lay out a sheet of wax paper for finished pretzels. Dip one pretzel into the melted chocolate. Use a spoon to spread the chocolate about half-way. Twist the pretzel to let the excess chocolate drip off. Lay pretzel on wax paper and shake sprinkles on top. Repeat until you have coated all pretzels. Let dry completely.

When you serve the Cubbies, talk about ways the shepherd used his rod and staff to protect, count and guide sheep.

IDEA 2: Sheep and Shepherd's Staff**What You Need**

- White and/or brown cereal puffs to represent sheep
- Marker
- Pretzel sticks to represent the shepherd's rod
- Resealable snack bags
- Index cards

Place snack in bags along with an index card with the child's name written on it. Encourage each child to look for his name. Remind Cubbies that Jesus knows each of them by name.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **“The Shepherd Knows His Little Lambs”** to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb” (from prior weeks). Add this new verse:

The Shepherd calls His little lambs,
Little lambs, little lambs.
The Shepherd calls his little lambs,
They follow and obey.

• **“If You're Scared and You Know It”**

to the tune of “If You're Happy and You Know It”

If you're scared and you know it, hide your eyes.
(Cubbies look fearful and cover eyes with hands.)

If you're scared and you know it, hide your eyes.
(Cubbies cover eyes again.)

If you're scared and you know it, that's not the way you show it!

If you're scared and you know it, say your verse.

Lead kids in reciting Psalm 23:4. Then add new song verses, such as “If you're sad and you know it, cry boo-hoo” or “If you're mad and you know it, stomp your feet.” Replace “say your verse” with other positive faith actions, such as “trust the Lord” or “you can pray.”

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies need to understand that Jesus is with us, helping us to be brave — not that He'll always protect us from scary situations. What if a mean dog escapes and nips the child's leg? What if a Cubbie's family has a car accident? What if a grandpa dies? Did God forget to protect that day? God doesn't promise us immunity from bad things (John 16:33; Romans 12:12), but He does promise to be with us and help us *through* all things. Here is a way you could lead Cubbies in prayer:

Cubbies, if we trust in Jesus as our Savior, then He is our Good Shepherd. That means that He is ALWAYS with us, no matter what. Sometimes things happen that cause us to be afraid, but we can pray and ask Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to help us not be afraid. Is there anything that you are afraid of? Can we pray for you to not be afraid? *(If Cubbies choose to share something, pray for those children by name and ask God to help Cubbies remember that He is always with them.)*

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 53-54, 58-59
- Bible a bookmark placed at Psalm 23:4
- *Optional* — cane to represent a staff, a thick stick or baseball bat to represent a rod (crinkle and secure a brown paper grocery bag over the top of the stick or bat so the top looks thicker, like a club), bathrobe, wolf mask (resource CD), a bag filled with items that represent fears of preschoolers (e.g., a picture of a storm or a child alone, a toy doctor's kit, a toy dog, a toy insect, a loud buzzer or timer)

(Adapt the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

Cubbie Bear and Timothy had fun when they were camping in their tent, but then they heard a scary sound! Cubbies, have *you* ever been afraid of a sound or something else? What happened? *(Let Cubbies share. Some may share about a scary thunderstorm, an insect or a barking dog, an imaginary monster under their bed, etc.)*

Did you know that even adults can be afraid sometimes? *(Briefly share a time when you were nervous or scared. Make sure your example is not too scary for Cubbies. Also, stay positive by sharing how things turned out alright or how you overcame your fear.)*

(Display TC54.) We don't have to be afraid, because **Jesus is the Good Shepherd**. When we trust in Jesus as Savior, we become just like His little sheep. Like a shepherd loves each sheep, Jesus loves each one of us. He takes care of us, like a shepherd takes care of his sheep.

(Open your Bible to Psalm 23:4 and display TC58.) From the Bible, we learn that sometimes a shepherd had to lead his sheep through a dark valley. I'm sure the sheep heard some scary noises in the valley, but they didn't have to feel afraid because their shepherd was with them.

Their shepherd always kept his staff in his hand. A staff looks like a long pole with a hook on the end. *(If you are using a cane as a staff, hold it up now.)* If a sheep got too close to the edge of a hill, the shepherd could use the hook of his staff to gently pull the sheep back to safety. *(Point to the sheep being rescued.)*

The shepherd ALWAYS watched over the sheep to keep them safe from danger. Do you see anything in the picture that could hurt the sheep? *(Let a Cubbie come up and point to the wolf in the picture.)*

(Hold up your rod prop if you have it.) Shepherds would also carry a rod, which looked like a thick stick. *(Display TC59.)* If a wild animal, like a wolf, came to attack the sheep, the strong shepherd would use his rod to fight off the wolf. Other times he threw his rod at the wolf to scare the wolf away. The shepherd would do ANYTHING to keep his sheep safe. He would even get hurt or die if he had to, to save his sheep. He loved His sheep so much!

Optional: Beforehand, mark off an area of the floor with tape. To begin the activity, choose one child or leader to be the wolf. To keep children from being scared by the wolf, let the other children see him put on the wolf mask (from resource CD) and go to a hiding spot. Put on a bathrobe and pretend to be a shepherd. Carry the staff and rod as props. Tell Cubbies to pretend to be your sheep. They can crawl around on their hands and knees, staying within the marked tape lines, and pretend to eat grass, drink water from a stream or sleep under a tree. Tell them that you will make sure the wolf does not come near them. If a sheep moves over a tape line, gently tap her with the end of your staff to direct her back behind the line. The wolf can keep trying to sneak out from his hiding spot, but when you see him and hold up the rod, he must run back to his hiding space.

(Display TC53.) At the end of the day, the shepherd would use his rod to count the sheep as they moved back into their pen. He made sure no

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sheep was lost. Can you help me count the sheep in the picture? **(Count the four sheep with Cubbies.)**

(Prepare to read Psalm 23:4 from your Bible.)

Our verse this week talks about the shepherd's rod and staff, and it reminds us of our Good Shepherd, Jesus. Let's say our verse together. Psalm 23:4: ... *I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.* **(Repeat the verse twice with Cubbies.)** This verse reminds us not to fear, which means not to be afraid. We don't have to be afraid, because Jesus is ALWAYS with us.

Sometimes scary things happen. A dog might bite. A bee might sting. You might get lost from your mom and dad for a little while in the store. But when these things happen, what can you do to remember that Jesus loves you and He is with you? **(See if Cubbies have any suggestions. They may surprise you with their insight!)** You can pray and ask Jesus to help you. You can also say our Bible verse out loud to yourself or say, "Jesus is with me!" **(Direct children to stand and repeat either "Jesus is with me!" or the short version of the memory verse a couple of times.)**

Let's pray and thank Jesus, our Good Shepherd, for loving us and being with us always. We never have to be afraid! **(Close in prayer.)**

Optional: Suggest that Cubbies could also sing the following song whenever they are afraid. Sing these words together to the chorus of "Jesus Loves Me."

*Jesus is with me. Jesus is with me.
Jesus is with me wherever I may go!*

Optional: Choose different Cubbies to each pull out an item from your bag. Discuss how that item might represent something that would be scary to them. For example, if a child pulls out the toy doctor's kit, ask them if they ever feel scared when they go to the doctor. Ask them to suggest ways to help them feel less scared. For example, they can think about all the fun books to read in the doctor's waiting room, they could bring their

stuffed animal or they could hold onto Mom while the doctor checks them. If practical, let them act out some of their solutions. After discussing and (or) acting out each situation, have the Cubbies call out, "Jesus is with me!"

Optional: Let Cubbies take turns acting out the lesson with the stand-up figures (resource CD). Include all the figures used in prior lessons and the wolf figure. If desired, make several sets of figures.

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 13 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Bear Hug 13 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of Bear Hug 13 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — construction paper, glue sticks, tube of non-toxic glow-in-the-dark glitter paint

Let Cubbies color the picture. Ask them if they ever feel scared when they are in their rooms at night. Remind them that they can pray or look at their Bible like the boy in the picture is doing. Jesus is always with them, so they don't have to be afraid. As a fun option, let Cubbies mount the sheet on construction paper and squeeze glow-in-the-dark paint on the moon and some stars. Cubbies can hang the picture in their rooms as a reminder that Jesus is watching over them.

NOTE: Additional idea for Handbook Time idea is on the Bear Hug 13 Handbook Leader Sheet.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)**IDEA 1: Target Practice****What You Need**

- Stuffed toy lions, wolves and bears
- Beanbags or tennis balls

Set up animals at a distance from Cubbies. Tell them to pretend they are shepherds and their job is to guard the sheep from any animals that could hurt the sheep. Explain that shepherds would sometimes throw their rods at a wolf, bear or lion to scare them away. Let them take turns throwing beanbags at the animals to see if they can hit them and knock them over.

IDEA 2: Wolf and Sheep Tag**What You Need**

- Nothing
- *Optional* – mark off a sheep pen on the floor made with blue painter's tape

All Cubbies stand on one side of the play area and pretend to be sheep. A leader plays the wolf. The wolf stands in the middle of the room. When the wolf says, "Run, sheep, run!" all sheep must run across the room or to a designated sheep pen, trying to avoid being tagged by the wolf. Sometimes the wolf may specify certain Cubbies to run, using their names or descriptions. For example, the wolf could say, "Emily, Caleb and Will, run, sheep, run!" or "All boy Cubbies, run, sheep, run!" If the wolf tags a sheep, that sheep becomes a wolf also. Repeat the game until all (or most) of the sheep are tagged. The last sheep caught can become the first wolf in the next round.

IDEA 3: Shh, Shh, Sheep**What You Need**

- One blindfold

Divide Cubbies into two groups: sheep and wolves. A leader will be the shepherd. (In this game, it is best for a leader to be the shepherd rather than a Cubbie.) Remind Cubbies that a shepherd loved his sheep very much and one of

his jobs was to protect them from wild animals, like wolves. The shepherd will sit near one end of your play area, blindfolded or with eyes closed. The sheep will scatter in the same area and sit very quietly. The wolves will begin at the other end of the play area and quietly try to sneak up on the sheep. If the shepherd hears a wolf, he'll point to it. That wolf must return to the starting line. If a wolf tags a sheep, the wolves and the sheep switch roles, and the game begins again.

IDEA 4: What's the Time, Mr. Wolf?**What You Need**

- Nothing

A leader is Mr. (or Mrs.) Wolf and stands at one end of the play area with his back turned to Cubbies, who are standing at the opposite end. Cubbies repeatedly ask in unison, "What's the time, Mr. Wolf?" Each time the question is asked, Mr. Wolf responds with a clock time, and Cubbies take the correct number of steps forward. For example, if Mr. Wolf says three o'clock, Cubbies take three steps forward. (Leaders may need to help Cubbies count their steps.) At some point, Mr. Wolf will respond, "Dinner time!" and he will turn around and chase the Cubbies back to the starting line. If Mr. Wolf tags a Cubbie, that child becomes the new Mr. Wolf for the next round.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

As Cubbies wait for parents to arrive, have some fun with shadows. Dim the lights in the room, without darkening the room completely. Shine a bright lamp or flashlight on a blank wall and let Cubbies experiment with what happens when they block part of the light with their bodies. Ask questions such as "What happens when you move closer to or farther away from the wall? What happens when you turn sideways? Can you and a friend combine your shadows to make one shape?" Let them use props found in the room to create different shadow shapes on the wall. Remind Cubbies that even in the dark, Jesus is with us. We don't need to be afraid.

**... I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.
(Psalm 23:4)**

NAME: _____



Basic Instructions: Color the picture. Do you ever feel scared in your room at night? If you do, you can pray or look at your Bible like the boy is doing in the picture. You could also say your verse, Psalm 23:4. Remember, Jesus is with you always. You never have to be afraid!

Even More Fun: Cut out the picture along the border and use glue to mount it to a sheet of construction paper.

Ultimate Fun: Squeeze glow-in-the-dark paint on the moon and some stars. Hang the picture in your room at night to remind you that Jesus is watching over you.



BEAR
HUG 14

Unit 3 Review

Make It Stick: John 10:27: ***My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*** (This verse was learned in Bear Hug 11. Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: Jesus is the Good Shepherd who loves and cares for us. We become His sheep by trusting Him as Savior. He helps us to follow and obey Him every day.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Psalm 139:1-6; Isaiah 41:10; Romans 5:8-10; Philippians 4:19; Revelation 7:9-17

Review: John 10:27

Take a few moments today to reflect on these great promises of Scripture.

Your Good Shepherd knows you (Psalm 139:1-6).

He will meet your needs (Philippians 4:19).

He is always with you (Isaiah 41:10).

He has paid the punishment for sin and made a way for you to be right with God (Romans 5:8-10).

He has promised you a home with Him in heaven. Hunger, thirst and tears will disappear, and you will enjoy the shelter of His presence forever (Revelation 7:9-17).

Meditate on these truths today. In what way do you personally need to rely on your Shepherd?

As you reflect on the generosity of your Savior, consider special ways you can remind your Cubbies of the Good Shepherd this week.

- Send them a postcard or note, reminding them that Jesus cares about them every day. (Follow your church's child protection policy.)
- When they arrive in club, remind them that the Good Shepherd was with them throughout the week.
- As they complete their activities, praise the Good Shepherd for helping Cubbies grow.
- When they eat their snack, thank the Good Shepherd for providing food for them to eat.
- As they leave, remind them that the Good Shepherd is always with them.
- Make it your goal to reflect the characteristics of the Good Shepherd and to shower Cubbies with His love.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good* (Psalm 34:8)! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Review the ways a shepherd cares for and protects his sheep.
2. Review that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and we become His sheep when we trust Him as Savior.
3. Discuss ways Jesus, the Good Shepherd, loves and cares for us.
4. Understand what it means to trust Christ.
5. Recognize practical ways they can obey and make good choices to follow the Good Shepherd.
6. _____

(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

Consider repeating Coming In activities from the past few lessons. Good ones to repeat are IDEA 2: Whose Voice? (from Bear Hug 11) or IDEA 3: Counting Sheep (from Bear Hug 12) or IDEA 4: Build a Sheep Pen (from Bear Hug 13). You may also choose one or more of the following new ideas.

IDEA 1: Lunch Bag Lambs

What You Need

- White paper lunch bags (two bags per Cubbie)
- Recycled newspapers
- White construction paper
- Crayons
- Pairs of child-sized scissors
- Yarn
- Cotton balls
- Hole punch
- Glue sticks
- *Optional* — Bring staplers and white pipe cleaners for the tail.

This craft requires extra leader help. First, Cubbies use crayons to draw a sheep's face on the bottom of one bag. Next, they fill the other lunch bag with crumpled newspaper. Leaders help them slide the open ends of both bags together and glue the bags in place to form the lamb's body. Then Cubbies cut ears and a tail from construction paper and glue them to the lamb. Cubbies may stretch cotton balls apart and glue them randomly on the top and sides of the lamb's body. Leaders punch a hole through the chin area of the lamb and tie a length of yarn to the lamb. Yarn should be long enough that a Cubbie can pull the lamb behind her and it will follow her. Talk about ways we can follow Jesus like a lamb follows her shepherd (e.g., trusting Jesus as Savior, obeying the Bible, praying, loving others). For extra fun, Cubbies may add a pipe cleaner tail to the sheep by wrapping one end of a pipe cleaner around a cotton ball and stapling the other end of the pipe cleaner to the sheep.

IDEA 2: Sheep Ears Headbands

What You Need

- Ear patterns printed on card stock (resource CD)

- Stickers or cutouts of items Jesus provides (resource CD)
- Black and white construction paper
- Black and white crayons
- Stapler or tape
- Pairs of child-sized scissors
- Glue sticks
- Long strips of construction paper (2 inches [5 cm] wide) to make headbands

Print and cut out several sheep ear patterns. Cubbies can use these patterns to trace two ears on black or white construction paper. Encourage Cubbies to cut out the ears by themselves. (Children's cutting skills should improve as the year progresses.) Leaders help Cubbies attach two ears to a two-inch wide construction paper headband, which is sized to fit each child's head. To the headband, Cubbies may attach stickers or cutouts of items that remind them of the ways the Good Shepherd, Jesus, provides and cares for us.

IDEA 3: Name Spelling Fun

What You Need

- Construction paper
- Crayons and markers
- Pairs of child-sized scissors
- *Optional* — Scrabble® letters, magnetic letters or alphabet blocks

Leaders will draw a box for each letter of a child's name on a paper. (Leave space between each box.) The child writes his name by placing one letter in each box. If necessary, the leader can write each letter above the box for the child to copy. Cubbies cut out the boxes, mix up the letters and practice putting the letters in order. Cubbies could also practice spelling their name with Scrabble letters or blocks. Remind Cubbies that Jesus knows their names and everything else about them. He loves them and takes care of them.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse, Cubbies motto, unit Core Truth: God Is the Good Shepherd and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- *Optional* — flashlight

LEADER: Last week Cubbie and Timothy heard a strange noise while they were camping out in Timothy's room. Cubbie promised he would tell us what the noise was this week. Let's call him and ask him! One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Bring the Cubbie Bear puppet into view.)

CUBBIE: Hi, boys and girls!

LEADER: Hi, Cubbie! We were all worried about you last week. You seemed really scared about the noise you and Timothy heard at the door. What happened?

CUBBIE: Well, remember, Timothy wanted to go camping with his family, but it was raining outside. So Timothy's mom said he could make a tent and camp in his room. Timothy asked me to come along too! I've never been camping before, but it sounded like fun! Timothy had his trusty flashlight from his dad.

(If you are using a flashlight, dim the lights and flash the light on the wall or ceiling. Have Cubbie say, "See how bright the light is?")

LEADER: Then what happened?

CUBBIE: We heard a strange noise. It sounded like something was scratching on the door. Timothy decided that I should help him open the door so we could shine the flashlight down the dark hallway. So he counted to three. *(Have children count aloud with Cubbie.)* One — two — three, and slowly opened the door.

LEADER (in a soft voice): What was outside the door, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: It was Gabriela, Timothy's little sister! *(Laughs)* Gabriela wanted to camp out in Timothy's room too! So we let her sit in the tent with us.

LEADER: I'm so glad there wasn't anything scary outside the door.

CUBBIE: Me too! Timothy's dad came in to check on us. Everything was OK, but it was good to know that he cared about us and was watching out for us.

LEADER: Timothy's dad is a good dad. Knowing he's around should keep you from being afraid

CUBBIE: That means that I don't have to be afraid of the tractor?

LEADER: You don't have to be afraid of it, and I know Timothy's dad is always careful when he's driving it. But you **SHOULD** still keep your distance from the tractor when it's being used.

CUBBIE: I'm glad there wasn't a scary tractor outside Timothy's door that night.

LEADER (laughing): Me too, Cubbie.

CUBBIE (rubbing tummy): All this talking about being scared has made me very hungry. I'm going to go and find a big juicy apple for my snack! Goodbye, everybody!

LEADER (chuckling): I think *everything* makes you hungry, Cubbie. Bye-bye. We'll see you next time!

(Allow children to say goodbye as the puppet is put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during the club meeting.

IDEA 1: Follow the Leader**What You Need**

- Teddy Grahams
- Napkins

After serving the Teddy Grahams, ask Cubbies if they can line them up on their napkins so it looks like they are following a leader. Ask Cubbies, "According to the Bible, who are we to follow?" (Jesus.) He is the Good Shepherd. Review John 10:27 with Cubbies.

IDEA 2: Leader or Parent's Choice

On review weeks, you could let a leader or a parent (or whoever is supplying the snack) bring in his or her favorite snack.

IDEA 3: Cubbie Birthday Snacks**What You Need**

- Cupcakes

On review weeks, you could serve cupcakes to celebrate all the birthdays of Cubbies in the current month. Review ways a shepherd cares for and protects his sheep. Talk about ways that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, loves and cares for us.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **"Jesus Loves Me"** or **"The B-I-B-L-E"**

Explain that the Bible tells us Jesus loves us. Jesus talks to us in the Bible. He wants us to listen to Him and obey His words.

- **"The Shepherd Knows His Little Lambs"** to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" (from prior weeks). Sing all the verses, adding this last verse:

I will do what Jesus says,
Jesus says, Jesus says.
I will do what Jesus says,
He is the Good Shepherd.

- **"The Scared Lost Sheep"** (from Bear Hug 12)

- **"Jesus Is With Me"** to the chorus of "Jesus Loves Me"

Jesus is with me. *(Repeat three times.)*
Wherever I may go!

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

To add some creativity to prayer time, prepare a basket filled with items that represent ways the Good Shepherd cares for us (e.g., box of food — Jesus provides food; picture of a house — Jesus provides shelter; the Bible — Jesus gave us His Word to help us know how to make good choices to follow Him; adhesive bandage — Jesus knows and gave us our parents and doctors to help us when we are hurt; picture of a storm — Jesus is with us even when we are afraid; wooden cross or cross pendant — Jesus died on the cross for our sins).

Here's a guide for discussion: Cubbies, we have learned that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. We can thank God for the many things that Jesus, our Good Shepherd, does for us. Can you help me think of the ways that Jesus provides for us? *(Allow response. If you have the basket, let Cubbies take turns pulling out an item. Discuss how the item reminds us of how Jesus cares for us like a shepherd cares for his sheep.)* Let's praise God for our Good Shepherd. *(Pray a short prayer of thanks or choose a few Cubbie volunteers to thank God for the things that were mentioned.)*

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)**What You Need**

- Teaching Cards (TC) 5, 10, 17, 50-54, 60
- Bible with a bookmark placed at John 10:27
- *Optional* — green sheet; blue sheet; crackers; cups; pitcher of water; sheep pen made from tables, chairs or large blocks; bathrobe; staff and rod props

Option 1: As an alternative lesson, share the parable of the Lost Son from Luke 15:11-24. You may read the parable to Cubbies from a children's picture Bible or involve Cubbies or student leaders in dramatizing the parable. Use the Lost Son skit on the resource CD as a guide. Remind Cubbies that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, loves us, and He will always welcome us back, even when we sin.

Option 2: Beforehand, lay a green sheet (to represent a pasture) and a blue sheet (to represent water) on the floor. Place crackers, cups and a pitcher of water nearby. In another corner of the room, make a sheep pen with tables, chairs or large blocks, leaving an opening on one end. The sheep pen should be big enough to contain all your Cubbies. To begin the activity, put on the bathrobe and hold the staff and rod props. Tell Cubbies you will pretend to be their shepherd and they can pretend to be sheep. Follow the directions included in this lesson to lead Cubbies in acting out the lesson.

Option 3: Ask a local sheep farmer to visit your Cubbies during Lesson Time. Encourage the farmer to share pictures of his animals and to briefly share how he cares for his sheep, protects them from predators or searches for a lost sheep. If no local sheep farmer is available, consider showing a short video on sheep farming. Check your local library or the Internet for videos. After the visitor's presentation or the video, talk with Cubbies about the ways sheep farmers are like the Good Shepherd, Jesus, and we are like sheep.

Cubbies, today we are going to remember what we learned these last few weeks. Remember, in

the Bible, Jesus told us that He is like a shepherd, and we are like His sheep. Let's remember how the shepherd cares for his sheep.

(Choose three Cubbies to stand beside you and display TC50, 51 and 52. Tell the child holding TC50 to raise his card.) Every morning, the shepherd would come to the pen and call the names of His sheep. His sheep listened and came out to follow him. Each sheep was very special to the shepherd, and he loved and protected each one. *(If you are using Option 2, tell the Cubbies to pretend to be sheep and move into your prepared sheep pen. Holding your staff prop, call each Cubbie's name and lead the sheep out of the pen and to the green sheet.)*

(The child holding TC51 should raise her card.) The shepherd would lead his sheep to fresh, green grass so they could eat as much as they wanted. The shepherd always stayed close to the sheep to make sure they were safe. *(For Option 2, tell the Cubbies to kneel around or on the green sheet and pretend to eat grass. Or instead, tell them to sit on the sheet while you pass out crackers to each child for a snack.)*

(The child holding TC52 should raise his card.) When the sheep were thirsty, the shepherd would take them to good, clean water where they could get a drink. If any lamb was hurt or sick, the shepherd would help that lamb feel better. *(Collect TC50-52 and have helpers be seated. For Option 2, lead the sheep to the blue sheet and tell them to pretend to drink from the water. Or instead, tell them to sit on the sheet while you pass out cups of water for Cubbies to drink.)*

(Display TC53.) Each night, the shepherd counted his sheep to make sure every sheep was with him. If a sheep was lost, he would go and look for it. *(For Option 2, lead the sheep back to the pen and count each one with your rod prop as he or she enters the pen. Encourage the Cubbies to count aloud with you.)*

(Display TC60.) Sometimes, if the sheep were far away from home, they spent the night in a cave. The shepherd would lie in front of the cave door

continued on next page

continued from previous page

all night so no bad people or animals could get in to hurt his sheep or steal them away. If he had to, the shepherd would get hurt or die to save his sheep. He loved them so much! **(For Option 2, lay in front of the opening to your sheep pen. You and the Cubbies can pretend to sleep.)**

(Display TC54.) The Bible says that we are like sheep. Just like the sheep need a shepherd, WE need someone to love us and take care of us. **Jesus is the Good Shepherd. (Have Cubbies repeat the Core Truth with you twice.)** When you trust Jesus as Savior, He becomes your Good Shepherd. **(Display TC17.)** To trust Jesus as Savior means you believe that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, loved you so much that He died for your sins. **(Display TC5.)** Then three days later, Jesus came alive again. **(Display TC10.)** Now Jesus lives in heaven. The Bible says that one day those of us who trust Jesus as Savior will live with Jesus forever in heaven! In heaven, we won't ever be hungry or thirsty. We won't be sad or cry. We'll be safe and happy with our Good Shepherd forever!

(Open your Bible to John 10:27.) While we live here on earth, Jesus wants us to follow Him by making good choices to obey Him. John 10:27 says: *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.* **(Have Cubbies repeat the verse with you twice.)** The Bible tells us how to follow and obey Jesus. What are some ways you can obey Jesus? **(Allow Cubbies to suggest ideas. Then close in prayer, thanking Jesus for being the Good Shepherd and praying you and the Cubbies would obey Him more.)**

Optional: Read the following choices a Cubbie could make. If the choice is a good one, the Cubbies should say in unison, "I will obey my Good Shepherd!" If the choice is a bad one, they should shake their head no. Add additional statements as desired.

You choose to obey your mom and pick up your toys.

You obey your dad and put away your bike.

You get mad at your cousin.

You are kind to your brother or sister.

You DO NOT come when your mother calls.

(Some of the Cubbies may be ready to trust Christ as their Savior. Let the initiative come from the child. Read "Sharing the Gospel With Cubbies" from the resource CD for helpful hints.)

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 14 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

IDEA 1: Bear Hug 14 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of Bear Hug 14 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons

Tell Cubbies to count the sheep in each pen and circle or color the correct number. Do the first one together. Review the ways a shepherd takes care of his sheep (e.g., he counts them to make sure none are missing, he leads them to green pastures and still waters, he protects them from wolves and other dangerous animals). Discuss some of the ways our Good Shepherd, Jesus, cares for us (e.g., He gives us food and families, He died for our sin so we could be with Him in heaven, He gives us His words in the Bible).

IDEA 2: Decorative Sheep Fleece

What You Need

- Copies of the Sheep Fleece Tracing page (resource CD)
- Crayons

Direct Cubbies to trace the fleece designs on each sheep. Remind Cubbies that we become Jesus' sheep when we trust Him as Savior. Explain what it means to trust Christ as Savior. Discuss some practical ways they can obey the Good Shepherd.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Cubbies enjoy repetition. Repeat the Cubbies' favorite games from this unit as a review. If desired, add one of these new games

IDEA 1: Obey the Good Shepherd**What You Need**

- Nothing

Tell Cubbies that this game will help them think of ways they can follow and obey Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Cubbies stand at one end of the play area. The game leader makes a statement about a choice a Cubbie could make. If the choice is a good one, Cubbies say, "I will obey" and take three steps forward. If the choice is a bad one, they say, "No!" and stand still.

Here are sample statements:

- You choose to obey your mom and pick up your toys.
- You get mad at your cousin.
- You obey your dad and put away your bike.
- You share a toy with your brother or sister.
- You DO NOT come when your mother calls.
- You help your mom by setting the table.

IDEA 2: Follow the Shepherd**What You Need**

- Nothing
- *Optional* — robe and cane "staff" for the leader, green sheet or blanket, blue sheet or blanket, long rope, cones or potted trees, Hula-Hoops, play tunnel, toy predators (lions, bears, alligators, wolves, snakes) and other obstacles

Direct Cubbies (the sheep) to line up behind a leader (the shepherd). The sheep mimic the shepherd as he leads them around the room. The shepherd can march, hop, crawl or maneuver around various obstacles. The shepherd constantly watches the sheep to make sure none of them wander off or get left behind. To add fun, lay a green sheet on the floor to represent a grassy pasture. When Cubbies reach the pasture, they

can crawl on it, pretending to munch on grass. A blue sheet can represent a stream. Cubbies can kneel by the sides of the stream and pretend to lick up water. (Or instead, lead Cubbies by a drinking fountain to take a quick drink.) Here are other ideas: Cubbies walk on a rope and pretend they are on a narrow path, Cubbies slalom around cones or potted trees which represent thorn bushes, Cubbies hop from the inside of one Hula-Hoop to another and pretend the hoops are rocks, Cubbies run from various predators on the path or Cubbies crawl through a tunnel and pretend it is a dark valley. Tell Cubbies that the most important person to follow is the Lord Jesus. We follow Him by listening to His words in the Bible, obeying Him and making good choices.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)**AWARD ALERT!**

Cubbies will earn a Green Apple emblem for completing Unit 3. Tell parents to arrive early to see their child receive the award. Remind parents to attach the apple emblem to the C on the child's vest.

With parents, celebrate the spiritual growth of their children during award times. Maximize these opportunities to build a strong partnership with them and your overall church ministry. Consider sharing some church resources that are available for them. The more connections they have, the stronger the bond.

Spend some time as a club and come up with a plan so every family feels welcome and are missed when they are absent. Think of some ways to make your club more inviting to families. What kinds of encouragement could you give for the tough times some of them may be going through? As you answer these questions and more, may your club atmosphere resonate the message "You belong! We care!" May God bless you as you reach out to parents encouraging them in their role as spiritual leader of the home.

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. (John 10:27)

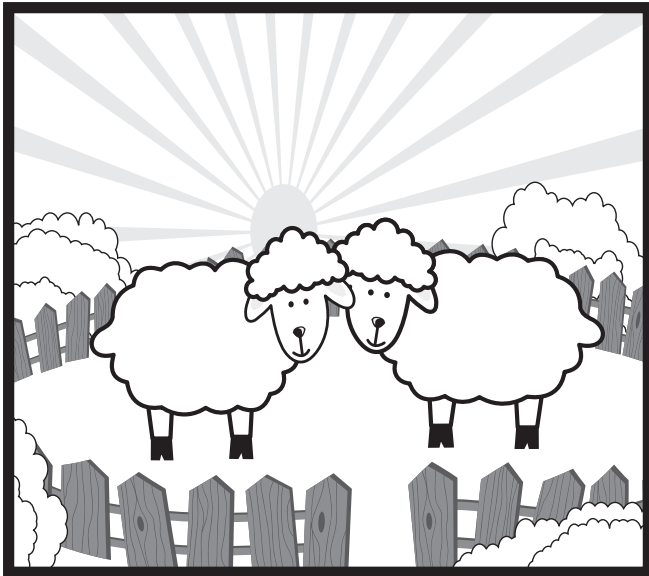
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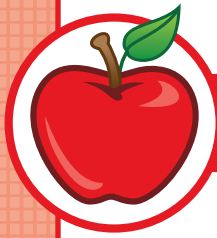
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Basic Instructions: Count the sheep in each pen. Circle or color in the number that corresponds to the correct number of sheep.

Even More Fun: Color the sheep. Color green grass in the pens and a blue sky or orange sunset sky above.

Ultimate Fun: Draw some sheep in the empty pen. To draw a sheep, first draw a simple cloud shape. Add an oval head to the cloud. Draw two eyes, two ears and four stick legs. Count your sheep and write the correct number on the line below the box.


**BEAR
HUG 15**

Jesus Loves the Paralyzed Man

Make It Stick: Matthew 1:21: ... *Call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.* (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: Jesus is God. He loved people by healing the sick and the hurting, but the greatest way He showed His love was by forgiving sin.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Mark 2:1-12 (See other accounts of the miracle in Matthew 9:1-8 and Luke 5:17-26.)

Memorize: Matthew 1:21

Whom would you call in your hour of need? Has God placed in your life a special individual whom you could call at a moment's notice and who would be there for you as soon as possible?

Loving friendships are precious blessings in our lives, and a perfect example is the friends found in the account of the paralytic man. We do not know the names of the individuals in the story, but we see their hearts and their faith through their actions. These four men banded together to lower their paralyzed friend down through the roof of a crowded home so that the man could meet the Healer face to face.

The physical ailments of this man were obvious to the curious onlookers. But Christ saw an even greater need in his heart. Only after He cared for the paralyzed man's spiritual need did He heal him physically.

As leaders, it is easy for us to recognize and pray for God to change the outward behavior of Cubbies. Perhaps one child needs to sit quietly during story time or another child needs to stop crying for the first 15 minutes of club. But recognize that your Cubbies have an even greater need: salvation in Christ. Each week before club, pray specifically for your Cubbies, but address the condition of their hearts and ask God to use you to point them toward the gospel of the Great Physician.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good* (Psalm 34:8)! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Understand that Jesus is God.
He has the power to forgive sins.
2. Know that Jesus loves all people.
3. Learn that Jesus wants to forgive people from sin.
4. Remember that all have sinned.
5. Trust in Jesus for forgiveness of sin.
6. _____
7. _____

(Add the goals the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

Welcome Cubbies and reinforce what they learned at home with one or more of the following activities.

IDEA 1: Happy and Sad Face Plates

What You Need

- Paper plates
- Eye shapes and curved mouth shapes cut from colored felt, foam or paper
- Glue sticks

Give each Cubbie two paper plates. On one plate, Cubbies glue shapes to make a happy face. On the other plate, Cubbies glue shapes to make a sad face. Talk with Cubbies about the things that make them happy or sad. Talk about how sad the paralytic man must have been when he could not walk and how happy he was when Jesus forgave his sin and healed his legs. Use the plates for the Happy and Sad Faces game during Play Time.

IDEA 2: Make a Mat

What You Need

- Precut paralytic man patterns (resource CD)
- Colored card stock paper (8.5" x 11" [22x28 cm] size)
- Glue sticks
- Pairs of child-sized scissors
- Crayons
- *Optional* — hole punch, yarn strands of equal size

This craft involves simple cutting and folding practice for Cubbies. Give each Cubbie a precut man pattern. Cubbies can color both pictures of the man, fold the pattern in half on the line and glue the backs of the pictures together so they will be able to flip the man over to see him as either a paralyzed man or a healed man. Next, show Cubbies how to fold a card stock paper in half horizontally. They will cut along the fold to separate the halves. One half will be used as a mat for the man. Let

Cubbies color the mat and snip short lines along the short sides of the mat to create fringe. (Young Cubbies may need a leader to draw cutting lines for them.) When Cubbies are done, tell them to place the paralyzed man on the mat. Review the Bible story. When you mention that Jesus healed the man, Cubbies can take the man off the mat, stand him up with his healed side visible and move him around the table.

Instead of Cubbies cutting fringe on the mat, leaders can punch a hole in each corner of the mat. Cubbies can weave a yarn strand through the two holes on each short side of the mat and hold the yarn at the ends so the mat hangs down. Explain that the yarns look like the ropes the friends may have used to lower the man through the roof. This craft may need to be finished in Handbook Time.

IDEA 3: Story Play Centers

What You Need

- Blocks, Legos or Lincoln Logs
- Small toy people to fit in block house
- Bath towels
- Several dolls and stuffed animals to be carried on towels

At one center, tell Cubbies to use blocks to build a house with a roof. Then tell them to remove part of the roof and lower a toy person through the roof and into the house. At another center, include bath towels, dolls and stuffed animals. Choose two Cubbies at a time to set a doll or animal on a towel, grasp the towel at each corner and carry the doll or animal to a designated location. Use both activities to review the story of Jesus healing the paralytic.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto and the A and C verses along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions. This is also a great time to introduce the unit Core Truth: Jesus Loves All People.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — whistles for Cubbie and Katie to wear, string

(If you have the whistles, use the string to attach a whistle around each puppet's neck securely so it will not fall off during the puppet show.)

LEADER: Hi, Cubbies! Are you ready to see our friend, Cubbie Bear? Let's call him together. One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Bring Cubbie puppet into view, hopping from place to place.)

CUBBIE: Hi, boys and girls!

LEADER (chuckling): Cubbie, you seem excited today, as usual! Why are you so excited?

CUBBIE: I am now an important member of the Help Club.

LEADER: The Help Club? What's that, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: Oh, it's our new club on Apple Acres Farm. Timothy, Katie, Luvie and I are all members. Our job is to watch out for people who need help while they are visiting the farm.

LEADER: I see. Did you find anyone who needed help today?

CUBBIE: Well, Timothy and I saw a lady leaving the Apple Market. She was carrying a bag full of jams and yummy honey. Mmm! *(Makes lip-smacking noises.)*

LEADER: Did you help her carry the jars?

CUBBIE: Timothy offered to help her, but she said the jars could break easily so she needed to carry them herself. We started to walk away when we heard the sound of a whistle. Timothy and I ran to the playground.

(If possible, blow Katie's whistle while you and the puppet are out of view. Then bring Katie Collie into view, barking.)

KATIE: I blew my whistle to let Timothy know that someone needed help!

LEADER: Who was it, Katie?

KATIE: It was Will, Timothy's good friend from Cubbies.

LEADER: Oh, no! What was wrong with Will? Why did he need help?

KATIE: Will was in a wheelchair because of his broken leg. He was sad because he couldn't play with his friends or ride the Orchard Express, the train on Apple Acres Farm.

CUBBIE: Timothy and I realized we could help him. We pushed the wheelchair over to the train, and Mr. Ted, the train conductor, set out the ramp. We were able to push Will's wheelchair up the ramp and onto the train.

KATIE: Timothy and Cubbie were such good friends, and Will was happy that he got to ride the train.

LEADER: It sounds as if all of you are doing a great job helping others on Apple Acres Farm.

CUBBIE (laughing): I hope so. Katie, let's go and see if there's anyone else on the farm who needs our help!

KATIE (nodding and barking excitedly): Yes, let's go, Cubbie! Goodbye, everybody.

(Have children wave goodbye as the puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during club.

IDEA 1: Teddy on a Mat**What You Need**

- Teddy Grahams cookies
- Rectangular crackers or tortilla slices
- Plates

Serve each Cubbie five Teddy Grahams cookies on a plate. One cookie should be lying on a cracker (or rectangular tortilla slice); the other four should be placed around the cracker. As you serve the snack, remind the Cubbies of the four men who carried their friend to Jesus on his mat. Ask Cubbies to tell you what Jesus did for the man on the mat. (Jesus forgave the man's sins and made the man walk.) Talk about the amazing love and power of Jesus.

IDEA 2: Help Your Friend Snack**What You Need**

- Any snack that Cubbies enjoy, such as animal or fish crackers, pretzels, yogurt, applesauce, cereal pieces or fruit pieces

Seat all the Cubbies at tables in groups of four. Let each Cubbie stand up to get a snack from a leader, carry it back to the table and set it before a friend at the table. Tell Cubbies that they are helping a friend by serving him or her a snack. Remind them of the way the four men helped their friend in the Bible story.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **“Matthew 1:21”** from the *HoneyComb Handbook Music CD*
- **“Where Is the A?”** (Tune: “Where is Thumbkin?”) Hide TC14 or a construction paper A behind your back and display it when you sing “Here it is!”

Where is A? Where is A?

Here it is! Here it is!

Tell us what it stands for. Tell us what it stands for.
A is for all ... *All have sinned ...*

- **“J-E-S-U-S”** (Tune: “B-I-N-G-O.”) This is a good unit theme song. New verses will be added each week. Define the word *lame* for Cubbies. After Cubbies learn the song, say, “Wow! Did you know you just spelled Jesus’ name?” Cubbies usually find this exciting, since many are learning to spell their own names.

Who can make a lame man walk?

Do you know His name?

J-E-S-U-S (*Sing 3 times.*)

Jesus is His name.

Who can save us from our sins?

Do you know His name?

J-E-S-U-S (*Sing 3 times.*)

Jesus is His name.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, let's talk to God. Talking to God is called prayer. When we pray, we can thank God for forgiving our sins when we trust in Him. A sin is anything we think (*point to head*), say (*point to mouth*) or do (*hit your fist in your hand*) that disobeys God. We all sin, but Jesus, God's Son, died on the cross so our sins can be forgiven. (*Pray in such a way that Cubbies are reminded that all of them sin and need to trust Jesus Christ. Thank God that Jesus has the power to forgive sin.*)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 61-64
- Bible with markers placed at Mark 2:1-12 and Matthew 1:21
- *Optional* — cardboard box, glue stick, Jesus and crowd scene (resource CD), paralytic man (resource CD), paper mat for man, scissors, paper strip, tape, towel, doll, a Cubbie vest

(Before club, make a Bible times house by cutting off the top flaps of a cardboard box and laying the box on its side. The former top of the box will become an open side for Cubbies to view inside the house. Paste the scene of Jesus and the crowd to the visible inner wall of the house. Make a paralytic man and mat as directed in IDEA 2 of Coming In. Make a stairway for the house by folding a strip of paper accordion style to represent steps. Tape the stairway to the side of the house. Cut a flap in the roof, larger than your paper mat.)

(Adapt and personalize the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

The Help Club sounds like fun! I'm glad they were able to help Will. Do you remember why Will was sad? *(Pause for responses. Remind Cubbies that Will had a broken leg.)*

It would be hard to not be able to use your legs. Can you think of all the ways we use our legs every day?

Optional: Have children act out different ways we can use our legs. Ideas include jumping, kneeling, stretching on our toes, walking, running.

(Open your Bible to Mark 2:1-12.) I'm going to tell you a true story in the Bible about a man who was paralyzed. That means that his legs did not work. This man could not go ANYWHERE unless someone carried him.

But do you know what? This man had four special friends who wanted to help him. These friends had heard many wonderful

things about Jesus. The friends knew that if ANYONE could help their paralyzed friend, it would be Jesus. *(Set the doll on the towel. Chose four Cubbies to each hold a corner of the towel and demonstrate how the friends might have carried the paralyzed man.)*

(Display TC61.) One day the four men lifted up their friend's mat and carried the man to the house where Jesus was.

Inside the house, Jesus was teaching people about Himself and His Father, God. There were so many people in the house listening to Jesus that the four friends couldn't even get through the door! But they did not give up. What do you think they did? *(Allow response, and point to the stairs on TC61 to give Cubbies a hint.)*

(Display TC62. Then display your optional prepared box with your paper stairs leading to the roof.) The friends carried their paralyzed friend up the steps outside of the house to the top of the house. Then they took off part of the roof of the house and made a big hole.

(Bend back the flap in the roof of your box. Lower your paper man on the mat through the flap and set the mat before Jesus.) They carefully lowered their friend down through the hole in the roof.

Imagine the surprise of the people in the house when they saw the paralyzed man being lowered down through a hole in the roof! Jesus loved the paralyzed man and wanted to help him. But Jesus wanted to do something even BETTER than helping the man's legs work again.

See, boys and girls, Jesus knew that the paralyzed man had a greater need than being able to walk again. He was a sinner. Remember what the A on your vest stands for? *(Hold up Cubbie vest and point to the A. Cubbies can also point to the A on their own vests.)* The A stands for All. Romans 3:23 says ... *All have sinned* Can you say that with me? *(Repeat the verse together.)* The paralyzed man was a sinner, like all of us. Do you remember what a sin is? A sin is anything we think *(point to your head)*, say *(point to your mouth)*

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or do *(hit your fist in your hand)* that disobeys God.

Jesus knew that He was the ONLY ONE who could forgive the paralyzed man's sin, and He also knew that the paralyzed man and His friends believed in Jesus. So He said, "Your sins are forgiven."

Now there were people in the crowd who did not believe that Jesus is God's Son. They did not understand that Jesus can forgive sin. To help these people understand, Jesus did something else very special that NOBODY ELSE could do. Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Get up! Pick up your mat and go home!"

(Display TC63.) And do you know what happened? The paralyzed man stood up! His legs were healed (which means his legs worked right again), and he could walk all the way home. *(Have children pretend to be the paralyzed man. Say, "Stand up and walk," and have children stand and walk in place.)*

The people who were watching then knew that Jesus is God. They were excited and praised God. *(Have Cubbies shout together, "Praise God!")*

(Display TC64.) Jesus loved the four friends and the paralyzed man. In fact, the Bible says that **Jesus loves all people.** *(Point to the Core Truth and have Cubbies repeat it with you.)* Jesus came to earth to love people. He healed people when they were hurt or sick. But the BEST way Jesus showed He loves all people was by forgiving their sin.

Jesus died on the cross so our sins can be forgiven. But Cubbies, Jesus did not stay dead. After three days *(count aloud to three and encourage Cubbies to count with you)*, Jesus came alive again!

(Open your Bible to Matthew 1:21.) Because Jesus died for our sin and then came alive again, He has the power to forgive sin. Our memory verse, Matthew 1:21, says: ... *Call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people*

from their sins. (Repeat the verse a few times with Cubbies.)

If you trust in Jesus as your Savior, God will forgive you of your sin. That means God won't be angry or punish you for your sin because Jesus took that punishment. God won't even remember your sin! After you trust Jesus as your Savior you can be God's friend and get to know Him better, and one day you can live with Him forever in heaven.

(Pay attention to any Cubbies who seem ready to learn more about how they can have their sin forgiven. Review the document "Sharing the Gospel with Cubbies" on the resource CD for helpful tips.)

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 15 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Bear Hug 15 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of the Bear Hug 15 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — cross stickers

Tell Cubbies to choose the path that will lead the four men and their friend to Jesus and draw a line to follow the path. Review the Bible story from Mark 2:1-12. Emphasize that Jesus is God. He loved the man who couldn't walk, and He had power to make the man walk. He also had power to forgive the man's sins. Jesus loves us too, and He forgives our sins. He died on the cross so our sins can be forgiven. Cubbies may draw a cross or place cross stickers on the back side of the sheet.

NOTE: Additional Handbook Time idea is on the Bear Hug 15 Handbook Leader Sheet.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

In all of these games, be sensitive to any Cubbies who are limited in mobility or have other physical limitations. Find a way to involve them in each game. For example, in IDEA 1, let them count all the happy or sad faces that are picked up by the group. In the relays, perhaps they could hand the towel, doll or animal to each team member.

IDEA 1: Happy and Sad Faces

What You Need

- Many happy and sad faces cut from paper or foam sheets (you may use the plate faces Cubbies made during Coming In)
- Timer

Scatter sad faces and happy faces on the floor of the playing area. Talk with Cubbies about how sad the paralytic man must have been when he could not move his legs. Set a timer and tell Cubbies to try to gather all the sad faces before the timer goes off. (They could set the sad faces in a line against a wall.) Talk about how happy the paralytic man must have been after Jesus forgave his sin and healed his legs. Set the timer and tell Cubbies to try to gather all the happy faces before the timer goes off. (They could set the happy faces in a line against another wall.) Return all the faces to the playing area to play again.

IDEA 2: Four Friends Relay 1

What You Need

For each relay group:

- Strand of rope
- Bath towel

Beforehand, roll up each towel tightly and tie it with a rope strand. Remind kids that after Jesus healed the paralytic (the man who couldn't walk), Jesus told the man to get up, pick up his mat and walk home. Divide Cubbies into relay groups of four or more. Give each group a rolled towel. Each group member will take a turn pretending to be the healed paralytic carrying his mat. The group member will walk, carrying the towel, to a designated spot and then return to give it to the next person in his group's line. With Cubbies, do not stress competition among groups. Just encourage all groups to do their best.

IDEA 3: Four Friends Relay 2

What You Need

For each relay group:

- Four dolls or stuffed animals
- Bath towel
- Box

Remind Cubbies about the four men who carried their friend to Jesus. Divide Cubbies into groups of four. (If necessary, some groups can have two or three.) Give each group a towel and four dolls or stuffed animal friends. Set a box at an equal distance from each group. On the leader's signal, the four Cubbies will set a doll or animal (the "friend") on a towel, each grab a corner of the towel, carry the towel quickly to the box (being careful not to drop the friend) and place the friend into the box. Then the team will return to get a new friend. Play continues until all the friends are safely in the boxes.

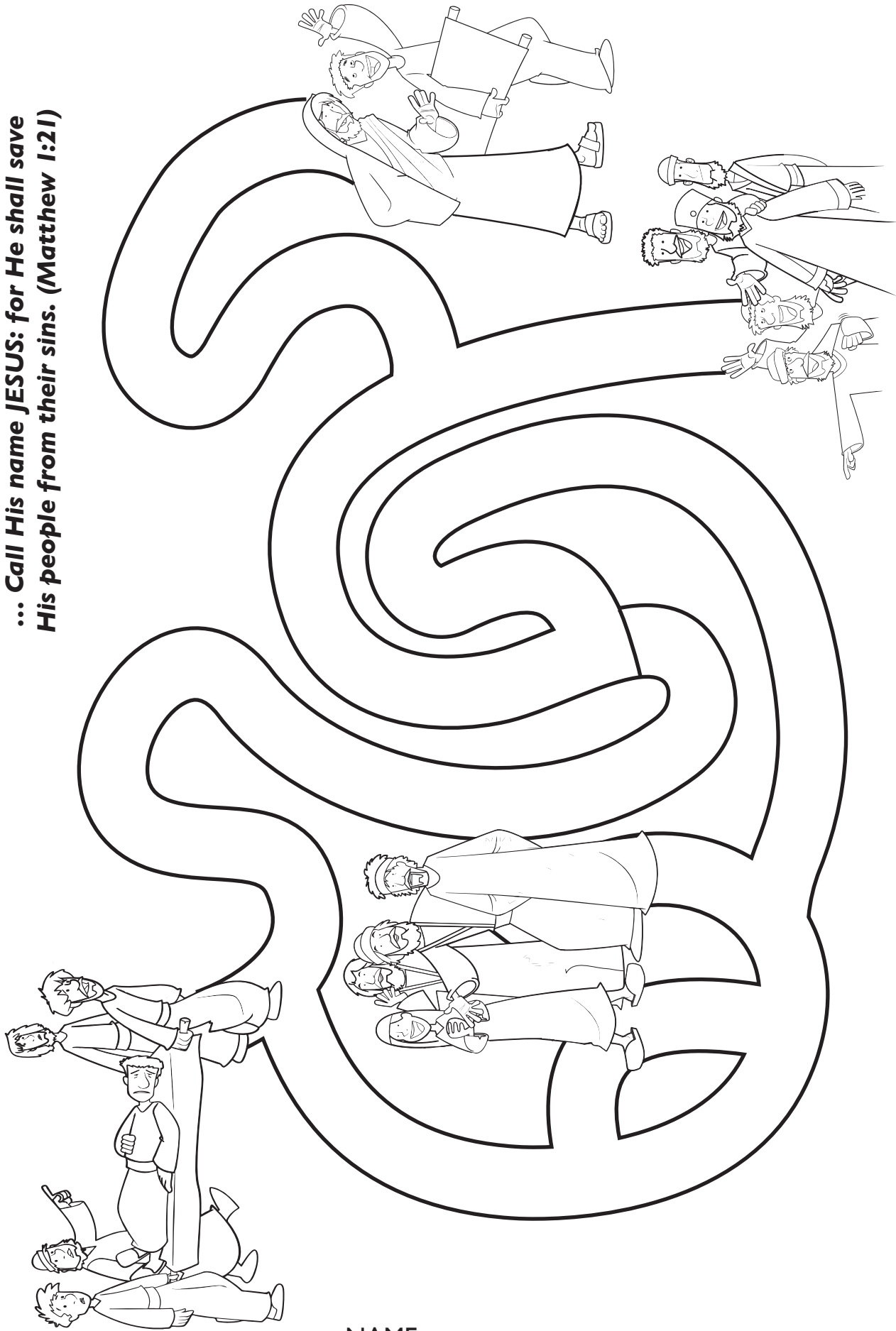
GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

For fun, play Simon Says but tell Cubbies to sit on the floor with legs extended. Only give commands that involve the upper body. Then switch to commands that only involve the legs.

Review the verse, Matthew 1:21, as Cubbies prepare to go home. Remind Cubbies that sin is anything we think (*point to your head*), say (*point to your mouth*) or do (*hit your fist in your hand*) that disobeys God. Let Cubbies repeat the definition of sin and motions with you several times. Add fun by speeding up or slowing down your motions.

This lesson may bring up sensitive issues with children who have physical limitations or other special needs. Review the document on the resource CD entitled "Can I Come Too?" for help in welcoming, including and engaging the diversity of Cubbies in your club.

... **Call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21)**

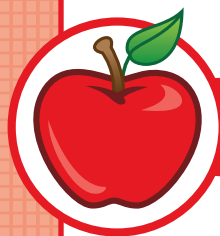


NAME: _____

Basic Instructions: Four men had a friend who could not walk. They wanted to bring their friend to Jesus, but they could not get inside the house because of all the people. Draw a line to follow the path that leads to Jesus. What did the men do to get their friend inside the house to Jesus? (Ask a grown-up to read Mark 2:1-12 to you if you don't remember.)

Even More Fun: Color all the people on the sheet.

Ultimate Fun: When Jesus saw the man, He forgave his sins and healed his legs. He told the man to get up, pick up his mat and go home! Draw a cross or place cross stickers on the back side of this sheet. Remember that Jesus died on the cross so our sins can be forgiven.


**BEAR
HUG 16**

Jesus Loves Two Daughters

Make It Stick: I John 5:11: ... *God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.* (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: Jesus loves all people. He healed the sick woman and made Jairus' daughter come alive again. Because Jesus is God, He has the power to heal, raise the dead and give us eternal life when we trust Him as Savior.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56; Revelation 21:1-4

Memorize: I John 5:11

This week's lesson features two daughters who both desperately needed the Savior's healing.

We meet the first daughter through her father, Jairus. Imagine the gripping fear that Jairus must have felt. His plea to Christ is desperate. He knew his little girl was running out of time and that this mysterious Teacher was her only hope.

The second daughter was a mysterious woman, known only by her illness. She too was eager for healing from a constant discharge of blood (likely menstrual bleeding) that not only brought discomfort, but it also made her a religious and social outcast. She could not enter the temple section reserved for women. If anyone touched her or any furniture she used, they would be ceremonially unclean until evening (Leviticus 15:19-33). By joining this crowd, she risked making everyone, including Jesus, unclean. Instead, Jesus healed her and made her clean. He called her "Daughter" and commended her faith in Him.

On that day, both of these daughters learned that Christ was their only hope. He is our only hope today as well. While Christ may not heal each of our physical ailments here on earth, we have the secure promise of ultimate healing when we meet our Savior face to face (Revelation 21:4).

Sensitively address any fears your Cubbies express about death. Some may have already faced the death of a beloved family member or pet. Gently remind them that Jesus died so we could have eternal life. That means someday those who trust Christ get to be alive forever with Him in heaven!

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see* that the LORD is good (Psalm 34:8)! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Remember that Jesus loves all people. He showed His love through healing the sick, forgiving sin and giving us eternal life.
2. Recognize Jesus' power to heal people and raise them from the dead. He is God!
3. Learn that if they trust Jesus as Savior, they are promised eternal life and do not have to fear death.
4. Understand that eternal life is life with the Lord Jesus, both now and forever.

5. _____

(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

IDEA 1: Touch and Feel Collage or Bag

What You Need

- Construction Paper
- Glue sticks
- Scraps of varied textures for the collage (e.g., felt, sand paper, foil, burlap, bubble wrap, leaves, cotton balls, fabric)
- Several bags
- Variety of items for the bags (e.g., small ball, crayon, toy car, Lego block, spoon, cotton ball, sock, rock)

To make a touch-and-feel collage, Cubbies glue various scraps on a paper. Ask the Cubbies to rub their fingers over each scrap. Talk about how the items feel. If you are making touch-and-feel bags, place a few items in each bag. Let Cubbies take turns reaching into the bags to choose an item. Using only their sense of touch, they must guess the item before pulling it out of the bag. After either activity, ask Cubbies, "What do you like to touch with your hands? Why do you think God made our hands to feel things? In our Bible story today, we will hear about a woman who touched part of Jesus' clothes, and an amazing thing happened!"

IDEA 2: Jairus' Daughter Craft

What You Need

- Copy of the room scene for each Cubbie (resource CD)
- Precut daughter upper body for each Cubbie (resource CD)
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Brads (paper fasteners)

Give each Cubbie a room scene and daughter body to color. Leaders will help Cubbies attach the daughter body on the bed with a brad. (Line up the holes and insert the brad through the holes.) As Cubbies move the girl to make her lie down in the bed and sit up, review the biblical account of Jesus raising Jairus' daughter from the dead.

IDEA 3: Health Helpers

What You Need

- Toy doctor kit
- Dolls or stuffed animals
- Baby blankets
- Adhesive bandages and other first-aid supplies
- *Optional* — items to make cards for people who are sick, such as construction paper, crayons, stickers

Cubbies can pretend to care for sick dolls or animals. They can also pretend to be sick and care for each other. As they play, talk about any people they know who are sick. Ask Cubbies if they remember reading a Bible story in their handbooks about a woman and a girl who were both very sick. Discuss what happened in the story. If desired, help Cubbies make cards for any Cubbies who are absent due to sickness, or people who are in the hospital or on the church's prayer list. Explain that when Jesus was on earth, he showed love to everybody, including those who were hurting or sick. We can show love to people too.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, unit Core Truth: Jesus Loves All People and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Luvie Lamb puppet
- *Optional* — three whistles, string, a handmade card.

(Beforehand, make a simple card that says "Get Well Soon." Sign the names of Cubbie Bear, Timothy, Luvie Lamb and Katie Collie inside the card. Place the card within reach. Use string to hang a whistle around Cubbie's neck and a whistle around Luvie's neck. Adjust the string so the whistles stay secure during the puppet show. Give the third whistle to another leader or keep it yourself.)

LEADER: Last week we learned that Cubbie and his friends are part of the special Help Club. I wonder if they have been able to help any more people on the farm? Let's call to Cubbie and see if he can tell us. Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(After children call out, bring the Cubbie puppet into view, hopping around excitedly.)

LEADER: Hi, Cubbie Bear! We were just wondering if your Help Club has been able to help more people on the farm.

CUBBIE *(nodding excitedly)*: Yes, we have! Today Timothy and I were walking around the farm, looking for people to help. Katie Collie was busy watching the playground, and Luvie Lamb was keeping an eye on the petting zoo. We all had our whistles ready to blow in case we saw someone who needed our help!

(If Cubbie is wearing a whistle, point to it now.)

CUBBIE: Timothy and I asked if we could help a man who was painting the barn, but he was almost done. Just then, we heard a sharp whistle.

(As a fun option, ask Cubbies if they would like to hear how a whistle sounds and you or another leader will blow a whistle.)

LEADER: Who blew the whistle you heard on the farm today, Cubbie?

(Bring Luvie Lamb into view, giggling.)

LUVIE *(still giggling)*: It was me!

LEADER: Did you see someone who needed help, Luvie?

LUVIE: I sure did. Timothy's friend Mia looked sad. She was holding her tummy.

LEADER: What was wrong with Mia?

LUVIE: Her tummy hurt and she felt sick.

CUBBIE: Timothy ran to tell his mom, and his mom came and took Mia to the first-aid room on the farm. The first aid room is the place where people try to help you feel better when you're hurt or sick.

LUVIE: Then Timothy made Mia a special card. We all signed it too!

(If you have the card prop, hold up the card, read the front out loud and read the names on the inside of the card.)

LEADER: That was really kind of Timothy. I'm so glad you were able to help Mia!

CUBBIE: Me too! *(To Luvie)* Luvie, don't you think we should be going now? I want to stop by the first-aid room and make sure Mia is feeling better.

LUVIE: You're right, Cubbie! Bye, everybody!

(Have children wave goodbye as the puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during the club meeting.

IDEA 1: Graham Cracker Bandages

What You Need

- Cinnamon graham crackers
- Vanilla frosting
- Knife for leader's use
- *Optional* — strawberry jelly

Break each graham cracker into four rectangles. Spread a small square of frosting in the middle of each cracker so that it resembles a bandage. If desired, and if Cubbies will be entertained, spoon a small amount of jelly on the white frosting to resemble blood. Ask Cubbies why Jesus was able to heal the sick and make dead people come alive again. Why can He do that.

IDEA 2: Thumbprint Cookies

What You Need

- Thumbprint cookies (store-bought or homemade; recipes are online)

Ask Cubbies why they think these cookies got their name. Tell them a person makes the cookies by pressing their thumb into the dough. Ask, "Who used her hand to touch Jesus in our Bible story? Why did she touch Him? What did Jesus do for her?"

IDEA 3: Healthy Snacks

What You Need

- An assortment of healthy snacks (e.g., orange sections, hummus and whole grain crackers, peeled cucumbers and dip, banana rounds, raspberries, seedless watermelon slices)

As you serve the snack, explain to Cubbies that God helps us when we are sick, but He also wants us to take good care of our bodies. One way we can do that is to eat healthy snacks.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **"Jesus Loves Me"** Consider teaching kids the sign language for this song.
- **"J-E-S-U-S"** (from Bear Hug 15) Sing the first verse about the lame man and add this new verse, followed by the verse about Jesus saving us from sin. Talk about the power Jesus has because He is the Son of God.

Who can make a dead girl live?
Do you know His name?
J-E-S-U-S (*Sing 3 times.*)
Jesus is His name.

Who can save us from our sins?
Do you know His name?
J-E-S-U-S (*Sing 3 times.*)
Jesus is His name.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, has there ever been a time when you were hurt or sick and then you felt better? Do you know someone who is sick or hurt right now? (*Pause for responses.*) We can pray for that person. God knows the best thing to do for everyone. No matter what, we can ALWAYS talk to God about what we want and need. God ALWAYS hears our prayers, and He can make us feel better, even when we're sick or hurting.

(If a Cubbie mentioned a specific request, ask that child if he or she would like to pray for that request. If not, pray for each of the requests aloud. If you have a large group, encourage Cubbies to silently pray for a sick or injured person as you pray out loud.)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)**What You Need**

- Teaching Cards (TC) 64-69
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Mark 5:21-43 and 1 John 5:11
- *Optional* — Bible-time costumes

(Adapt and personalize the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

Optional: Ask several leaders to act out the story as you tell it. For extra fun, encourage them to dress up in Bible-time costumes. If possible, enlist the help of a young teen girl to act out the part of Jairus' daughter.

I hope Mia feels better soon. It's no fun to be sick. Have you ever been sick? Who took care of you and helped you to feel better? *(Pause for children's responses.)*

(Display TC64. Point to the Core Truth). Jesus loves all people. (Have Cubbies repeat the Core Truth two times.) When Jesus lived on earth, He showed His love by helping many people. He did many special things to help people understand that He is God's Son!

(Open your Bible to Mark 5:21-43.) One day while Jesus was teaching people about His Father, God, a man came up to Jesus.

(Display TC65.) His name was Jairus. He had a big problem, and he needed Jesus to help Him. Jairus knelt down at Jesus' feet. "Jesus," he begged, "will you please help my daughter? She is very sick and about to die! Please come to my house and touch her so that she may live."

Jesus loved Jairus and his little girl. Jesus was happy to help them! Jesus and His friends, the disciples, left with Jairus to go back to his home where the little girl was. A large crowd of people followed them.

(Display TC66.) Jairus was NOT the only person who needed help from Jesus that day. In the crowd of people there was also a sick woman.

(Point to the woman.) This woman felt very sad. She had been sick for 12 years, and no doctors could help her feel better. But she had heard many wonderful things about Jesus. She believed that all she had to do was touch Jesus' clothes and Jesus could make her well.

The woman moved closer to Jesus, but she didn't want anyone to see her. She wasn't supposed to be near people because she was so sick. *(Act out these next sentences as if you were the sick woman.)* She bent down and watched carefully. When Jesus walked by, she snuck up behind Him and touched a part of his clothes. As soon as she touched Jesus, her body felt better. She was healed!

(Note: The woman touched the fringe of Jesus' garment (Luke 8:44), which likely refers to the blue and white corded tassels worn by Jewish men, either on the four corners of their outer garment or on the prayer shawl. They wore these in obedience to Numbers 15:38-41 and Deuteronomy 22:12.)

Jesus turned around. "Who touched Me?" He asked. Many people were pressing up close to Jesus, but Jesus knew He had healed someone.

(Display TC67.) The woman knew she couldn't hide anymore. Shaking with fear, she fell before Jesus and told Jesus and everyone what she had done and how her body had been healed. Jesus loved her, and He was happy that the woman believed that He could heal her. He said, "Daughter, your faith has healed you."

(Point to the men speaking to Jairus.) The lady was happy, but others in the crowd were sad. Do you remember Jairus? He wanted Jesus to hurry to help his sick daughter. *(Point to Jairus in the picture.)*

Several men from Jairus' home came to him with bad news. "Jairus, your little girl has died. Do not bother Jesus anymore." Jairus was so sad, but Jesus said to him, "Do not be afraid. Just believe in Me."

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(Display TC68.) When Jesus got to Jairus' house, many people were sad and crying loudly. Other people were playing sad songs on their pipes. **(Note: People hired professional mourners and musicians at funerals in New Testament times.)** Jesus told them all to leave. Then only Jesus, the girl's father, Jairus, and the little girl's mother were there in the house. Jesus' disciples, Peter, James and John, were also there. On a bed was the 12-year-old girl who had died.

(Display TC69.) Jesus knelt beside the little girl and took her hand. He said, "Little girl, arise!" Cubbies, do you know what happened? The little girl opened her eyes! She was alive again! Jesus helped her out of bed and she started walking around. Jairus and the girl's mother were so happy and surprised! Only Jesus could make a dead person alive again, because Jesus is God.

(Open your Bible to 1 John 5:11.) Cubbies, it is sad to think about dying, but we do not have to be sad or afraid. Our memory verse, 1 John 5:11, says: ... *God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.* **(Repeat the verse twice with Cubbies.)** This verse means that if we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we will have ETERNAL life! Eternal life is life with the Lord Jesus, both now and forever. If our bodies die, we will go right to heaven, and we will be alive forever with Jesus. And one day, when Jesus comes back, He will give us new bodies that will never, ever get sick or die.

Remember, Cubbies, Jesus gave us ETERNAL life because He loves us. I am so glad that Jesus is our powerful God. Let's praise Jesus by singing a song. **(Sing together "My God Is So Big" or "Awesome God." Add motions as desired.)**

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 16 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Bear Hug 16 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of the Bear Hug 16 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* – stickers, tissue squares or other items to glue on cross

Review the Bible story as Cubbies complete the dot-to-dot cross. If time allows, Cubbies can complete the fun options at the bottom of the page. Remind Cubbies that Jesus loved all people. He showed His love by healing the sick, forgiving sin and giving us eternal life. Recite 1 John 5:11. Explain to Cubbies that when they trust Jesus Christ as Savior, they receive eternal life. Eternal life is life with the Lord Jesus, both now and forever. Someday they will go to heaven and be alive with Jesus there forever.

NOTE: Additional Handbook Time idea is on the Bear Hug 16 Leader Sheet.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Play the Cubbies' favorite game from Bear Hug 15 as a review.

IDEA 1: Touch Tag**What You Need**

- Pool noodle(s) cut in half (or soft balls)

Give pool noodles to a few Cubbies. The rest of the Cubbies will scatter around the play area and try to avoid being touched by leaders. Once they are touched, they must sit on the floor and wait for a Cubbie to come by and touch them with a pool noodle. Once touched, they may get up and resume play. Periodically let Cubbies switch roles, so everyone gets a chance to hold the pool noodles. Talk about what happened when the sick woman touched Jesus and when Jesus touched the hand of the dead girl. Emphasize the power Jesus has because He is God.

IDEA 2: Touch Relay**What You Need**

For each relay group:

- Basket or box
- Supply of items of different textures

Divide Cubbies into groups. Fill each group's basket with textured items and set the baskets at one end of the game area, while groups stand in line at the opposite end. The first person in each group will listen for the leader's instruction. The leader may say, "Go find something bumpy." Cubbies will run to their team basket, search for something bumpy (using only their sense of touch) and bring it back to their group. Then the next Cubbie in each group will take a turn. The game leader can ask Cubbies to look for items that are hard, soft, smooth, squishy, etc. Continue until each group member has a chance to run to the basket.

IDEA 3: Who Touched Me?**What You Need**

- Blindfold

Cubbies stand in a circle around one blindfolded Cubbie. Cubbies are very quiet as the game

leader points to a Cubbie who sneaks up, touches the blindfolded Cubbie and runs back to his place in the circle. The game leader tells the Cubbie in the middle to remove her blindfold and guess who touched her. If she guesses correctly, she switches spots with that Cubbie and the game is repeated. Ask the Cubbies if anyone asked "Who touched Me?" in the Bible story. After Jesus asked this question, what happened? Remind Cubbies of what the sick woman did and what Jesus said to her and did for her.

IDEA 4: Jesus Loves, YOU!**What You Need**

- Nothing

Play this game just like Duck, Duck, Goose. Cubbies sit in a circle. One person walks around the outside of the circle, tapping people on the head while he says, "Jesus loves ..." When he reaches the person he wants to tag, he shouts "YOU!" Whoever is tapped on "YOU," gets up and chases the tagger around the circle, trying to tag him before he sits down in the vacated spot. The tapped person then begins tapping people on the head. Remind Cubbies that Jesus knows and loves us all.

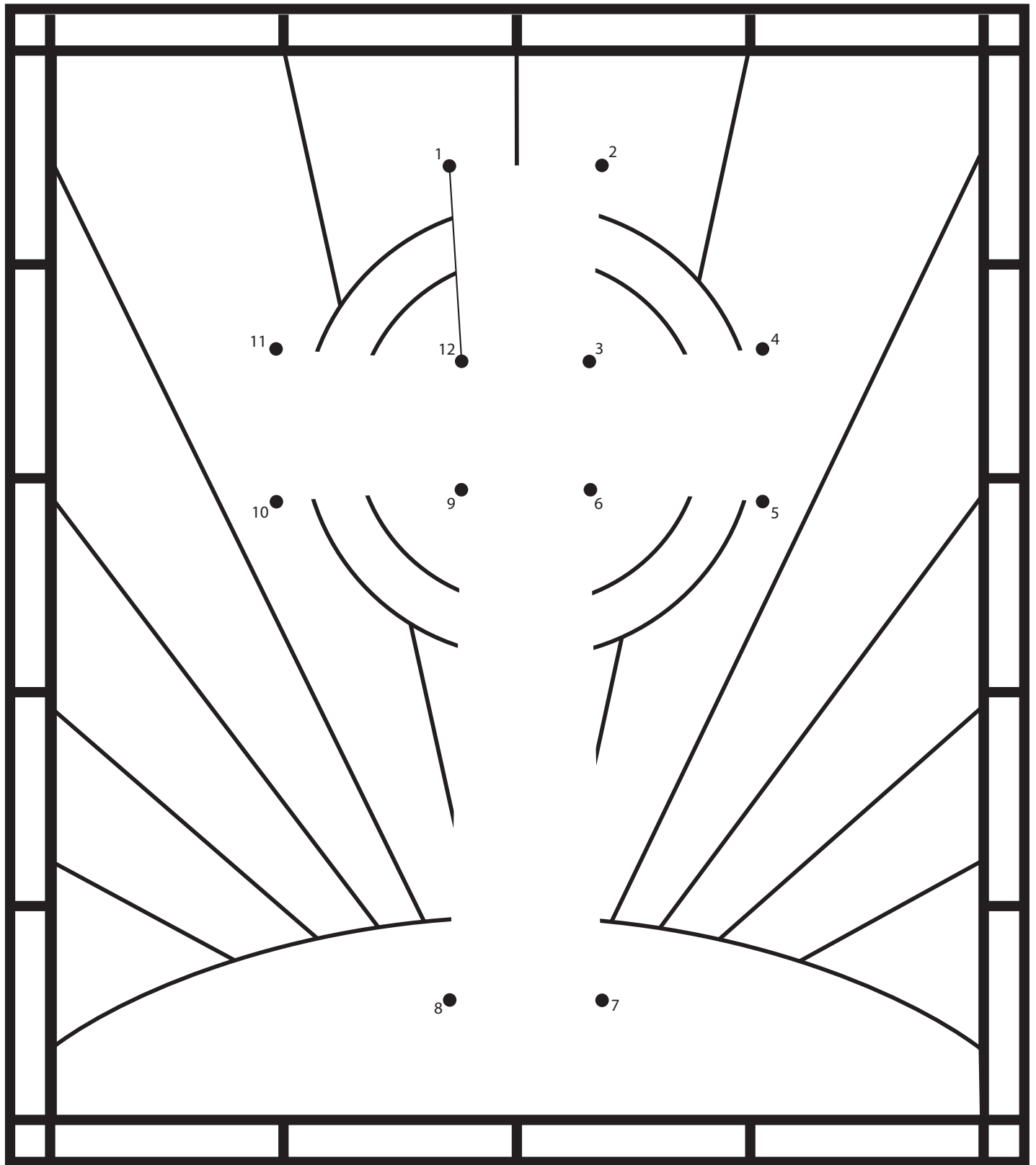
GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

This lesson was about the power of touch — Jesus' touch. Touch is also powerful in the life of your Cubbies. Be sure that your physical touch is safe, appropriate and nurturing. Follow your church's child protection policy.

You can also make a point of touching each child visually, verbally, emotionally and mentally each week. Touch a child visually by looking at her and smiling! To add a verbal touch, call the child by name and say you are glad she is at Cubbies. Be alert to Cubbies' feelings so you can touch them emotionally and show your concern. Of course, throughout the meeting, you will be touching them mentally through all the Total Time Teaching activities. All your various touches should aim to reflect the great love of the Lord Jesus for each Cubbie.

**... God hath given to us eternal life,
and this life is in His Son. (1 John 5:11)**

NAME: _____



Basic Instructions: Starting at number 1, connect all 12 dots to complete the picture. Leaders should help any Cubbies who are too young to recognize numbers.

Even More Fun: Color the picture. Add stickers, tissue paper or other embellishments you have to the cross.

Ultimate Fun: Tell your parent (guardian) or leader what Jesus did for us on the cross. Jesus died on the cross for our sins and came alive again. All those who trust in Jesus will have eternal life. Eternal life is life with the Lord Jesus, both now and forever (in heaven).


**BEAR
HUG 17**

Jesus Loves the Crowd of 5,000

Make It Stick: Matthew 6:11: *Give us this day our daily bread.*

The Big Buzz: Jesus is God. He performed the miraculous feeding of the 5,000 to show people that He is God and that He loves them.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: John 6:1-15; Matthew 6

Memorize: Matthew 6:11

The account of the miracle in John 6:1-15 is familiar to most people. But have you ever stopped to think about how this miracle affected the different types of people who surrounded Jesus?

The disciples learned from the miracle that their Master and Teacher cared about the spiritual *and* physical needs of people.

The little boy learned that Jesus could perform the greatest miracles from even the smallest things.

The people saw that He loved them and was powerful enough to meet their needs.

How does your heart respond to this miracle today? Perhaps you are worried about a seeming lack of spiritual or physical resources in an area of your life. You wonder how God will provide. Maybe you want to serve Christ, but you feel small and insignificant. You wonder how God could use you. Or your family may be facing a crisis that seems insurmountable. You wonder how God will show His mighty power.

Remember this: Your Savior knows your situation, and He is already at work to resolve it for His glory. Trust in Him today to meet your every need.

And just as you have struggles, remember that your Cubbies also face problems. What may seem almost comical to you (an "owie" or a lost toy) may be a major ordeal in their little minds. Let your Cubbies know that Jesus cares about the needs on their hearts. They can always take their cares and concerns — no matter how big or how small — to the Great Provider. He will always care about them (1 Peter 5:7).

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see* that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8)! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Remember that Jesus is God, and He can do anything!
2. Understand that Jesus loves all people.
3. Learn how Jesus provided for the needs of the humungous crowd in a miraculous way.
4. Trust God daily to meet their physical and spiritual needs.
5. _____
6. _____

(Add the goals the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

IDEA 1: Play Restaurant

What You Need

- Toy food, dishes and utensils
- Tables and chairs

Let Cubbies set up a pretend restaurant and serve each other. Choose some Cubbies to be cooks, others to be servers and others to be guests. After a while, ask if they have enough food to feed all the Cubbies. If not, how could they get more food? Would they have enough food to feed all the people in the church? How could they get more food? Talk about the miraculous way Jesus made more than enough bread and fish appear to feed a huge crowd. Emphasize that Jesus is God, and He can do anything!

IDEA 2: Our Daily Bread Craft

What You Need

- Precut bread slices printed on brown card stock (resource CD)
- Precut bread slices with verse printed on white paper (resource CD)
- Glue sticks
- Adhesive strip magnets
- *Optional* — stickers of Bibles and children praying (resource CD)

Cubbies each glue a white bread slice with verse on a brown bread slice pattern. (To give the craft extra challenge, draw the larger bread slice on cardboard and cut it out to make a tracer. Cubbies can use the tracer to trace a bread slice on brown card stock and then cut out the slice.) Cubbies may choose to add a sticker of a Bible or child praying above or below the verse. Leaders attach a magnet strip to the back of each Cubbie's bread craft so Cubbies can display the craft at home as a reminder to trust God each day to love and provide for them.

IDEA 3: Sharing Activities

What You Need

- Blocks
- Puzzles
- Sets of toys that encourage group play (barn with animals, road or tracks with cars and trains on it, kitchen or home center)

Encourage Cubbies to play together as they arrive so that they have to share things. They could build a block tower together or work together on a floor puzzle. Ask if any of them remember a boy in the Bible who shared something. Talk about the boy who shared his five loaves of bread and two fishes with Jesus. Jesus made the boy's lunch grow so big that it fed a whole crowd.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, unit Core Truth: Jesus Loves All People and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- *Optional* — whistle to hang around Cubbie's neck, string, lunchbox

(Beforehand, use string to secure the optional whistle around Cubbie's neck. Set the lunchbox within reach.)

LEADER: I wonder if Cubbie Bear and the other members of the Help Club have been able to help anyone today? Let's call to Cubbie and ask him. Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(After children call out, bring the Cubbie puppet into view, hopping back and forth.)

CUBBIE *(still hopping back and forth excitedly):* Hello, boys and girls!

LEADER: Cubbie, we were just wondering if you and the other members of the Help Club were able to help someone today.

CUBBIE *(laughs):* Yep, we sure were! See, Timothy and I were walking around the farm again. We had our whistles ready, looking and listening for anyone who needed help!

(If Cubbie is wearing a whistle, point to it now.)

CUBBIE: Timothy and I walked over to the picnic tables. There were some children from a school visiting Apple Acres Farm. It was their lunchtime, and most of the children were busy eating their yummy lunches that their moms had packed for them.

LEADER: Oh, boy! A picnic on Apple Acres Farm sounds like a lot of fun!

CUBBIE: It *usually* is, but today we noticed one little boy who did not look like he was having fun at all! In fact, he seemed sad.

LEADER: What was wrong, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: He accidentally dropped his sandwich in a puddle. His sandwich got so wet and soggy that he couldn't even eat it! And that was all he had for lunch.

LEADER: What did you do?

CUBBIE: Timothy said we should share our lunches with him. At first, I wasn't so sure. I had planned to enjoy an apple and some fresh honey for my lunch. I was hungry, and I didn't know if my lunch was big enough to share. But Timothy said that his grandma would pack him an extra-big lunch. So we both hurried to get our lunches.

(If you are using a lunchbox for a prop, hold it up now. Ask, "Cubbie, is this your lunchbox?" Have Cubbie nod his head.)

LEADER: What happened next, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: Once we had our lunches, Timothy and I sat down next to the boy. I gave him a shiny red apple and some of my fresh, delicious honey. Timothy shared half of his sandwich, some carrots, crackers and a cookie. The boy was so happy that we shared our lunches with him.

LEADER: I'm so proud of you, Cubbie! You and Timothy are wonderful members of the Help Club. Boys and girls, let's show Cubbie Bear that we are happy he chose to help by sharing his lunch. On the count of three let's shout, "Hooray, Cubbie!" One — two — three. HOORAY, CUBBIE!

CUBBIE *(laughs):* Thanks, Cubbies. *(To the leader)* I need to get going. There may be more people on Apple Acres Farm who need my help. Goodbye, everyone!

(Have children wave goodbye as the Cubbie puppet is put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during club.

IDEA 1: Pita Bread and Fish Crackers**What You Need**

- Pita bread
- Fish-shaped crackers
- Cups of grape juice or juice boxes
- Plates

Serve each Cubbie a half of the pita bread and a few crackers. Direct Cubbies to break the bread into smaller pieces, just like Jesus did before He served the crowd. For added fun, let them sit on the floor while they eat and pretend they are sitting on the green grass like the crowd in the Bible story.

IDEA 2: Tuna Salad and Crackers**What You Need**

- Tuna salad
- Crackers

Tell Cubbies that people from the Bible, who lived where Jesus lived, ate fish for most of their meals. Remind Cubbies that the boy in the story had two fish and five loaves of bread for his lunch. Encourage Cubbies to try a little of the tuna salad first. If they don't like it, serve them plain crackers.

IDEA 2: Sliced Bread**What You Need**

- Bread slices
- Spreads (e.g., butter, cream cheese or jelly)

Serve bread slices topped with a favorite spread to remind Cubbies that the Lord provides for our daily needs. Review Matthew 6:11 with Cubbies before they eat.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **“Matthew 6:11”** from the *HoneyComb Handbook Music CD*
- **“God Is So Good”** or any other song that expresses thankfulness to God
- **“J-E-S-U-S”** (from Bear Hugs 15 and 16)
Sing the first verse about the lame man, the second verse about the dead girl and then add this new verse, followed by the verse about Jesus saving us from sin.

Who can feed a hungry crowd?
Do you know His name?
J-E-S-U-S (*Sing 3 times.*)
Jesus is His name.

Who can save us from our sins?
Do you know His name?
J-E-S-U-S (*Sing 3 times.*)
Jesus is His name.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Jesus loves people. He showed His love to many people by helping them. Jesus can help you too! Every day, we can talk to God and ask Him to help us. Is there something you would like to ask God's help for? (*Give several suggestions relevant to your preschoolers, such as being obedient to Mom and Dad, loving a brother or sister.*) Let's pray and ask God to help us right now.

(Thank God for always being with us and for helping us. If any Cubbies mention a request, pray specifically for those requests now. If you have a large class, ask several leaders to take a group of Cubbies and pray with them.)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 64, 70-72
- Bible with bookmarks placed at John 6:1-15 and Matthew 6:11
- *Optional* — a piggy bank or jar with a few coins inside, two fish and five bread loaves cut from construction paper (patterns on resource CD), small basket, pieces of bread and fish crackers, string, clothespins, pictures of items that we need (resource CD), bag

(Before class, cut out the optional five loaves of bread and two fish from construction paper and set them in a basket. Print the optional pictures of items we need from the resource CD. Place the pictures in a bag. Hang string between two points in your classroom, like a clothesline. Place clothespins nearby.)

(Adapt and personalize the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

I'm glad that Timothy and Cubbie shared their lunches with the little boy. Have you ever been hungry? Who gave you food to eat?

(Pause for replies.)

Today we're going to hear a story from the Bible about a lot of people who were hungry. Jesus fed them in a special way! But first, let's say our Core Truth together.

(Display TC64 and direct children to repeat "Jesus loves all people" together two times.) When Jesus lived on earth, He showed His love in many ways. He healed people who were sick, and He even made dead people come alive again! Jesus wanted people to know that He is God and that He was the ONLY one who could forgive sin.

(Open your Bible to John 6:1-15 and display TC70.) Many people wanted to know more about the wonderful things that Jesus did. So whenever Jesus came to their town, they would hurry to meet Him. One day there were LOTS of people

who came to hear Jesus. He taught the people many things about Himself and His Father, God.

The people listened to Jesus for a very long time. Soon it was almost dinnertime. The people were getting hungry! *(Tell Cubbies to rub their tummies.)*

(Point to the disciples on TC70.) Jesus' special helpers, the disciples, told Jesus, "Tell the people to go and get food to eat in the towns nearby." But Jesus loved the people. He wanted to do something very special to show them He was God and that He cared for them. Jesus told the disciples to give the people food.

The disciples did not have food to give to the people, *(hold up the optional piggy bank and shake it)* and they did not have money to buy food for all of them. What were they going to do?

(Point to Andrew and the boy in TC70.) Andrew, one of Jesus' disciples, found a little boy who had brought food with him. Let's see what the little boy had for his food. *(Pull out your basket containing the optional paper fish and bread. Have Cubbies count the fish and the bread.)* This was just enough food for the little boy. It was not enough food to feed ALL the people.

(Display TC71.) But remember: Jesus is God. He can do ANYTHING! He knew that the people needed to eat. So He took the little boy's food. Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed and thanked God for the food.

(Display TC72.) After Jesus had prayed, He broke the bread into pieces and gave the bread and the fish to His helpers, the disciples. He told them to give the food to the people. *(Ask leaders to pass out optional fish crackers and pieces of bread to Cubbies.)*

And do you know what happened, Cubbies? The food NEVER RAN OUT! Every man, woman and child in that humungous crowd of people was able to eat as much as they wanted. And there were even 12 baskets of food left over! *(With Cubbies, count the baskets on the ground in TC72.)* Because Jesus is God, He was able to give

continued on next page

continued from previous page

the people all the food they needed and more. The people were happy! *(Have Cubbies stand and shout, “Praise God” together.)*

Optional: If time permits, have children act out the story with the paper fish, bread and basket, taking turns being the disciples, the crowd, the boy with the lunch, and Jesus.

(Open your Bible to Matthew 6:11.) Cubbies, Jesus also loves us and gives us what we need. Our memory verse today reminds us that Jesus cares for our needs every day. Matthew 6:11 says: *Give us this day our daily bread.* Let’s say our verse together. *(Repeat the verse several times.)*

There are many things that we need. Cubbies, what are some things we need? *(Possible responses are house, a bed, clothes, friends, family, medicine, Bible and food. You may have a child who comes from a poorer home or who knows somebody who does. The way that God provides physical things for us today is through the church. Show God’s love to the child by providing a meal or other help to the family.)*

Optional: If you brought the pictures, tell Cubbies that each of the pictures reminds us of something that we need. Choose a Cubbie to pull out a picture from the bag. Help that child use the clothespin to attach the picture to the string. Then have the children say together, “Thank You, God, for (insert the item in the picture).” Continue until all the pictures are hung.

I am glad that Jesus provides all of these things that we need. But I am even happier that Jesus gives us what we need most of all. Jesus died on the cross for our sin. Let’s praise God for being so good to us and meeting our needs. *(Sing “God Is So Good” together.)*

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 17 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

IDEA 1: Bear Hug 17 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of the Bear Hug 17 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — pairs of child-sized scissors, paper plates, glue sticks

Tell Cubbies to color all the foods they like to eat on the page and cross off the foods they do not like to eat. Pray and thank God together for good food to eat. Ask the Cubbies what other things God gives to them. Help them think of both material and spiritual blessings (e.g., family, toys, church, home, Bible, salvation from sin, love). As a fun option, Cubbies may cut out the foods they colored and glue them onto a paper plate.

IDEA 2: Loaves and Fish Lunch Basket

What You Need

- Loaves and fish patterns (resource CD)
- Crayons
- Brown paper lunch bags
- Pairs of child-sized scissors
- Stapler for leader’s use

Precut the loaves and fish patterns or let Cubbies cut them out at club. (Many Cubbies should be developing in their cutting skills.) Cubbies should color the loaves and fish. Then show the Cubbies how to cut off the top of a flattened paper lunch bag to make a basket. They cut a strip from the discarded part of the bag to make a handle for the basket. Leaders staple the handle to the basket. (See craft photo and instructions on resource CD.) Cubbies place their loaves and fish in the basket and use the items to retell the Bible story to someone.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Play one or two of the Cubbies' favorite games from the last two lessons as a review. Add one new game.

IDEA 1: Pass the Bread, Please**What You Need**

- Several beanbags (or use white paper wads)
- Baskets or boxes

All Cubbies stand an arm's length away from each other in a line. Place a basket of "bread" (beanbags) at the start of the line and an empty basket at the end of the line. To begin the game, say, "Pass the bread, please." The first Cubbie in line picks up one beanbag and quickly passes it to the next Cubbie who passes it down the line. As soon as the first Cubbie passes her beanbag, she reaches into the basket for another one and quickly passes it along. Beanbags are continuously moving down the line. Once a beanbag reaches the Cubbie at the end of the line, that Cubbie drops it into the basket. The game ends when all beanbags are in the basket at the end of the line. To play again, reverse the direction.

IDEA 2: Fish and Bread Relay**What You Need**

- Baskets
- Several white paper wads (loaves of bread)
- Several beanbags (fish)

Divide Cubbies into groups. Give each group several loaves of bread and fish. One at a time, Cubbies must choose an item and run to put it in their group's basket. Once they return to their group, the next player may go. Ask the Cubbies to tell you what happened with the loaves and fish in the Bible lesson today.

IDEA 3: Pick Up the Leftovers**What You Need**

- A large assortment of pom-poms (or use white paper wads from prior ideas)
- A paper lunch bag for each Cubbie

Remind Cubbies that after Jesus fed the crowd of 5,000. His disciples filled 12 baskets with food! Scatter pompoms on the floor. These will represent leftover fish and bread pieces. Give each Cubbie a lunch bag. They will pretend to be the disciples gathering the leftovers. On the game leader's signal, they will run and start picking up pom-poms to put in their bags.

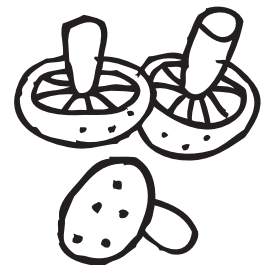
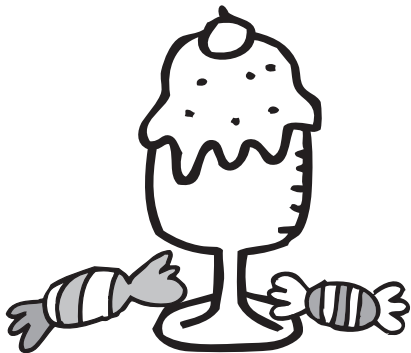
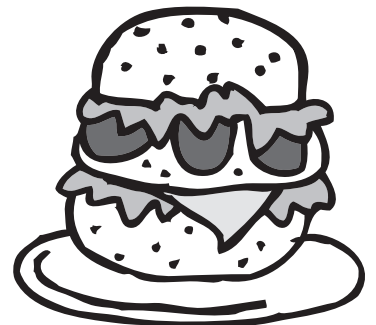
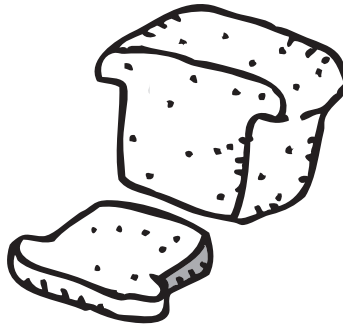
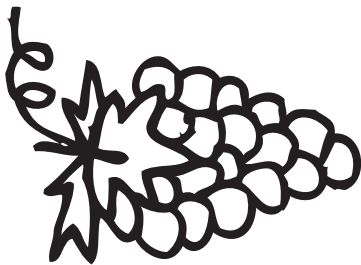
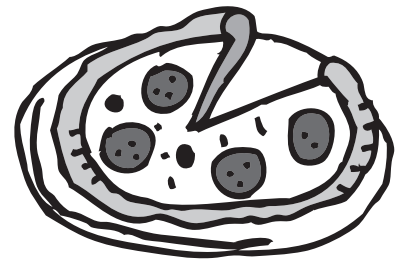
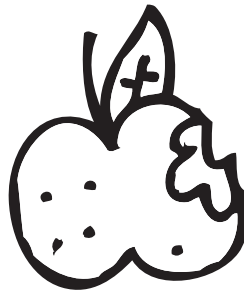
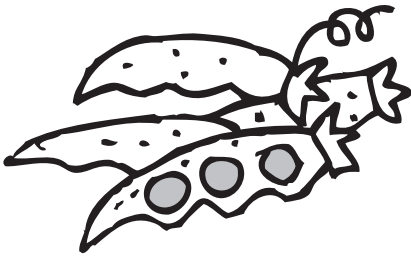
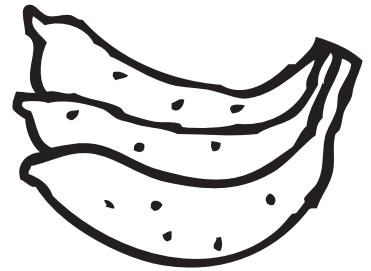
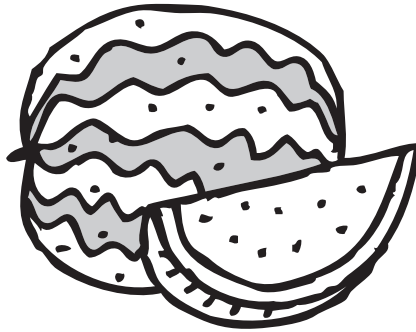
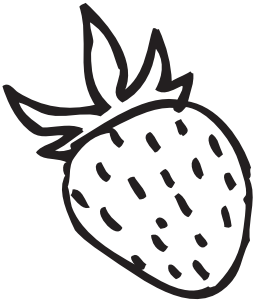
GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

If Cubbies made a Loaves and Fish Lunch Basket during Handbook Time, allow the children to retell the Bible story to leaders using their craft. This is a great way to discover what they heard and understood. Correct any misconceptions and celebrate what they have learned. Encourage them to use their craft to tell the story to someone at home.

Remember, Cubbies are sensory learners. As you prepare your lessons, read the biblical account and try to visualize the scene unfolding before you. What would you have heard, seen, smelled, tasted, touched or felt? For example, in today's lesson, think about the grass on the mountainside tickling your sandaled feet, the pungent smell of fish, the sound of waves lapping the shore, the growling of your neighbor's stomach and the voice of Jesus. Then incorporate these things into your teaching of God's Word. Let Cubbies smell an open can of tuna fish. Play sounds of waves or water falling in the background. Serve Cubbies bread as they sit and listen to the lesson. Bring God's Word to life for your Cubbies, for indeed His Word IS alive!

Give us this day our daily bread.
(Matthew 6:11)

NAME: _____



Basic Instructions: Color the foods you like to eat. Draw an X over the foods you do not like to eat.

Even More Fun: Cut out the foods you colored on the dashed lines.

Ultimate Fun: Glue the foods you cut out onto a paper plate. Pray and thank God for giving us many different kinds of good foods to eat.


**BEAR
HUG 18**

Unit 4 Review

Make It Stick: Matthew 1:21: ... *Call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.* (Short version is in bold. This verse was learned in Bear Hug 15.)

The Big Buzz: Jesus is God. He loves all people. He showed His love by dying on the cross so our sins could be forgiven. We can follow Christ's example by loving and serving others.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: John 20:30-31; 2 Peter 3:9

Review: Matthew 1:21

When was the last time you experienced an unexpected kindness from a stranger? Perhaps it was as simple as someone allowing you to go before them in line. Whatever the circumstance, the generosity and sincerity did not go unnoticed.

When Christ lived on earth, those who observed Him noticed His genuine concern for others. His miracles demonstrated His desire and ability to meet the needs of individuals. Yet many of them did not realize that His compassion stemmed from a greater burden: His desire that all men might trust Him (John 20:31; 2 Peter 3:9). Christ's desire remains unchanged. He longs for nonbelievers to trust in Him, and He lovingly works in the lives of His chosen ones.

Wherever you are, Jesus will meet the needs in your heart today. You can trust Him to keep His word. Once you realize what He has done for you, you will want to follow His example. Share Christ's love and compassion to others, and encourage your Cubbies to do the same. An easy avenue to encourage a servant's heart in your Cubbies is by giving them opportunities to help one another during club.

- Have a child help pass out snacks.
- Ask a Cubbie to hold open the door for the rest of the group.
- Choose a child to pray for the snack.
- Encourage all children to help pick up after game time or activity time.
- Remind a Cubbie to forgive a friend who has wronged him.

As you model Christ's compassionate service, your little ones will follow your example and learn to truly love and help others.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the Lord is good* (Psalm 34:8)! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Remember the ways Jesus loved people from Bible stories in the unit.
2. Believe that Jesus died to take the punishment for sin.
3. Make steps toward trusting Jesus as Savior.
4. Think of practical ways to love and help others, like Jesus did.
5. _____
6. _____

(Add the goals the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

As a review, consider repeating the Cubbies' favorite Coming In activities from this unit. For example, repeat IDEA 3: Story Play Centers (from Bear Hug 15), IDEA 3: Health Helpers (from Bear Hug 16) or IDEA 1: Play Restaurant (from Bear Hug 17). You may also choose one of the new ideas below.

IDEA 1: Heart Attack

What You Need

- Construction paper hearts
- Crayons or markers
- *Optional* — decorative stickers, large envelope, tape

Remind Cubbies that they have been learning about Jesus' love for all people. Explain that Jesus wants us to be like Him and love others too. Ask Cubbies if they can think of someone in the church who might need a little extra love. Then let Cubbies each choose a paper heart to decorate for that person. Be sure to write the person's name and the Cubbie's name on each heart. Leaders can help Cubbies write encouraging notes on the hearts. If Cubbies chose someone who works in the church (pastor, secretary, custodian, etc.), it might be fun to go tape the hearts near his or her office. Otherwise, put the hearts in a large envelope to be delivered later.

IDEA 2: First Aid Memory Tray

What You Need

- Tray filled with various first-aid supplies (bandages, gauze, medicine, ice pack, etc.)
- Towel

Show Cubbies the items on the tray and explain how each item is used. Cover the tray with the towel and remove an item. See if Cubbies can guess which item is missing. Cover the tray with the towel again, remove another item and let Cubbies guess again. Repeat this pattern, and as Cubbies get better

at the game, remove multiple items. Talk about how Jesus has power to heal the sick just with His words or a touch. He didn't need any of the items on the tray! Talk about the power Jesus also has to forgive our sins and give us eternal life.

IDEA 3: Bible Story Props Center

What You Need

- Box house made for Lesson Time of Bear Hug 15
- Paralytic man (resource CD) and mat made during Coming In of Bear Hug 15
- Bread and fish cutouts (resource CD)
- Baskets or paper lunch bags
- Box of tissues
- Toy flutes
- Pillow and blanket
- Bible times costumes

Set up an area where Cubbies can use props and costumes to reenact the Bible stories from the unit. If you did not make a box house for Bear Hug 15, make one by cutting off the top flaps of a cardboard box and laying it on its side. (The former top of the box will become an open side for Cubbies to view inside the house.) Paste the scene of Jesus and the crowd to the visible inner wall of the house (resource CD). Make a mat as directed in IDEA 2: Make a Mat from Bear Hug 15. Cut a rectangular flap in the roof that can open and close. (The opening should be larger than your mat and large enough for Cubbies to reach through). Cubbies can place the paralytic figure on the mat and lower the mat through the roof opening. Cubbies can wear Bible costumes and act out the stories of the bleeding woman and the raising of Jairus' daughter. Some Cubbies can pretend to be mourners in the house by wiping tears with tissues and playing flutes. One Cubbie can use the pillow and blanket to pretend she is Jairus' daughter. Cubbies can act out the feeding of the crowd with the bread, fish and baskets.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, unit Core Truth and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- *Optional* — game timer or bell, plate, knife, fork and spoon, napkin

LEADER: Boys and girls, I wonder if Cubbie Bear has been able to help someone today? Let's see if he will come and tell us. On the count of three, say "Hi, Cubbie!" Ready? One — two — three. Hi, CUBBIE!

(After children call out, bring the Cubbie puppet into view, breathing heavily.)

LEADER: Why, Cubbie! You are out of breath! What have you been doing?

CUBBIE *(still breathing heavy)*: I've been busy working with our Help Club!

LEADER: Let's see. If I remember correctly, you, Timothy, Katie Collie and Luvie Lamb are all members of your special club, right?

CUBBIE: That's right, but now we have a new member: Mia!

LEADER: That's great, Cubbie!

CUBBIE: The Help Club decided to stop by the Sweet Apple Bakery to see Timothy's Grammy Lois.

LEADER: That sounds like a yummy place to visit!

CUBBIE: It sure is! Anyway, she was super busy. While we were talking with her, we heard a strange sound.

(If you are using a timer for a prop, set the timer off for children to hear the noise. Have Cubbie say, "It sounded just like that!" You could also make a buzzing sound with your mouth.)

CUBBIE: The timer for one of the ovens was going off, letting Grammy know that the pies were ready to take out of that oven.

LEADER: Oh, my! An oven is really hot! I hope everyone was safe!

CUBBIE: Oh, Grammy got the pies out of the oven and set them down to cool. But then we heard another buzzing sound!

(If using the timer, set the timer to buzz again or make a buzzing sound with your mouth.)

CUBBIE: The pies from ANOTHER oven were ready to take out!

LEADER: It sounds as if Grammy Lois was really working hard! But, if the Help Club couldn't take the pies out of the ovens, what DID you do to help Grammy?

CUBBIE: We decided we could set the tables for the Pie Night, when everyone comes to the farm to eat pie! Mia set out the plates, Timothy set out the forks, and I put a napkin beside each plate.

(On the floor or a table, pretend to set the table with your table setting props.)

LEADER: It sounds as if the Help Club on Apple Acres Farm is learning how to love others by helping.

CUBBIE *(laughing)*: And you know what else we are learning?

LEADER: What's that, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: We are learning that it is fun to help and serve others.

LEADER: I'm so glad you are learning that lesson.

CUBBIE: Me too. *(Makes lip-smacking sounds.)* All this work has made me really hungry. I'm going to go and see if there are any slices of apple pie left over from Pie Night. Goodbye, everybody!

(Have children wave goodbye as the Cubbie Bear puppet is put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during club.

IDEA 1: Heart-shaped Cookies**What You Need**

- Heart-shaped cookies
- Napkins

Let Cubbies help serve cookies on napkins. Choose a Cubbie to pray and thank God for the snack. Tell Cubbies that the cookies are shaped like hearts, which remind us of love. Jesus loves all people and so should we.

IDEA 2: Graham Cracker House**What You Need**

- Graham crackers
- Vanilla icing
- Paper plates
- Plastic knives

Place on each Cubbie's paper plate four rectangle graham cracker pieces of the same size and one additional piece that is slightly larger. Also place a dollop of icing and a plastic knife on the plate. Cubbies build a house with the icing being the glue to hold up the four sides. Then Cubbies place the roof on top which can be removed like in the story of the paralytic man. Do not worry if some Cubbies just dip the crackers in the icing and eat them. Simply review the Bible lesson and other unit Bible lessons while Cubbies eat.

IDEA 3: Leader's or Parent's Choice**What You Need**

- Favorite snack
- *Optional* — pie slices

On review weeks, you could let a leader or parent (or whoever is supplying the snack) bring in his or her favorite snack. This week, consider serving pie since it fits with the puppet show. Cubbie and his friends were helping Grammy Lois set tables for Pie Night on the farm. Ask Cubbies if they can remember any ways they helped at home last week.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 5, 63, 72, 76 to display during "J-E-S-U-S"

SING:

- **"J-E-S-U-S"** (Tune: "B-I-N-G-O.") Review this song from prior lessons and use teaching cards as visuals.

(Display TC63)

Who can make a lame man walk?

Do you know His name?

J-E-S-U-S (*Sing 3 times.*)

Jesus is His name.

(Display TC69)

Who can make a dead girl live?

Do you know His name?

J-E-S-U-S (*Sing 3 times.*)

Jesus is His name.

(Display TC72)

Who can feed a hungry crowd?

Do you know His name?

J-E-S-U-S (*Sing 3 times.*)

Jesus is His name.

(Display TC5)

Who can save us from our sins?

Do you know His name?

J-E-S-U-S (*Sing 3 times.*)

Jesus is His name.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

Cubbies, we have learned all the wonderful ways that Jesus loves people. Jesus loves you too, and He has done good things for you. Can you think of things that Jesus has done for you? (*Jesus gave us people who take care of us, Jesus gives us food and clothes, Jesus gives us the church where we can learn about Him.*)

(*Lead the group in a simple prayer and encourage each child to thank God for one thing. If you have a large group, have children all pray at the same time and say, "Thank You, Jesus, for everything!"*)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 5, 61-66, 68-69, 70, 72-74
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 5:21-43 and John 6:1-15
- *Optional* — game buzzer or bell, tote filled with Bible-time costumes and props relating to the miracles from Unit 4 (e.g., the doll, towel, cardboard house from Bear Hug 15, basket, construction-paper cutouts of fish and loaves of bread)

(Adapt and personalize the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

I am glad Timothy, Cubbie and their friends have decided to help others. Can you think of some ways you could help others? *(Encourage Cubbies to respond. Answers might include: holding the door open for someone, picking up something that someone drops, being kind to someone who is sad.)* When we help others, we are showing them that we love them.

(Open your Bible to Matthew 9:1-8.) When Jesus lived on earth, He loved others by helping them. We are going to remember some of the ways that Jesus loved people, but I will need your help. Whenever you hear this sound, *(press a game buzzer, ring a bell or make a beeping sound with your mouth)*, you need to shout out the right word for me. Let's practice with this first picture.

God sent His Son, _____. *(Make the sound and let Cubbies shout out the word Jesus.)* Jesus is God, and He can do anything.

(Display TC61.) One day Jesus was teaching many people about God. Four men knew that Jesus could help their friend. Something was wrong with his _____. *(Make the sound and let Cubbies shout out the word legs.)*

(Display TC62.) But the house where Jesus was teaching was CROWDED! So the men carried their friend up to the top of the house and lowered him into the house through a hole in

the _____. *(Cubbies shout the word roof on your sound.)*

(Display TC63.) Jesus forgave the man's sins. That was the most IMPORTANT thing that the man needed. Then Jesus healed the man's _____. *(Cubbies shout the word legs on your sound.)*

(Open your Bible to Mark 5:21-43. Then display TC65.) Another time a man named Jairus came to see _____. *(Cubbies shout out Jesus.)* "Please help me," he said. "I have a sick little girl."

(Display TC66.) Jesus began to follow the man to his house. But Jesus stopped and said, "Someone touched Me." The person who touched Jesus was a sick _____. *(Cubbies shout out woman.)* Jesus said, "Your faith has healed you." All of a sudden the woman was better. She was happy!

(Display TC68.) Jairus was sad. His little girl had died. Jesus had said to Jairus, "Do not be afraid. Just believe in Me." *(Display TC69.)* Jesus went to see the little girl who had died. Jesus held her _____. *(Cubbies shout the word hand on your sound.)* He said, "Little girl, arise!" Then the little girl stood up. Jesus made her come alive again!

(Open your Bible to John 6:1-15. Then display TC70.) On another day, Jesus was teaching many, many people beside the sea. It was dinnertime, and the people were hungry. But the only food they had were five small loaves of _____. *(point to the boy's lunch in the picture and have Cubbies shout bread)* and two _____. *(Cubbies shout fish.)*

(Display TC72.) Jesus thanked God for the food and the disciples passed the food to the people. There was more than enough food for everyone!

Optional: Ask children to name their favorite story of Jesus from the unit. Hold up one of the teaching cards from that story and assign Cubbies to act out the role scene on the card. For extra fun, encourage Cubbies to use the props from the tote.

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Jesus loved people, and He showed His love by helping others. Cubbies, Jesus wants you to love and help others too. **(Choose two Cubbies to help you. Give one TC73 and the other TC74.)** How are these Cubbies showing love to others in this picture? **(The Cubbie in TC73 is serving food to someone who is hungry. The Cubbie in TC74 is visiting someone who is sick.)** How can you show others that you love them? **(Encourage Cubbies to respond. Answers might include, telling parents or siblings that you love them, obeying Mom or Dad, helping a younger brother or sister.)**

Jesus healed people who were hurt or sick, and He fed the hungry crowds. He even raised people from the dead! But the GREAT-EST way that Jesus showed His love for people was by forgiving sin.

There is only one way that we can have our sin forgiven. We need to trust in Jesus! Our memory verse, Matthew 1:21, says: ... *Call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.* **(Repeat the verse several times together.)**

(Display TC5.) When Jesus lived on earth, He NEVER did any wrong things. But because God loved us, He sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sin. Then three days later, He came alive again! Because Jesus took the punishment for our sin, He has the power to forgive us from our sin.

(Display TC64. Have children repeat the Core Truth together.) I am glad that Jesus loves all people. But I am especially glad that Jesus loves and forgives me.

Optional – If necessary help Cubbies understand the concept of forgiveness. When God forgives us, that means God won't be angry at us or punish us for our sin. We will be friends with Him now and then forever in heaven. We are forgiven because of what Christ did for us on the cross.

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 18 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Bear Hug 18 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of the Bear Hug 18 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — pairs of child-sized scissors, glue sticks, construction paper

Tell Cubbies to draw a line to connect the Bible story pictures that go together. Do the first one together. Use the pictures to review the Bible stories. For optional fun, Cubbies can cut out the pictures and group them in pairs. Cubbies glue pictures to a sheet of construction paper. Encourage the Cubbies to tell the stories to someone else, using their paper. Explain that the stories remind us of the ways Jesus loved people. Jesus came to earth to love people. The memory verse, Matthew 1:21, tells us the most important way that Jesus loved people. He loved us by dying on the cross and coming alive again so we could be saved from sin.

NOTE: Additional Handbook Time idea is on the Bear Hug 18 Leader Sheet.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Cubbies enjoy repetition. Play two or three games from this unit and reinforce lesson truths with each game. Here are good games to repeat

- Four Friends Relay 1 or Four Friends Relay 2 (from Bear Hug 15)
- Touch Tag or Jesus Loves, YOU! (from Bear Hug 16)
- Pass the Bread, Please (from Bear Hug 17)
- You can also liven up your Play Time with one of these new ideas.

IDEA 1: Set the Table

What You Need

For each group:

- Table
- Two place settings (Each setting includes a paper plate, a plastic cup, a napkin, a plastic knife, spoon and fork.)

Include items for two place settings at each table. Set up one place setting at each table as a model. Let Cubbies watch you set up the last table. Explain each step verbally as you complete it. Say: "In our puppet show today, Cubbie Bear and his friends were helping Grammy Lois set tables for Pie Night. At home, you might be asked to help set the table. When you help others, you are showing love to them. Jesus loved others, and we should love others too!" Divide Cubbies into relay groups of four to six. The first Cubbie in each group will run to his group's table and begin to create the second place setting by placing one item, such as a plate, on the table. The first Cubbie will run back to his group and tag the next Cubbie, who will run to place another item, such as a cup, on the table. Play continues in this pattern until all Cubbies have had at least one turn and the second place setting is complete.

IDEA 2: Musical Hearts

What You Need

- Paper heart cutout for each Cubbie
- Music player

This game is a backwards version of Musical Chairs. To begin, place two hearts on the floor;

far apart from each other. Choose one Cubbie to walk around the hearts as music plays. When the music stops, she stands near a heart and says "Jesus loves me." Then the game leader says "Jesus also loves (another Cubbie's name)." The child named joins the game and the leader adds another paper heart. Repeat this pattern until all Cubbies join in to walk around the hearts. Remind Cubbies that Jesus loves all people, including each and every Cubbie! Be sure to keep this game moving quickly, or have several smaller groups playing the game at once, so Cubbies do not have to wait long for their turns.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

AWARD ALERT!

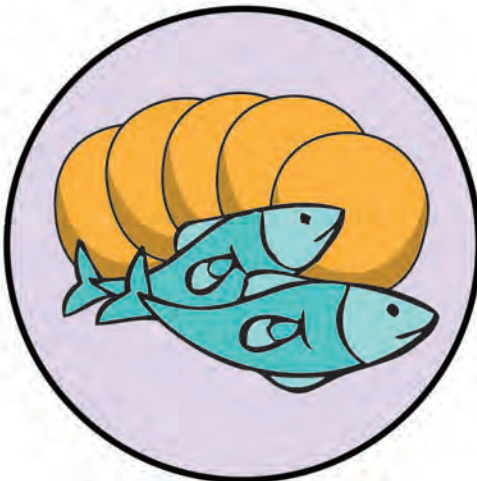
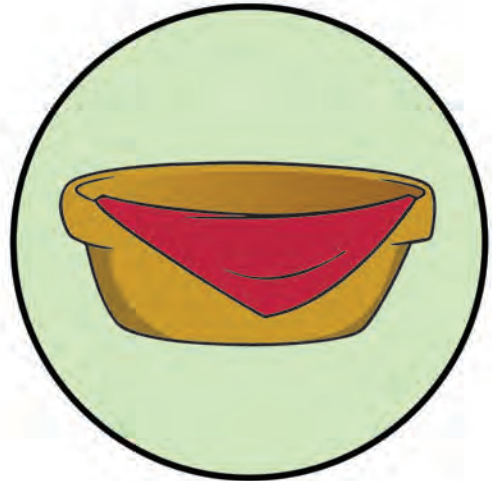
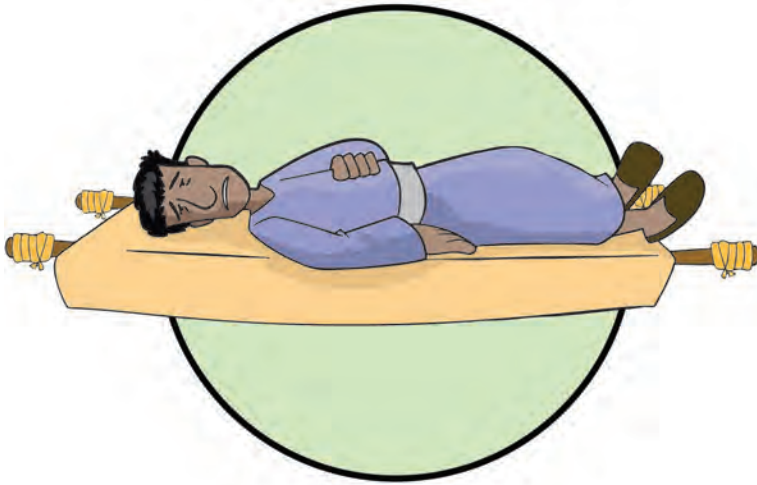


Cubbies will earn a Red Apple emblem for completing Unit 4. Tell parents to arrive early to see their child receive the award. Show parents where to attach the apple emblem to the C on the child's vest.

Play a game with parents and Cubbies during award time. Explain that you will name an action. If the action is something that is loving, everyone should give you two thumbs up. If the action is something that is unloving, everyone should give you two thumbs down. Examples of actions: a Cubbie shares a toy with another Cubbie, a Cubbie does not go to bed after her mom said it was bedtime, a Cubbie helps a parent carry groceries from the car, a Cubbie takes something that does not belong to him, a Cubbie and her family visit a sick friend in the hospital. For fun, you could pantomime the positive actions together. For example, pretend to help a friend up after she has fallen or push someone in a wheel chair. Explain to parents that in this unit, Cubbies have been learning about the ways Jesus showed love to people. He wants us to love others too. The most loving thing Jesus did for us was to die for us and save us from our sin. Direct Cubbies to recite Matthew 1:21 in unison and then present a brief gospel explanation to parents.

**... Call His name JESUS: for He shall
save His people from their sins.
(Matthew 1:21)**

NAME: _____



Basic Instructions: Draw a line to match the Bible story pictures that go together.

Even More Fun: Cut out the pictures. Put the two pictures from each story together and arrange them in order of what happened first and next.

Ultimate Fun: Glue the pictures to another paper and use them to retell the Bible stories to someone else. These stories remind us of the way Jesus loved people. Jesus came to earth to love people. Your memory verse, Matthew 1:21, tells us the most important way that Jesus loved people. He loved us by dying on the cross and coming alive again so we could be saved from sin.



**BEAR
HUG 19**

Jesus Loves Blind Bartimaeus

Make It Stick: I John 4:14: ... *The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.* (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: Jesus performed many miracles to show that He was God's Son, the Savior. One of these miracles was the healing of blind Bartimaeus. Jesus loves all people and came to earth to save us from our sin.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43; 2 Corinthians 4:4-6

Memorize: I John 4:14

This week's lesson introduces Bartimaeus, a blind beggar. Scripture is not clear about whether Bartimaeus was born blind or became blind later in life. Either way, his situation was so unbearable to him that he cried out to Jesus in desperation and would not stop crying out, even when others told him to be quiet.

Imagine, for a moment, what your life would be like if you were blind — unable to distinguish light or colors, unable to see the faces of those you love. Add to that the devastating consequences of blindness for those in Bible times. Blindness was seen as a punishment for sin, so the blind were often outcasts, left to beg beside busy streets.

This is where we first meet Bartimaeus. Although he was physically blind, he saw the true identity of Jesus that day. As Jesus approached, Bartimaeus cried out, "... Son of David, have mercy on me!" His title for Christ, Son of David, revealed that Bartimaeus recognized Him as the promised Messiah, the only one who could heal him.

Our loving Savior had compassion on him that day, and because of Bartimaeus' faith, his sight was restored.

Consider that many of your Cubbies are still spiritually blind. Scripture tells us that nonbelievers are blind and cannot see the light of the gospel or the glory of God in the face of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4-6). Like all of us, your Cubbies were born blind — blind to their sinful nature, blind to a loving, compassionate God who longs to save them. Some Cubbies have trusted the Savior, but others are still without Him. You can be a tool, used by God to gently guide them to spiritual sight.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good* (Psalm 34:8)! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Hear about the love Jesus showed to blind Bartimaeus.
2. Learn that Jesus is God's Son, the promised Savior.
3. Recognize that all of us are sinners and understand that Jesus came to love people and to save them from their sin.
4. Know that if we trust Jesus as Savior, we can live with Him forever in heaven someday. In heaven no one will be blind or sick or sad.

5. _____

(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

IDEA 1: Guess the Object

What You Need

- Lunch bags
- Objects familiar to Cubbies (crayon, toy truck, leaf, block, rock, cup, straw, etc.)

Place one object in each bag and set a few bags on each table. Explain to Cubbies that if they could not see, they would have to use their other senses more (touch, hearing, smell and taste). Direct groups of Cubbies to rotate to different tables and feel inside each bag to guess the object. Talk about what it might have been like for Bartimaeus when he was blind. Ask Cubbies: How do you think he got around? How did he find his friends? How did he eat dinner? Why do you think he was happy after Jesus healed him?

IDEA 2: Dark Glasses

What You Need

- Glasses patterns printed on card stock (resource CD)
- Black construction paper
- Crayons, including several white crayons
- Pairs of child-sized scissors
- Glue sticks
- Hole punch
- Pipe cleaners

Precut a glasses pattern for each Cubbie from card stock. (Do not cut out the insides of the glasses.) Let Cubbies glue their glasses onto a sheet of black construction paper and cut out the glasses, giving the glasses a black backing. (This step can be skipped for younger Cubbies; it only enhances the darkness of the glasses.) Cubbies color the front of their glasses. Leaders punch a hole at both sides of each pair of glasses and loop the end of a pipe cleaner through each hole. The loop end should be twisted around the pipe cleaner to secure it. Cubbies put on their glasses and bend the pipe

cleaners to fit around their ears. Cubbies can wear their glasses as they try to write their name or complete some other task. Monitor Cubbies' safety. These glasses can be used for Play Time Idea 2.

IDEA 3: Use Your Eyes Centers

What You Need

- Cubbies eye chart (resource CD)
- Bible story puzzle pieces printed and cut from card stock (resource CD)
- Paint chips (from a hardware store)
- Masking tape or mounting putty
- *Optional* — Laminate Bible story puzzle pieces for reuse. Gather paint chips in shades of dark blue, red, white, green and gold or yellow for a gospel activity in Bear Hug 22.

Set up one or more of these three centers. Center 1: Hang the eye chart on the wall at Cubbies' eye level. Cubbies will stand at a distance from the chart, cover one eye at a time and try to name the characters on each line of the chart. Center 2: Cubbies will fit the appropriate pair of puzzle pieces together to create a Bible story scene. Review the Bible story together. Center 3: Beforehand, cut several paint chips in half. Mix up the chips and let Cubbies match colors. As Cubbies work, explain that God made our eyes and gave them power to see. Thank God together for your eyes.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, unit Core Truth: Jesus Came to Save Us and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — blindfold

(Beforehand, plan a place for the Cubbie puppet to hide at the appropriate time. If you have the blindfold, tie it around Katie Collie's head, covering her eyes.)

LEADER: It's really quiet around here. I wonder what Cubbie Bear and his friends are doing? Let's find out. Help me call for Cubbie, OK? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

CUBBIE *(looking all around, and then whispering):* Hello, Cubbies!

LEADER *(whispering):* Cubbie, why are you whispering?

CUBBIE *(in a soft voice, but no longer a whisper):* Timothy, Katie Collie and I are playing a game.

LEADER: What kind of game?

CUBBIE: We're playing Hide-and-Seek. Katie is "It." She has to cover her eyes so she can't see anything. Then she counts to 10. After she's done counting, she goes to look for Timothy and me. We have to be very quiet and hide in a good spot so Katie can't see us. Katie is REALLY good at Hide-and-Seek, so I have to make sure she can't see me.

(Lower Cubbie behind the stage so that only the top of his head is showing. If you don't have a stage, hide him behind another nearby barrier, such as a shelf or a desk or a leader sitting beside you. Part of his head should be visible.)

(Bring Katie Collie into view, barking. She should be wearing the blindfold if you have it.)

KATIE: Ruff, ruff! Hi, everyone! Are you out there? I can't look right now, because my eyes are supposed to be covered as I count to 10. *(If you don't have the blindfold, bring Katie's paws up to cover her eyes or direct another leader to cover Katie's eyes.)* 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10. Ready or not, here I come!

(Remove the blindfold or paws from over Katie's eyes, and turn the puppet's head from side to side, as if she is looking all around. Cubbie is still trying to hide.)

KATIE *(barking loudly and looking towards Cubbie):* Ruff! Ruff! Cubbie! I found you! I see your head!

(Cubbie pops into view.)

CUBBIE *(laughing):* Wow, Katie! You found me! I guess it's my turn to be "It" now!

LEADER: Katie, you are really good at this game.

KATIE: Yep! I have really good eyes, and I looked all over for places where Cubbie and Timothy could be hiding.

LEADER: Katie, did you find Timothy yet?

KATIE: No, not yet. I'm going to go look for him.

CUBBIE: I'll help you look for him, and then it's my turn to be "It!"

LEADER: Have fun with your game, Cubbie and Katie!

CUBBIE and KATIE: Goodbye, everyone!

(Have children wave goodbye as the puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during club.

IDEA 1: Eyes for You**What You Need**

- Round crackers or small rice cakes
- Cream cheese
- M&Ms
- *Optional* — Use round banana slices instead of cream cheese.

Give each Cubbie two crackers, each topped with cream cheese and one M&M. Put the same color of M&Ms on each pair of crackers. (If you are using banana slices, top each cracker with a banana slice and press the M&M into the center of the banana.) Ask Cubbies: Do the crackers remind you of eyes? What color are your eyes? What problem did Bartimaeus have with his eyes in the Bible story? How did Jesus help him? Explain that even though Bartimaeus was blind, he knew that Jesus was God's Son, the Savior. Pray with Cubbies, thanking God for giving us eyes and for sending Jesus to be our Savior.

IDEA 2: Guess the Snack**What You Need**

- Snack of choice (cookies, pretzels, animal or fish crackers, orange slices, etc.)
- One lunch bag

Before any Cubbies see the snack, place one or more snack pieces in a lunch bag. Explain to Cubbies that if they were blind, they would not be able to see the food they were eating. They would need to use their senses of touch, taste and smell to know what the foods were. Choose a few Cubbies to reach in the bag to feel the snack without looking at it. They may also close their eyes and smell inside the bag. When the Cubbies have correctly guessed the snack, serve the snack to the group. Throw away the snack portion in the lunch bag.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **“Hallelu, Hallelu”** Divide Cubbies into two groups. One half will stand and sing the “Hallelu” and “Hallelujah” parts, and the other half will stand and sing the “Praise ye the Lord” parts. Cubbies go faster each time the song is repeated. Remind Cubbies that Bartimaeus praised God after Jesus healed him. We should praise God too!

Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah;
Praise ye the Lord (*repeat first two lines twice*)
Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah (*repeat 3 times*)
Praise ye the Lord!

- **“J-E-S-U-S”** (from Unit 4) Display a teaching card (TC) for each verse as a review. Sing the first verse about the paralyzed man (display TC63), the second verse about the dead girl (display TC69), the third verse about the hungry crowd (display TC72) and then add this new verse about Bartimaeus (display TC76). End the song with the verse about Jesus saving us from sin (display TC5).

Who can make a blind man see?
Do you know His name?
J-E-S-U-S (*Sing 3 times.*) Jesus is His name.

Who can save us from our sins?
Do you know His name?
J-E-S-U-S (*Sing 3 times.*) Jesus is His name.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Jesus is God. When He lived on earth, Jesus made many sick people well. Do you know anyone who is sick? (*Pause for responses. If Cubbies mention anyone, be sure to include them during your prayer. Include leaders, Cubbies, family members or others you know who are dealing with sickness or health issues.*) Let's talk to God and ask Him to help these people feel better. (*As you pray, mention any specific requests to God.*)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 75-78
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Mark 10:46-52 and 1 John 4:14
- *Optional* — sheets of gray, brown and blue construction paper; small, closed metal container filled with silver coins

(Note: Because of the nature of the lesson, be sensitive to any Cubbies who may be blind or have a family member who is blind.)

(Adapt and personalize the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

Wow! It sounds like Katie is good at playing Hide-and-Seek. Cubbie said that Katie had to cover her eyes and count to 10. Let's try it. Everyone, close your eyes and cover your eyes with your hands. No peeking! **(Count to 10 together, and then have Cubbies open their eyes.)** Cubbies, how did it feel to not be able to see anything while we were counting? **(Pause for responses.)**

Our creator God made us with eyes to see the world around us. What do you see with your eyes right now? **(Call on several children to describe one thing they see.)**

(Open your Bible to Mark 10:46-52.) There is a true story in the Bible about a man who was blind. He could not see ANYTHING. Can you imagine not being able to see any of the wonderful colors around us, like the blue sky, the green grass or a red apple?

I am going to use these colors **(hold up the gray, brown, and blue sheets)** to help me tell today's true story from the Bible.

The blind man's name was Bartimaeus. **(Display TC75 and point to blind man in blue cloak.)** Since Bartimaeus could not see, he had a hard time getting places and doing things. In those days, blind people often had to sit by the road and ask people for money to buy food. **(Hold up the gray construction paper. Ask Cubbies if they see anything gray in TC75. They may notice the coins, rock or mountains.)**

Optional: Pass around the metal container of coins. Encourage children to shake the coins.

(Hold up the brown sheet of construction paper. Tell Cubbies the paper is brown like a dirt road.)

One day, Bartimaeus was sitting by the side of the brown dirt road near Jericho. He heard a lot of voices talking and feet shuffling. **(Shuffle your feet as you speak.)** Wow! There are a lot of people walking on the road today! he thought. He asked the people near him what was happening.

"Jesus of Nazareth is passing by!" someone said.

Bartimaeus had heard about Jesus! He knew that Jesus is God's Son and that He could do wonderful things. Bartimaeus knew that Jesus was the ONLY person who could heal him! Bartimaeus listened very carefully as the people in the crowd spoke to one another. "Look, there's Jesus!" someone said.

Bartimaeus wanted Jesus to help him, so he shouted out, "Jesus, have mercy on me!" When he asked Jesus to have mercy on him, he meant he wanted Jesus to be kind to him and help him. **(Have children shout, "Jesus, have mercy on me!")**

"Be quiet, Bartimaeus!" people scolded. But Bartimaeus could NOT stay quiet. He called out even louder than before.

"Jesus, have mercy on me!" he cried. **(Have Cubbies shout louder, "Jesus, have mercy on me!")**

Because Jesus is God, He knew that Bartimaeus was blind. He loved Bartimaeus and wanted to help him. He stopped walking and said to the people, "Bring Bartimaeus to Me."

(Point to Bartimaeus' blue cloak in TC75. Then hold up the blue sheet of construction paper and tell Cubbies the paper is blue like Bartimaeus' cloak.)

When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was calling for him, he threw off his cloak, which is like a coat, jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

(Display TC76.) "What do you want Me to do for you?" Jesus asked Bartimaeus.

Bartimaeus believed that Jesus is God's Son. He knew that Jesus could make him well. "Lord, I want to see," he said.

Jesus said, "Go! Your faith has made you well."

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Cubbies, Bartimaeus had faith in Jesus. That means Bartimaeus believed that Jesus is God's Son, the Savior that God promised to send.

(Display TC77.) All of a sudden, Bartimaeus could see! **(Hold up the sheets of construction paper.)** He could see everything, like the gray mountains, his blue coat, and the brown road where he was standing. He was so happy! He shouted, "Praise God!" **(See Luke 18:43.) (Have Cubbies stand and shout, "Praise God!")**

Bartimaeus was so glad that Jesus had healed him. He started following Jesus and praising God. Other people praised God too when they saw what God did for Bartimaeus.

(Display TC78.) Bartimaeus believed that Jesus is God's Son, the Savior. Bartimaeus knew that **Jesus came to save us! (Repeat the Core Truth together. Explain that you will learn about Zacchaeus in the tree next week. Jesus came to save him from his sin.)** When Jesus lived on earth, He helped many people. He made sick people well. He made blind people see. But Jesus chose to do the MOST IMPORTANT thing that He could ever do for us: Jesus came to forgive sin.

The Bible says that all have sinned. **(Review that the A on their Cubbie vest stands for all. Have Cubbies trace the A on their vest as they say together, "All have sinned.") (Open your Bible to 1 John 4:14.)** Even though we are sinners, God sent Jesus to save us. Our Bible verse says: ... *The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world (1 John 4:14).* **(Have children repeat the verse with you.)**

Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sin. Then three days later, He came alive again. If we trust Jesus as our Savior, one day we can live with Him forever in heaven! God promises that no one will be blind or sick or sad in heaven. It will be a happy, perfect place.

I am so glad that **Jesus came to save us.** Let's praise Jesus for coming to save us! **(Have children stand, clap their hands and say together "Jesus came to save us!")**

Optional: Teach motions that go along with the Core Truth for this unit: Make up your own motions, or teach Cubbies the ASL sign language for the words Jesus and Save.

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 19 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

IDEA 1: Bear Hug 19 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- A copy of the Bear Hug 19 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie. (print on card stock if you are doing the optional activity)
- Crayons
- *Optional* — cotton balls, craft grass or small strips of green paper, bag of gray or white gravel with small pebbles, glue sticks, pairs of child-sized scissors, construction paper

Show older Cubbies how to color the picture by number. Review 1 John 4:14 with Cubbies and ask them to name some of the loving things Jesus, the Savior, did when He came to the earth. Emphasize that the most important thing Jesus did was to save us from sin. For fun, Cubbies may glue optional materials on their picture to embellish it and then mount it on a construction paper to hang up at home.

IDEA 2: Play-Doh Faces

What You Need

- Cans of various colors of Play-Doh
- *Optional* — laminated Play-Doh Face Mats (resource CD)

Show Cubbies how to make eyes by rolling and flattening a small ball of dough to make a circle and rolling a smaller ball of dough to put in the center of the circle as a pupil. Talk about how our eyes help us and thank God for making eyes. Cubbies can shape other facial features with the dough. Set the Play-Doh Face Mats out as samples for Cubbies.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Find ways to include Cubbies with visual or hearing impairment in your Play Time. For example, choose a buddy to stay near a blind Cubbie during IDEA 1: Picture Scavenger Hunt. The buddy could be an adult leader or another Cubbie who helps the blind Cubbie find a picture and stand in the correct group. Review the document “Can I Come Too?” (resource CD) for additional ideas for including the diversity of Cubbies in your club.

IDEA 1: Picture Scavenger Hunt**What You Need**

- Precut Jesus pictures and cross pictures (resource CD)

Ahead of time, print, cut out and hide the pictures around the room. Explain to Cubbies that they will use their eyes to search for ONE (and only one) picture of either Jesus or the cross. After they find a picture, they will return to the game leader and stand with the other Cubbies who have the same picture. The game leader leads the group in reciting 1 John 4:14. Cubbies holding a picture of Jesus will say the first part of the verse about the Father sending the Son. Cubbies holding a picture of the cross will say the second part of the verse about the Savior coming to the world. Repeat this several times. Then hide the cards and repeat the game.

IDEA 2: Blindfolded Games**What You Need**

- Blindfolds or dark glasses made during Coming In
- *Optional* — Create a simple obstacle course. Include mats to jump over, cones or chairs to slalom around, a rope laid on the floor to walk like a tightrope.

Play one or both of these games with blindfolds: 1. Divide Cubbies into pairs. One partner will be blindfolded. The other partner will lead his blindfolded partner around the room or through an obstacle course. Once the pair has made it to an end point, they will switch roles

and travel back through the room or course. 2. Play Follow the Leader. Direct Cubbies to form a line, put on glasses or blindfolds and place their hands on the shoulders or elbows of the Cubbie in front of them. A leader will lead them around the room. If you do not have eye coverings, Cubbies can simply place one hand over their eyes.

Talk about what it would be like to be blind and review the Bible story of Bartimaeus from Mark 10:46-52. Remind Cubbies that in heaven with Jesus, no one will be blind or sick or sad!

IDEA 3: Color Games**What You Need**

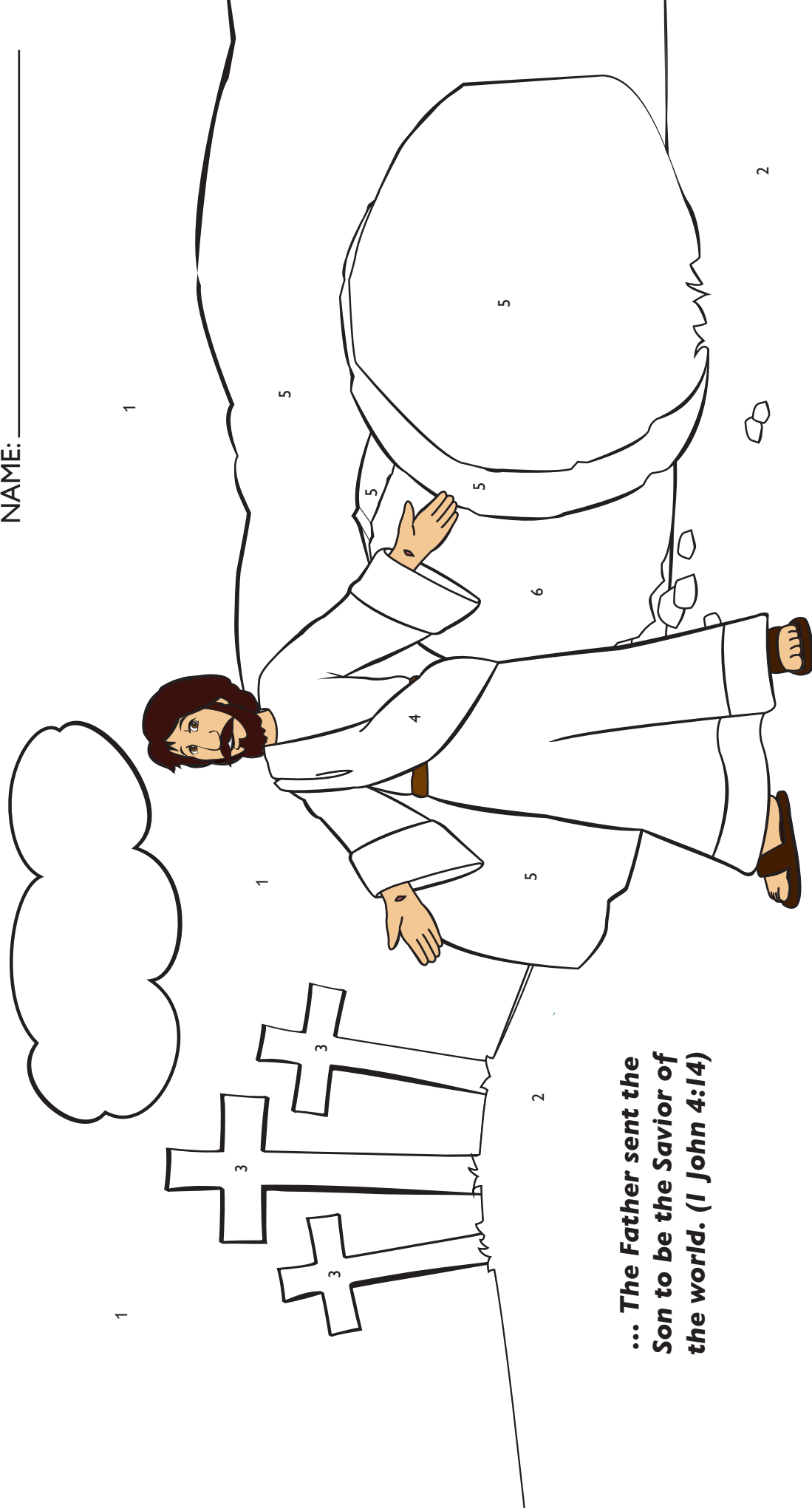
- Awana Game Square or red, blue, green, yellow construction paper
- Masking tape

Use the Awana Game Square or tape one color in each corner of your play area. A leader will close her eyes and slowly count to 10 while Cubbies run to any of the four corners or color lines. On the count of 10, the leader, without looking, calls out a color. Any Cubbies standing at that corner or on that line will recite 1 John 4:14 with the leader. Remind Cubbies that God made our eyes to see many different colors.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

Play a game of I Spy as you wait for parents to arrive. Silently select an object in the room that can be seen by all Cubbies. Say, “I spy with my little eye” and then offer one or more clues, such as “something yellow” or “something pointy.” Cubbies try to guess the object. After a few rounds, let Cubbies take turns spying an object for the group. Pray together and thank God for making our eyes. Also thank God that we can know the Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus saves us from our sin, and that is even more important than being able to see!

NAME: _____



... The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. (1 John 4:14)



Basic Instructions: In our Bible story, Bartimaeus knew that Jesus was God's Son, the Savior (Mark 10:46-52). Color the picture of the Savior. For an extra challenge, color the picture by number, using the crayon color key provided.

Even more fun: Stretch out cotton balls and glue them on the cloud. Glue strips of green paper or craft grass on the grass. Glue small gray or white gravel pebbles on the tomb. (Best if printed on card stock.)

Ultimate Fun: Cut off the bottom of the sheet along the line. Mount your picture on a piece of construction paper and hang it somewhere in your home. Tell someone in your family about the picture. Tell him or her that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and came alive again.


**BEAR
HUG 20**

Jesus Loves Zacchaeus

Make It Stick: 1 Timothy 1:15: ... *Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners ...*

The Big Buzz: Jesus loves sinners. Jesus came to earth to seek and save sinners, like Zacchaeus and like us.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Luke 19:1-10; 1 John 4:7-21

Memorize: 1 Timothy 1:15

Awana leaders often claim to love the children they serve, and it IS easy to love the sweet, obedient, little Cubbies. But what about the shy boy who will not even look at you, let alone say his verse? What about the girl who STILL cries each time she is dropped off in your room? What about the boy who never sits still and requires every ounce of patience you have?

Can you say you truly love *those* Cubbies? Does your compassion mirror Christ's?

Consider the familiar story of Zacchaeus. He, the social outcast, would not have been considered as one who was easy to love. Yet Christ went out of His way to seek him out. And Jesus even went a step further: He went to the home of this sinner; a scandalous decision according to Jewish religious leaders of the day.

But Christ's compassion surpassed social norms. Christ recognized a sinful heart that was curious to hear the truth. And He was willing to put aside His own reputation to reach out to the likes of a tax collector.

Go out of your way, like Jesus did, to seek the Cubbies who seem hardest to love. Like Zacchaeus, these little ones need to see that Jesus loves them. And the greatest avenue for them to experience that compassion is to see it displayed — by you.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good (Psalm 34:8)*! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Understand that Jesus loved Zacchaeus. Jesus loves them too!
2. Review the definition of sin and name specific examples of sin. Recognize that, like Zacchaeus, they too are sinners.
3. Know that God sent Jesus to earth to seek sinners and to save them.
4. Believe that when we trust Jesus as Savior, our sins are forgiven and God helps us learn to love and obey Him.
5. _____

(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

IDEA 1: Color or Paint a Tree

What You Need

- Copy of the tree pattern page for each Cubbie (resource CD)
- Zacchaeus figures (resource CD)
- Crayons
- Pairs of child-sized scissors
- Glue sticks
- *Optional* — Instead of using the tree pattern page, let Cubbies paint a tree on a sheet of white construction paper. Use green and brown tempera paints or watercolor paints.

Give each Cubbie a tree pattern page to color. Provide precut Zacchaeus figures for Cubbies or let them each cut out their own figure, color it and glue it on a branch of their tree. If Cubbies are painting trees, they can glue on the Zacchaeus figure during Handbook Time, so the paint has time to dry. Review the Bible story of Zacchaeus with Cubbies from their handbooks. Emphasize that Jesus loved Zacchaeus and came into the world to seek and to save sinners like him, and like us. Recite 1 Timothy 1:15 together.

IDEA 2: How Tall Are You?

What You Need

- A tape measure
- Masking tape
- Pen
- *Optional* — blocks

As Cubbies arrive, measure each one's height. Write the Cubbie's name on a piece of tape and stick the tape on the wall at his or her height. Ask Cubbies if they have ever wanted to see something, like a parade or a toy on a top shelf, but they weren't tall enough to see it. What did they do? Mention that Zacchaeus from the Bible was a short man, and one day he really wanted to see Jesus. Ask Cubbies what Zacchaeus did

and review the Bible story. For extra fun, divide the Cubbies into groups. Tell them to work together to see if they can build a block tower taller than the tallest Cubbie in the club.

IDEA 3: Sorting Centers

What You Need

- A supply of real coins or toy coins (play money can be purchased from teaching or toy stores)
- Items from the room that are larger but movable (blocks, big toys, mats or carpet squares, etc.)
- Items from the room that are smaller (crayons, pom-poms and other craft supplies, small cars, etc.)

NOTE: Supervise Cubbies carefully so no coins or other small items become a choking hazard.

Set up one or both centers. Center 1: Cubbies sort similar coins into stacks. Ask Cubbies if they remember reading about Zacchaeus from their handbooks. What was Zacchaeus' job? (Tax collector.) Explain that a tax collector collects money from people for their country. But sometimes Zacchaeus would steal some of the money for himself. Ask Cubbies why stealing is a sin. Review the definition of sin and name other examples of sin.

Center 2: Cubbies sort items into two piles: big and small. Talk about what Zacchaeus did to see Jesus since he was smaller than the other people in the crowd.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, unit Core Truth: Jesus Came to Save Us and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Luvie Lamb puppet
- *Optional* — picture of a tree (resource CD)
(Beforehand, print the optional tree picture. Enlarge it and print it on ledger size [11"x17"] paper.)

(Bring Cubbie puppet into view. Cubbie is looking around, not paying any attention to the leader.)

LEADER: Hi, Cubbie! *(Cubbie keeps looking around.)* Cubbie, are you looking for something?

CUBBIE: We are playing a special game called Hide-and-Seek. It's my turn to be "It." I closed my eyes so I couldn't peek and I counted to 10 while Katie Collie and Timothy ran to hide. Now I am looking for them. And I've been looking for a long time, but I still haven't found them!

LEADER: Well, where have you looked?

CUBBIE: I looked for Katie Collie over by the playground, but she wasn't there. I looked for Timothy by the bakery, but he wasn't there.

LEADER: Hmm ... it sounds as if Katie Collie and Timothy have found really good places to hide.

CUBBIE: I even climbed the tallest tree next to the petting zoo.

(If using the picture of the tree, hold it up now. Ask, "Was it tall like this tree, Cubbie?" Have Cubbie nod his head yes. For fun, ask children to stand, stretch their arms up high and pretend they are tall trees. Or Cubbies could pretend to climb a tree.)

LEADER: Katie Collie is a dog, so I don't think she can climb a tree.

CUBBIE *(laughing):* Oh, I know that! But I thought that if I climbed up high in the tree, then I could look around from up there and be able to see more of Apple Acres Farm. After all, I'm kind of short, for a bear.

LEADER: Yes, I suppose you are.

(Bring Luvie Lamb into view.)

LUVIE *(giggling):* Hi, Cubbie! I saw you climbing the tree next to my pen at the petting zoo. What were you doing?

CUBBIE: I have been looking all over for Timothy and Katie Collie. We're playing Hide-and-Seek. I climbed the tree because I was trying to see better.

LUVIE *(giggling):* I love to play Hide-and-Seek.

CUBBIE: Luvie, you can play with us! Do you think you can give me some ideas where Timothy and Katie could be hiding?

LUVIE: I think I saw Katie Collie heading for the clean yellow straw, just outside my pen. I wonder if she's hiding there.

CUBBIE: And I wonder if Timothy might be hiding near the store!

LUVIE: Let's go and find them!

CUBBIE: Thanks for helping, Luvie! Good-bye, everyone!

(Have children wave goodbye as puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during club.

IDEA 1: Tax Collector's Coins

What You Need

- Mini wafer cookies or mini round crackers
- Sandwich bags
- *Optional* — one or two foil-covered chocolate coins per Cubbie

Serve the snack in sandwich bags so it represents a tax collector's money bag with coins in it. Remind Cubbies that Zacchaeus was a tax collector and he collected money from the people for their country. Ask Cubbies: What wrong thing did Zacchaeus do with the money? How did Jesus show He wanted to be Zacchaeus' friend? What has Jesus done to show He loves us and wants to be our friend? Remind Cubbies that Jesus still loves us, even though we sin. He died on the cross and came alive again to save us from our sin. Recite 1 Timothy 1:15 together.

IDEA 2: Vegetable Trees

What You Need

- Celery stalks and (or) broccoli florets
- Cream cheese and (or) dip
- *Optional* — two Teddy Grahams pieces for each Cubbie to represent Zacchaeus and Jesus

If you are serving celery, cut stalks into sections, keeping leaves on some stalks. Fill stalks with cream cheese. Serve celery and (or) broccoli florets to Cubbies. Provide dip for the broccoli. Talk about how the snack resembles trees and retell the story of Zacchaeus. Ask Cubbies: If you were Zacchaeus, what would you serve Jesus if He came to your house for dinner? What would you want to ask Jesus?

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

• "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man"

- **"Oh, Be Careful Little Eyes"** Review that sin is anything we think (*point to head*), say (*point to mouth*) or do (*hit your fist in your hand*) that disobeys God. As you sing, point to or move each body part (*eyes, ears, feet, head, etc.*) and discuss ways a child might sin with that body part. For example, they might say hurtful words to someone with their mouth.

• "Do You Know What Jesus Did?"

to the tune of "The Muffin Man" You will add verses in the next lessons.

(Leader calls to Cubbies)

Oh, do you know what Jesus did?
What Jesus did, what Jesus did?

(Cubbies respond to leader)

Oh, yes I know what Jesus did!
He died on the cross for me.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, when Jesus lived on earth, He did many things to show that He loved people. He made sick people well, and He helped blind people see. But the GREATEST way that Jesus showed people His love was by dying for their sin. I'm so glad that Jesus came to save us. Let's talk to God and tell God we love Him because He sent Jesus to save us. *(Lead in prayer. Then encourage any Cubbies who would like to pray to tell God that they love Him because He sent Jesus to save sinners. If you have a large group, encourage all Cubbies to pray together, "We love You, God, for sending Jesus.")*

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 78-81
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Luke 19:1-10 and 1 Timothy 1:15
- *Optional* — Include these items in three lunch-size paper bags: a handful of coins, a piece of a leafy branch or a picture of a tree (resource CD), a heart made from red construction paper. For the tax booth activity, bring three coins for each Cubbie, a container that says "Country" on it and a coin purse.)

(Before class, number each lunch bag. In the first bag, place a handful of coins. In the second bag, place the leafy branch piece or picture of a tree. In the third bag, place the construction paper heart. Hide the bags around the teaching area of the classroom.)

(Adapt and personalize the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

Boys and girls, when Cubbie Bear told us he climbed that tree to look for Katie and Timothy, it reminded me of a true story from the Bible about someone else who climbed a tree to look for someone!

(If you are not using the bags or the items inside as props, skip to the next paragraph.) Around the room I have hidden three bags. In each bag is a special object that will help me tell the story. Can you help me look for those bags? *(Encourage Cubbies to look for the bags and bring them to you.)*

(Open your Bible to Luke 19:1-10. Then display TC79.) Sometimes tax collectors would sit at tables beside the road. *(If you are using the paper bags, choose a Cubbie to pull out some coins from the first bag.)* Tax collectors were men who collected money from the people and then gave that money to the country where the people lived. The people HAD to pay this money to their country, but the tax collectors were NOT nice people! Instead of giving ALL the money to the country, they kept

some of the money for themselves. This is called stealing, or taking something that doesn't belong to you. And that's a sin!

***Optional:** Give each Cubbie three coins. A leader will pretend to be Zacchaeus and sit in front of the room at a tax booth (a simple table and chair). Set a container labeled "Country" on the table. Cubbies will line up and walk past Zacchaeus and give him their coins. Instruct Cubbies to watch as Zacchaeus takes part of the money and puts it in the container for the country, but keeps part of the money for himself in his pocket or coin purse.*

(Point to Zacchaeus in TC79.) Zacchaeus was a tax collector in the town of Jericho. Because he was a tax collector, He didn't have many friends. No one stopped to say hello or say kind things to him. Everyone was mad at him for stealing their money. But one day he heard the people talking to one another. "Jesus is coming here!" they said excitedly as they stood near the busy road.

(Display TC80.) Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but there was one problem! Zacchaeus was shorter than all the other people who were waiting by the side of the road. *(Act out these next sentences for Cubbies as if you were Zacchaeus.)* Zacchaeus tried to move one way, and then the other way. He stretched up as high as he could on his tiptoes, but he still couldn't see Jesus.

Suddenly he had an idea. *(If using the paper bag props, choose a Cubbie to reveal the branch or picture of the tree from the second bag.)* Zacchaeus ran ahead of everybody to the big sycamore tree by the side of the road. He climbed up, up, up, up in the tree. *(Have Cubbies stand and pretend to climb.)*

Soon Jesus and a crowd of people came down the road.

(Display TC78.) Because Jesus is God, He knew that Zacchaeus was in that tree. Jesus stopped by the tree and looked up. "Zacchaeus!" He called. "Quick! Come down. I must stay at your house today."

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Zacchaeus hurried down, down, down the tree. He and Jesus began walking to his house. Zacchaeus was so happy, but others behind him were not happy at all!

(Point to the angry people in the picture.) “Why is Jesus going to *that man’s* house?” the people asked each other. “Doesn’t Jesus know that Zacchaeus is a tax collector?” Remember, people did not like Zacchaeus because he was a tax collector. The people thought he was a BIG sinner.

But remember, Cubbies, **Jesus came to save us!** *(Have Cubbies repeat the Core Truth with you twice.)* Jesus loved Zacchaeus even though he was a sinner.

(Display TC81. Point to the bags of money.) Now that he had met Jesus, Zacchaeus didn’t want to sin anymore. He believed Jesus is the Savior. He loved Jesus, and he wanted to obey Him. In fact, Zacchaeus said he would give half of everything he had to the poor, and he decided to give back all of the money he had stolen from people AND to give back even more than he had taken from them!

(Open your Bible to 1 Timothy 1:15.) Our Bible verse this week reminds us that Jesus came to seek and to save people just like Zacchaeus. It says: ... *Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners ... (1 Timothy 1:15).*

(If you are using the paper bag props, have a Cubbie reveal the paper heart from bag three.) Jesus loved Zacchaeus even though he was a sinner.

And do you know what, Cubbies? We are a lot like Zacchaeus. We sin and do wrong things, just like he did. Do you remember what a sin is? **(Pause for response.)** A sin is anything we think **(point to head)**, say **(point to mouth)** or do **(hit your fist in your hand)** that disobeys God. Cubbies, can you think of some sins that children might do? **(Help children think of sins relevant to a preschooler, such as disobeying their parents, not sitting down or listening when a leader asks, getting angry and hitting a friend, not sharing, etc.)**

The Bible says that our sin must be punished. But Jesus took our punishment for sin by dying on the cross. Then three days later, He came alive again! Now Jesus lives in heaven!

If we trust Jesus as our Savior, God will forgive our sin. We can learn to love and obey God, and then one day we will be able to live forever with Jesus in heaven.

Let’s thank God for sending Jesus to seek and to save sinners, just like us. **(Close in prayer.)**

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 20 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Bear Hug 20 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of Bear Hug 20 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — cans of Play-Doh, circle cookie cutters or juice bottle caps to press into dough to make coins

Review the story of Zacchaeus with Cubbies. As a group, find one item on the sheet that was NOT in the story of Zacchaeus and tell Cubbies to cross it off. Find one item that WAS in the story of Zacchaeus and tell them to draw a circle around it and color it. Cubbies can continue in this pattern while you listen to individual Cubbies recite the verse. As a fun option, Cubbies can use Play-Doh to shape items from the story, such as coins or a tree.

NOTE: Additional Handbook Time idea is on the Bear Hug 20 Handbook Leader Sheet.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Any of the games from the prior lesson, Bear Hug 19, also fit the lesson themes for this week. Feel free to repeat them.

IDEA 1: Pay Your Taxes**What You Need**

- A large bucket or box
- Four toy coins or pom-poms for each Cubbie
- Several beanbags (one should be striped or a different color)
- Music player

Cubbies sit in a circle with their coins in front of them on the floor. Place the bucket in the middle of the circle and give some Cubbies beanbags. As the music plays, Cubbies pass the beanbags around the circle. When the music stops, the Cubbies holding the beanbags must “pay their taxes” by tossing one coin into the bucket. However, the Cubbie holding the striped beanbag, which represents Zacchaeus, must pay extra taxes and toss in two coins. (If necessary, allow Cubbies to stand up near the bucket to toss their coins.) Play until most Cubbies have tossed in all their coins. Ask Cubbies: How did it feel to have to pay taxes? How did it feel when you had to pay extra because you had the Zacchaeus beanbag? Explain that the people in Jericho didn't like Zacchaeus because he made them pay extra taxes, and he kept the extra tax money for himself. Ask: What did Zacchaeus do with his money after he met Jesus? Why? Help kids realize that Zacchaeus felt sorry for his sin and wanted to trust and obey Jesus.

IDEA 2: Act Out the Story**What You Need**

- Two-step stool or chair
- *Optional* — to create the look of a tree, tie tree branches, pointed upright, to the sides of the stool or chair

Choose one child to play Zacchaeus. With leader supervision, he or she climbs up and stands on the stool or chair, which represents the sycamore tree. Choose another child to play Jesus.

The rest of the children play the crowd. While the group sings “Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man” Jesus leads the crowd to the tree. During the appropriate point in the song, Jesus stops, looks up into the tree and says, “Zacchaeus, you come down! For I’m going to your house today!” Repeat the song several times so many Cubbies get a turn to play Zacchaeus or Jesus.

IDEA 3: Fill the Money Bag**What You Need**

For each relay group:

- One bucket
- One empty purse
- Coins, toy coins or pom-poms
- Stack of cups

Fill each bucket with coins. Direct Cubbies to line up behind their group's bucket. The first Cubbie will scoop up coins in a cup and pass it down the line to the last Cubbie, who will pour the coins into an empty purse. The first Cubbie runs to the end of the line, and the second Cubbie in line scoops coins in a cup and passes it down the line. Continue in this pattern until all the coins have been transferred to the purses. Talk about Zacchaeus' sinful, greedy behavior. Remind Cubbies that Jesus knew about Zacchaeus' sin, and He still loved Zacchaeus and wanted to go to his house. Jesus knows about our sin too, and He loves us. Jesus came to forgive us and save us from our sin. Recite 1 Timothy 1:15 together.

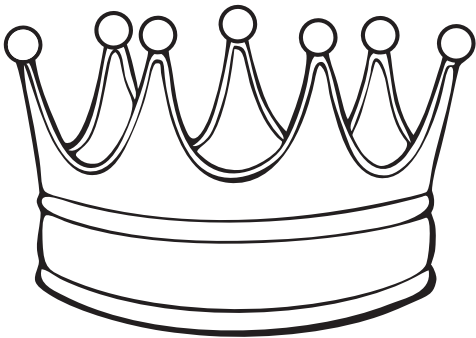
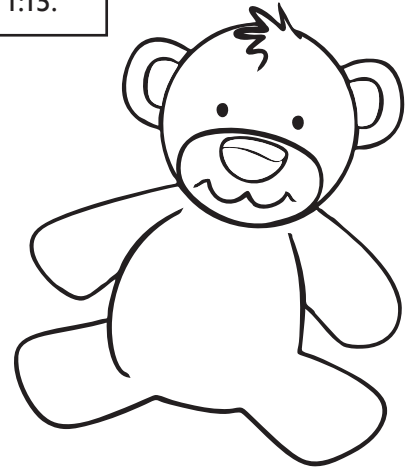
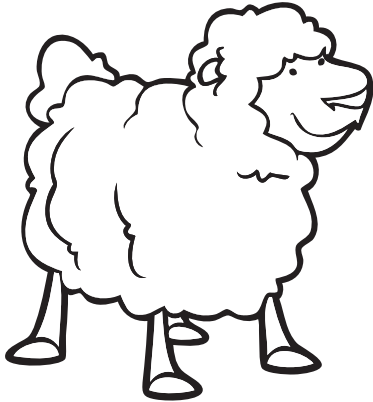
GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

Jesus took time to seek out those who were spiritually lost. He showed them love, kindness and God's way of salvation. Do you seek out people, such as the parents of your Cubbies, to tell them about God's love and salvation? Do you take time to show them kindness on a busy club night? Be alert to opportunities to invite new children and parents to your church and Awana club. Maybe some of the parents and children, like Zacchaeus, are seeking to see who Jesus is!

**... Christ Jesus came into the world
to save sinners ... (1 Timothy 1:15)**

NAME: _____

Jesus loved Zacchaeus, even though he was a sinner.
Jesus came to save Zacchaeus from his sin. Jesus came
to save us from our sin too! Recite 1 Timothy 1:15.



Basic Instructions: Look at the pictures. Cross out each item that was NOT in the story of Zacchaeus from Luke 19:1-10.

Even More Fun: Circle and color the items that WERE in the story of Zacchaeus.

Ultimate Fun: Use Play-Doh to shape coins, a tree or another item from the Zacchaeus story. Tell someone the story of Zacchaeus using the pictures or your Play-Doh creations.


**BEAR
HUG 21**

Jesus Loves Mary of Bethany

Make It Stick: I Corinthians 15:3-4: ... *Christ died for our sins ... He was buried ... He rose again the third day ...* (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: Jesus delighted in Mary's sacrificial gift of love for Him. Jesus showed love to us by dying for our sins and coming alive again. Because of what Jesus did for us, we want to show love to Him too.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Luke 10:38-42; John 11; John 12:1-11

Memorize: I Corinthians 15:3-4

What was the greatest gift you ever received? Maybe you recall a favorite present you received for Christmas or for your birthday. Or maybe it was the moment you trusted Jesus as your Savior.

Whatever gift comes to mind, understand that it was the result of some sort of sacrifice offered by the giver. And often that sacrifice makes the gift that much sweeter.

In each instance where Mary of Bethany is mentioned in the Gospels, we see her love, devotion and faith (e.g., Luke 10:38-42; John 11; John 12:1-11). The depth of her love and sacrifice is most vividly captured when she anointed her Savior. All four Gospels record this memorable act. Through this act she sacrificed financially (the perfume was worth as much as a year's wages) as well as socially (washing the feet of guests was the duty of the lowest servant, and a woman loosing her hair could be considered as scandalous). Mary was not concerned what others thought of her; she desired only to show honor to her Savior.

Have you considered your ministry in Cubbies as a demonstration of love? Just as Jesus was pleased with Mary's outpouring of love, He is also delighted and honored by those leaders who sacrifice their time, efforts and energy in giving 100 percent to their Cubbies.

While you may view your role as a Cubbie leader as a small gesture, it is much more. Service from a humble and willing heart is a beautiful gift to the Savior when it is completed as a loving act of worship.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good* (Psalm 34:8)! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Recognize Mary's sacrificial gift as an act of love for Jesus.
2. Understand Christ's honor and delight in Mary's sacrifice.
3. Know that Jesus came to earth to save us from our sin. Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and on the third day, He came alive again.
4. Tell Jesus they love Him and discuss other practical ways to show love to Him.

5. _____

6. _____

(Add the goals the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

IDEA 1: “I Love You, Jesus” Jar Craft

What You Need

- Two jar patterns printed on card stock for each Cubbie (resource CD)
- “I Love Jesus” idea strips (resource CD)
- Scissors for leader’s use
- Hole punch • Tape • Crayons
- Yarn pieces long enough to lace around the jar

Beforehand, prepare yarn and two jar patterns for each Cubbie according to the instructions on the resource CD. Also cut out a set of idea strips for each table. When Cubbies arrive, give them each a jar craft that is ready to lace. After Cubbies are done lacing around the jar, leaders secure the yarn with a knot at the last hole at the top of the jar. The mouth of the jar should remain open. Cubbies can color their jars. Ask Cubbies if any of them know what was inside the jar that Mary of Bethany brought to Jesus. Explain that the perfume cost Mary a lot of money, but she wanted to give it to Jesus because she loved Him. Ask Cubbies if there are things they can give to Jesus or do for Jesus to show they love Him. Read suggestions on the idea strips. Cubbies can put any idea strips they like into their jars. Encourage them to put other special items for Jesus inside their jar when they get home, such as stickers, money for an offering, notes or pictures.

IDEA 2: 3-D Heart Craft

What You Need

- Sticky-back foam sheets in pink, purple and red (sold at craft stores)
- Scissors for leader’s use • Card stock
- *Optional* — glue sticks and items to decorate hearts, such as foam stickers, jewel stickers, glitter glue, sequins, cloth, ribbon

NOTE: Simplify this craft by giving each Cubbie a large construction paper heart to color or decorate with various items.

In advance, cut several small, medium and large hearts from the foam sheets. (Use the heart patterns on the resource CD as a guide.) Give each Cubbie three hearts, each a different size. Cubbies will peel the backing off the hearts and place them on a card stock sheet on top of each other from largest to smallest. The largest heart will be on the bottom, touching the sheet. Cubbies can decorate their hearts and papers with various items. Say that the hearts remind us of how much Jesus loves us. He showed His love by dying for our sins on the cross and coming alive again. Ask Cubbies to name ways they could show love to Jesus because of all He has done for us. Leaders could write “I Love You, Jesus!” on each Cubbies’ paper.

IDEA 3: Smell the Cups

What You Need

- Coffee cups with lids that peel back (or other containers with lids that have holes)
- Various items with strong scents that pre-schoolers will recognize (crayons, flower, Play-Doh, ketchup, perfume or scented lotion on a cotton ball, cinnamon, toothpaste, lemon, orange, onion)
- *Optional* — Instead of cups, set out cards and attach a different scratch-and-sniff sticker to each card.

Put an item into each cup and set a few cups at each table. Talk with Cubbies about how our noses help us smell good things, like food or flowers. Our noses also help us detect danger, like smoke from a fire. Direct small groups of Cubbies to rotate to different tables to smell the different cups and guess what is inside, without looking into the cup. After the activity, say: “In our Bible story today we will hear about a wonderful smell that filled a house.”

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the “Cubbies Song,” Cubbies key verse and motto, unit Core Truth: Jesus Came to Save Us and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- *Optional* — handmade birthday invitation

(If you are using the birthday invitation, place it within your reach.)

LEADER: I wonder how Cubbie Bear is doing today. Maybe he will come out and talk to us. When I count to three, let's all say "Hi, Cubbie!" Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Bring Cubbie Bear into view, hanging his head.)

CUBBIE *(sadly)*: Hi, boys and girls.

LEADER: Cubbie, is something wrong?

CUBBIE: Kind of. Do you know what tomorrow is?

LEADER: No ... is tomorrow a special day?

(If using the invitation, have Cubbie point to it. Hold it up so all the Cubbies can see.)

CUBBIE: It is the most special day for my most special friend, Timothy. It's his birthday!

LEADER: How fun! Is Timothy having a birthday party?

CUBBIE: He is, and I'm supposed to go to his party. *(Cubbie hangs his head again.)*

LEADER: Then why are you sad, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: I don't have ANYTHING to give to him!

LEADER: Oh, I see.

CUBBIE: Luvie Lamb is giving Timothy a pet caterpillar, so I can't give him that! I looked all over the playground, because sometimes boys and girls who visit the farm leave their toys. I thought that maybe I could find a car or something to give Timothy. But I couldn't find ANYTHING!

LEADER: Surely there is SOMETHING that you could give Timothy.

CUBBIE: Well, I did find the PERFECT gift for Timothy at the farm market. There is a shiny, green tractor for sale in the shop. I don't like tractors AT ALL, but Timothy LOVES tractors, and green is one of his favorite colors!

LEADER: Well, can you get the tractor for Timothy's birthday?

CUBBIE *(shaking his head)*: No. The tractor costs three dollars, and I only have some pennies in my honey jar bank!

LEADER: Three dollars IS a lot of money for you, Cubbie Bear. *(Pauses, as if thinking.)* Hey! I've got an idea! Why don't you go and count your pennies to see how much money you have. Then maybe Katie Collie or one of your other friends would have some money you could borrow.

CUBBIE: That's a great idea! I'm going to go find out right now! Goodbye, everybody!

(Have children wave goodbye as the Cubbie puppet is put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during club.

IDEA 1: Pink Yogurt**What You Need**

- Strawberry yogurt (or other pink flavor)
- Stick pretzels
- Spoons
- Bowls (if needed)

As you serve the snack, ask Cubbies to name items that are pink or red. Point out that hearts are usually pink or red. Talk about how hearts remind us of love. Ask Cubbies: How did Mary of Bethany show her love to Jesus in the Bible story? What did Jesus do to show His love to us? Let Cubbies use their pretzel sticks to make a cross shape. Review that Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins and came alive again on the third day.

IDEA 2: Red Heart Jell-O® Jigglers®**What You Need**

- Red Jell-O Jigglers
- Heart cookie cutter
- Baking pans
- Serving plate
- *Optional* — Serve heart-shaped cookies instead of Jigglers. If possible, let Cubbies smell the cookies baking.

Follow instructions on the Jell-O package. Let the Jell-O set in the refrigerator in square or rectangular baking pans. After the Jell-O sets, dip the bottom of the pan in warm water for 15 seconds. Cut the Jell-O into heart shapes and lift the shapes to a plate. Serve to Cubbies. Remind them of how much Jesus loves them and talk about ways they can show love to Jesus.

If you are serving cookies, and Cubbies can smell the cookies baking, talk about how the smell of Mary's perfume filled the room where Jesus was, just like the smell of the cookies fills the room.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **“Jesus Loves Me”** or the chorus of the hymn **“Oh, How I Love Jesus”**
- **“Jesus Wants Us to Love Him”** to the tune of “London Bridge Is Falling Down.” For fun, let Cubbies toss curly ribbons up in the air on the last line. Cubbies will want to sing it again and again.

Jesus wants us to love Him,
To love Him, to love Him.
Jesus wants us to love Him.
I love Jesus!

- **“Do You Know What Jesus Did?”** to the tune of “The Muffin Man” (from Bear Hug 20). Add this new verse:

(Leader calls to Cubbies)
Oh, do you know what Jesus did?
What Jesus did, what Jesus did?

(Cubbies respond to leader)
Oh, yes I know what Jesus did!
He rose from the dead for me.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, God has done so many great and wonderful things for us. He created us. He sent Jesus to save us from sin. When we talk to God today, let's tell Him why we love Him. I will pray first. Then if any of you would like to pray, you can tell God why you love Him. *(As you pray, tell God one reason you love Him. Encourage any Cubbies who wish to pray to follow your example. If you have a large class, divide into smaller groups and assign a leader for each group.)*

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 5, 17, 82-86
- Bible with bookmarks placed at John 12:1-11 and 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
- *Optional* — box with a lid, wrapping paper, spray bottle of perfume, jar of money, a red construction paper heart, cotton ball, small zip-top bag, bread slices, cheese cubes

(Before class, wrap the box so that the lid can be removed without unwrapping the box. Place the bottle of perfume, the jar of money, the construction paper heart and your Bible inside the box. Put a small amount of perfume on the cotton ball. Place the cotton ball in the plastic bag and seal it.)

(Adapt and personalize the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

I hope Cubbie finds enough money to buy Timothy a birthday present. EVERYONE likes birthday parties. What are some fun things that happen at parties? *(Pause for replies.)* There is lots of food, and sometimes there are presents! *(Place the prepared box on a table next to you.)*

Do you know what? This present reminds me of a special gift that someone gave to Jesus. Inside this present are some things that will help me tell a true story from the Bible. *(Take the Bible out of the box. Open the Bible to John 12:1-11.)*

When Jesus lived on earth, He did many wonderful things to show He is God's Son. He helped blind people see. He helped people walk again. He even made dead people come alive again!

Jesus had many special friends who believed that He is God's Son. *(Display TC82.)* Two of these friends were sisters named Mary and Martha. *(Point to Martha.)* When Jesus came to visit them, Martha served Jesus, and Mary loved to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to Him teach. *(Point to Mary in the picture.)*

As Jesus was traveling on the road from Jericho to Jerusalem, He stopped at the town

called Bethany where Mary, Martha and their brother Lazarus lived. All of Jesus' friends in Bethany decided to have a big dinner party for Him. The party would be at a friend named Simon's house.

Optional: Pass out bread slices and cheese cubes. Encourage Cubbies to pretend that they are eating at the special meal with Jesus. For fun, you could have Cubbies eat in the same position as the people in TC83. In Bible times, guests would lie on their sides around a low table. They rested on one elbow and ate with the other hand.)

(Display TC83.) There were many people at this dinner who believed in Jesus. His special helpers, the disciples, were there. Jesus' friend Martha was helping to serve the meal. *(Point to Martha in the picture.)* Martha's brother, Lazarus, was there too. *(Point to Lazarus; He is sitting to the left of Jesus.)* Jesus loved all the people at the dinner. He was happy that many of them believed in Him. But there was one person who wanted to do something EXTRA special for Jesus. That person was Mary *(Point to Mary in the picture.)*

Mary brought out a very special jar. *(Pull out the jar of perfume from your box.)* Inside the jar was perfume. It smelled very pretty.

Optional: Open the zip-top bag containing the cotton ball that has been sprayed with perfume. Pass around the bag and encourage Cubbies to smell the fragrance.

(Point to the jar in the picture.) This jar of perfume was very special. It cost a lot of money! But Mary didn't care how much it cost. She loved Jesus, and she wanted to do something very, very special to show Him how much she loved Him.

(Display TC84. Point to the picture on the left half.) Because this perfume was in a special jar, Mary had to break off the top of the jar so she could pour out the wonderful smelling perfume. Carefully, Mary broke open the jar. She poured the perfume over Jesus' feet. *(This*

continued on next page

continued from previous page

was what people used to do sometimes for very important guests at a dinner.) The whole room smelled so wonderful.

Optional: Spray a few squirts of perfume in the air.

(Keep displaying TC84. Point to the picture on the right half.) Then Mary sat at Jesus' feet and began to wipe His feet with her hair. Usually only the servants washed the feet of guests. Mary wasn't a servant, but because Mary loved Jesus and wanted to serve and obey Jesus, SHE did this job of the servant and washed Jesus' feet.

(Display TC85. Take out the jar of money from the box.) Some of Jesus' disciples in the room were angry with Mary. "Why did you waste that perfume by pouring it on Jesus?" they asked. "That perfume costs a lot of money."

But Jesus was happy with Mary. He was glad that Mary had done something so special for Him. "Do not be angry with Mary," He told them. "Many people will hear about the good and beautiful thing she has done for Me," Jesus said.

Mary's gift was EXTRA special to Jesus, because by pouring the perfume on Jesus, she was helping to get His body ready to be buried. In those days, perfumes and spices used to be put on bodies before they were buried. **(Display TC17.)** Jesus knew that soon He would go to Jerusalem and die on the cross for our sins. **(Display TC86.)** His body would be buried in a tomb. Then, on the third day, He would come alive again.

(Display TC5.) Cubbies, Mary believed that **Jesus came to save us. (Repeat the Core Truth, Jesus came to save us, with Cubbies twice. Then open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.)** Our verses this week remind us of what Jesus did to save us from sin. First Corinthians 15:3-4 says: ... *Christ died for our sins ... He was buried ... He rose again the third day ...* **(Repeat the verses twice with Cubbies.)** Because of what Jesus did for us, we want to show love to Him.

(Take out the red heart from your box.) Cubbies, we don't have to give Jesus a gift to show Him that we love Him. We can show Jesus we love Him in other ways, like obeying our parents or telling others that Jesus loves them. We can even say to Jesus, "I love you!" I am glad that we can show Jesus we love Him, just like Mary did.

Optional: Choose one of the ideas below to help children express love for Jesus.

Tell Jesus you love Him in prayer. (You could have children pray out loud or simply say in unison, "I love You, Jesus!")

Tell a friend sitting next to you, "Jesus loves you!"

Act out scenarios of Cubbies obeying their parents.

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 21 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Bear Hug 21 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- A copy of the Bear Hug 21 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons (or for added fun use scented markers)
- *Optional* — pairs of child-sized scissors, construction paper, glue sticks

The pictures on the sheet help Cubbies to visualize the verse. Say 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 as you and the Cubbies point to each picture. Keep reviewing the verse as Cubbies color the pictures. As a fun option, direct Cubbies to cut out the picture boxes and then arrange them in the correct order, while saying the verse. Cubbies can glue the pictures in order onto a sheet of construction paper to hang up at home.

NOTE: Additional Handbook Time idea is on the Bear Hug 21 Handbook Leader Sheet.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Repeat any games Cubbies have enjoyed from the unit so far as a review. For example, repeat IDEA 2: Blindfolded Games (from Bear Hug 19) or repeat IDEA 1: Pay Your Taxes (from Bear Hug 20).

IDEA 1: Bottle Relay**What You Need**

- Bottle of scented lotion or baton for each group
- *Optional* — Make a glitter sensory bottle with recycled water bottles, water, Karo® syrup, gold glitter and a hot glue gun. See instructions at the end of this idea.

Divide Cubbies into relay groups. Give each group a bottle. Let them take turns smelling the lotion in the bottle. Talk about the special, costly perfume Mary poured on Jesus and ask Cubbies why Jesus liked her gift so much. Explain that Jesus knew He would die on the cross and be buried soon. People used to put perfume and spices on bodies before they were buried. Give the bottle to the first person in each group. That person will carry the bottle and walk a lap before returning, handing the bottle to the next person and sitting down. Tell Cubbies to carry their bottles carefully and pretend there is something that costs a lot of money inside. Continue until all Cubbies have had a turn.

Instructions to make a glitter sensory bottle: Remove label from water bottle. Fill it half full with water. Add Karo syrup and about two tablespoons (28 g) of glitter. (Adjust glitter amount based on the size of bottle.) Bottle should be almost full of liquid. Hot glue cap onto bottle. When bottle is shaken or turned over, glitter will slowly float to bottom.

IDEA 2: Pass the Bottle**What You Need**

- Bottle of scented lotion
- Music player
- *Optional* — Make and use the glitter sensory bottle described above.

Direct Cubbies to sit in a circle. While the music plays, the group passes the bottle around the circle. Whoever is holding the bottle when the music stops tells the group something they remember from the Bible lesson or recites the Core Truth: Jesus came to save us.

IDEA 3: Verse Relay**What You Need**

- Pictures cut from Bear Hug 21 Activity Sheet for each group (best if printed on card stock)

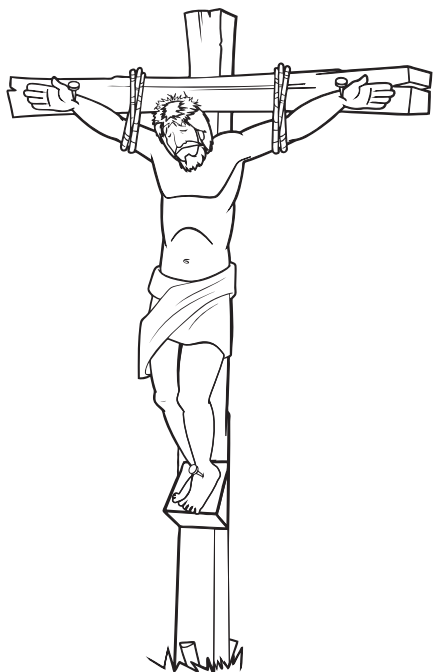
Divide Cubbies into groups of three. Set the pictures face down at the opposite end of the play area. The first Cubbie in each group will run to take a picture and bring it back to her group. When she returns, the second Cubbie runs to take another picture. The third Cubbie runs to take the final picture. Tell groups to work together to put the pictures in order so that they can say 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 by looking at their pictures.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

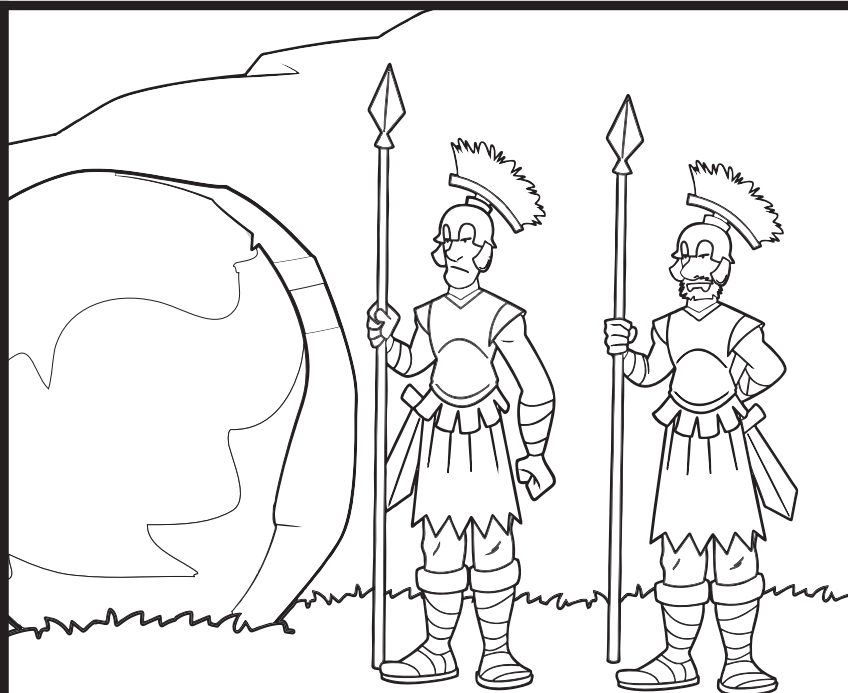
Say: "We talked tonight about the very special gift that Mary gave to Jesus. What was the best gift you ever received?" After a few Cubbies share, talk about why trusting Jesus Christ as your Savior was the best gift you ever received. Explain the gospel clearly and age-appropriately to Cubbies.

**... Christ died for our sins ... He was buried ... He rose again the third day ...
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4)**

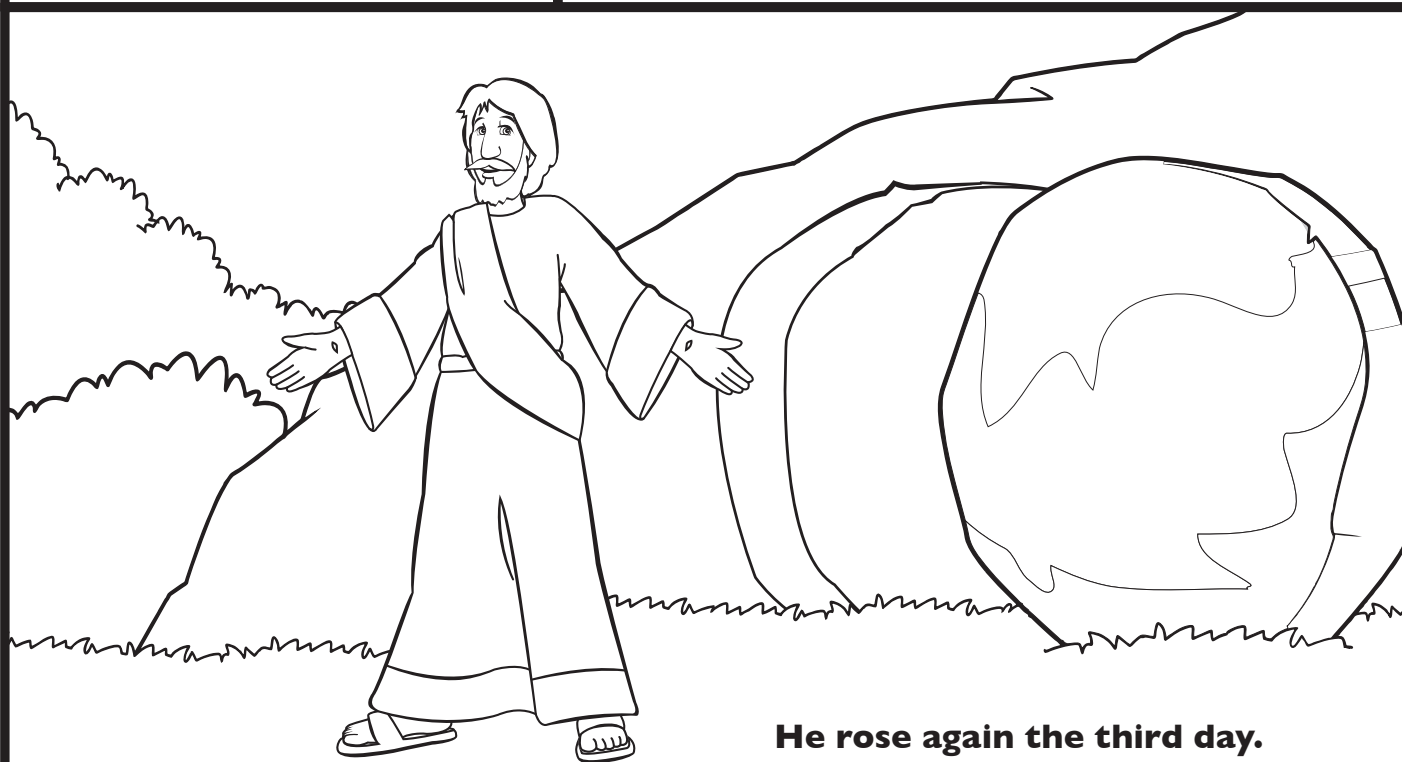
NAME: _____



Christ died for our sins.



He was buried.



He rose again the third day.

Basic Instructions: Ask a leader or other grown-up to read you the words below each picture. (These words are the same as your verse, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.) Color each picture. These pictures help us remember what Jesus did for us.

Even More Fun: Cut out the three picture boxes. See if you can line up the pictures in the order they happened. (Recite 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 to help you know the right order.)

Ultimate Fun: Glue the pictures in order onto a sheet of construction paper. Hang the picture up at home to remind everyone of what Jesus did for them.


**BEAR
HUG 22**

Unit 5 Review

Make It Stick: I John 4:14: ... *The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.* (Short version is in bold. This verse was learned in Bear Hug 19.)

The Big Buzz: Jesus displayed His love by helping people, healing them, and dying on the cross for our sin. We love Jesus because He loves us.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Mark 10:46-52; Luke 19:1-10; John 12:1-11

Review: I John 4:14

Over the last few weeks your Cubbies have journeyed with Jesus from Jericho to Bethany. Along the route they've seen the loving way Jesus interacted with people. He gave sight to the blind, He associated with the social outcasts, and He delighted in the acts of love offered to Him by a devoted servant.

This week your Cubbies will learn that Jesus fulfilled His greatest earthly mission in Jerusalem. There He displayed the greatest act of love, offered to all mankind.

As you prepare to present the truth of Christ's sacrifice for sin, pray specifically for each of your Cubbies. Ask God to open their hearts to the truth of His great sacrifice. On the night of club, remind parents that you are presenting the plan of salvation during club, and encourage them to follow up with their Cubbies at home. (If some of your Cubbies have parents that may not have trusted Christ themselves or who don't understand what this lesson will be about, invite them to talk with you before or after club, or meet them in their home.) Then as you present this treasure to your Cubbies, remind them of the purpose behind the sacrifice: Jesus came to save us from sin. Rejoice in the joy of your salvation as these little ones witness Christ's power through you.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good (Psalm 34:8)*! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Understand that Jesus is God's Son, the promised Savior.
2. Recognize that Jesus came to earth, died to take the punishment for sin, and came alive again three days later.
3. Make steps towards trusting Christ as Savior as the Holy Spirit moves in their hearts.
4. Love Jesus because He first loved us.
5. _____
6. _____

(Add the goals the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

Repeat any of the Coming In ideas from prior lessons in this unit that Cubbies really liked or that you did not have time to include or finish in your club meeting time.

IDEA 1: Chalk Cross Picture

What You Need

- Cross templates cut from card stock (resource CD)
- Verse labels (resource CD)
- Newspapers
- Colored chalk in many colors
- White or light-colored construction paper
- Masking tape
- Tissues
- Hairspray

Ahead of time, cut several cross templates from card stock. Cover tables with newspaper. Cubbies will use the sides of the chalk to completely color the templates. Use many colors. For individual Cubbies, leaders will use a couple of loops of masking tape to place the cross, chalk side up, on a sheet of white construction paper. The Cubbie will use a tissue to gently wipe the chalk off the cross and onto the paper. Cubbies should wipe all sides of the cross, moving from inside to outside. Caution them not to over wipe. Leaders can help gently lift the template off the paper. Then the template can be used to begin the process with another Cubbie. Lightly spray each finished paper with hairspray to bond the chalk to the paper. Add a verse label to each sheet. Ask Cubbies to tell you why Jesus had to die on the cross. Review the gospel with Cubbies.

IDEA 2: Play-Doh Review

What You Need

- Cans of Play-Doh
- *Optional* — Play-Doh tools, such as rolling pins, shape cutters, stamps

Encourage Cubbies to shape items from Bible stories from the unit. For example, Cubbies could make Bartimaeus' cloak or the road he was sitting near, Zacchaeus' coins, people in the crowd, a sycamore tree, Mary's alabaster jar.

Show teaching card pictures from the unit to give Cubbies ideas. Ask Cubbies if they would like to share about what they are making and use their creations to review the Bible stories. Encourage Cubbies to shape a cross, a tomb or the number three. Ask questions like these: Why did Jesus die on the cross? What is special about the number three? (Jesus came alive in three days.) Did Jesus stay in the tomb? Where is He now? Also, you could show Cubbies how to roll "snakes" to make the letters A and C. Review what the A and C stand for in Cubbies and review Romans 3:23 and Romans 5:8.

IDEA 3: Bible Puzzle and Gospel Colors

What You Need

- Bible-based puzzles from your room
- Bible story puzzle pieces printed and cut from card stock (resource CD; you may have used these in Bear Hug 19)
- Paint chips in colors of dark blue, red, white, yellow or gold and green (from a hardware store)
- *Optional* — Laminate Bible story puzzle pieces for reuse. Use colored construction paper squares instead of paint chips.

At one center include Bible story puzzle pieces from the unit and other Bible-based puzzles. As Cubbies complete the puzzles, review the Bible stories together. At the second center, set out paint chips. (Beforehand, cut colors in half.) Let Cubbies match colors. When they are done matching, explain the gospel using the colors. Dark blue represents sin. Red represents Christ's blood on the cross when He died for our sin. White represents Jesus taking all our sin away. Yellow or gold represents gold streets in heaven. Green represents ways we grow to know Jesus better by praying, reading the Bible, going to church, loving others and telling them about Jesus.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, unit Core Truth and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Luvie Lamb puppet
- *Optional* — jar containing 25 pennies, five quarters, five dimes, and a one-dollar bill; two party hats

LEADER: The last time we talked to Cubbie, he was trying to find a way to get Timothy that special tractor from the farm store. I wonder what happened. Let's call to Cubbie and find out! Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Bring Cubbie puppet into view, hopping around.)

CUBBIE: Hi, boys and girls!

LEADER: Cubbie, we were just talking about you! Did you have enough money to buy the tractor for Timothy?

CUBBIE: Well, not at first. After I left here, I remembered that I had some money in my honey jar bank.

(If you are using the jar of money, hold it up now and shake the pennies inside it.)

LEADER: How much money was in your bank, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: Not enough. I only had 25 pennies in my bank.

LEADER: What did you do?

(Bring Luvie Lamb puppet into view, giggling.)

LUVIE (giggling): Cubbie came to the petting zoo! He asked me if I had any pennies. I don't have a honey jar bank, but sometimes people drop coins on the ground at the animal food machines. I ran over to check.

LEADER: Did you find any money, Luvie?

LUVIE: I found three quarters for Cubbie!

(If you are using the money jar, place three quarters in the jar.)

CUBBIE: And then Katie Collie helped me find two quarters and five dimes in the sandboxes at the playground.

(Add the rest of the quarters and the dimes to the jar, if you have it.)

LEADER: Well, Cubbie, that gave you —

LUVIE (interrupting): Two dollars!

CUBBIE: Yep, but I still needed one more dollar. I looked all over, but I couldn't find any more money. Then the next day, I saw Timothy's friend, Will. He had come to the farm for Timothy's birthday party. I told Will that I didn't have enough money to buy Timothy's present, and Will gave me one whole dollar!

(Add the dollar bill to the money jar.)

LEADER: That's wonderful! So if you added the dollar to the pennies in your jar and the money that Katie Collie found —

LUVIE (interrupting): And the money that I found!

CUBBIE: I had just enough to get Timothy's tractor!

LEADER: Oh, Cubbie, I'm so glad! *(Looking at a clock or watch.)* Cubbie, it's almost time for Timothy's party!

(If you are using party hats, put them on Cubbie and Luvie.)

CUBBIE: That's right! Luvie, we've got to go or we'll miss Timothy's birthday party! Goodbye, everyone!

(Have children wave goodbye as the puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during club.

IDEA 1: Pretzel Rod Cross

What You Need

- Pretzel rods
- White or milk chocolate
- Small microwave-safe bowl
- Microwave
- Spoon or butter knife
- Wax paper
- *Optional* — sprinkles

For each cross you need a whole pretzel rod and a rod broken in half. Melt the chocolate according to the package directions. Dip one end of each pretzel into chocolate. Use a spoon or butter knife to spread chocolate further up the pretzel. Allow excess chocolate to drip off. First lay the long pretzel on wax paper, and then place shorter one across it to make a cross shape. If desired, shake sprinkles over the top before chocolate sets. Let dry completely before serving.

IDEA 2: Graham Cracker Cross

What You Need

- Graham crackers
- Decorator icing (or frosting in a decorator bag or squeeze bottle)
- *Optional* — Let Cubbies add chocolate chips or M&Ms. Instead of graham crackers, you could let Cubbies decorate cross-shaped cookies.

Use the frosting to draw a cross on each graham cracker. If desired, let Cubbies use candies to decorate the cross before eating.

IDEA 3: Leader's or Parent's Choice

Let a leader or parent (or whoever is supplying the snack) bring in his or her favorite snack. Provide the parent with the "Safe Snack Guidelines" document from the resource CD.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **"Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man"**
- **"J-E-S-U-S"** (from Unit 4) Add the verse learned in Bear Hug 19 about Jesus making the blind man see.
- **"Jesus Loves Me"** or the chorus of the hymn **"Oh, How I Love Jesus"**
- **"Do You Know What Jesus Did?"** to the tune of "The Muffin Man" (from Bear Hug 20 and 21). Include the verses about Jesus dying on the cross and Jesus rising from the dead. Add this new verse:

(Leader calls to Cubbies)

Oh, do you know who Jesus loves?
Who Jesus loves, who Jesus loves?

(Cubbies respond to leader)

Oh, yes I know who Jesus loves!
I know that He loves me.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, do you remember our Core Truth? *(Say the Core Truth together.)* God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to save us from sin. The Bible says that we have all sinned. Remember, a sin is anything we think *(point to your head)*, say *(point to your mouth)* or do *(hit your fist in your hand)* that disobeys God. *(Name some sins that are relevant to preschoolers, such as disobeying parents, throwing a temper tantrum, hitting a sibling, taking a toy away from a friend.)* Today we are going to tell God we are sorry for a sin we have done. You can pray without even saying anything out loud. God will still hear you! *(Give Cubbies several seconds to pray silently for personal sin. Then pray out loud, thanking God that He forgives sin because of what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross.)*

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 5, 10, 17, 75-79, 81, 83-86
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Mark 10:46-52, Luke 19:1-10, and John 12:1-11
- *Optional* — brown sheet, towel or blanket; blue bath robe; tree branch or picture of tree (resource CD); bottle of perfume; a small cross and a rock.

(Before class, place the brown sheet or blanket along the floor to resemble a path. Place the robe, the branch or picture of a tree, the bottle of perfume, the cross and the rock next to the path, within easy reach.)

Cubbies, during the last days while Jesus lived on earth, He went on a special journey from Jericho to Jerusalem. *(Point to the path.)* Let's find out what happened to Jesus on His trip. The first stop on the trip was near Jericho! *(Have Cubbies stand and walk in place beside the blanket, pretending to travel to Jericho. After they walk for a minute, they sit down to listen to the story. You could also set up each of the four stops in a different place in the room or in a different room. Cubbies could walk to each place and stop to hear you or another leader tell the story.)*

Optional: Ask a male leader to sit beside the road and act out the part of Bartimaeus.

(Display TC75.) While Jesus was walking, He heard a voice calling His name. "Jesus, have mercy on me!" cried Bartimaeus.

Jesus knew that Bartimaeus could not see; he was blind! Jesus loved Bartimaeus. "Bring Bartimaeus to Me," Jesus told the people.

(Hold up the blue bathrobe.) Bartimaeus believed that Jesus is God's Son, the promised Savior. He threw off his cloak, jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

(Display TC76.) When Jesus saw how much Bartimaeus believed in Him, Jesus said, "Bartimaeus, your faith has made you well."

(Display TC77.) All of a sudden, Bartimaeus could see! "Praise God!" he shouted!

The second stop on Jesus' journey was beside a great big tree along the busy road. *(Have children stand, walk in place by the blanket briefly and sit back down. Hold up the tree branch.)*

Jesus stopped beneath the tree and looked up. He knew that someone was up in that tree. Do you know who was in that tree? *(Pause for responses.)*

(Display TC79.) It was Zacchaeus! Zacchaeus was a tax collector. He collected money from the people, but he kept some of the money for himself, and that is stealing!

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was very short! Zacchaeus couldn't see ANYTHING!

So Zacchaeus climbed way, way, up in a big tree next to the road. *(Have Cubbies stand and pretend to climb.)*

(Display TC78.) He was surprised when Jesus stopped below the tree and called to him. "Zacchaeus!" Jesus called. "Quick! Come down. I must stay at your house today." Jesus had come to save Zacchaeus from sin, just as He saves us from sin. *(Repeat the Core Truth on the card with Cubbies twice.)*

(Display TC81.) Jesus walked with Zacchaeus to his house. That day, Zacchaeus believed that Jesus is God's Son, the Savior. He wanted to love and obey God. "I will give back the money that I took from people, and I will give back even more!" he promised.

Our next stop on Jesus' journey is the town of Bethany. *(Have children stand, walk in place by the blanket, and then be seated.)*

Jesus had dinner with the disciples and His special friends: Simon, Mary, Martha and Lazarus. *(Display TC83.)* After dinner, Mary did something very special for Jesus. She brought a jar of perfume. It cost a lot of money!

(Display TC84.) Carefully, Mary opened the jar of perfume and poured it on Jesus. Then Mary washed Jesus' feet with her hair.

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(Display TC85.) Some of the disciples did not like what Mary did. “Why did you waste that perfume by pouring in on Jesus’ feet?” they asked.

“Leave her alone,” Jesus said. “What she has done is beautiful.” Jesus knew that Mary was showing Jesus how much she loved Him. Jesus also knew that soon He would die, and Mary’s gift had made His body ready to be buried in the tomb.

Let’s get ready to travel with Jesus to His last stop on the journey: Jerusalem. **(Have children stand and walk in place along the “road.”)** This was the most important trip ANYONE has ever taken.

Cubbies, a lot of people loved Jesus, but there were some others who did not believe He is God. Those men hurt Jesus, and then they put Jesus on a cross. **(Hold up the cross or display TC17.)** Boys and girls, even though Jesus had NEVER sinned or done wrong things, Jesus died on the cross.

Jesus died on the cross to pay the punishment for our sin. **(If necessary, review the definition of sin: Anything we think, say or do that disobeys God.)** The Bible says that ALL have sinned, that includes me — and you.

Do you remember your Bible verse for this week? It says: ... *The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world (1 John 4:14).* Cubbies, this verse means that God sent Jesus to die on the cross so that He could be YOUR Savior.

(Display TC86.) After Jesus died, His friends put His body in a tomb. A big rock door was rolled in front of the tomb. Soldiers guarded the tomb to make sure no one tried to move the rock door. **(Hold up the rock.)**

This part of our story is very sad **(make a sad face)**. But, this is not the end of our story! Something happened after three days. **(Have children count to three out loud with you. Then display TC5.)** One — two — three days passed, and then Jesus came alive again!

Cubbies, **Jesus came to save us.** Jesus can be your Savior. All you have to do is trust in Jesus. That means that you need to believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sin and that He came alive again!

(Display TC10.) If we trust Jesus as our Savior, then one day we will go to heaven to live with Jesus FOREVER!

Cubbies, Jesus showed us He loves us by dying on the cross for sin. Can you think of ways that WE can show Jesus we love Him? **(Encourage Cubbies to respond. Possible answers include loving others, obeying parents and teachers, going to church, praying, learning their Cubbies verses.)**

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 22 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Bear Hug 22 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- A copy of the Bear Hug 22 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — pairs of child-sized scissors, envelopes (to store picture cutouts), Bible and Jesus stickers

Point to each person on the sheet and ask Cubbies to tell you the person’s name and one thing they remember about him or her. Direct Cubbies to draw a line from each person to the object that belongs with him or her. (Do the Bartimaeus example together first.) Then review the Bible story involving the person and object. As a fun option, Cubbies may color and cut out the pictures, place them in an envelope and decorate the envelope with Bible and Jesus stickers.

NOTE: Additional Handbook Time idea is on the Bear Hug 22 Handbook Leader Sheet.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Play any of the Cubbies' favorite games from the unit as a review. Here are two new ones to try if desired.

IDEA 1: Oh, Where, Oh, Where Did Zacchaeus Go?**What You Need**

- Five trees in different colors (resource CD)
- Zacchaeus figure (resource CD)
- *Optional* — Laminate the trees and Zacchaeus figure for reuse and durability.

In advance, print the five different-colored trees. Cut out the Zacchaeus picture. Place trees on the floor. Hide Zacchaeus behind one of the trees without Cubbies seeing. Cubbies walk in a circle around the trees and sing, "Oh, where, oh, where did Zacchaeus go? Oh, where, oh, where could he be?" At the end of the song, choose one Cubbie to name a tree color. The leader will lift up that tree and look for Zacchaeus. Continue the game until he is found. Let a different Cubbie guess each time. Remind Cubbies that Jesus loved Zacchaeus and knew right where he was all the time. Jesus loves us and always knows where we are. Jesus also knew that Zacchaeus sinned and that we sin. Jesus still loves us when we sin. He came to save us from our sin. Recite 1 John 4:14 together.

IDEA 2: Parachute Play**What You Need**

- Parachute

After spreading the parachute on the floor, review 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 with Cubbies. Ask them how many days Jesus spent in the tomb? (Three.) In this game, the leader will call a Cubbie's name and that Cubbie will lie very still on the ground under the parachute. The rest of the Cubbies will slowly count to three and make the parachute rise up and down three times. When they say "Three!" the Cubbie under the parachute will come out. Repeat with other Cubbies.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)**AWARD ALERT!**

Cubbies will earn a Green Apple emblem for completing Unit 5. Tell parents to arrive early to see their child receive the award. Remind parents to attach this apple emblem to the C on the child's vest.



During your award time, allow Cubbies to share what they are learning about Jesus and His love for all people. They could recite the verse and Core Truth from this unit as well as the A verse (Romans 3:23), C verse (Romans 5:8), Cubbies motto, and key verse.

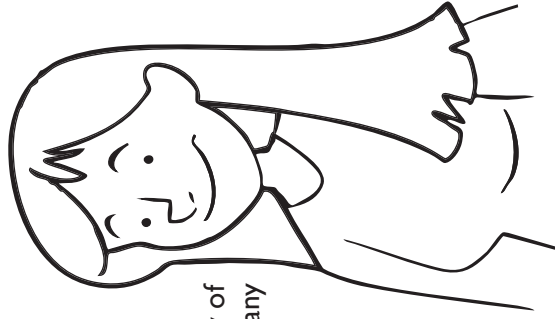
Are the Cubbies' parents aware of any church resources that can better equip them to spiritually nurture their child? You may consider highlighting what is available for them, from adult Bible study groups to upcoming church events like parent seminars. You could also share a resource you have found helpful in raising preschoolers. Do not forget to tell them about the great resources on awana.org for parents as well. The main thing is to let them know you are partners with them as they spiritually nurture their child.

... *The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.*
(1 John 4:14)

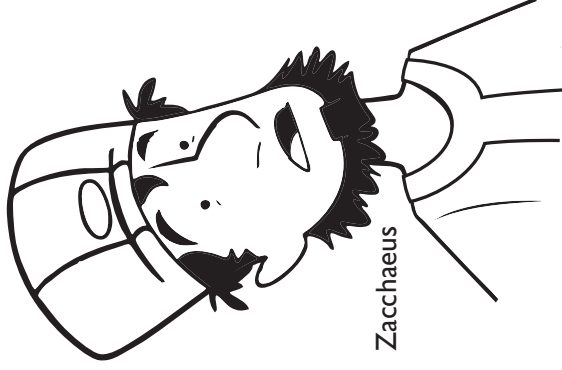
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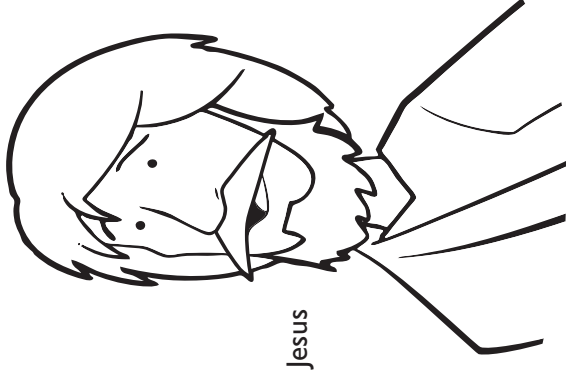
Bartimaeus



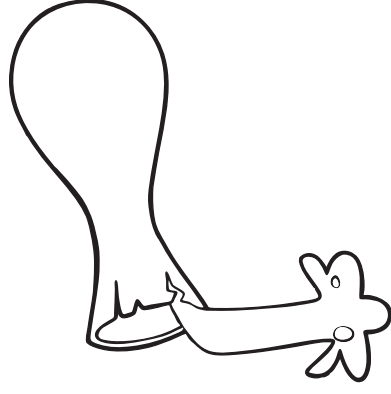
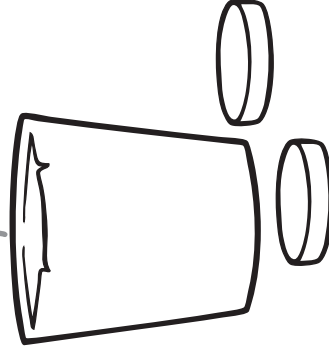
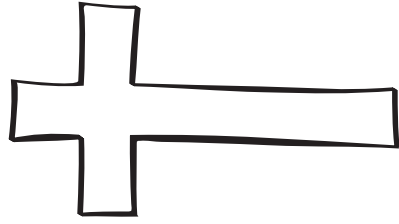
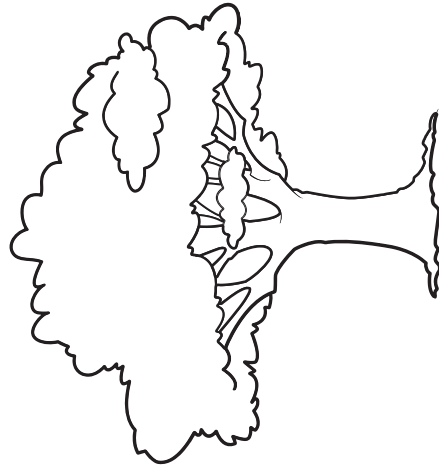
Mary of
Bethany



Zacchaeus



Jesus



Basic Instructions: Draw a line from each person to the object that belongs with him or her. The first one has been done for you. Do you remember the name of each person and the Bible story about him or her? (See Mark 10:46-52, Luke 19:1-10, John 12:1-11, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 for reference.)

Even More Fun: Color the people and objects. Then cut out each person and object, place all the pieces in an envelope and write your name on the envelope. Decorate the envelope with Bible and Jesus stickers. Remember, all the stories in the Bible are true!

Ultimate Fun: Pick one piece from the envelope and set it aside. Without looking, pick another piece. Keep picking until you find the person or object that belongs with your first piece. Then tell someone the Bible story about that person and object.


**BEAR
HUG 23**

Peter and the Disciples Tell the Good News

Make It Stick: Mark 16:15: ... ***“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”*** (Short version in bold.)

The Big Buzz: The Lord Jesus told His disciples to tell everyone the good news that He died for our sins and came alive again. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to help them tell the good news. Those who trust Christ as Savior also have the Holy Spirit to help them tell the good news.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Mark 16:14-20, John 14:15-29; Acts 1-2

Memorize: Mark 16:15

Imagine for a moment the scene that took place on the Mount of Olives (Acts 1). The crowd had witnessed much in the past 40 days and in the weeks leading up to Christ's crucifixion. They had listened with confusion as their Teacher warned of His upcoming death (Matthew 16:21; Mark 8:31-32). They had heard of His promise of a Comforter and Helper (John 14:15-29). They had watched in horror as He was taken from them to be crucified (Mark 14:43-50). They had mourned at His death (John 19:38-42) and rejoiced in His resurrection (John 20). Yes, these men and women had been through much with this Savior, and yet they were only beginning to understand Who He is. Even as the last words of Christ's command to go and be witnesses echoed in their ears, they still seemed at a loss.

Then on the powerful day of Pentecost, the promised Helper arrived, and their lives were never the same. His power and understanding came upon them, and their witness led thousands to believe.

Cubbies need to meet this third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. Kids are often more drawn to Jesus at this age, because He had a visible body, but they must still be aware of the important role the Holy Spirit plays in their salvation and spiritual growth. Explain that the Holy Spirit is God, and He comes to live inside us when we trust Christ as Savior. We can't see Him, but He helps us remember and obey Jesus' words and tell others the good news. Remember, it is the Holy Spirit Who will work through you to help and teach them all things.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8)*! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Know and feel excited about the good news that Jesus died for our sins and came alive again.
2. Hear that Jesus told His disciples to share the good news with everyone.
3. Believe that the Holy Spirit came to help the disciples and all Christians tell the good news.
4. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to live inside us when we trust Christ as Savior.
5. Desire to obey Jesus by telling the good news to others.

6. _____

(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

Lesson Time Prop 1: Megaphone

What You Need

- Paper or Styrofoam™ cups (one for each Cubbie)
- Pairs of adult-sized scissors for leader's use
- Unit 6 Core Truth labels (resource CD)
- Markers and/or Christian-themed stickers

Beforehand, cut the bottom circle out of each cup so the cup resembles a megaphone. Give each Cubbie a Core Truth label to stick on the outside of his or her megaphone. Cubbies may use stickers or markers to decorate their megaphones. Remind Cubbies that Jesus wants us to share the good news with everyone, everywhere. Let various Cubbies practice telling you the good news, using their megaphones. Review the good news: Jesus died for our sins and came alive again. All people who trust Him as Savior will be saved from sin and will be alive with Jesus forever in heaven someday. Cubbies can use the megaphone to shout, "Good news!" when the teacher directs them during Lesson Time.

Lesson Time Prop 2: Flame Headband

What You Need

- Red, orange and yellow construction paper
- Card stock or thin cardboard flame templates (use cardboard from recycled cereal boxes)
- Pencils for tracing
- Pairs of child-sized scissors
- Glue sticks
- Stapler
- *Optional* — red, orange and yellow tissue paper or cellophane to decorate flames

Beforehand, cut several long construction paper strips for the headbands. Also cut flame templates in three sizes from card stock or cardboard. Cubbies will use pencils and templates to trace flame shapes on

construction paper and then cut them out. (To save time, give Cubbies one precut flame shape from the resource CD.) Cubbies stack three flames of different colors (from largest to smallest) and glue them together as one flame to glue onto a headband. Leaders size the band to each Cubbie's head and staple the band. Ask the Cubbies if they know who the Holy Spirit is and let them share their thoughts and ask questions about Him. Explain that the first time the Holy Spirit came to live inside Jesus' disciples, they saw a flame like fire on each head! That was a very special time. We should not expect to see fire like that, but when we trust Christ as Savior, we know the Holy Spirit lives in us to help us tell others the good news and to help us remember and obey Jesus' words from the Bible. Cubbies can wear headbands during Lesson Time.

IDEA 3: People of the World Memory Game

What You Need

- A set of people cards for each table (resource CD)
- *Optional* — laminate cards for durability

Print the page of people cards from the resource CD. (This page makes a set of 12 cards.) Cut out the cards, mix them up and set them face down on each table in rows. Let three or four Cubbies sit at each table and take turns flipping over two cards at a time. If the cards match, the player removes them and takes another turn. If the cards don't match, the player flips them back over and the next player takes a turn. Remind Cubbies that Jesus wants us to share the good news with all people. Recite Mark 16:15 together and make sure Cubbies understand what each word means in the verse.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, unit Core Truth and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- Sign for Katie's neck (resource CD)
- Yarn
- Hole punch
- *Optional* —two honey jars or bottles

(Before the show begins, print the sign for Katie from the resource CD. Punch out the holes and tie yarn through them to make a sign that will hang comfortably on Katie's neck.)

LEADER: I wonder what Cubbie Bear and his friends have been up to today? Let's call him together. Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Bring Cubbie bear puppet into view, hopping around.)

LEADER: Cubbie! You seem excited today, as usual. What's going on?

CUBBIE *(still hopping)*: Hi, boys and girls! I have been a super helper today!

LEADER: Oh, what have you been doing?

CUBBIE: Katie Collie and I have been helping Timothy at the big honey sale.

(Place the sign on Katie's neck. Then make a barking noise from offstage and bring the Katie Collie puppet into view.)

LEADER: What does your sign say, Katie?

KATIE: It says, "Honey for Sale." We have been helping Timothy spread the good news about the honey. We're telling all the people on the farm: "Honey for sale. Buy one jar, get one jar free!"

LEADER: That sounds like fun! Have you had many customers?

CUBBIE: Not at first, but then someone special bought the first jar of honey.

LEADER: Who was that?

CUBBIE and KATIE *(together)*: Luvie Lamb!

LEADER: Luvie?! I didn't know lambs liked honey.

KATIE: She doesn't, but she knows that a certain bear —

CUBBIE *(interrupting)*: And his friend Timothy —

KATIE: Love honey.

LEADER: Luvie bought honey for you?!

CUBBIE: Yep! She bought one jar, and got the second jar free. Then she gave a jar to me and one to Timothy.

(Display the two optional honey jars to Cubbies at this time. Cubbie Bear should show excitement to see the honey jars.)

LEADER: Well, I hope that wasn't the only honey sold today.

KATIE: Oh, no! Soon lots of people began buying honey.

CUBBIE: It sure was fun to tell others the good news about the honey!

LEADER: Yes it is, Cubbie.

CUBBIE: Katie, I'm going to go see how the honey sale is going. Wanna come with me?

KATIE: Sure! Goodbye, boys and girls.

(Have children wave goodbye as puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during club.

IDEA 1: Blue Skies and White Clouds**What You Need**

- Blue Jell-O (or blueberries)
- Whipped cream topping
- Cups
- Spoons
- *Optional* — Teddy Grahams

Fill a cup with blue Jell-O for each Cubbie. Just before serving, top each Jell-O cup with a spoonful of whipped cream. For extra fun, hide a Teddy Graham in the whipped cream for each Cubbie. Ask Cubbies if the snack reminds them of a blue sky and a white cloud. Talk about the cloud that hid Jesus when He was going up to heaven. Ask questions like these: Before Jesus left, what did Jesus tell His disciples to do? What is the good news we should tell about Jesus? Why should we tell others the good news?

IDEA 2: Cupcake Faces**What You Need**

- Frosted cupcakes
- Decorator gel or mini chocolate chips
- Sliced strawberries or birthday candles and a lighter

Beforehand, use decorator gel or chocolate chips to make a face on the frosted portion of each cupcake. Place a strawberry slice at the top of the head to resemble a flame; or instead, place a birthday candle on each cupcake. Light the candles so Cubbies can see them. Then, blow out the candles before serving the cupcakes. (Be mindful of any fire safety rules at your church before planning this snack.) Review that when the Holy Spirit first came to live inside the disciples, they heard a sound like a mighty wind and saw flames like fire on each person's head. Emphasize that this was a special time; Cubbies should not expect to see fire like that today! Discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)**What You Need**

- Teaching Cards (TC) 5, 63, 69, 72, 76 for the song "J-E-S-U-S"
- Bible

SING:

- **"Do You Know What Jesus Did?"** (sing all verses from Unit 5) or **"J-E-S-U-S"** (sing all verses from Unit 4; display corresponding teaching cards as you review Bible stories in the song)

- **"Go and Tell the Good News"** to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" This is a good unit theme song. For extra fun, turn this into a game. Cubbies sit in a circle. One child is chosen to be the missionary. He or she walks around the circle, carrying a Bible, while everyone else sings the song. When the song is finished, the missionary hands the Bible to the nearest child. They switch places, and the song is repeated.

We will go and tell the good news,
The good news, the good news,
We will go and tell the good news
All over the world.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, God loves you very much. He also loves other people very much. God wants us to tell others the good news that Jesus died for their sins and came alive again. Jesus sent a special Helper, named the Holy Spirit, to help us tell others the good news. When you trust Christ as your Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you. You won't see Him, because He doesn't have a body like you do, but you will know He's there. He will help you remember and obey Jesus' words from the Bible. He will also help you share the good news of Jesus with others. *(Lead Cubbies in a prayer, thanking God for the Holy Spirit. Allow time for Cubbies to ask questions about the Holy Spirit.)*

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 19, 87-88
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Mark 16:14-20 and Acts 2
- Paper cloud cut from white construction paper
- *Optional* — battery-operated candles, wind and crackling fire sound effects (many sound effects can be downloaded free online), flame shapes cut from orange and red cellophane, megaphones and (or) flame headbands from Comin In

(Adapt and personalize the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

What was the good news that Timothy and Cubbie were telling people today on the farm? (The good news that the honey was on sale.) “Good news” can be anything we hear that makes us feel excited and happy. Cubbies, what are some things that make you feel excited? **(Let Cubbies share.)**

Optional: Let children pantomime two or three things that excite them, such as a birthday party, eating ice cream or swimming in a pool.

If you heard that someone is taking you out for ice cream **(or insert another exciting thing that Cubbies mentioned)**, you would feel excited, right? That would be good news! You would want to tell everyone about your good news so they could be excited and happy about it too.

The Bible tells us about the BEST good news we can ever hear. And this good news is for EVERYONE! Each time I say “good news” in the Bible story, let’s all cup our hands around our mouth and shout “Good news!” **(Practice this a few times. Cubbies may use megaphones from Comin In.)**

(Open your Bible to Mark 16:14-20 and keep it visible while you teach.) Jesus had been with His friends, the disciples, for a very long time, but now it was time for Him to go back to heaven to be with His Father, God.

(Display TC19.) Before He went up to heaven, He told His disciples to do something for Him.

(Read Mark 16:15 from your Bible.) Jesus was asking them to go *everywhere* and tell *everyone* the gospel, which is the **(cup hands and shout with Cubbies)** GOOD NEWS! The **(cup hands and shout with Cubbies)** GOOD NEWS is that Jesus died for our sins and came alive again. All people who trust Him as Savior are saved from the punishment for sin, and one day they will go to heaven and be alive with Jesus forever. This is the best news of all!

Jesus told the disciples to wait in the city of Jerusalem because He was going to send them a special Helper. This Helper would help them tell the **(cup hands and shout with Cubbies)** GOOD NEWS about Jesus.

(Display TC19 again.) Then, Jesus was lifted up to heaven, and a cloud covered Him so they couldn’t see Him anymore. **(Remove TC19 from view and hold up the white paper cloud instead.)** Cubbies, how do you think the disciples felt when Jesus was gone and all they could see was a big, white cloud? If you were there, how would you feel if you couldn’t see Jesus anymore? **(Allow response.)**

The disciples probably felt so sad. Suddenly, two angels in white robes came and stood by them. The angels said, “Why are you still looking up at the sky? Jesus will come back again someday!”

I’m sure the disciples felt much better after they heard THAT! And they remembered Jesus had promised to send them a special Helper. So they went to Jerusalem to wait for the special Helper. While they waited, they prayed together every day. They kept on praying and praying, and soon the day came for the Helper to arrive.

(Display TC87 and open your Bible to Acts 2.)

On that day, they were all together in a house. Suddenly, they heard a sound from heaven like a mighty, whooshing wind. **(Direct Cubbies to blow as hard as they can to imitate the sound of wind.)** Flames like fire landed on each head — but these flames did not hurt them or burn them. **(Turn on a few battery-operated candles as a visual.)** The flames let them know that the special Helper had arrived. The Helper was the Holy Spirit coming upon each of them.

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Optional: Choose one or more ways to make the scene come alive for Cubbies: 1. Play wind and crackling fire sound effects. 2. Give each Cubbie a flame shape cut from red or orange cellophane. They can hold it over their heads like the disciples in the picture and then crinkle it to make fire sound effects. 3. Let Cubbies wear flame headbands made during Coming In.

Cubbies, the Holy Spirit is not the wind or the fire. The Holy Spirit is a very special person. You cannot see Him in this picture, because He does not have a body like we do. But we know He is real, and He is God. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live inside the disciples to help them tell others the **(cup hands and shout with Cubbies)** GOOD NEWS about Jesus.

(Display TC88.) When the Holy Spirit came, the disciples all started talking at once. Soon a crowd of men gathered outside their house. The men were visiting Jerusalem from many different countries. The men were surprised because they all heard the disciples talking with words they could understand! Usually, people from different countries do not speak with the same words, or language, but the Holy Spirit helped the disciples talk about Jesus so everyone could understand.

(Point to Peter at the front of the disciples in TC88.) Then Peter, one of the disciples, stood up and told everyone the **(cup hands and shout with Cubbies)** GOOD NEWS about Jesus. He said, "Jesus Christ died on the cross and He came alive again." Many, many people believed what Peter said. They trusted Jesus to be their Savior. Their sins were forgiven, and they knew that one day, they would go to heaven and live there with Jesus forever.

(Open your Bible to Mark 16:15 again. Tell Cubbies not to shout when you say "Good news" from now on.) Cubbies, remember in our verse today, Jesus said: ... "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). **(Repeat the verse twice with Cubbies.)** The gospel is the good news about Jesus. Preach means "to tell." Jesus wants us tell the good news to everyone, just like He told the disciples to do.

Cubbies, here is more good news! When you trust Jesus Christ as Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside you too. That doesn't mean you will hear wind or see fire, but you will know the Holy Spirit is in you, because He will help you remember and obey Jesus' words from the Bible and He will help you tell others the good news about Jesus. **(Close in prayer, thanking Jesus for sending the Holy Spirit.)**

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of the Bear Hug 23 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Bear Hug 23 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of Bear Hug 23 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie (print on card stock for the optional cloud craft)
- Crayons
- *Optional* — cotton balls, glue sticks, brad fasteners, cloud patterns cut from card stock (resource CD)

As Cubbies color the picture, ask them if they remember what Jesus said to His disciples before He went back up to heaven. Jesus said their Bible verse, Mark 16:15. Make sure Cubbies understand what each word or phrase in the verse means. Talk about ways they can share the good news about Jesus with others. For extra fun, Cubbies can stretch out cotton balls and glue them on the clouds. For the ultimate fun option, help Cubbies attach a cloud shape to their sheet with a brad in the marked location. Cubbies move the cloud to cover and uncover Jesus. Explain that someday Jesus will come back again in a cloud! (Luke 21:27; Acts 1:11)

NOTE: Additional Handbook Time idea is on the Bear Hug 23 Handbook Leader Sheet.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Cubbies enjoy and learn from repetition. Repeat any games Cubbies enjoyed from Unit 5.

IDEA 1: Wait, Then Go Relay**What You Need**

- Yellow and red beanbags (or felt flame shapes)

Remind Cubbies that before Jesus went back up to heaven, He said Mark 16:15 to His disciples. Recite the verse together. Explain that Jesus was asking His disciples to go everywhere and tell everyone the good news. See if Cubbies can tell you the good news. (Jesus died for our sins and came alive again. All people who trust Him as Savior will be saved from sin, and one day they will go to heaven and be alive with Jesus forever!)

Divide Cubbies into groups of six. Three Cubbies will stand at one end of the room, and the other three will stand at the opposite end of the room. Give the first Cubbie on one end a beanbag. At your signal, the first Cubbie will run across the room to another Cubbie in his group, gently place the beanbag on her head and say, "Go tell the good news!" That Cubbie will then grab the beanbag in her hand, run to the opposite side of the room and repeat the process with another Cubbie. Constantly encourage Cubbies to wait until the beanbag is placed on their head before they start to run.

At the end of the game, ask Cubbies if it was hard to wait for the beanbag before they could run. Review that before the disciples could share the good news, they had to wait for the promised Helper from Jesus, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us tell the good news too.

IDEA 2: Pass the Light**What You Need**

- Small flashlight or battery operated candle for each person

Cubbies sit in a circle, each holding a flashlight. Darken the room, but not entirely. Begin with one leader standing in the middle. His flashlight

is turned on. He walks up to a Cubbie and says, "Jesus loves you." That Cubbie will turn on his flashlight, stand up and go to another Cubbie to repeat the phrase, while the leader sits in the Cubbie's seat. Continue until all Cubbies' flashlights are on. Comment on how bright the room has become. Talk about why it is important to share the good news of Jesus with others.

IDEA 3: Flame Runners**What You Need**

- Lengths of red, orange and yellow streamers to represent flame

Divide Cubbies into groups of three. Give the first runner in each group a length of each color of streamer. At your signal, the runners with the "flames" will each run one lap around the room or game circle. Before passing off their streamers to the next runner, they must say the short or long version of Mark 16:15 or the Core Truth: Jesus says to tell the good news.

Ask Cubbies if the streamer colors remind them of anything from the Bible story. Talk about the Holy Spirit's first coming and the ways He works in our lives now by helping us to tell the good news to others and by helping us remember and obey Jesus' words in the Bible. Allow Cubbies to ask any questions about the Holy Spirit.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

Sing "Go and Tell the Good News" from the Songs section again and play the game using a Bible. You could also use the Bible to play a whisper game. Cubbies sit in a circle. Pass the Bible as you whisper a short verse or Bible phrase (such as "Tell the good news" or "Jesus died for your sins") to the first Cubbie, who will pass the Bible and whisper the phrase to the Cubbie beside her. After the Bible and message are passed around the circle, the last Cubbie will say what she heard. Emphasize the importance of listening carefully to God's Words from the Bible so we can tell them correctly to others.

... **“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15)**

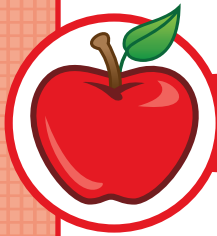
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Basic Instructions: Color the picture of Jesus going back up to heaven. Before Jesus left, He said the words of your verse, Mark 16:15, to His disciples. Jesus wanted them to go everywhere and tell the good news about Jesus to every person.

Even More Fun: Stretch out cotton balls and glue them on the clouds.

Ultimate Fun: Your leader will help you attach a cloud shape (pattern on resource CD) with a brad fastener in the marked spot on your sheet. Move the cloud to cover Jesus. When Jesus was going to heaven, a cloud hid Him from view. Move the cloud to uncover Jesus. Someday Jesus will come back again in a cloud! (Luke 21:27; 1 Thessalonians 4:17).


**BEAR
HUG 24**

Philip Tells the Good News

Make It Stick: Romans 10:15: ... *"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel ..."*

The Big Buzz: Philip shared the good news of Jesus with an Ethiopian officer. We can share the good news too! God is happy when we share the good news with others.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Acts 8:26-40; 1 Peter 3:15; 2 Timothy 4:2

Memorize: Romans 10:15

One of the strongest pleas for teachers is found in Acts 8:31. Philip had just asked the Ethiopian eunuch if he understood the Scripture he had been reading. The eunuch replied, ... *"How can I, except some man should guide me? ..."*

This call for understanding still echoes in the hearts of people today — even in the hearts of your Cubbies. Are you willing to step up and be that guide? If so, take a few pointers from Philip.

He was ready when the Spirit led him to the eunuch. You never know when God is going to use you to tell others the gospel. Your job is to always be prepared (1 Peter 3:15; 2 Timothy 4:2).

Be in the Word. There are people all around you who are just like the eunuch. They have questions about the Bible. Do you know the Bible well enough to answer them? How much time do you devote to personal prayer and study of God's Word? Are there classes or other resources that would enhance your Bible knowledge?

Understand your audience. Not only did Philip understand the text, he understood the eunuch's questions and level of understanding. Philip began teaching with the passage of Scripture that the eunuch was reading and used that to explain the good news about Jesus.

You have been sharing the gospel clearly and consistently throughout this whole year in Cubbies. This lesson is a chance to solidify and further their understanding. This is a great time to ask them questions. Make sure they understand the truth clearly!

As you follow Philip's example and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you, you too will be a faithful teacher of God's Word.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8)*! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Grasp the concept of "good news." Jesus died for our sins and then came alive again.
2. Know that we obey Jesus when we share the good news.
3. Understand that God helped Philip tell the good news. He will help Cubbies share the good news too!
4. Learn one way that they can tell others the good news.

5. _____

6. _____

(Add the goals the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

IDEA 1: Philip and Ethiopian Puppet Scene

What You Need

- Standard envelopes (no more than 5 or 6 inches [13 or 15 cm] wide)
- Precut wheel patterns (resource CD)
- Precut Philip and Ethiopian faces (resource CD)
- Construction paper
- Glue sticks
- Pairs of child-sized scissors
- Jumbo craft sticks
- Markers and crayons
- *Optional* — white copy paper cut into small rectangles

Seal envelopes beforehand, and give each Cubbie a sealed envelope. Cubbies cut a large round corner from the top of the envelope to make a chariot. (See finished craft photo on the resource CD.) Cubbies glue the chariot onto construction paper and glue one wheel on it. Next, Cubbies each glue a Philip face to one craft stick and an Ethiopian face to another craft stick (Cubbies can cut out the faces from the pattern page, or faces can be precut.) Cubbies insert the two craft sticks into the chariot as puppets. If desired, Cubbies can draw a desert scene and some water on their paper. Encourage Cubbies to act out the Bible story using the craft. Philip can run up to chariot, and climb inside. Then Philip can baptize the Ethiopian.

IDEA 2: Gospel Picture Wheel

What You Need

- Copy of the Gospel Wheel 1 and the Gospel Wheel 2 page for each Cubbie (resource CD; print on card stock)
- Crayons
- Brad paper fasteners
- Pairs of child-sized scissors

As Cubbies color the Gospel Wheel 1 page, read the text for each picture to help Cubbies understand and remember the

gospel message. Then direct Cubbies to cut out the wheel and the pie-shaped window from the Gospel Wheel 2 page. (Younger Cubbies may need leaders to precut the wheel.) Help Cubbies attach the wheel over the pictures with a brad. Cubbies can move the wheel and practice telling the gospel with the pictures. This craft can be used for a Lesson Time activity.

IDEA 3: Fun With Feet and Shoes

What You Need

For Activity 1:

- Light brown construction paper
- Crayons
- Romans 10:15 verse labels (resource CD)
- *Optional* — sand, slightly thinned white glue, paint brush

For Activity 2:

- Several pairs of shoes (Cubbies' and leaders' shoes can be used.)

Do one or both activities. For Activity 1, leaders will trace each Cubbie's feet on a sheet of construction paper. Leaders can trace bare feet or shoes, but they should trace one foot in front of the other so it looks like the feet are walking. Cubbies can stick a verse label on the sheet and color the feet. If desired, let them brush a little glue on the paper around the feet and sprinkle on sand. Shake off excess.

For Activity 2, set piles of mixed-up shoe pairs around the room. Assign three or four Cubbies to a pile. On your signal, Cubbies will race to match each shoe in the pile with its pair and line up the pairs on the floor.

After either activity, ask Cubbies how they could use their feet to go and tell others the good news about Jesus.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, unit Core Truth and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- *Optional* — Cubbie vest

LEADER: Hello, Cubbies! Are you ready to talk with our friend, Cubbie Bear? Help me call him on the count of three, OK? Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Bring Cubbie bear puppet come into view, hopping around.)

LEADER: Hi, Cubbie. *(Cubbie continues hopping around.)* You seem excited, as usual.

CUBBIE: I am, I am! I met two new friends today!

LEADER: That's wonderful!

CUBBIE: Timothy and I were playing on the playground on Apple Acres Farm. We swung on the swings, slid down the slides and climbed on the big cruise ship.

LEADER: That sounds like fun!

CUBBIE: It was! While we were sliding on the slide, two girls came to play.

LEADER: What were their names?

CUBBIE: Hannah and Charlotte. They both liked our blue vests.

LEADER: Well, they do look very nice!

(If you are using the Cubbie vest as a prop, hold it up now. Ask all the Cubbies who are wearing their vests to raise their hands.)

CUBBIE: Hannah asked why there was an A on our vests, so Timothy told them.

LEADER (looking at Cubbies): Boys and girls, do you remember what the A on your Cubbie vest stands for? *(Pause for replies.)* The A stands for All. *(Review Romans 3:23 with Cubbies.)*

CUBBIE: Charlotte noticed the big C on our vests, next to the A. Timothy remembered what he learned in Cubbies and told them all about the C.

LEADER (looking at Cubbies again): The C on the vest stands for Christ. Do you remember Romans 5:8? *(Review Romans 5:8 with Cubbies.)*

CUBBIE: Hannah and Charlotte really wanted blue vests like ours, so Timothy invited them to come to Cubbies with us!

LEADER (excitedly): That's wonderful, Cubbie! Did the girls' parents say they could come to Cubbies with you and Timothy?

CUBBIE: OOOPS! I forgot to find out! I'm going to go right now and ask Timothy if Hannah and Charlotte can come to Cubbies with us. Goodbye, boys and girls!

(Children wave goodbye as the Cubbie puppet is put away.)

LEADER (excitedly): Cubbies, Timothy used his vest to share the good news with Hannah and Charlotte! We're going to learn more today about what it means to share the good news and how you can do it too.

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during club.

IDEA: Scroll Snacks

What You Need

- Stick pretzels
- Fruit Roll-Ups®

If necessary, cut Fruit Roll-Ups into smaller portions so they are proportionate to the pretzels. Let Cubbies make miniature scrolls by setting a pretzel at each short end of a Fruit Roll-Up portion, and rolling the ends together to make a scroll. Ask Cubbies who was reading the scroll in the Bible lesson. What did Philip help the Ethiopian man to understand from the scroll? (The good news about Jesus).

IDEA 2: Bible Snacks

What You Need

- Fig Newtons® or chocolate-covered graham crackers (like Keebler® Deluxe Grahams)
- White decorator frosting
- Sharp knife for leader's use

For each Fig Newton, trim off the edge of one long side with a sharp knife, so the filling shows on three sides. This makes the cookie look like a Bible with pages showing on three sides and binding on the fourth side. With the frosting, draw a cross on the "cover" of each Bible. If you are using chocolate-covered cookies, cut the chocolate edge off of three sides, so the cracker shows through. Talk with Cubbies about how important it is to know what the Bible says so that we can tell others the good news about Jesus.

IDEA 3: Desert Sand

What You Need

- Vanilla pudding in cups
- Graham crackers

Serve each Cubbie a cup of pudding topped with crushed graham crackers to resemble sand. Talk about how Philip met the Ethiopian on a desert road. (Be sure Cubbies understand what a desert is.) Philip used his feet to run to the chariot and tell the Ethiopian about Jesus. Recite Romans 10:15 together.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

What You Need

- Bible for "Go and Tell the Good News" song and game

SING:

- **"Go and Tell the Good News"** to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" (from Bear Hug 23). Play the game that accompanies the song.
- **"Romans 10:15"** from the *HoneyComb Handbook Music CD*
- **"I'll Tell the Whole World"** to the tune of "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." For new verses, replace "the brothers and the sisters" with other people, such as "the grandpas and the grandmas" or "my next door neighbor."

First verse: I'll tell the whole world the good news. (*Sing four times.*)

Second verse: I'll tell the brothers and the sisters the good news. (*Sing four times.*)

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, it's time to talk to God. We can pray for others who need to hear the good news that Jesus died on the cross for their sin and came alive again. If they trust in Him, they will be saved from the punishment for their sin, and one day they can go to heaven and live with Jesus forever! Do you know someone who needs to hear the good news? (*Encourage Cubbies to respond. Remind them that relatives, friends and neighbors all need to hear the good news.*) Would you like to pray for someone who needs to hear the good news? (*Lead in prayer, mentioning one person who needs to hear the good news. If you have a large class, tell the Cubbies that they can call out the name of someone. Say, "God, please help (say a person's name) to hear the good news." Remind Cubbies that God will hear each of them, even when they say the name at the same time.*)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)**What You Need**

- Teaching Cards (TC) 89-92
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Acts 8:26-39 and Romans 10:15
- Two feet cut from construction paper
- *Optional* — roll of freezer paper or parchment paper, two small dowel rods, gospel tracts or gospel picture wheels from Coming In

(Before class, cut two large feet from construction paper. You may also prepare these two optional items. First, make a simple scroll. Tear off 12 inches of parchment or freezer paper. Tape one dowel rod to one end of the paper, and then tape the other dowel rod on the other end of the paper. Roll the dowel rods together so that they meet in the middle. Second, choose a gospel tract that explains the message of salvation simply and with plenty of illustrations that would be appealing to a child. Gather enough tracts so you can give one to each of your Cubbies. Instead of tracts, Cubbies may use the gospel picture wheels made during Coming In.)

(Adapt and personalize the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

I'm glad that Cubbie's friend, Timothy, was able to share the good news about Jesus with Hannah and Charlotte. Do you have any friends who play with you? *(Pause for replies.)* Did you know that YOU can share the good news with your friends and family? In today's lesson we are going to learn a true story from the Bible about a man named Philip who chose to tell the good news. Remember, all the stories in the Bible are true.

(Open your Bible to Acts 8:26-40 and display TC90.)

One day an angel came to Philip and said, "Go down to the road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza."

Right away, Philip obeyed. Soon Philip arrived at the road. He looked one way, then the other. *(Place hand over eye and "scan" the room.)*

(Keep displaying TC89 and point to the chariot.)

Suddenly, he saw a chariot moving along the road. The Holy Spirit told Philip to go and catch

up with the chariot. So what do you think Philip did? *(Pause for replies.)* Philip ran after the chariot *(Have Cubbies stand and run in place.)*

(Display TC90.) When Philip reached the chariot, he peeked inside. He saw an important Ethiopian officer who worked for a queen! He was sitting inside the chariot and reading a scroll. *(Display the scroll. Pass it around the room for Cubbies to examine.)*

Cubbies, do you know what was written on the scroll? *(Pause for replies.)* On the scroll were words from the Bible.

Philip heard the man reading and asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

The Ethiopian man shook his head *(shake head)*. "No, how can I!" he said. "I need someone to teach me and help me understand."

(Display TC91. This card will be used again.) The man asked Philip to sit with him in the chariot. As they rode along, Philip explained that the words the man was reading were about God's Son, Jesus Christ. Philip told him the good news that Christ died on the cross for our sin, and on the third day He rose again. Those who believe in Jesus are be saved from the punishment for sin.

The officer was so excited to hear the good news! He believed in Jesus and trusted Him as His Savior. After the man trusted in Jesus, he wanted to be baptized. Philip and the Ethiopian stopped the chariot and walked down into the water. *(Display TC92.)* There Philip baptized the man. They were both so happy! Philip was glad that he obeyed Jesus and shared the good news. The man was happy because he trusted in Jesus.

Optional: If your Cubbies are not familiar with baptism, explain that baptism is when a person is laid down in the water and lifted back up again. People are baptized to show others that they trust in Jesus as Savior. Ask them if they have ever seen anyone get baptized at your church. Be aware of any age requirements your church has for baptism in case Cubbies who trust Christ want to be baptized.

(Open your Bible to Romans 10:15.) Philip obeyed Jesus by telling others the good news. Our Bible

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verse says ... "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel ..." (Romans 10:15). (**Lift up your construction paper feet.**) Now that verse doesn't mean that our feet are pretty to look at. This verse means that God is happy when we use our feet to go and preach the gospel to others. The gospel is the good news that Jesus died for our sin and came alive again. (**Display TC91 again.**) You are obeying Jesus when you go and tell the good news. (**Repeat the Core Truth two times.**)

Cubbies, people need to hear the good news about Jesus. They can't hear about Him if we don't go and tell them. Philip used his feet to run to the chariot and tell the officer about Jesus. We can use our feet to go and tell people about Jesus too.

Option: Ask Cubbies different ways they use their feet. Answers may include running, walking, jumping, hopping. Have Cubbies stand in place and act out two or three of these activities. While Cubbies complete the motions with their feet, repeat the Bible verse and the Core Truth. Cubbies could also act out ways people could use their feet or travel in other ways to share the gospel. For example, a person could use their feet to walk to a friend's house to share the good news. A person could ride on a train to go and share the good news. A person could fly in a plane or ride in a boat to share the good news.

Cubbies, did you know you can be like Philip? You might be scared to talk to someone about Jesus. But God is ALWAYS with us. He helped Philip share the good news, and God will help YOU too! There are many different ways you can tell others the good news. Let's practice right now so that we are ready, just like Philip.

Choose one of the activities below to help children learn to tell the good news of Jesus.

Option one: Have children use the letters on their Cubbie vest to tell the good news. Review what the A and C stand for and recite Romans 3:23 and Romans 5:8 together. Also review

the truth that three days later, Jesus came alive again. Now Jesus lives in heaven with God.

Option two: Pass out a tract to each Cubbie. Explain to Cubbies that the words in the tract tell the good news of Jesus. Ask leaders to stand in front of the Cubbies. Then encourage each Cubbie to practice sharing the good news by handing a leader the tract and saying "Jesus loves you!" Cubbies could also practice sharing the good news with their gospel picture wheel craft. Leaders could help them with this during Handbook Time.

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of the Bear Hug 24 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Bear Hug 24 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of Bear Hug 24 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie (print on card stock for the optional chariot craft)
- Crayons
- *Optional* — jumbo craft sticks, glue sticks, pairs of child-sized scissors, chariot patterns cut from card stock (resource CD)

As Cubbies color the picture of Philip, talk about how he used his feet to run and tell the good news about Jesus to the man in the chariot. Recite Romans 10:15 together. Emphasize that the verse is not talking about pretty feet! Rather, it means that God is happy when we use our feet to go tell others the good news. Review the good news: Jesus died for our sins and came alive again. All people who trust Him as Savior will be saved from sin and will be alive with Jesus forever in heaven someday. Help Cubbies complete the optional chariot craft.

NOTE: Additional Handbook Time idea is on the Bear Hug 24 Handbook Leader Sheet.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)**IDEA 1: Pass the Picture****What You Need**

- For each group:
- Copy of the Gospel Wheel 1 page (resource CD; print on card stock)
- Set of four picture shapes cut from Gospel Wheel 1 (print and cut from card stock)
- *Optional* — Laminate all game items for durability and reuse

Divide Cubbies into groups of four children. Give each group a Gospel Wheel 1 page. Set the four picture shapes for each group face down at the other end of the room. At your signal, the first person in each group should run to get a shape, bring it back to her group and place it on the matching portion of the wheel. Then the second Cubbie in each group should go to retrieve a picture shape. Continue in this pattern until each group member has retrieved a shape and all shapes are in the correct spot on the wheel. Then the group members sit down. When all groups have finished, review the Gospel Wheel and make sure they understand the gospel message.

IDEA 2: Use Your Gospel Feet**What You Need**

- *Optional* — Bibles; music player; obstacles you have on hand, such as chairs, blankets, crawling tunnel, play slide, stuffed animals, etc.

Say that Philip used his feet to run to the Ethiopian's chariot to tell him the good news about Jesus. Then review Romans 10:15 and ask the group to think of different ways we could use our feet to help tell others about Jesus. The group acts out the various scenarios. For example, we could walk next door to our friend's house, climb a mountain, jog through the rain forest and jump over puddles, tiptoe past a sleeping tiger, go up the steps to another floor or get in an elevator, walk backwards, balance walking over a bridge (a narrow board placed on the floor), etc. Or the game leader could turn this into a fun game of

Follow the Leader. While music plays, the group will walk around the room and pretend to travel around the world. If desired, Cubbies could carry their Bibles. Cubbies can mimic various transportation forms, such as flying in an airplane, paddling a canoe, swimming through a river, riding on a motorcycle or on a train. Anytime the music stops, everyone will stop and say "Jesus says to tell the good news" before resuming the game. Obstacles can be added for more fun.

IDEA 3: Going to Share Jesus**What You Need**

- Leader's script (resource CD)

Lead Cubbies through the adventure of the game "Going to Share Jesus" which is a variation on the game "Going on a Bear Hunt."

IDEA 4: Chariot Tag**What You Need**

- Nothing

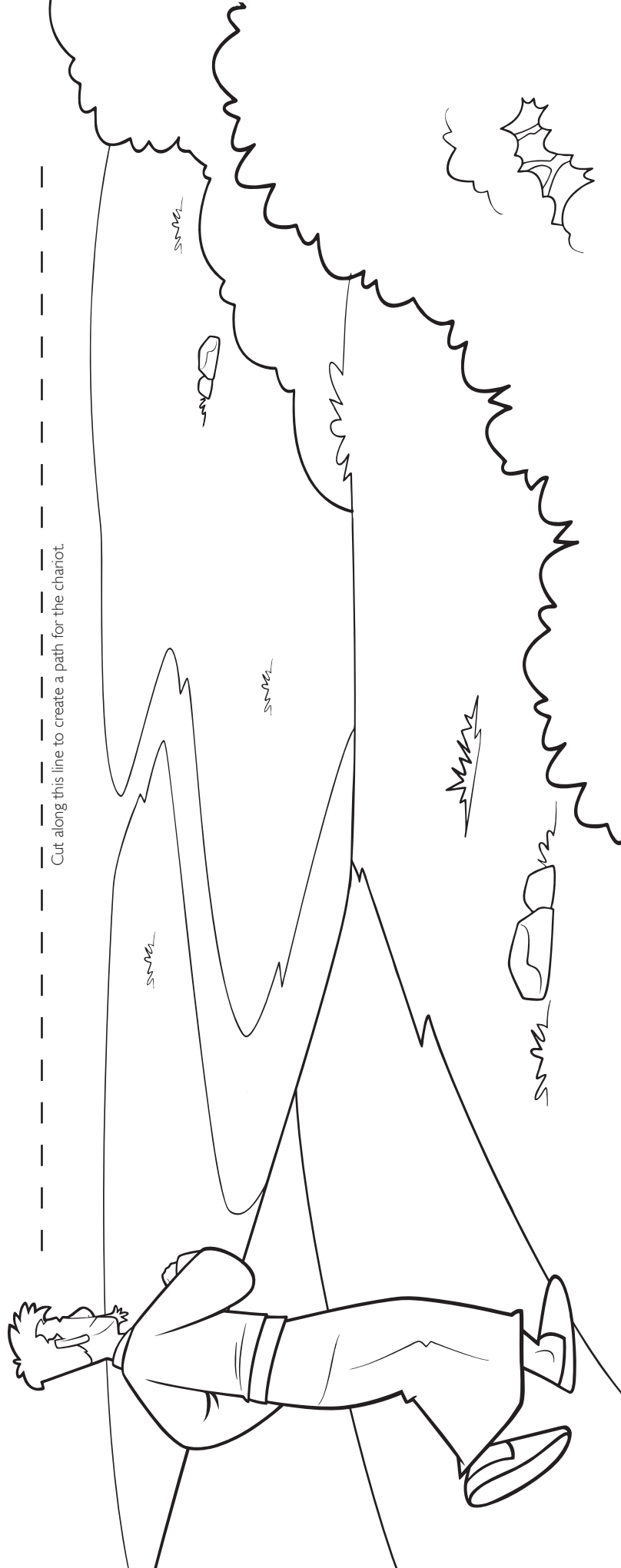
Choose one Cubbie to be Philip. He will be the tagger. All other Cubbies pair up as chariots; one Cubbie will hold the waist of the other. All pairs run and Philip attempts to tag them. When Philip tags each pair, he says "Help me tell the good news about Jesus." At that point, the chariot divides and the two Cubbies help Philip tag other chariots in the same way he tagged them. Game continues until all chariots have been tagged. Begin the game again with a new Philip.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

As the club year is coming to a close, be sure to find out what Awana leader training activities are being offered in your area. Take advantage of these summer opportunities to build relationships and network with other area leaders, enhance your ministry skills to children and families, and recharge your vision and passion for ministry. Communicate these training events early and often for the best involvement of your Cubbies leadership team. May God continue to bless your service!

... "How beautiful are the feet of them
that preach the gospel ..." (Romans 10:15)

NAME: _____



Cut along this line to create a path for the chariot.

Basic Instructions: Color the picture of Philip in the desert. Philip used his feet to run and tell the good news about Jesus to a man in a chariot. Recite your verse, Romans 10:15. This is the good news: Jesus died for our sins and came alive again. Everyone who trusts Him as Savior will be saved from sin and will be alive with Jesus forever in heaven someday.

Even More Fun: Color the chariot from your leader. Glue the chariot to the road on your picture or onto the top of a craft stick.

Ultimate Fun: Cut along the dashed line on your sheet where indicated. Insert the craft stick with the chariot on it into the slit. Hold the stick from behind and move the stick from one side to another so it appears to move down the road.


**BEAR
HUG 25**

Paul and Silas Tell the Good News

Make It Stick: Acts 16:31: ... *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved ..."*

The Big Buzz: Paul and Silas loved to tell others the good news that Jesus died for our sins and came alive again. In Philippi, they told Lydia and the jailer to believe in the Lord Jesus and be saved from sin. We can love to tell others the good news of Jesus too.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Acts 16:11-40

Memorize: Acts 16:31

Memorize: The account of Paul and Silas is a favorite Sunday school story for many boys and girls. Think about it: two heroes, the suspense of being locked in a prison, an earthquake, a happy ending — what's not to like about this story? But if one does a more careful study of these scenes, two often-overlooked truths come to the forefront, offering hope and wisdom to the believer who perseveres through trials.

Midnight Melodies: Imagine the pain that Paul and Silas would have experienced. The stocks and chains — even the prison conditions themselves — were designed to inflict agony to their already-injured bodies. Yet through the torture and hopeless circumstances, their faith never wavered. Perfect peace that passes all understanding filled their hearts with song (Philippians 4:7).

Attentive Audience: Even in prison, the light of the gospel shone brightly. Through their songs and prayers, criminals and outcasts heard firsthand of a faith that can reach through the deepest pain and sustain even the most shattered spirits.

You may have never been beaten or imprisoned, but you have faced frustration, fear, and perhaps wrongful accusations, just like Paul and Silas. What was *your* response? Did you offer prayer and praise to the One Who directs every circumstance in your life?

Remember, you too have an audience. Your Cubbies — and their parents — are watching and listening, and not just during club! Your response to a trying circumstance (whether it be an "off" night or a disobedient child) may be one tool God uses to draw their hearts to Him.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the Lord is good* (Psalm 34:8)! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Review the definition of good news: Jesus died for our sins and came alive again. All those who trust in Him will be saved from sin and be alive with Jesus forever in heaven.
2. Hear about Paul and Silas as they shared the good news with Lydia and the jailer. God helped them share the good news even in a hard situation!
3. Know what it means to believe in Jesus and be saved from the punishment for sin.
4. Thank God for the good news of Jesus Christ as Savior.
5. _____

(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

Welcome Cubbies and reinforce what they learned at home with one or more of the following activities.

IDEA 1: Prison Shackles

What You Need

- Empty paper towel or bath tissue tubes
- Pairs of child-sized scissors
- Hole punch
- Lengths of yarn (each with a knot at one end)

Beforehand, cut the tubes into three-inch (7.62 cm) lengths. Give each Cubbie two tubes. Show Cubbies how to cut each tube up the middle so that it opens. (The tube should fit around a child's wrist like a cuff.) Leaders will use the hole punch to make one hole on each tube. (The holes should be centered on the tube.) Cubbies can thread a length of yarn through the holes to connect the two tubes. Leaders secure the other end of the yarn with a knot. As Cubbies try on their shackles, talk about the experiences of Paul and Silas in prison. Cubbies can wear their shackles during Lesson Time. Instruct them to keep their hands folded in their laps until the teacher talks about the earthquake and the prisoners' chains coming loose. Cubbies can pull their wrists apart so the shackles fall off.

IDEA 2: Homemade Percussion Praise

What You Need

For Maracas:

- Plastic Easter Eggs
- Plastic spoons
- Clear tape
- Permanent markers
- Popcorn kernels (or dry beans, rice or lentils)
- White duct tape or masking tape (Choose a wide tape.)

For Jingle Bracelets:

- Large jingle bells
- Pipe cleaners

Let Cubbies make instruments to play during song time. Maracas: beforehand, fill each egg about one third full with popcorn kernels,

close the egg and secure with clear tape. Give each Cubbie an egg and two spoons. (Tell Cubbies not to try to open their eggs. Small pieces, like popcorn kernels, can become choking hazards.) Show Cubbies how to position the egg between the two spoon cups. (See photos on the resource CD.) Leaders will secure the egg between the spoons with a strip of wide white tape and also tape the ends of spoons together. (If desired, the whole egg can be covered with tape.) Cubbies use markers to decorate the tape on the egg.

Jingle Bracelets: Cubbies thread a bell onto a pipe cleaner and twist the pipe cleaner into a circle so it can be worn as a bracelet or held to shake.

IDEA 3: Bible Story Board Game

What You Need

For each table:

- Copy of the game board (resource CD; enlarge and print on ledger 11"x17" size paper)
- Set of number cards from one to four (resource CD) or a number spinner
- Colored pom-poms or foam shapes to use as game markers

This game may have been played in Bear Hug 24 during Handbook Time. It can be used each week as a review tool. Place a game board and a stack of number cards at each table. Cubbies will each choose a game marker and place it at the start of the board. Cubbies take turns choosing a number card (or using a number spinner) and moving their marker the correct number of spaces. When a Cubbie lands on a picture, she should say something she remembers about the picture. Briefly review the Bible story represented by the picture.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, unit Core Truth and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — beanbag or a small, squishy ball that can fit in Katie Collie's mouth and on her nose; sound effect of a lawn mower (Many sound effects can be downloaded for free online.)

(Set the optional beanbag or ball beside you, within reach.)

LEADER: I wonder where Cubbie Bear is today. I haven't seen him for a while. Let's call for him and see if he comes, OK? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Make barking sounds and bring the Katie Collie puppet into view.)

LEADER: Oh, hello, Katie! We were hoping to have Cubbie Bear come and talk to us today. Have you seen him?

KATIE: Yes, I have. Cubbie, Timothy and I were playing a game of catch with Timothy's friends, Mia and Will.

LEADER: That sounds like fun!

KATIE: It is! I love to play catch. I can catch the ball in my mouth when I jump up high in the air. *(Make the Katie Collie puppet jump up high. If you have the ball, place it in her mouth before she jumps. If you are up for a challenge, gently toss the ball in the air and catch it in Katie's mouth while she jumps. Practice this first.)*

LEADER: Wow, Katie, that's amazing!

KATIE: Thanks! And I have a new trick too. I can hold the ball on my nose! *(If you have the ball, balance it on Katie's nose for a few seconds. You may need to lift the puppet's head slightly. If necessary, hold the ball with one finger at the top so it stays balanced. Consider covering the ball with VELCRO so it will grab on to the puppet's fur.)*

LEADER *(clapping for Katie):* That's a great trick, Katie, but I am still wondering where Cubbie is today.

(Remove the ball from view.)

KATIE: Well, after we played catch, we decided to play Hide-and-Seek. I am really good at that game too. Mia began to count, and the rest of us ran to hide. Timothy and Cubbie ran to the woodshed to hide.

LEADER: That sounds like a good spot to hide.

KATIE: It is, except that Timothy's dad saw that the woodshed door was open. He stopped mowing the grass and went over to the woodshed to close the door. Then he locked it.

LEADER: Oh, no! Timothy and Cubbie were inside!

KATIE: Yep!

LEADER: What did you do, Katie?

KATIE: Well, I started barking and chasing Timothy's dad while he was riding on the big lawnmower. I tried to get his attention, but he didn't hear me.

(If you have a lawn mower sound effect, play it now.)

Listen! I think I hear the lawn mower coming this way. *(Barking loudly)* I need to get Timothy's dad so he can help Timothy and Cubbie Bear. *(Turns to leave, and then turns around again.)* Oh! Goodbye, boys and girls!

(Children wave goodbye as the puppet is put away.)

LEADER: I sure hope Cubbie Bear and Timothy are OK. We'll have to wait until next week to find out more!

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during club.

IDEA 1: Earthquake Shake Pudding**What You Need**

- Instant pudding mix
- Cold milk
- Jar with a lid
- Cups
- Spoons
- *Optional* — music player to play praise songs

Following measurements on package, combine pudding mix and milk in a jar. Secure lid. Remind Cubbies that Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God when they were in jail. Then God sent an earthquake to shake the jail and show His power to set them free. Sing the Cubbies' favorite praise songs together as the jar is passed around so each Cubbie can take a turn shaking it. Soon you will have pudding to share. (Stir the pudding with a spoon just before serving to make sure it is evenly blended.)

IDEA 2: Prison Bar Cookies**What You Need**

- Cookies with chocolate stripes on them, such as Keebler® Fudge Stripes™

Tell Cubbies that the stripes on the cookies remind you of prison bars. Ask Cubbies questions to review the Bible story: Why were Paul and Silas sent to jail? How did Paul and Silas act in jail? What happened after the earthquake? What did the jailer ask? What was their answer? Recite Acts 16:31 together. Emphasize that the Holy Spirit made Paul and Silas strong in a hard time.

IDEA 3: Have Lunch, Will Travel**What You Need**

- Light, healthy lunch for each Cubbie
- Lunch bags

In each Cubbie's lunch bag, include items like a quarter sandwich, cheese stick, pretzels or fish crackers, sliced fruit or vegetables and a juice box. Cubbies walk together, carrying lunch bags, to a designated location to eat the snack. Talk about how Paul and his friends often traveled to tell the good news of Jesus.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

What You Need

- Bible for "Go and Tell the Good News" song and game
- *Optional* — praise instruments made during Coming In to accompany songs

SING:

- **"Go and Tell the Good News"** to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" (from Bear Hug 23). Play the game that accompanies the song.
- **"I'll Tell the Whole World"** to the tune of "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" (from Bear Hug 24)
- **"Rejoice in the Lord Always"** or other joyful kids' praise songs, such as the ones below. Remind Cubbies that Paul and Silas sang praises to God in jail. We can praise God in happy or hard times. Let kids play their rhythm instruments as they sing.
- **"This is the Day," "I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy Down in My Heart," "Hallelu, Hallelu;"** or **"Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children"**

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, we have been learning about the good news that Jesus died for our sins on the cross and came alive again. Remember, a sin is anything we think *(point to your head)*, say *(point to your mouth)* or do *(hit your fist in your hand)* that disobeys God. What are some sins that kids your age might do? *(Help Cubbies name examples of sins that are typical of preschoolers. Examples might include hitting their siblings, throwing a fit, disobeying their parents.)* If we have trusted Christ as Savior, God promises that He has already forgiven us for ALL our sin. Let's pray right now and thank God for forgiving us for sinning.

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)**What You Need**

- Teaching Cards (TC) 19, 91, 93-95
- Bible with a bookmark placed at Acts 16:11-40
- *Optional* — several links of a metal chain, prison shackles from Coming In

(Adapt and personalize the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

(Display TC19.) Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told His disciples to tell the good news to everyone. Cubbies, do you remember what this “good news” is? *(Pause for replies.)* The good news is that Jesus died for our sins and came alive again. All those who trust in Him are saved from the punishment for sin and will be alive with Jesus forever in heaven someday.

(Display TC93. Point to Paul in the striped robe.)

One man, named Paul, LOVED to tell others the good news about Jesus. Paul traveled to many different places to tell people about Jesus, and sometimes he would take his friends with him. One of his friends was named Silas. *(Point to Silas next to Paul.)*

(Open your Bible to Acts 16:11-40. Keep displaying TC93.) In this picture, Paul and Silas are in the town of Philippi talking to some women about Jesus. The women liked to meet at the river to pray to God, but they had never heard the good news about Jesus. *(Point to the woman wearing purple.)* When one of the women, named Lydia, heard Paul talk about Jesus dying for her sins and coming alive again, God helped her to believe everything Paul said. She trusted in Jesus as her Savior. Then she was kind to Paul and Silas, and invited them to stay with her family at her house.

For many days, Paul and Silas stayed and shared the good news about Jesus with people in the town of Philippi. But some people in the city were angry! They did not believe the good news, and they didn't like what Paul and Silas were doing. So the leaders of the town beat Paul and Silas with sticks and threw them into jail.

(Display TC94. Point to the jailer.) The jailer dragged Paul and Silas far into the jail to what was probably the darkest, coldest, smelliest room of all. He fastened their feet into wooden blocks, called stocks, so they couldn't move.

Cubbies, if you were Paul and Silas in that jail, how would you have felt? (sore from their beating and the stocks, scared, sad, etc.)

Optional: Choose one Cubbie to be the jailer, two Cubbies to be Paul and Silas and two more Cubbies to be the stocks. The stocks sit on the floor, while the jailer pulls Paul and Silas by the hands to the stocks. The jailer directs Paul and Silas to lie down on their backs and spread their legs. The Cubbies playing the stocks each grab an ankle of Paul or Silas and hold them still. You could also tell all Cubbies to lie on their backs with their legs spread out and imagine they are trapped in the stocks. Later, lead them in singing a praise song to God, like Paul and Silas did.

Late that night, Paul and Silas were lying on their backs in the stocks, and what do you think they were doing? *(Allow response.)* They weren't crying. They weren't shaking because they were so scared. No, the Bible *(point to Acts 16:25 in your open Bible)* says that Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs to God!

The Bible also says that the other prisoners, the other people locked up in the jail, were listening to them. Suddenly, God did something amazing! He sent a mighty earthquake to the jail.

NOTE: *If you live in areas where earthquakes occur frequently, be especially sensitive to your Cubbies. Assure them that they should trust God, even during earthquakes.*

The ground under Paul and Silas started to shake. *(Direct Cubbies to shake their bodies and pretend the floor under them is shaking.)* The walls of the jail swayed. *(Direct children to sway back and forth.)* The locked doors swung open. *(Clasp your hands in front of you and spread your arms out to your sides quickly to mimic a door opening.)* The chains on every prisoner broke loose!

continued on next page

continued from previous page

Optional: Beforehand, wrap your metal chain around your ankles. Make a lot of noise pulling it off when you talk about the chains of the prisoners breaking loose. Pass around the chain for children to feel.

(Display TC95.) The jailer was afraid. He was in charge of the prison, and he thought all his prisoners had run away through the doors!

"Don't worry!" Paul shouted. "We are all still here!"

The jailer fell down before Paul and Silas. He knew that their God was strong to send such a mighty earthquake to help Paul and Silas. "What do I need to do to be saved?" he asked them.

Paul and Silas said: ... *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved ..."* (Acts 16:31). Cubbies, this is our Bible verse this week! Pretend I am the jailer and you are Paul and Silas. Each time I ask, "What do I need to do to be saved?" say your verse together as an answer to me. **(Repeat this activity twice with Cubbies.)**

Our Bible verse has some big words in it. One word is **believe**. Believe means you know it's true that Jesus died on the cross for your sin and came alive again three days later. You trust Jesus to be your Savior. Another big word in our verse is **saved**. Saved means that we are kept safe from the punishment for sin! Cubbies, do you know what a punishment is? **(Allow response.)** When we do something bad, we sometimes get in trouble, or get punished. A punishment might be sitting in time-out or Mom telling us we can't do the fun thing we wanted to do.

The punishment for sin is much more serious. It's the worst kind of punishment. The punishment for sin is dying and being away from Jesus forever. But Cubbies, we don't have to worry about that — because here's the good news! God said that if we believe in Jesus Christ, we are saved from the punishment for sin. We will still die one day (unless Jesus comes back first), but we will go to heaven and be alive with Jesus forever!

(Display TC95 again.) The jailer believed in the Lord Jesus, and He was saved from his sin! All the people in his family believed in Jesus too. They were so happy that Paul and Silas had told them the good news about Jesus!

(Display TC91.) Cubbies, we too can obey Jesus by telling others the good news. Remember, **Jesus says to tell the good news. (Point to and repeat the Core Truth on the card two times with Cubbies. Close by praying that God will help you and the Cubbies to tell the good news.)**

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of the Bear Hug 25 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Bear Hug 25 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of Bear Hug 25 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie (print on card stock for the optional prison bar craft) • Crayons
- *Optional* — Hole punch, black or gray pipe cleaners or long lengths of black or gray yarn, clear tape

Ask Cubbies why Paul and Silas were thrown into jail. Talk about how the Holy Spirit made Paul and Silas strong to pray, sing, trust God and tell the good news, even in a very hard time. Ask Cubbies what question the jailer asked Paul and Silas. Recite Acts 16:31 together. If Cubbies are completing the optional craft, punch holes in each paper. Show Cubbies how to lace yarn through the holes. Roll a piece of clear tape on one end of the yarn piece to ease lacing. Tie a knot on the other end. When Cubbies are finished, tie another knot to hold yarn in place. Instead of yarn, Cubbies could insert pipe cleaners into the holes. Show them how to bend the ends of the pipe cleaners to secure them on the paper.

NOTE: Additional Handbook idea is on the Bear Hug 25 Handbook Lesson Sheet.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Since Cubbies enjoy and learn from repetition, play one or two games from the last two lessons (Bear Hug 23 and 24) as a review. If desired, add one or two new games:

NOTE: In any game or conversation that involves a prison, be sensitive to Cubbies who have parents or older siblings who are incarcerated. Sadly, this is a growing reality for many children today.

IDEA 1: Circle of Praise!**What You Need**

- *Optional* — music player

Cubbies stand in a circle holding hands to make a prison. Choose two children to be Paul and Silas. They sit in the middle of the circle (the “prison”) with their legs outstretched, pretending their feet are locked in the stocks. Review the events of the Bible story, and when you get to the part about Paul and Silas singing praise songs, direct Paul and Silas to join you in singing a favorite praise song while the rest of the group listens. After a few seconds, let the rest of the group join in the song and walk around in a circle while they sing. When the song ends (and music stops), yell “Earthquake!” Cubbies release hands, raise arms in the air, and shake their arms. Paul and Silas come out of prison and trade places with two Cubbies in the circle. These Cubbies will play Paul and Silas and the game begins again.

IDEA 2: Praise Freeze**What You Need**

- Music player to play lively praise songs
- *Optional* — instruments made during Coming In

As the music plays, Cubbies move to the music and shake their instruments. Periodically stop the music and say, “Everyone freeze!” Ask one child to praise the Lord by saying one thing

they know or love about Him or one thing they want to thank Him for. Keep repeating the game until each child has a chance to praise the Lord.

IDEA 3: Parachute Play**What You Need**

- Parachute or large sheet
- Several small soft balls, such as pool splash balls or sponge balls)

Have Cubbies hold the edge of the parachute. Toss balls onto parachute. Instruct Cubbies to gently bounce the balls at first. When game leader calls “Earthquake!” they may bounce the balls harder and try to get them all off the parachute. Repeat the game, but this time the game leader may send two Cubbies underneath the parachute to pretend to be Paul and Silas in jail. When the earthquake strikes, they will come out.

Alternative game: Let Cubbies try to say Acts 16:31 in its entirety while gently bouncing the balls on the parachute. If one falls off, Cubbies must start the verse at the beginning again.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

As children prepare to go home, sing “Where is Paul?” to the tune of “Where is Thumbkin?” This is a great song to review the Bible story. Lyrics are on the resource CD.

You could play the song game “Rock-a-bye Cubbie” to the tune of “Rock-a-bye Baby.” This song reminds Cubbies that Jesus is always with them, even in hard times. Cubbies pass a pillow while music plays. When the music stops, everyone sings this song to the Cubbie with the pillow:

Rock-a-bye (insert Cubbie name),
Jesus loves you.
He will be with you all the night through.
Rock-a-bye (insert Cubbie name),
This is your song.
Jesus is with you all the night long.

... “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and thou shalt be saved ...” (Acts 16:31)

NAME: _____

To punch holes, first
fold back on this line.

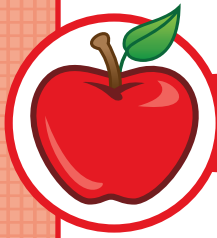


To punch holes, first
fold back on this line.

Basic Instructions: Color the picture of Paul and Silas in jail. They were thrown into jail for preaching the good news about Jesus. While they were in jail, they prayed and sang praises to God.

Even More Fun: If using this option, print sheet on card stock. Your leader will punch holes in your paper so you can lace a long yarn piece through the holes. Start by lacing the yarn through a top hole and then the hole directly below it. Continue this pattern until you have four lines of yarn that look like prison bars. Or, instead of yarn, insert pipe cleaners into the holes, or Cubbies could glue bamboo skewers over the holes.

Ultimate Fun: Hold your paper with two hands and shake it. Remember that God sent a mighty earthquake to shake the prison and show His power to set Paul and Silas free. The jailer asked them how he could be saved from his sin. Paul and Silas said Acts 16:31. Recite your verse to two people.


**BEAR
HUG 26**

We Can Tell the Good News

Make It Stick: Mark 16:15: ... ***“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”*** (Short version is in bold. This verse was learned in Bear Hug 23.)

The Big Buzz: Missionaries have a special job of telling others the good news that Jesus died for their sin and came alive again. We can tell others the good news too!

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Isaiah 55:9-11 and Hebrews 4:12

Review: Mark 16:15

What do you think of when you hear the word *missionary*? Some may automatically picture a person who travels to the deepest jungles of South America or Africa. Others may envision the prayer card of a missionary their church supports. Everyone has his or her own image of a missionary, but how often do you picture *yourself* in that role?

All Christians are commanded to share the good news of Christ, but some Christians have a special mission or job to share the gospel in a certain place or with a certain people group. In this sense, you are a missionary to your Cubbies. Your “people group” is the preschool children in your Cubbies club. God wants you to minister to these children, and He has given you great promises in His Word to strengthen and equip you in completing your task. As you reflect on this past year with your Cubbies, consider the ways God has kept, and is still keeping, these promises:

- God is always with you (Isaiah 41:10).
- The Holy Spirit gives you power and gifts for gospel ministry (Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12).
- The Scriptures make you wise for salvation and equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:15-17).
- God uses you even when you are weak (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- God’s Word will accomplish His purposes; it will not return void (Isaiah 55:9-11; Hebrews 4:12).

Even if you cannot see many tangible effects of your ministry with Cubbies this year, do not lose heart. Your Cubbies may grow up to be future Sunday school teachers, church leaders or even pastors or missionaries. You have provided them with a solid foundation built on God and His Word. And God’s Word is living and active; it will not be without effect.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the Lord is good* (Psalm 34:8)! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Understand that a missionary is someone who has a special job of telling others the good news.
2. Know that missionaries may go far away or stay close to home to do their special job.
3. Learn a true story about a missionary and hear the ways the missionary shared the good news about Jesus.
4. Review the good news that Jesus died for our sins and came alive again.
5. Desire to obey Jesus’ command to tell others the good news.

6. _____

(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

IDEA 1: Tell What You Learned

What You Need

- Bulletin board paper
- Marker(s)

As Cubbies enter, ask them to tell you things they learned about Jesus in Cubbies. Write their responses on the paper in large letters. Be sure to display this paper on the wall or a bulletin board for parents at the end of the night. You could also display it at your year-end awards ceremony.

IDEA 2: Good News Bible

What You Need

- Bible Craft Page (resource CD)
- Bible picture cutouts or stickers (resource CD)
- Lengths of ribbon
- Glue sticks

Cubbies glue a ribbon down the center of the Bible to resemble a bookmark. Cubbies attach stickers or glue cutouts of Bible pictures on the Bible. Review Bible stories in the pictures. Talk about how the Holy Spirit helped the disciples, Philip and Paul and Silas to share the good news of Jesus. Point to the picture of children and remind Cubbies that they can share the good news too, and the Holy Spirit will help them. Recite Mark 16:15 together.

IDEA 3: Toy People and Town

What You Need

- Toy people, such as Lego people or Fisher Price Little People®
- Blocks and toy buildings or a play mat with a town pictured on it
- Toy cars, buses, planes, trains
- *Optional* — Make your own play mat by drawing a town on a white table cloth. In your town, include places that Cubbies go during a week, such as church, grocery store, library, home or the park.

Review the good news: Jesus Christ died for our sins and came alive again. All those who

trust in Him will be saved from sin and be alive with Him forever in heaven. Tell Cubbies to choose some of the toy people to go and tell other toy people the good news, using various forms of transportation. Cubbies can act out the conversation using the people.

IDEA 4: Missions Centers

What You Need

For Center 1: Globe or world map, travel brochures or books about other countries, clothing, toys and other items from other countries, photos or pictures of children and places in other countries

For Center 2: Small suitcase or backpack packed with items a missionary might take on a trip (such as toothbrush, camera, flashlight, Bible, sunscreen)

Center 1: As Cubbies explore the items, talk with them about the people, environments, clothing, food and cultural activities of the countries represented. If applicable, focus on the country of your missionary guest. If you are telling the story of Amy Carmichael in Lesson Time, focus on India. Remind Cubbies that Jesus loves all people, and He wants us to tell people in all places about Him. For fun, teach Cubbies how to say “Hello” or “Jesus loves you” in another language or two.

Center 2: Tell Cubbies that God wants all of us to share the good news, but a missionary is someone who has a special job of telling others the good news. Some missionaries stay close to home. Others have to pack suitcases and travel far away. Show Cubbies the items in the suitcase and name each item. While Cubbies close their eyes, remove one item. Ask Cubbies to identify the missing item.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the “Cubbies Song,” Cubbies key verse and motto, unit Core Truth and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — padlock and key or combination lock, sound effects of a lawn mower (Many sound effects can be downloaded for free online.)

LEADER: Last week Timothy and Cubbie were trapped in the woodshed. I wonder what happened to them. Let's find out! On the count of three, let's call for Cubbie. Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Do not reveal the puppet yet. Pause for a moment, and then lead the children in calling again for Cubbie Bear.) Cubbie? Are you there?

CUBBIE *(hopping into view)*: Here I am!

LEADER *(with concern)*: Oh, Cubbie, I was so worried about you! Last week we heard that you were trapped in the woodshed.

CUBBIE: We were! Timothy tried to open the big door, but it was locked from the outside!

(If you are using a padlock or combination lock, hold it up now and lock it. Consider allowing children to pass it around and examine it. Play sounds of the lawn mower as Cubbie Bear continues talking.)

We yelled and yelled for help, but Timothy's dad was mowing the lawn. Nobody could hear us over the loud mower! I was scared, but Timothy was very brave.

LEADER: What happened next, Cubbie?

(Stop any lawn mower sounds.)

CUBBIE: All of a sudden, the lawnmower stopped. Then we heard Katie Collie!

(Make barking noises and bring the Katie Collie puppet into view.)

KATIE: I was running after the lawnmower, barking as loudly as I could! Finally, Timothy's dad saw me and stopped the mower. I kept barking so he would know something was wrong. He followed me to the shed.

CUBBIE: We heard them coming toward us, so Timothy and I yelled, "Help! Help!" really loud! Timothy's dad unlocked the door and let us out. We were free!

(If you brought a lock, let Cubbies watch you unlock it.)

LEADER *(sighs)*: Whew! Cubbie, I'm so glad you and Timothy are safe now!

CUBBIE: Me too. And I'm glad I have special friends like Katie Collie. She helped us when we were in trouble.

KATIE: Aw ... you know me. I always like to help. I'm glad I'm your friend too, Cubbie. *(Looking at the children)* And I am glad that all of YOU are our friends, isn't that right, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: That's right, Katie. I'm feeling a little sad tonight because this is *(almost)* our last week of club. I'm going to miss seeing all the boys and girls every week at Cubbies.

LEADER: We'll miss you too, Cubbie. Some of us will be back after the summer. Others will move to Sparks® this fall. But I'm sure they'll come back and visit!

CUBBIE: Oh, good. So this is not really a goodbye. It's a see-you-later. See you later, Cubbies! Here's a big bear hug from me! *(Cubbie spreads out his arms.)*

(Bring out the Luvie Lamb puppet and let children pretend to give each of the puppets a hug goodbye. If you have a small club, the puppets could actually hug each child. Be mindful of guidelines for safe child contact.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during club.

IDEA 1: International Snack**What You Need**

- Food item from another country

If you have been focusing on a particular country for the lesson, choose a food item from that country. For example, serve naan (bread) from India, crepes from France, hummus and pita chips from an Arab country or mango slices, corn chips and salsa from Mexico.

IDEA 2: Donut Forget**What You Need**

- Donut holes

Serve donut holes and tell Cubbies this knock-knock joke.

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Donut.

Donut who?

Donut forget to tell the Good News!

IDEA 3: Cubbies' Choice

Since it is the last club meeting of the year, serve the Cubbies' favorite snack. While you eat, ask the Cubbies to share what they are doing over the summer. Say goodbye to Cubbies who will be entering Sparks in the fall.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

What You Need

- Bible for "Go and Tell the Good News" song and game

SING:

- **"Go and Tell the Good News"** (from Bear Hug 23; play the game with the song) or **"I'll Tell the Whole World"** (from Bear Hug 24)
- Teach the Cubbies a familiar song (such as **"Jesus Loves Me"**) in another language or watch children singing the song online.
- **"You and Me"** to the tune of "Deep and Wide." Cubbies point to the leader or each other on the word *you* and to themselves on the word *me*. Make up other motions for the song.

(Repeat each verse twice.)

Verse 1: You and me. You and me.

Jesus died on the cross for you and me.

Verse 2: You and me. You and me.

Jesus rose from the dead for you and me.

Verse 3: You and me. You and me.

In heaven there's a home for you and me.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, God wants all of us who have trusted Jesus as Savior to tell the good news. But some people have a special job of telling others the good news. These people are called missionaries. *(You may want to hold up a picture of a missionary on a missionary newsletter or prayer card.)* Some missionaries go to places far, far away so the people who live in those places can hear about Jesus. Other missionaries serve close to their homes. Let's pray for the missionaries in many places around the world. *(Pray for the missionaries who tell the good news to others. If you are having a special missionary guest speak to Cubbies at club, pray specifically for that missionary.)*

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 5, 14, 17, 91, 96-98
- Bible with a bookmark placed at Mark 16:15
- *Optional* — several handheld mirrors, a globe or a world map, coffee pot, bowl, dry cloth, Amy Carmichael booklets for the leader and Cubbies (resource CD)

Choose one of the options below to teach Cubbies how modern-day missionaries share the good news with people all over the world.

Option 1: Invite a missionary your church supports to speak to Cubbies during Lesson Time. You could also ask the Awana missionary in your area to come and present his or her ministry. Ask the missionary to use age-appropriate teaching methods (i.e., pictures, video, objects, skits or costumes, interaction) to share the ministry with your Cubbies. At the end of the missionary's presentation, allow time for Cubbies to pray for the missionary.

Option 2: Tell the story of Amy Carmichael below or tell your Cubbies another exciting story from a missionary's life. Choose a current-day missionary or a missionary from history. Check your church's library or search the websites of the following organizations for children's books or teaching ideas:

Wycliffe Bible Translators: wycliffe.org/Resources/Kids.aspx* — SIM: simkids.org* — New Tribes Mission: usa.ntm.org/childrens-speakers*

Cubbies, I am so glad that Katie Collie was able to help rescue Timothy and Cubbie from the woodshed. Do you remember what she did to help? **(Pause for replies.)**

Today in our lesson we are going to learn about a woman who was able to help boys and girls who were in trouble. God used her to tell many, many boys and girls the good news about Jesus. Her name was Amy Carmichael. Listen, and I will tell you a true story about Amy.

(Display TC96.) Here is a picture of when Amy was a little girl. Cubbies, God made Amy with pretty brown eyes. But there was a problem. Amy DID NOT like her brown eyes. She wanted blue eyes.

Optional: Direct leaders to pass out mirrors to Cubbies and help them recognize the color of their eyes.

There is nothing wrong with having brown eyes, but as a little girl, Amy prayed and asked God to change her brown eyes to blue eyes. Remember, Cubbies, God hears our prayers and God can do ANYTHING He chooses. But God never chose to make Amy's eyes blue. They stayed brown. And do you know what? God used Amy's brown eyes in a very special way.

Amy wanted to be a missionary when she grew up. Cubbies, do you know what a missionary is? **(Allow Cubbies to suggest ideas.)** A missionary is someone who has a special job of telling others the good news about Jesus. Some missionaries go to a place far away to do their special job, or some stay near their home to do their special job. Missionaries tell people the good news that Jesus died for their sins and came alive again. One day, when Amy was a grown-up, she traveled far away to the country of India to tell people the good news about Jesus.

Optional: Show children your location on the world map or globe. Then show the location of India. Briefly explain how long it would take to travel to India so that Cubbies get the idea of how far it is from them.

(Display TC97.) The people of India looked different from Amy: they had dark skin, and Amy had light skin. But do you know what? The people of India had brown eyes, just like Amy! Amy loved all the people of India, but she especially loved all the boys and girls.

Some of the boys and girls in India did not have anyone to love them or take care of them. Amy made a special home where these boys and girls could live. She took care of them and told them

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all about Jesus. Amy wanted them to feel safe with her, so she did something special.

Optional: Have a female leader pantomime the following section of the story. Give her a coffee pot, a bowl and a dry cloth as props.

(Display TC98.) Amy made dark, dark, coffee. When it was cool, she rubbed the coffee on her arms, face and hands. When the coffee dried, her skin looked dark! And with her brown eyes, Amy looked very much like the people of India. This helped the boys and girls feel safe with Amy. They called her “Amma.”

Amy saved many, many boys and girls from danger. Sometimes she would have to travel a long, long way to save them and take them to her home where they would be safe.

Cubbies, remember what Amy asked God for when she was a little girl? **(Pause for replies.)** God did not give Amy blue eyes, but Amy was able to use her brown eyes to help the children in India and tell them the good news about Jesus.

(Open your Bible to Mark 16:15.) Amy's true story reminds me of our memory verse this week. In Mark 16:15, Jesus says ... “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” **(Repeat the verse two times with your Cubbies.)** God had a special plan for Amy, and with her brown eyes, she was able to tell many people in India the gospel, which is the good news of Jesus Christ.

(Display TC91.) Cubbies, God has made you special too! And God has a plan for you, just like He had a plan for Amy. Jesus wants YOU **(point to all the Cubbies)** to share the good news with others. Who is one person to whom you can tell the good news about Jesus? **(Let Cubbies share ideas.)**

Do you remember what the good news is? **(Allow response.)** The good news is that Jesus died for our sins and came alive again. All those who trust in Him are saved from the punishment for sin and one day they will go to heaven and be alive with Jesus there forever!

Choose one of the following options to help Cubbies practice sharing the good news:

Option 1: Invite two or three Cubbies to come up front at a time. Ask them to tell you about the A and C on their vests. You and the rest of the Cubbies can help these Cubbies remember that A is for All and C is for Christ. Recite Romans 3:23 and Romans 5:8 together. Use TC5, 14 and 17 to aid the review.

Option 2: Give each Cubbie their own little booklet about Amy Carmichael to color (from the resource CD). In small groups, read the booklet with them encourage Cubbies to use the book to tell her story to someone. Review with Cubbies what the A and C stand for on the last pages of the book.

*References to websites and resources not created by Awana are for your information and are not necessarily an endorsement of content.

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of the Bear Hug 26 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Bear Hug 26 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of the Bear Hug 26 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — pairs of child-sized scissors, glue sticks, envelopes

Recite Mark 16:15 together. Explain to Cubbies that God wants all those who have trusted Christ as Savior (Christians) to tell others the good news of Jesus. Help them complete the optional suitcase craft.

NOTE: Additional Handbook Time idea is on the Bear Hug 26 Handbook Leader Sheet.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Repeat the Cubbies' favorite games from the unit or from the club year. If there's any time left, try one of the games below.

IDEA 1: Soccer Ball Pass**What You Need**

- Playground balls

Place Cubbies into groups no larger than six. Each group has a ball, spreads out and stands in a circle. Person with ball will place it on the ground and say, "(Cubbie 1), Jesus loves you!" before gently kicking the ball to (Cubbie 1). (Cubbie 1) will do the same thing before kicking the ball to (Cubbie 2). Keep the ball moving around the circle. You can change the sentence after everyone has had a turn. For example, "Jesus Says to Tell the Good News."

IDEA 2: Parachute Play**What You Need**

- Parachute or large sheet

Say to Cubbies, "Jesus Says to Tell the Good News. We are going to practice telling things we know about Jesus in this game." Cubbies will stand in a circle around the parachute and hold it waist high. Game leader will choose one Cubbie to crawl under the parachute and touch the feet of another Cubbie. The one who is touched must tell one thing they know about Jesus before trading places with the Cubbie under the parachute. Then they may crawl and touch another Cubbie.

IDEA 3: Streamer Games**What You Need**

- Lengths of streamers in any color

Give half of your Cubbies a length of streamer to hold. At your signal, they each quickly go and find a Cubbie without a streamer and give him or her the streamer while saying "Jesus loves you!" or "Jesus died for your sin." That Cubbie must go find someone with whom to share a streamer and the good news.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)**AWARD ALERT!**

Cubbies will earn their final Red Apple emblem for completing Unit 6. Plan a special award night for parents to see their child earn the HoneyComb Book Award ribbon and other Cubbies awards.

Leaders, take some time to stop, pray and praise. Think back over the club year. What have you seen God do? Is that Cubbie who would not talk now saying his verse with confidence? Is the Cubbie who used to just stand silently and watch the games now playing and laughing? Have new families started coming to your church? Has a parent shared a story of what Cubbies has meant to her? May God bring to remembrance all the wonderful things He has accomplished this year through your faithful service. Praise the Lord!

As you continue to serve your Cubbies and their families, do not forget to communicate any upcoming summer family events, such as a church-wide sports camps or a vacation Bible school. Hand a flyer out at your end-of-the-year celebrations to alert them to these opportunities.

Do you encourage continued spiritual learning during the summer? Awana has a family Bible memory program called TruthScripts that you may share with Cubbies families. Visit awana.org for more information.

... **“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)**

NAME: _____



Basic Instructions: God wants all Christians to tell others the good news that Jesus died for our sins and came alive again. Some Christians, called missionaries, have a special job of telling others the good news. Missionaries may stay close to home to do their special job, or they may travel to a far place. Color the items a missionary might pack for a trip. Draw an X through those items that the missionary would not pack.

Even More Fun: Cut out the items you colored and place them inside an envelope.

Ultimate Fun: Decorate the envelope to look like a suitcase, or cut out the suitcase pictured above and attach it to the outside of the envelope. Carry your suitcase and pretend you are a missionary going to share the good news. When you see someone say, “Jesus died for your sin” or recite Mark 16:15.

Thanksgiving: One Thankful Leper

Make It Stick: Psalm 100:4: *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise ...* (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: God wants us to thank Him for all the wonderful things He has done for us.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Leviticus 13:42-56; Luke 17:11-19; Psalm 100

Memorize: Psalm 100:4

Do you consider yourself a thankful person? Most Christians probably thank God at some point during the day, whether it is before a meal or during devotions (daily prayer and Bible reading). Yet how often do we sit down and reflect on the many, many things that our great God has given to us?

In Luke 17:11-19, Jesus healed 10 lepers, but the focus is on the one who returned to offer thanks. To the Jews, this man would have been detested for two reasons. First, he was a leper. Jews tried to avoid lepers not necessarily because their condition was contagious, but because they were ritually unclean. They dressed as mourners with ripped clothes and were viewed as a symbol of death. They were forbidden from entering the temple and had to live outside the city walls. Anyone who came too close to them was considered temporarily unclean.

Second, this leper was a Samaritan. Samaritans were Jews whose ancestors had intermarried with foreigners. They disagreed over which temple to worship at and which Old Testament books were regarded as Scripture. This story is as much about Jesus teaching His disciples to accept the faith of Samaritans as it is about thankfulness, but with Cubbies you will focus on the latter.

As the old hymn reminds us, encourage Cubbies to "Count their blessings" and "name them one by one." Remind them especially of the many spiritual blessings we have in Christ. In doing so, you will instill in their hearts a desire to know, love, and serve our wonderful Giver and Provider.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good (Psalm 34:8)*! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Learn what it means to be thankful.
2. Recognize the thankful heart of one of the 10 lepers.
3. Know that God wants them to be thankful.
4. Choose two things for which to thank God.
5. _____
6. _____

(Add the goals the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

IDEA 1: Gratitude Jar or Thankful Tree

What You Need

For the Gratitude Jar:

- A jar (or box)
- Colored slips of paper
- Pencils

For the Thankful Tree:

- Apple tree or fall tree drawn on bulletin board paper
- Apple or fall leaf patterns (resource CD)

Choose one of these two ways to help your whole club share things they are thankful for.

Gratitude Jar: As leaders and Cubbies arrive, let them write or dictate things they are thankful for on the slips of paper. Roll the slips around a pencil to make them curly, and then place the slips in the jar. When the jar is full, have a party (during Snack Time) to thank God for all the blessings He has given your group. The slips could be read to parents at the next Cubbies award night.

Thankful Tree: Each Cubbie and leader should draw or write one thing he or she is thankful for on an apple or leaf. Cubbies could dictate to leaders, who will write for them. Attach the apples or leaves to the tree. Above the tree write Psalm 100:4.

IDEA 2: “I’m Thankful For ... ” Placemats

What You Need

- Copy of the “I’m Thankful For ...” coloring sheet for each Cubbie (resource CD)
- Crayons
- Construction paper for mounting sheets
- Glue sticks
- *Optional* — Cover each Cubbie’s placemat with clear contact paper.

Tell each Cubbie to color the items on the sheet for which he is thankful. (Cubbies do not have to color every item.) When the Cubbie is finished coloring, help him glue his paper onto a sheet of construction paper. Explain that God is the one who gives us all the good things we enjoy. In the Bible, God tells us to be thankful to Him. Recite Psalm 100:4 with Cubbies.

IDEA 3: Turkey Hunt

What You Need

- Ten paper turkeys numbered 1 to 10 (print on card stock from resource CD; add additional sets in multiple colors for large groups)
- *Optional* — M&Ms

Print turkeys on card stock and cut them out. Before Cubbies arrive, hide turkeys around the room. As they enter, let them search for the turkeys and place them in numerical order. (To help younger Cubbies, print an extra set of turkeys and arrange them in order on a table. Cubbies can match their turkeys to your turkeys.) If you have a large group, print several sets of turkeys in different colors. Assign a color to each group of 10 Cubbies. Cubbies can only hunt turkeys in their group’s color. Reward each Cubbie with a few M&Ms once all turkeys have been found. Practice counting to 10 with Cubbies. Explain that the Bible lesson is about 10 men. See if any Cubbies can remember the story from their handbook section.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the “Cubbies Song,” Cubbies key verse and motto and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — empty bottle or jar of honey, craft stick, apple and worm flip card (resource CD), rubber fishing worm

(Beforehand, print the picture card of the apple and the card of the apple with the worm in it from the resource CD. Glue one card on a craft stick and glue the other card to the back of the picture, enclosing the craft stick, so the cards can be flipped. Set other optional props within reach but hidden from Cubbies' view.)

LEADER: Guess what? It's time to talk to Cubbie Bear! Let's count to three and call him together, OK? One — two — three. Cubbie!

(Bring the Cubbie Bear puppet into view, hopping around.)

LEADER: Hi, Cubbie! How are you today?

CUBBIE *(still hopping slightly):* I'm better now, but I was a grumpy bear earlier today!

LEADER: Cubbie, why were you grumpy?

CUBBIE: Well, when I woke up this morning, I noticed that my honey jar was empty. I like to have honey with my apples in the morning for breakfast. It's so yuuuuuummmmy!!!!

(If you are using the empty jar of honey for a prop, hold it up now.)

LEADER: I'm sorry you were out of honey, Cubbie.

CUBBIE: But that's not all! I went to pick an apple for my breakfast. I chose the biggest, reddest, juiciest apple from the tree. And when I started to take a bite out of it, I noticed a little worm inside MY apple!

(Display the apple card picture, and then flip the card to show the apple with the worm in it. Or

instead, hold up the rubber fishing worm and pass it around for Cubbies to feel.)

LEADER: Oh, no! Then what happened?

CUBBIE: I decided to find Timothy and tell him what happened. I was so upset, because it seemed like NOTHING was going right this morning. But on the way, somebody called my name.

LEADER: Who was it?

(Bring the Katie Collie puppet into view, barking.)

KATIE: It was me! As soon as I saw Cubbie walk by my doghouse, I knew something was wrong. Cubbie is usually smiling and hopping along, but today he looked grumpy! After he told me what happened with his apple and honey, I asked him to tell me three things that he was thankful for.

LEADER: Katie, can you tell the boys and girls what it means to be thankful?

KATIE: Sure! Being thankful means that we are happy for the things that we have!

CUBBIE: I began to think of the things that I could be happy about. I live on a big apple farm, and I can have lots and lots of apples.

KATIE: And you have a nice, big tree you sleep in every night!

CUBBIE *(nodding his head):* Yep, I sure do! AND there is almost always honey at the store on Apple Acres Farm.

KATIE: And don't forget, Cubbie, you have lots and LOTS of people who love you. Timothy, Luvie Lamb, me —

LEADER: And don't forget us! *(To Cubbies)* Cubbies, we love Cubbie Bear, don't we? Let's all count to three and say, "I love you, Cubbie!" *(Encourage children to respond.)*

CUBBIE: Wow! I DO have lots that I can be thankful for. Thanks, Katie, for helping me remember to be thankful. Bye, everyone!

(Have children wave goodbye as the puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during club.

IDEA 1: Snack of 10

What You Need

- Goldfish crackers in two colors

Serve each Cubbie nine crackers of one color and one cracker of another color. Use the snack to remind them of the 10 lepers Jesus healed and the one who came back to say "Thank you."

IDEA 2: Ten Trail Mix

What You Need

- Snack-size plastic bags
- Pretzels
- Chocolate chips
- Cheerios
- Plates

Serve each Cubbie a bag which contains exactly 10 of each ingredient. Encourage Cubbies to take out and count each kind of ingredient in their trail mix. (They may use their plate for counting.) Ask Cubbies how many lepers Jesus healed and how many thanked Him. Explain that the thankful leper made Jesus happy. Jesus is happy when we thank Him too.

IDEA 3: Waffle With Blueberries

What You Need

- Small whole-grain waffles
- Blueberries
- Optional — low-fat whipped cream to top waffles

Serve each Cubbie a waffle with 10 blueberries on top. Encourage Cubbies to count their berries. Ask Cubbies if they remember the number 10 from the Bible story. Say, "We should remember to thank God for all the good things He does for us." Recite Psalm 100:4 together.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **"Psalm 100:4"** from *HoneyComb Handbook Music CD*

- **"Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children"** Add additional verses, and replace "praise Him" with "love Him" and "thank Him"

- **"Ten Healed Lepers"** to the tune of "Ten Little Indians" Cubbies can count on their fingers as they sing.

One healed, two healed, three healed lepers.
Four healed, five healed, six healed lepers.
Seven healed, eight healed, nine healed lepers,
Ten healed lepers, and only one said thanks!

- **"If You're Thankful"** to the tune of "She'll Be Coming Around the Mountain." Make up additional verses by asking Cubbies to name an action and something for which they are thankful.

If you're thankful for God's love, clap your hands. **(Clap twice)**

If you're thankful for God's love, clap your hands. **(Clap twice)**

If you're thankful and you know it, and you really want to show it,

If you're thankful for God's love, clap your hands. **(Clap twice)**

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, our Bible verse this week says: *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise ... (Psalm 100:4).* This verse means that when we pray, we need to thank God and praise Him for what He has done and what He has given us. What are some things that you can thank God for today? *(Cubbies may mention toys or pets, parents and family or homes and friends. Encourage Cubbies to name spiritual blessings too, such as the Bible, Jesus, church and God's love.)* Let's pray and thank God for these things.

(Lead children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the items mentioned. For fun, you could write each item on a piece of colored paper. Give each Cubbie a paper. On his or her turn, the Cubbie comes to you, and you read the item on the paper. The Cubbie prays aloud, "Thank You, God, for _____" inserting the item on the paper.)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 99, 35
- Teaching Cards (TC) of items to be thankful for: TC 5, 10, 22, 26-28, 30, 33
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Luke 17:11-19 and Psalm 100:4
- *Optional* — box of adhesive bandages, tote bag or box, items or images that represent thankfulness

(Collect items or images that represent things for which Cubbies can be thankful and place them in a tote bag or box. Ideas include photos of families and homes; clothing and shoes; toys; your country's flag; a cereal box or other food item; pet care supplies or pictures of animals; a ball, swim goggles, sand shovel or other recreational item; flowers or other objects from God's creation. Be sure to include spiritually-focused items, like a Bible, photo of your church or a cross.)

(Adapt and personalize the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

Cubbies, what are some of the things that Katie reminded Cubbie to be thankful for today? (Apples on the farm, a big tree to sleep in, honey at the farm store, people who love him.) Cubbies, what are some things you are thankful for? **(Allow response.)**

We have many, many things that we can thank God for giving us.

(Open your Bible to Luke 17:11-19 and keep it visible during the lesson.) The Bible tells us a true story about a man who was thankful to Jesus. All the stories in the Bible are true. Let's hear what happened.

When Jesus lived on earth, He showed the people He is God by doing wonderful things. He made sick people better; He made blind people see. He even made some people who were dead come back alive again!

One day Jesus was walking into a town, and He heard 10 men calling out to Him. "Jesus,

help us!" they cried with loud voices. **(Invite all the Cubbies to shout "Jesus, help us!" a few times with you.)**

These 10 men were very sick. They had ugly, hurting sores all over their skin that would not go away. People in the Bible who had this sickness were called *lepers*.

Optional: Hold up the box of bandages. Say: "Cubbies, do any of you have a sore on your skin right now? You might call this an *ouchie* or a *boo-boo*. Maybe a grown-up put a bandage on your sore for you." Tell Cubbies to point to their sores. If you have time, let Cubbies take turns sharing about their sores. Say: "Usually after a little while, our sores feel better and go away. But the lepers had a terrible sickness that stopped their sores from going away."

The 10 lepers called out to Jesus because they wanted Him to heal them and make their skin better. They didn't like being lepers, because they were getting hurt all the time and they didn't have many friends. Because of their sores, they had to stay far away from other people, and they couldn't go to worship God at the temple.

Cubbies, what do you think Jesus did for the 10 men when He heard them calling? **(Allow response.)** First, Jesus said something surprising. He said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests."

The priests worked at the temple. The priests had to check the sores on their skin. The 10 lepers **COULD NOT** be near other people or go into the temple unless the priests said their sores were better. The 10 lepers hurried to obey Jesus and go to see the priests.

(Display TC99.) Then, as the men were going, an amazing thing happened. Jesus made all their sores go away! They weren't sick anymore.

Cubbies, do you remember how many lepers there were? **(Pause for replies and then count the 10 men on the card together.)**

(Point to the thankful leper on TC99.) Jesus healed all 10 lepers, but only **ONE** leper came back to thank Jesus. This leper shouted out praises to

continued on next page

Special Day I: Thanksgiving: One Thankful Leper

continued from previous page

God. He fell down before Jesus, with his face on the ground, and thanked Jesus for healing him.

Jesus was happy that this man came back to thank Him. He also saw that the man believed in Him. Jesus said, "Rise up and go. Your faith has made you well."

(Turn to Psalm 100:4 in your Bible.) Cubbies, Jesus is happy when we thank Him too. Jesus is God, and we can be thankful to God for all the things He has done for us. Our memory verse says: *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise ... (Psalm 100:4).* **(Repeat the verse together two times.)**

(Display TC35.) In Bible times, God's people, the Israelites, used to go to the temple to thank God. They entered through the gates which were around the temple. They entered into the court area, which you see in this picture. But now, Cubbies, you and I can thank God and praise Him anywhere and at any time!

Cubbies, God wants us to be thankful too. **(One at a time, display various teaching cards that represent thankfulness or items from the bag or box. Ask Cubbies what things the picture or item remind them to be thankful for.)** Let's each think of two things that we can thank God for. **(One by one, ask each Cubbie to say two things that they will thank God for. Larger groups may wish to call on only two or three Cubbies.)** Now let's thank God together. When I count to three let's shout out together "One — two — three. Thank You, God!" **(Encourage children to respond.)**

We can be thankful to God for all the things that He has done for us. **(Pray a prayer of thanksgiving as you close.)**

Optional: To review this week's Bible verse, direct two leaders to stand, facing each other, and connect their hands together overhead. Tell Cubbies to pretend these leaders' hands are a gate. Have Cubbies walk through the gate as they say the first part of Psalm 100:4. After they have walked through the gate, have Cubbies clap and say the rest of the verse.

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Special Day I Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Special Day I Activity Sheet

What You Need

- A copy of the Special Day I Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — pairs of child-sized scissors, photo of each Cubbie (either alone or with family), glue sticks, construction paper

Repeat Psalm 100:4 with Cubbies. Help them understand that the *gates* and *courts* are referring to places in the temple where the Israelites used to worship God. (Cubbies may remember learning about the temple in HoneyComb Unit 2 lessons.) Emphasize that God wants us to always thank Him. We can praise and thank Him anywhere and at any time! Cubbies may complete the optional activities on the sheet.

IDEA 2: Reminder Bracelet

What You Need

- Pipe cleaners
- Pony beads in two colors
- Scissors for leader's use

Give each Cubbie one pipe cleaner, nine pony beads of one color and one pony bead of another color. Let them thread the beads onto the pipe cleaner. (Supervise Cubbies carefully, since small items like pony beads could become a choking hazard.) Help Cubbies bend the pipe cleaner to fit their wrist. Twist ends together. Make sure they can still slip it on and off their hand. Trim excess with scissors. Tell them to wear it to remember to say thank you like the one leper who was different from the other lepers because he thanked Jesus.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

IDEA 1: Thankful Tag

What You Need

- Short pool noodle(s)

Choose one or more Cubbies to be “It,” depending on the size of your club and your play area. Give “It” a short pool noodle to use to gently tag people. Once a Cubbie has been tagged, she must drop to her knees. She may not get up until she says one thing she is thankful for. Every minute, change who is “It.”

IDEA 2: Put the Thankful Man Near Jesus

What You Need

- Jesus figure (resource CD)
- Thankful leper figure for each Cubbie (resource CD)
- Masking tape
- Blindfold

Beforehand, hang the picture of Jesus on the wall at Cubbies' height. With Cubbies, review the Bible story of the 10 lepers. Blindfold Cubbies one at a time and give them a thankful leper with a tape loop on the back. Tell them to try to place the man on the wall near Jesus. See which Cubbie can get the closest. If you have a large group, hang several pictures of Jesus around the room and have multiple groups playing the game at once, so Cubbies do not have to wait long for their turn.

IDEA 3: Thankful Leper Action Rhyme

What You Need

- Thankful Leper Action Rhyme script (resource CD)

Lead Cubbies in this simple action rhyme. To help children learn the rhyme, say each phrase first with the motions. Then repeat the phrase and motions with the children before moving to the next phrase. Repeat the rhyme several times. After children learn the rhyme, they can do it along with you, and you will not need to repeat phrases.

IDEA 4: Turkey in the Bag

What You Need

- Turkey cards printed on card stock (resource CD)
- Index cards or card stock squares
- Scissors for leader's use
- Crayons or markers
- Paper bag

Cut index cards in half or cut squares of card stock. Use crayons or markers to draw a square of color on the cards. Mix in turkey cards with the colored cards. Place all cards in the bag. Cubbies stand in a circle and take turns reaching into the bag to pull out a card. If they pull out a color, they name something they are thankful for which is that color. If they pull out a turkey, everyone runs around flapping their arms and saying “Gobble, gobble!”

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

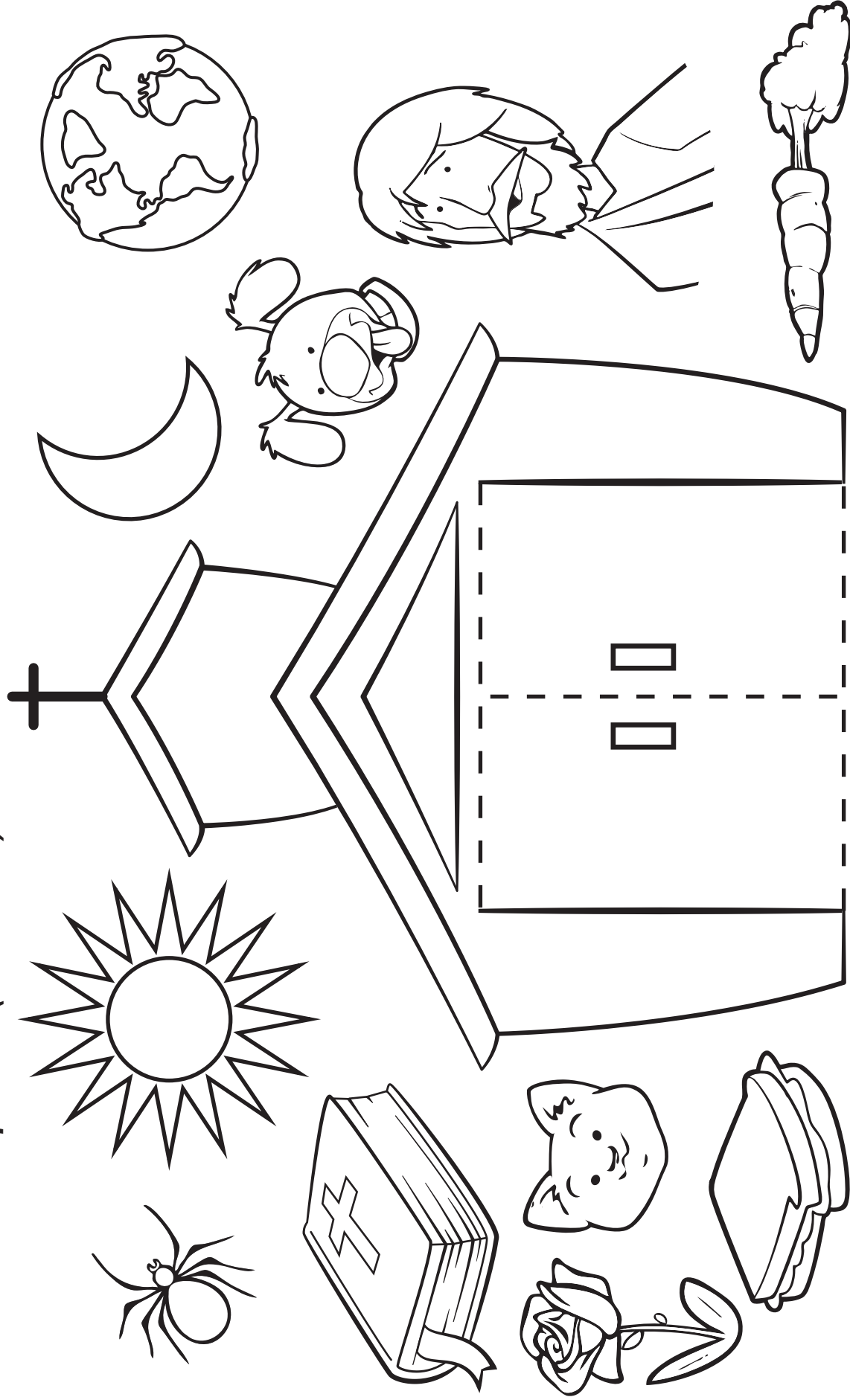
As you wait for parents, let Cubbies take turns sharing about how their family celebrates Thanksgiving.

You could also play a simple game with a beach ball or playground ball. Cubbies sit in a circle with legs apart. The leader begins with the ball and says, “I thank God for (name something). (Insert a Cubbie's name), what do you thank God for?” and rolls the ball to the Cubbie. He names something he wants to thank God for and rolls the ball to another friend. Continue until everyone has had a turn. Sometimes it is helpful to name a category for thankfulness. For example, ask all children to thank God for a family member, a favorite food or a favorite animal.

Remember to model thankfulness to your Cubbies. Thank the Cubbies for showing kindness, sharing, taking turns or helping clean up. During club activities, find things to thank Jesus for and help children to do this as well. For example, say, “Boy, did we have fun today! I am so glad Jesus gave us hands to color and feet to run. Thank you, Jesus!”

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise ... (Psalm 100:4)

NAME: _____



Basic Instructions: Circle and color all the things you are thankful for in the picture. Remember, even though your parents or others may buy things for you or give you things, all good things come from God (James 1:17). He created the whole world and takes care of us.

Even More Fun: Color the church and cut it out. Cut open the doors along the dashed lines. Glue the church on a sheet of construction paper, keeping the doors open. Glue a photo of you (or you and your family) behind the doors. Open the doors to see the photo.

Ultimate Fun: Give the picture of you in the church to someone in your family. Pray and thank God together for your church and all the people in it. Parents, if your family does not belong to a church, ask a Cubbies leader about joining the church where your child attends Cubbies.

Christmas: God Sends a Savior

Make It Stick: Luke 1:49: **For He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is His name.** (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: Jesus, God's Son, came to earth as a baby. Jesus' birth fulfilled the promise God made to send a Savior.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:26-56; Luke 2:1-20

Memorize: Luke 1:49

What is your favorite Christmas memory? This time of year brings opportunities to pause and reflect on that favorite present you received as a child, that humorous holiday fiasco or a fondly remembered loved one who has passed. Memories are precious, priceless gifts that we can cherish forever.

Luke's Gospel records that Mary was so moved by the birth of her Son — our Savior — that she *kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart (Luke 2:19)*. She specifically chose to remember and reflect on all the precious details surrounding His birth. She remembered the details so well that she was able to recount them either directly to the Gospel writer, Luke, or to another source, likely one of the apostles. Now her memories are preserved for all time.

On this special Cubbies night, you get to share these wonderful events pondered by Mary. Tell this Christmas story with enthusiasm. Help Cubbies to sense the hope and joy that Jesus' birth offers. Jesus came to save us from our sins! Jesus came to make it possible for us to know God right now and then live forever with Him in heaven! Like Mary, we should praise God for the great things He has done for us.

Christmas should also instill in us a greater depth of trust in our faithful promise-keeping Father. The prophecy Isaiah foretold hundreds of years before Christ's coming has been fulfilled. *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given ... (Isaiah 9:6)*. Together with your Cubbies, offer thanks to God for the indescribable gift of salvation made possible with this memorable birth (2 Corinthians 9:15).

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good (Psalm 34:8)*! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Understand that Christmas is a celebration of God's promise to send the Savior.
2. Know that Jesus is the Savior and the Son of God who never sins.
3. Hear about the angel Gabriel coming to Mary and the joyful praise song Mary sang in response.
4. Thank God for sending Jesus to die for our sins and came alive again so we could have a home forever with Jesus in heaven.

5. _____

(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

IDEA 1: Christmas Present

What You Need

- Little rectangular gift boxes
- "Jesus is the best gift of all!" labels (resource CD)
- Markers and stickers to decorate box
- Yellow tissue paper or raffia
- Peg clothespins
- White cloth strips

Let Cubbies decorate gift boxes and place a label underneath the lid that says "Jesus is the best gift of all!" Cubbies place pieces of tissue paper or raffia inside box, wrap a clothespin baby with white cloth strips and place the baby in the "manger" box. Encourage Cubbies to share the gift with others and tell the story of Jesus' birth.

IDEA 2: Christmas Character Ornaments

What You Need

- Precut character ornament patterns (resource CD; print on card stock)
- Crayons
- Hole punch
- Ribbon or yarn
- *Optional* — glitter glue, paint brushes

Let Cubbies choose one or more ornament patterns to decorate. Review the Christmas story as Cubbies color the characters. Cubbies can paint glitter glue along the circular edge of the ornament. When Cubbies finish decorating, leaders use a hole punch to make a hole at the top of each Cubbie's ornament and insert a ribbon hanger.

IDEA 3: Simple Christmas Puzzles

What You Need

- Picture puzzles printed on card stock (resource CD)
- Christmas-themed puzzles from your church or classroom

Beforehand, print and cut out the picture puzzles from the resource CD. Set the pieces on tables and add other puzzles to the tables. Let Cubbies work together to complete the puzzles. Review the Christmas story as they work.

IDEA 4: Jesus' Birthday Party Decorations

What You Need

- Streamers
- Tape
- Paper
- Crayons
- White lunch bags
- Christmas stickers
- *Optional* — party blowers, candy canes

Let Cubbies decorate their handbook group tables with streamers to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Then they can make birthday cards for Jesus to take home and place under their Christmas trees. At the same time, leaders can decorate goodie bags for Cubbies. To make a goodie bag, fold down the top of a lunch bag once or twice. Write a Cubbie's name on each bag and decorate bags with Christmas stickers. Place a party blower and a candy cane in each bag. Show Cubbies how a candy cane is in the shape of a J for Jesus.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — pine branch or garland, red bow and tape, strand of lights, basket, one apple for each of the Cubbies

(Set all the optional props within reach but hidden from the Cubbies' view. You may want to set the strand of lights near an outlet, so you can plug them in when you mention them.)

LEADER: I wonder what Cubbie Bear is up to today? Let's call to him and see if he will come out and talk to us. Ready? One — two — three. Cubbie!

(Have Cubbie Bear enter, hopping around with more excitement than usual.)

LEADER: Cubbie, you seem even MORE excited than usual!

CUBBIE: I am! It is almost, ALMOST Christmas, and Christmas is my FAVORITE time of the year!

LEADER: Christmas is a special time, isn't it, Cubbies? *(Pause for response.)*

CUBBIE: We do many fun things at Apple Acres Farm to celebrate Christmas. Luvie Lamb likes to decorate the petting zoo with fresh pine branches and pine cones.

(Hold up the optional pine branch or garland.)

LEADER *(sniffing):* Pine trees smell so good!

(Make barking sounds and bring Katie Collie into view.)

KATIE *(barking):* Hi, everyone!

LEADER: Hi, Katie! What do you do to celebrate Christmas on the farm?

KATIE: I like to hang a pretty red bow on the front of my dog house!

(Display the optional bow now. For fun, you can say it would look nice on Katie and tape it to her head or under her chin.)

CUBBIE: Timothy's dad hangs little twinkling lights on the house, the bakery and the store. It is so pretty to see all the decorations!

(Display the optional strand of lights and plug them in for more effect.)

LEADER: I'm sure it is, Cubbie.

CUBBIE: After all the decorations are put up, Timothy helps his mom and grandma make yummy treats at the bakery. They make apple bread to take to all their neighbors and friends, and they even give them a jar of honey and apple butter too!

LEADER: That sounds delicious!

CUBBIE: It sure is. *(Pauses.)* But my most FAVORITE part of Christmas this year is giving special gifts to the people I love. Last year, I almost forgot to give my friends gifts because I was so worried about the gifts I was going to get.

KATIE: I remember that! We didn't think we were going to get *anything* from Cubbie last year!

CUBBIE: Well, this year, I picked the best apples for all my friends. I wiped them with a cloth until they were shiny. I can't wait to give them my gift.

(Display the optional basket of apples. Tell the children that Cubbie is giving each of them an apple to take home with them.)

LEADER: It is fun to give a special gift, isn't it?

CUBBIE: It sure is! I have one more apple to shine, and then I will deliver them to all of my friends on the farm. And you too, Katie Collie!

KATIE: Thanks, Cubbie. Merry Christmas, everyone!

(Let children say "Merry Christmas" as the puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during club.

IDEA 1: Birthday Cupcakes

What You Need

- Premade undecorated cupcakes
- Containers of frosting in two or more flavors
- Colorful sprinkles
- Small plates
- Spreaders (adult use only)

Provide each Cubbie with a cupcake on a plate. Cubbies choose a flavor of frosting. The leader frosts the cupcake. Let Cubbies decorate the frosting with sprinkles. (Large clubs may want to invite parents to help frost cupcakes.) Sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus before eating the cupcakes.

IDEA 2: Angel Food Cake

What You Need

- Angel food cake
- Fresh fruit, such as blueberries or strawberries
- *Optional* — whipped topping

Serve Cubbies small cubes of angel food cake topped with fresh fruit and whipped topping. Talk about the special message the angel brought to Mary. God was finally sending His promised Savior!

IDEA 3: Cookie Presents

What You Need

- Square sugar cookies
- Frosting
- Sprinkles
- Licorice laces

Beforehand, decorate sugar cookies to look like presents. Frost and add sprinkles. Use licorice for ribbons. As you serve cookies, remind Cubbies that Jesus is the best gift of all. He is the promised Savior. He died on the cross for our sins and came alive again so we could have a home forever with Him in heaven.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **"Go Tell It on the Mountain," "Away in a Manger," "Silent Night"** and other Christmas songs that are fun and easy for kids to sing. Add motions wherever possible.
- **"Do You Know What Jesus Did?"** to the tune of "The Muffin Man"

(Leader calls to Cubbies)

Oh, do you know what Jesus did?
What Jesus did, what Jesus did?

(Cubbies respond to leader)

Oh, yes I know what Jesus did!
He died on the cross for me.

(Leader calls to Cubbies)

Oh, do you know what Jesus did?
What Jesus did, what Jesus did?

(Cubbies respond to leader)

Oh, yes I know what Jesus did!
He rose from the dead for me.

(Leader calls to Cubbies)

Oh, do you know who Jesus loves?
Who Jesus loves, who Jesus loves?

(Cubbies respond to leader)

Oh, yes I know who Jesus loves!
I know that He loves me.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, it's time to pray. When we pray, we talk to God, and we can tell Him anything we want to tell Him. Today let's praise Him for all the good things He does for us. Can you help me think of some of the things God has done? *(Pause for replies. Help Cubbies to think of things that God does for them, such as providing food and homes, family who loves them, His Word in the Bible and salvation from sin.)* Let's praise God for these good things. *(Thank God for the things that Cubbies have mentioned.)*

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 5, 10, 15, 100, 101
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Isaiah 9:6-7 and Luke 1:25-56
- *Optional* — items to wrap (a small angel, a sheet of music, a doll wrapped in a blanket, a construction paper heart, a construction paper cross), wrapping paper, small boxes, labels for boxes, a manger from a large nativity scene (or a box filled with straw or shredded paper), Bible times costumes, HoneyComb Verse Music CD

(Before club, wrap the specified optional items listed above. Wrap each item in an individual box and label the box clearly. If desired, set up a manger in your room. Your church may have a manger as part of its Christmas decorations.)

(Adapt and personalize the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

Cubbies, we will soon celebrate a special holiday. Do you know what that holiday is? *(Pause for response.)* That's right! It's Christmas!

Do you remember what Cubbie Bear and his friends at Apple Acres Farm like to do at Christmas? *(Decorate the zoo with pine branches and cones, place a bow on the dog house, hang lights, bake treats.)* What special things do you do at your house to celebrate Christmas? *(Cubbies' responses might include decorating the house, baking cookies, opening gifts.)* We enjoy doing fun things at Christmas, but we should never forget that Christmas is the day we celebrate a special baby who was born a long, long, LONG time ago.

(Open your Bible to Isaiah 9:6-7 and keep it visible as you teach.) In the Bible book of Isaiah, God promised that this baby would be born. He said to the Israelites, "I will give you a Son. He shall be called the Mighty God."

The Israelites believed that God would keep His promise. Cubbies, to keep a promise means that you do what you say you will do. God ALWAYS

keeps His promises! He always does what He says He will do.

The Israelites waited and looked forward to the day when God would keep His promise to send the special baby. The people waited a long, long, LONG time.

(If you are using the wrapped items, choose a Cubbie to unwrap the angel at this time. Let Cubbies know that the item is not a gift, but something that will help tell the story.)

(Display TC100 and open your Bible to Luke 1:25-56.)

Then one day, an Israelite girl named Mary had a surprise visitor. An angel from God came to talk to her! The angel, Gabriel, told Mary that she would have a special baby. Her baby would be the Savior and King of Israel forever.

Gabriel even told Mary what to name the baby. Can you guess what the baby's name would be? *(Pause for replies.)* The baby's name would be Jesus.

Surprised, Mary asked. "How will this happen?"

"Your child will be born by God's power," said Gabriel. "He will be the holy Son of God." Cubbies, the word *holy* means that Jesus wouldn't be like any other child. Jesus is perfectly good, and He never sins.

Mary believed everything that the angel told her. "I am ready to do whatever God wants," she said.

(Display TC101.) Mary was so happy. She wanted to tell someone her good news! She hurried to her relative Elisabeth's house.

Elisabeth and Mary were excited together about the good news that baby Jesus was coming. Then Mary sang a joyful song of praise to God.

(Choose a Cubbie to unwrap the sheet of music. Hold up the sheet of music and explain that it is a song that people play on an instrument and sing.)

Part of Mary's song is our Bible verse today. *(Read the verse directly from your open Bible.)* She sang: *For He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is His name (Luke 1:49).* Let's say the verse together! *(Have Cubbies repeat the*

continued on next page

Special Day 2: Christmas: God Sends a Savior

continued from previous page

verse twice. *If desired, sing it with the HoneyComb Verse Music CD.)*

At the end of Mary's song, she thanked God for remembering His promise to send the special baby to be the Savior.

Optional: If Cubbies ask about Elisabeth's pregnant belly in the picture, explain that she would have a baby named John the Baptist. When Elisabeth heard Mary's greeting, God made baby John leap for joy inside Elisabeth. When John grew up, his job would be to help people get ready for Jesus, the Savior.

Optional: Choose a female leader or a female Cubbie to dress in a Bible times costume and pretend to be Mary. Direct Mary to stand in front of the class as you say the Bible verse together. Let the children interview her with a few questions. For example, they could ask her about her meeting with the angel Gabriel or her song of praise or details about Jesus' birth.

Optional: Ask two leaders or Cubbies to dress in Bible times costumes and pretend to be Mary and Joseph. Place a manger near them. A simple manger can be made by filling a box with shredded paper or straw.

(Display TC15.) Soon it was time for Jesus to be born in the town of Bethlehem. Mary and her husband, Joseph, laid baby Jesus in a manger. **(NOTE: The manger could have been in a stable, a cave or the lower room of a house where a family's animals were kept at night. The Bible is not specific.)**

(Let a Cubbie unwrap the doll. Pass the doll around for all the Cubbies to hold. Then, if you are having helpers act out the story, hand the doll to Mary.)

(Let a Cubbie unwrap the heart.) Cubbies, God loves us very much. In fact, on the day that Jesus was born, God gave us the BEST gift that ANYONE could ever get, because when Jesus grew up from a tiny baby into a man, He did something special for you and me.

(Let a Cubbie unwrap the cross. Then display TC5.) Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins.

Then He came alive again! One day those who trust Jesus as Savior will go to heaven and live there with Jesus forever. **(Display TC10.)** Let's thank God for keeping His promise to send Jesus to be our Savior. **(Pray with Cubbies to close the lesson.)**

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Special Day 2 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Special Day 2 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- A copy of Special Day 2 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — jumbo craft sticks, glue sticks, pairs of child-sized scissors

Ask Cubbies why we celebrate Christmas. Reinforce that Christmas is a celebration of God's promise to send the Savior. Ask Cubbies to identify the various figures on the sheet. Use the figures to lead into the events of the Christmas story. Tell Cubbies that Mary sang the words of Luke 1:49 after she heard the angel's good news about her baby. Recite Luke 1:49 together. If desired, Cubbies can cut out the boxes on the sheet and glue them to craft sticks to make puppets.

IDEA 2: Play-Doh Christmas

What You Need

- Play-Doh
- *Optional* — small paper plates, drinking straws cut to resemble birthday candles

Suggest that Cubbies each shape a different character from the story of Jesus' birth. Place characters together to form a nativity scene. Cubbies can also make a Play-Doh birthday cake for Jesus and decorate it as desired.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

IDEA 1: Bow Relay

What You Need

- A bow for each Cubbie (Do not remove paper from adhesive.)
- A gift box without a lid for each group
- *Optional* — garland for starting lines

Divide Cubbies into groups. Have each group stand in a line behind a starting line. Give each Cubbie a bow. The first person in each group will place the bow on her head and attempt to walk to her group's gift box, not too far away, and drop the bow in the box before running back to her line. The next Cubbie in the group will then take a turn. Remind Cubbies that even though we might get some great presents for Christmas, Jesus is the best present of all.

IDEA 2: Fly, Angels, Fly!

What You Need

- Large pictures of Mary, Joseph, shepherds and heaven (resource CD)
- Masking tape

Post pictures on the wall at Cubbies' height. (If playing on an Awana Game Square, you could put Mary on the blue line, Joseph on the red line, shepherds on green line and heaven on the yellow line.) Talk about how angels are messengers who go where God sends them. Ask: "Where did the angel go in our story today? What message did he have for Mary?" In this game, Cubbies will be angels and will go where the game leader sends them. Give commands such as these: Run to Mary. Walk backwards to Joseph. Soar up to heaven. Fly slowly to the shepherds. Leap back to heaven. Tiptoe to Mary. Take giant steps to heaven.

IDEA 3: Nativity Scavenger Hunt

What You Need

- Unbreakable nativity set
- Paper clues

Ahead of time, the game leader could write clues and hide pieces from the nativity set. One at a time read the clues and send Cubbies searching. Once they find the pieces, let them place them in the nativity set.

Sample clues:

- I made a surprise visit to Mary and told her she would have a special baby. Who am I? You can find me near the large cabinet.
- I was ready to do what God planned. He chose me to be the mother of Jesus. Who am I? You can find me under a table in the room.
- Mary and I had to travel to Bethlehem. That's where Jesus was born. We laid Him in a manger. Who am I? You can find me behind a curtain.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

Here's a fun review idea! Give a bell or other percussion instrument to each Cubbie. Explain that they get to use them as you review the Bible story together. You or another leader will make a statement. If it is true, Cubbies will ring their bells, but if it was not part of the Bible story, the bells must stay silent. Sample statements:

- God sent an angel to tell Mary that she would have a special baby.
- The angel's name was Humpty Dumpty.
- Mary did not want to be Jesus' mother.
- Mary was so happy she went to tell her cousin, Elisabeth, the good news.
- Mary thanked God for remembering His promise to send a Savior.
- Jesus was born in (your town).
- Mary and Joseph laid Him in a manger.
- God always keeps His promises.
- God loves us very much.
- Some people have never sinned.
- All have sinned. Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins.

Let's all ring our bells to thank Jesus and to celebrate the best present of all.

**For He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is His name.
(Luke 1:49)**

NAME: _____

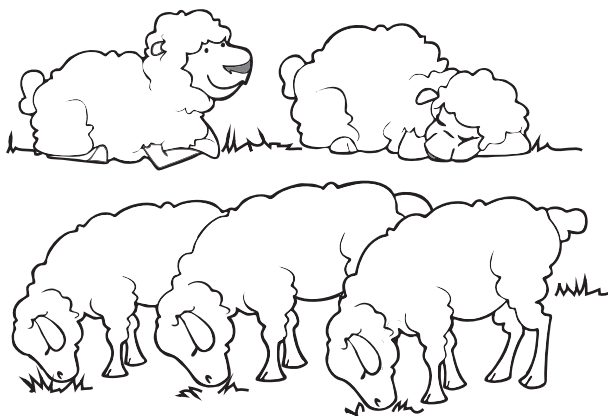


2
6
4



1
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5

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7



1
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1
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2
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1

Basic Instructions: Count the people or animals in each box and circle the correct number. Color the page.

Even More Fun: Cut out each box. Trim off numbers and glue each box onto a craft stick to make puppets.

Ultimate Fun: Act out the Christmas story with your puppets. Act out Gabriel coming to talk to Mary, and then Mary can start to sing and say Luke 1:49. Act out Mary and Joseph going to Bethlehem. Act out Gabriel talking to the shepherds while they are watching sheep and the shepherds running to see baby Jesus.

Valentines' Day: The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Make It Stick: Matthew 22:39: ... *"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."*

The Big Buzz: Jesus wants us to love others, even our enemies. We display our love to others with kind words and actions.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Luke 10:25-37; Matthew 5:43-48

Memorize: Matthew 22:39

"I love you."

Very few words evoke the emotions and memories of these precious words; yet these words are sometimes misused or misunderstood.

Consider, for instance, the people of Jesus' day. At the Sermon on the Mount, Christ's new command to love and pray for one's enemies likely caused a big upheaval in their society (Matthew 5:43-48). Later, when a lawyer, a Pharisee, tested Jesus with the pressing question "Who is my neighbor?" the parable Jesus told in response surely rattled the lawyer's understanding (Luke 10:25-38).

The parable of the good Samaritan focuses on the kindness of not just *any* stranger, but one who was abhorred by Jews for ethnic and religious reasons. And yet this Samaritan not only rescued the wounded man, but he also personally paid for the man's lodging and medicine.

The example set by the Good Samaritan demands that we show our love by going above and beyond the norm. While the personal sacrifice demanded of the giver is not easy, the impact it makes on the receiver can last a lifetime.

Do you love your Cubbies better than, or at least as much as, you love yourself? Are you willing to go beyond what is expected of you as a leader to live out the example of Christ's love to them? This type of love will not be easy, but God will bless your effort in extraordinary ways.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good (Psalm 34:8)*! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Know that God loves all people.
2. Understand the definition of neighbor as anybody, not just those who live near them or those they get along with.
3. Recognize the kindness and love displayed by the Good Samaritan.
4. Choose to love others in practical ways.
5. _____
6. _____

(Add the goals the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



Special Day 3: Valentine's Day: The Parable of the Good Samaritan

COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

IDEA 1: Group Valentine's Day Card

What You Need

- White and pink construction paper
- Scissors for leader's use
- Red paint
- Small paper plate
- Hand wipes
- Glue stick
- Marker

Let Cubbies make a Valentine's Day card to thank someone who serves in the church (e.g., custodian, secretary, pastor or nursery worker). Cut a large heart from white construction paper. With Cubbies, compose a message to the person, and write it in the middle of the heart. Put a small amount of red paint on a plate. Each Cubbie will dip his or her thumb in the paint, and then press it on the heart to make a thumbprint. Afterwards, Cubbies clean their thumbs with hand wipes. When dry, mount the heart on pink paper and deliver the card.

IDEA 2: Valentine's Day Game

What You Need

- Game card for each Cubbie (resource CD)
Be sure to print all three versions of the card so Cubbies have different cards for the game.
- Set of game card picture squares for each table group
- Game markers (foam hearts or conversation heart candy)

Seat Cubbies at tables. From an extra game card, cut out a set of game card picture squares for the leader at each table. The leader will hold up a picture. If Cubbies have that picture on their game card, they should cover it up with a marker. A Cubbie wins when he has covered three pictures in a row, either horizontally or vertically. Play as many rounds as time allows. Talk with Cubbies about what you see in the pictures.

IDEA 3: Special Day 3 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of the Special Day 3 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Red puff paint for leader's use
- Crayons

About 24 hours in advance, put three or four dots of red puff paint on the man pictured on the sheet to give him sores. As you show the picture, this "blood" will immediately grab the attention of the Cubbies and get them talking and asking questions. Continue the conversation as they begin coloring this page. Ask Cubbies questions like these: What do you think happened to him? What is the other man doing? Have you ever gotten hurt? Who helped you? Have you ever helped anyone who was hurt? Cubbies should finish coloring the sheet in Handbook Time.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Luvie Lamb puppet
- *Optional* — a handmade card that says "I love you"

LEADER: Are you ready to talk to Cubbie today? Let's count to three and see if he will come and talk to us. Ready? One — two — three. Cubbie!

(Bring Cubbie bear puppet into view, hopping.)

CUBBIE: Hi, boys and girls. Hi, leaders!

LEADER: Hello, Cubbie.

CUBBIE: I have important work to do today.

LEADER: That sounds exciting. What is your important work, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: Luvie Lamb told me yesterday that I need to be more loving to others. So I decided to do something special for each of my friends on Apple Acres Farm.

LEADER: Cubbie, that's a wonderful idea! What are you doing to show others you love them?

CUBBIE: First, I got up really early this morning and went to the meadow to pick some fresh grass. Luvie Lamb LOVES fresh grass from the meadow. I tiptoed to the petting zoo and put the grass inside her feeding dish. Then I put an apple next to the bowl so she would know the grass was from me!

(Bring the Luvie Lamb puppet into view, giggling.)

LUVIE: I HEARD you this morning, Cubbie Bear. I think it's hard for bears like you to be quiet, even when you are tiptoeing. But I enjoyed my grass very much. Thank you!

CUBBIE: You're welcome, Luvie! Am I doing better at loving others?

LUVIE: Yes, you sure are! Did you show love to anyone else today?

CUBBIE: Yeah, I picked up a red ball that was lost on the playground and brought it to Katie Collie. I know how much she likes finding things that are lost. I even told her that I would play catch with her later!

LUVIE: That's very nice of you, Cubbie!

LEADER: Yes, Cubbie, that's very nice. I'm proud of you. What about Timothy? Did you do anything nice for him today?

CUBBIE: Well, that was the hard part. See, Timothy does so many nice things for me, and he's my best friend. It took me a while to think of something special to do for Timothy. So I decided to make him a card to tell him that I love him and I'm glad he is my friend.

(If you are using the card prop, hold it up now. Pretend the card was made by Cubbie and pass it around so the children can see it.)

LEADER: You know what, Cubbie? Sometimes just telling people that we love them is the very BEST thing we can do for them. It makes them happy when we say kind things and show them that we think they are special.

LUVIE (giggling): Cubbie, you are doing such a great job at loving others now that I think we should start calling you Luvie Bear! *(Giggles again.)*

CUBBIE (laughing): That's funny, Luvie! I still like being called Cubbie Bear the best, but I'm glad you think I'm doing a good job at loving others. I'm going to find Timothy and give him my card. Bye, everyone!

LUVIE: Bye-bye!

(Have children wave goodbye as the puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during club.

IDEA 1: Strawberry Yogurt

What You Need

- Strawberry yogurt cups and spoons or yogurt push-up tubes

Let Cubbies demonstrate love for each other in a practical way. Direct one table of Cubbies to serve another table the snack.

IDEA 2: Cuties

What You Need

- Cuties®, peeled and sectioned

Serve a healthy snack to the neighbor on your left. The fruit sections resemble smiles. Say to Cubbies, "Doesn't it feel good to help other people? It makes them happy too."

IDEA 3: Jam Sandwiches

What You Need

- Whole wheat bread (or waffles)
- Strawberry jam
- Heart-shaped cookie cutter

Make strawberry jam sandwiches. Cut them into heart shapes before serving. You could also toast bread or waffles, cut them into heart shapes and spread with strawberry jam. Recite Matthew 22:39 together as you eat the heart snack.

IDEA 4: Heart-Shaped Snack

What You Need

- Items such as cookies, watermelon slices, cupcakes or red Jell-O Jigglers cut into heart shapes

Use a heart-shaped cookie cutter to make hearts or bake cupcakes or muffins in a heart-shaped muffin pan. Talk about how much God loves us and how we can show love and obedience to Him when we love others.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **"Jesus Loves Me"** or the chorus of the hymn **"Oh, How I Love Jesus"**
- End your song time with the **"Love Your Neighbors Action Rhyme."** Say each phrase by yourself first with the motions. Then repeat the phrase and motions with the children before moving to the next phrase. Repeat the rhyme several times until children can do it along with you easily.

I will love my neighbors. (*Cross your hands at the wrists and hold them over your heart.*)

Each and every day. (*Point finger out in front of you as you say each word.*)

I can help them. (*Pretend to pick up something from the ground.*)

I can hug them. (*Wrap arms around yourself as if you are giving yourself a hug.*)

And for them I will pray. (*Hold hands in front of you as if you are praying.*)

Jesus is happy. (*Make a happy face.*)

When I love them and obey. (*Wrap arms around yourself as if you are giving yourself a hug.*)

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, God wants us to love others. We can show our love for others by praying for them. God even wants us to pray for the people who are mean to us. Cubbies, think of one person you would like to pray for. (*Give Cubbies a few ideas of people to pray for.*) You can pray for that person right now! You do not have to pray out loud; God knows what you mean when you pray. Let's bow our heads and close our eyes. Without saying anything out loud, you can pray in your mind by thinking, "God, please help _____ (insert person's name)." (*Give Cubbies 10 or 20 seconds to pray silently. Then close in prayer, asking God to help the Cubbies remember to love others by praying for them.*)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 33, 73, 74 or Teaching Cards (TC) 102, 103 (optional)
- Bible with a bookmark placed at Luke 10:25-37
- Good Samaritan stand-up figures (resource CD)
- *Optional* — long strip of brown felt for a road, box to store stand-up figures, roll of gauze wrap, adhesive bandage, bottle of olive oil

(To prepare, make the stand-up figures as directed on the resource CD. Enlarge the figures depending on visibility and the size of your group. Set up the scene by placing a strip of brown felt on the ground to represent the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Place the Robbers Figure somewhere along the road. Place the Inn Scene at the end of the road. Keep the other figures hidden in a box beside you when they are not being used in the lesson. When you teach, sit on the floor with Cubbies seated on the floor in a semicircle in front of you. Move the figures in the floor space directly in front of you as you tell the story.)

(Open your Bible to Luke 10:25-37 and keep it visible during the lesson.) When Jesus lived on earth, He told people how they can know God and love God. One day, Jesus said, ... "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matthew 22:39). This is our Bible verse this week. Can you say it with me? *(Repeat the verse two times.)*

The people did not understand. "Who is my neighbor?" someone asked. Jesus wanted the people to know that a neighbor could be ANYBODY, someone they knew, like a friend or a family member. And a neighbor could ALSO be someone they didn't even know, or someone they didn't get along with or even like!

Jesus wanted to help the people understand, so He told them a story.

(If you are using the stand-up figures, display the Man Figure now at the start of the road. Move him slowly down the road. If you are using the

teaching cards, display TC102 and point to the man in the first scene box.) One day an Israelite man was walking down the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. *(Move the Robbers Figure towards the man or point to the robbers in the second scene box of TC102.)* Bad men saw the man, and they hurt him. They took his clothes and his money. They left him lying on the road, almost dead.

(Remove the character figures from view. Place the Wounded Man Figure on one side of the road.) Oh, no! Who would help the hurt man? *(Have Cubbies repeat the question with you.)*

(Move the Priest Figure slowly down the road or point to the third scene box on TC102.) A priest from the temple walked by. A priest was a leader of the people. He told the people how to worship God. Surely this priest would help the hurt man. Do you think the priest stopped to help him? *(Pause for replies.)* The priest walked right on by. *(Move the Priest Figure past the Wounded Man Figure on the opposite side of the road to a spot near the Inn Scene.)*

How sad! Who would help the hurt man? *(Have Cubbies repeat the question with you.)*

(Move the Levite Figure slowly down the road or point to the Levite in the fourth scene box on TC102.) Next, a Levite from the temple walked by. A Levite knew many things about God. He liked to sing and play instruments for God at the temple. Do you think he helped the hurt man? *(Pause for replies.)* NO! The Levite walked right on by too. *(Move the Levite Figure past the Wounded Man Figure on the opposite side of the road to a spot near the Priest.)*

How sad! Who would help the hurt man? *(Have Cubbies repeat the question with you.)*

(Move the Samaritan Figure and the Donkey Figure slowly down the road.) Finally, a Samaritan man walked by the hurt Israelite man. Samaritans and Israelites did not usually like each other. They were not kind to one another.

(Display TC103.) But do you know what, Cubbies? When the Samaritan saw the hurt

continued on next page

Special Day 3: Valentine's Day: The Parable of the Good Samaritan

continued from previous page

man, he stopped. He went over to the man. **(Move the Samaritan Figure to the Wounded Man Figure.)** He put bandages on the man's sores. Then he set the man up onto his own donkey. **(Remove the Samaritan, Donkey, and Man Figures and replace with the figure that includes both the Samaritan and the wounded man.)** He took the man to an inn. In the inn there were clean beds and food and water. **(Move the figure down the road to the inn.)**

Optional: Pass out a roll of gauze or bandages for Cubbies to touch. Pour a few drops of olive oil on each Cubbie's hand.

(Hold up the figures of the priest, the Levite, and the Samaritan when you mention them or display TC102 and TC103 again.) Cubbies, which person was a good neighbor? Was it the priest? **(Allow response.)** No! Was it the Levite? **(Allow response.)** No! Was it the Samaritan? **(Allow response.)** That's right! The Samaritan was a good neighbor. He loved the hurt man, and he helped take care of him.

Cubbies, Jesus wants YOU to be a good neighbor too! He wants you to love ALL people. Remember our verse? ... "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matthew 22:39). We need to love ALL people, and we also need to treat them the way that we would want to be treated.

(Choose one of the following options to help Cubbies apply the truths they have learned from the story of the good Samaritan.)

Option 1: Have leaders act out the following scenarios briefly. After each scenario, have Cubbies repeat the Bible verse, Matthew 22:39, and then think of a way that the leaders could love each other. Leaders act out the Cubbies' suggestion.

Two children fighting over a toy

Two children playing and one gets hurt

One child playing, and a parent asks the child to help pick up toys

Option 2: Have leaders hold up TC 33, 73 and 74. Ask, "How are these boys and girls being good neighbors?" Then ask, "How can YOU be kind to others around you?" Cubbies may suggest sharing toys with friends, obeying right away, loving brothers or sisters, etc. Encourage Cubbies to be a good neighbor to at least one person today.

Option 3: Lead Cubbies in the action rhyme in the Songs section.

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Special Day 3 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Special Day 3 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- A copy of the Special Day 3 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* – small adhesive bandages or pieces of gauze, glue sticks, construction paper

As Cubbies color, talk about the ways the Samaritan was a good neighbor to the hurt man. Emphasize that Cubbies can be good neighbors too. Make sure Cubbies understand that a neighbor can be anybody, not just those who live near us or those we like. Discuss ways Cubbies can love others in practical ways, such as sharing a toy, speaking kindly to a sibling or obeying parents right away. Cubbies may choose options to further decorate the sheet.

NOTE: Additional Handbook Time idea is on the Special Day 3 Handbook Leader Sheet.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

IDEA 1: Good Samaritan Scooter Board Relay

What You Need

- Scooter board

Divide Cubbies into two groups: Samaritans and Injured People. Groups stand at opposite ends of the room. A Samaritan rides a scooter board across the game floor and rescues one of the Injured People by placing her on the scooter and pushing her back across the room. Then the next Samaritan takes a turn. After all the Injured People have been rescued, the groups change roles.

IDEA 2: Musical Hearts

What You Need

- Numbered paper hearts with a Bible story review question on the back
- Music player

Beforehand, write a review question on the back of each heart. Lay the hearts on the floor in a circle, with numbers visible. While music plays, Cubbies walk around the hearts. When the music stops, the leader calls out a number. The Cubbie standing nearest to that heart picks it up and hands it to a leader, who will read the review question on the back. If the Cubbie answers correctly, the heart is placed back on the floor so the number is no longer showing. If the answer is incorrect, the heart is placed so the number shows. Continue playing until all questions have been correctly answered.

IDEA 3: Musical Shares

What You Need

- Hula-Hoops
- Music player

This game is played like Musical Chairs, except no one is ever out. Lay the Hula-Hoops on the floor in a circle. When the music plays, Cubbies walk around the hoops. When the music stops, each

Cubbie stands inside a hoop. If no hoop is empty, they share a hoop with a friend. After each round, remove a hoop. Play until hoops cannot hold any more Cubbies. Encourage Cubbies to be good neighbors to each other in the hoops. For example, good neighbors do not push or hit each other or try to get in the hoop first.

IDEA 4: Act Out the Story

What You Need

- *Optional* — Props such as a stick horse or donkey, money bags, ace bandage, bottle of oil, different hats or sashes for characters

This is a great story to act out, and Cubbies have vivid imaginations. Choose your actors: a traveler, two robbers, a priest, a Levite, a Samaritan and an innkeeper. For added fun, capture the skit on video and show it to Cubbies and their parents at the end of club.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

If you made movable figures for Lesson Time, allow Cubbies to play with the figures now and reenact the story. The figures can be kept in the room as a review tool.

As Cubbies wait to leave, play Who Is My Neighbor? Gather Cubbies around and start describing one of the Cubbies by giving clues about him. For example, say, "My neighbor is wearing white sneakers. My neighbor has brown hair. My neighbor is wearing a green shirt. My neighbor has a brother named Ethan. Who is my neighbor?" At any point a Cubbie thinks he might be the neighbor being described, he can say "I'm your neighbor!" The leader can describe more neighbors.

Are there any families or children in your club that are struggling due to health, economic, or family issues? Often we are ready to help during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season but are not so intentional at other times of the year. What could you do as a club to minister to them for Valentine's Day?

NAME: _____

... **"Thou shalt love thy neighbor
as thyself."** (Matthew 22:39)



Basic Instructions: Color the picture of the Good Samaritan helping the hurt man. Find all the sores on the hurt man and color them red.

Even More Fun: Attach a small adhesive bandage or piece of gauze over each sore. The Good Samaritan put bandages on the man's sores. Then the Samaritan set the man on his donkey and brought him to a safe place to stay.

Ultimate Fun: Mount your picture on a sheet of construction paper. Hang it up at home to remind you to love others. What are some ways you can love others?

Easter: He Is Risen!

Make It Stick: Matthew 28:6: *He is not here: for He is risen, as He said ...*

The Big Buzz: Jesus came to earth to die on the cross for sin. After three days, Jesus rose again!

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Matthew 26; John 13:34; John 14:1-2, 27; John 16:5

Memorize: Matthew 28:6

Imagine the hopelessness of Christ's disciples in the early hours before the resurrection morning. Their world — their faith — had been shaken to its very core. Jesus, the beloved Master, had been ripped away from them, falsely accused, scorned, and crucified. Consider their bittersweet memories as some of the last words of Christ echoed in their minds.

... *This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me. (Luke 22:19)*

... *This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you. (Luke 22:20)*

... *Love one another; as I have loved you ... (John 13:34)*
Let not your heart be troubled ... (John 14:1)

... *I go to prepare a place for you. (John 14:2)*

... *My peace I give unto you ... (John 14:27)*

... *I go ... to Him that sent Me ... (John 16:5)*

Yet, in the midst of their heartbreak, a ray of hope broke through. As the early morning reports of an empty tomb reached these men, the truth of their Master's words began to take hold. And when they witnessed their risen Savior, their faith became sight. They knew — beyond a shadow of a doubt — that their Jesus was indeed the Savior, the very Son of God.

Emphasize to Cubbies the importance of remembering all that Christ has done for us. One important way to remember Christ's sacrifice is through the ordinance of Communion. Cubbies may have questions as they see adults taking Communion during Easter services. Though your Cubbies may not have trusted Christ yet or may be below your church's age requirements for Communion, use this lesson as an opportunity to explain the story behind this central Christian practice.

TASTE AND SEE!

Cubbies need to *taste and see that the LORD is good (Psalm 34:8)*! Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Know that Jesus asked His disciples to remember Him as they ate a special meal together.
2. Understand that Jesus died on the cross for our sins.
3. Believe that Jesus rose from the grave after three days and is alive in heaven.
4. Rejoice that because Jesus died and rose again, we can have our sins forgiven and go to heaven one day to live with Jesus forever.
5. _____
6. _____

(Add the goals the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

IDEA 1: Remember Jesus Necklace

What You Need

(Instructions on resource CD)

- Card stock or foam sheet, cut into 3x3" (8x8 cm) pieces (could be square, circle or heart-shaped)
- Markers
- Yarn
- Colorful drinking straws
- Pairs of child-sized scissors
- *Optional* — stickers of Jesus, hearts, crosses, etc.

(This craft will probably need to be continued during Handbook Time.) Tell Cubbies that Jesus asked His disciples to remember Him when they shared a special meal together. Let Cubbies make a special necklace to help them remember Jesus. Cubbies can decorate card stock pieces with stickers or by drawing pictures of things that remind them of Jesus. Leaders can model for older Cubbies how to write "Jesus." When Cubbies are finished, punch two holes at the top of each card stock piece to make a pendant. Thread yarn through holes. Let Cubbies cut straws into short sections to thread onto their necklaces. Tie yard ends together in a knot when finished.

IDEA 2: Last Supper Placemat

What You Need

- Construction paper
- Crayons or markers
- Place setting and cup patterns (resource CD)
- Glue sticks
- *Optional* — matzah bread pieces, red tissue paper

Cubbies will decorate the construction paper as a placemat for a very special meal: Jesus' last meal with His disciples. First, let them glue on a place setting and a cup. Next, they may either draw bread and red drink or glue matzah bread on the plate and crumpled tissue paper pieces in the

cup. Finally, let them use crayons and markers to further decorate their placemats. Talk about what the bread and red drink remind us of. The broken bread reminds us that Jesus' body was broken for us. The red drink reminds us that Jesus shed His blood for us on the cross to save us from sins.

IDEA 3: Leader Photo Album

What You Need

- Leaders' photos of special people and places
- *Optional* — Also include photos taken during Cubbies. Talk with Cubbies about what they remember as they see the photos.

Invite leaders to bring in several photos (or other mementos) of special people and places they like to remember: old yearbooks, vacation photos, souvenirs, pictures of relatives who live far away. After leaders share about their photos, they can tell Cubbies that one day Jesus gave His disciples a special way to help them remember Him, and it wasn't a picture taken with a camera or an item from a gift shop. It was a special meal and red drink. Do you wonder how a meal could help us remember something? We are going to learn about this special meal later today. It's called the Lord's Supper and it helps us remember what Jesus did for us.

IDEA 4: Build a Tomb

What You Need

- Lego® bricks, cardboard or wooden blocks or Play-Doh

Let Cubbies use materials to build a tomb and a stone door. Ask Cubbies to describe the events they remember that happened at the tomb.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Luvie Lamb Puppet
- *Optional* — flower pots with flowers, soil, small shovel

(Beforehand, put the props nearby. If you want, you can show the Cubbies how to plant flowers by replanting one from a small pot into a larger one.)

LEADER: Boys and girls, it's time to talk to Cubbie Bear! Let's call him together, OK? Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Bring Cubbie bear into view, hopping around and scratching his head.)

CUBBIE: Hello, everyone. *(Cubbie continues to scratch his head.)*

LEADER: Cubbie, why are you scratching your head?

CUBBIE: I'm trying to remember something that Timothy asked me to do today.

LEADER: Oh.

CUBBIE: I'm thinking so hard, but ... I just can't remember what it was that he told me.

LEADER: Well, do you remember where you were standing when he told you?

CUBBIE: I was out in the meadow with Luvie Lamb. She was smelling some of the pretty flowers.

(Make a giggling noise offstage and bring the Luvie Lamb puppet into view.)

LUVIE (giggling): Did you call my name, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: Oh, hi, Luvie. I was just trying to remember something important that Timothy asked me to do. Do you remember when we were in the meadow yesterday?

LUVIE (nodding): Oh, yes! The flowers smelled wonderful!

CUBBIE: Timothy and I were talking, and he asked me to do something. But now I can't remember what it was!

LUVIE: Well, I think Timothy was talking about the picnic at the farm today.

CUBBIE (excited): Luvie, that's it! *(Begins hopping around.)* Timothy asked me if I could help him and his mom plant some flowers before the picnic! Lots of people are coming to the farm, and we want everything to look nice. Timothy and I will dig the holes with the shovels while Timothy's mom takes the flowers out of the pots and puts them in the holes.

(Show the boys and girls how to plant flowers by filling a large pot with soil, digging a small hole and then transplanting a flower from a small pot into the larger one.)

LEADER: Oh, Cubbie, I'm glad you remembered what Timothy told you. It sounds like he gave you an important job to do.

CUBBIE: He did! In fact, I'd better go right now and see if it's time to start digging.

LUVIE: Can I help too?

CUBBIE: I'm sure you can, Luvie! Come with me, and we'll ask Timothy if you can stay out of the petting zoo for a while and water the flowers after we plant them.

CUBBIE and LUVIE (together): Goodbye, boys and girls!

(Have children wave goodbye as puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during club.

IDEA 1: Bread and Red Drink

What You Need

- Matzah bread, pita bread, breadsticks or crackers
- Red drink

Talk about how the snack is similar to the last meal that Jesus shared with His disciples. As Cubbies eat, ask them to name one thing they remember about Jesus. Break a piece of bread and ask them how the bread reminds them of Jesus. (His body was broken for us.) Ask them how the red drink reminds them of Jesus. (His blood was shed for us.)

IDEA 2: Jesus Is Risen Rolls

What You Need

- Refrigerated breadstick dough
- Large marshmallows
- Margarine spray or melted butter
- Cinnamon sugar
- Baking sheet
- Oven
- Cooling rack

Cubbies could help make the rolls during Coming In Time, and eat them at Snack Time.

Give each Cubbie a lump of dough. Cubbies will knead the dough and press it into a flat circle. Show them how to place a marshmallow in the center, pinch dough around the marshmallow and roll the dough into a ball. Place balls on baking sheet with pinched edges down. Spray with margarine spray or brush with melted butter. Sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Bake at 350 degrees F (180 C) for 12 to 15 minutes until brown. Cool on wire rack. The marshmallows will melt, leaving the inside of the rolls hollow like the empty tomb.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **“First John 4:10”** Review the Cubbies key verse with this song. Sing these lyrics to the tune of “B-I-N-G-O.”

God loved us and sent His Son,
The Bible tells us so.

God loved us and sent His Son,
(Sing three times.)

First John 4:10

- **“You and Me”** to the tune of “Deep and Wide”. Cubbies point to the leader or each other on the word *you* and to themselves on the word *me*. Make up other motions for the song.

(Repeat each verse twice.)

Verse 1: You and me. You and me.

Jesus died on the cross for you and me.

Verse 2: You and me. You and me.

Jesus rose from the dead for you and me.

Verse 3: You and me. You and me.

In heaven, there's a home for you and me.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Use this time to intentionally model and teach Cubbies the basics of prayer.)

Cubbies, it's time to talk to God in prayer. When we pray, we can tell God we are sorry for our sin. Do you remember what a sin is? (Allow Cubbies to respond.) A sin is anything we think (point to head), say (point to mouth) or do (hit your fist in your hand) that disobeys God. (Repeat the sin definition and let Cubbies do the motions with you.) Fold your hands, bow your heads, and close your eyes so that we do not look at anybody else when we talk to God.

(Model a short prayer of admitting a sin to God. You can admit a personal sin or a sin for the group. For example, you could say, “We are sorry, God, for the times we have disobeyed our parents. We know that you say that is a sin. Thank you, God, that our sins are forgiven because of what Jesus did for us on the cross.”)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 17-18, 86, 104-105
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Matthew 26 and 28
- *Optional* — matzah bread or cracker, cracker and paper or plastic cups for each Cubbie, a snack-size sealable bag, cup or glass, a small square of red construction paper, a small magnetic or plastic letter C, a small cross, a roll of gauze, a rock, a small jar of spices, plastic bin, bag of rice

(Before club, place the matzah bread, sealable bag, cup, red construction paper square, letter C, cross, gauze, rock, and spice jar within your reach. Set a plastic bin nearby.)

(Adapt and personalize the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

Today Cubbie Bear was trying hard to remember something. Can you tell me what he was supposed to remember? *(Pause for replies.)* Timothy had given him an important job to do, and Cubbie finally remembered what he was supposed to do. To remember means that we think about something so that we will not forget about it.

(Open your Bible to Matthew 26 and keep it visible while you teach.) Jesus wanted His special friends, the disciples, to never EVER forget what He was going to do for them. To help them remember what He was going to do, He planned a special meal for them.

(Display TC104.) At that special meal, Jesus took bread. *(Hold up the matzah bread and break it.)* He broke it and gave the bread to the 12 disciples that were sitting with Him at the table. Jesus said, "This bread is like My body. My body will be broken soon. Eat this bread and remember Me." Jesus knew that soon His body would be hurt and broken on the cross.

His disciples took the bread, and they ate it. *(Place the matzah in the sealable bag and put it in the bin.)*

Then Jesus took a cup with a red drink in it. *(Hold up the cup and the piece of red construction paper. Then place them in the bin.)* "This drink is red, the same color as blood. When you drink this, remember Me." Jesus knew that soon He would bleed on the cross for our sins.

The disciples took the cup, and they drank the red drink.

Optional: Have a leader pass out crackers and empty cups to Cubbies. Encourage Cubbies to eat the crackers and to pretend to drink from their cups. After they eat, have them repeat together, "I remember Jesus."

Jesus knew that soon He would have to finish the work His Father, God, wanted Him to do. After the special meal, Jesus took His disciples to a garden. He told His disciples, "Come and pray with Me."

Jesus prayed to God, but the disciples fell asleep.

Option: Have half of the class pretend to be Jesus by folding their hands in prayer. Then have the other half of the class pretend to be the disciples by closing their eyes and placing their heads on their hands as if they were asleep.

While they were in the garden, angry men came to take Jesus. The men were angry because of the things Jesus was doing. They didn't believe He was the Son of God.

(Display TC17.) Even though Jesus had NEVER sinned, or done ANYTHING wrong, the angry men said that Jesus needed to be put on a cross to die. *(Hold up the letter C. Explain that C stands for Christ and review Romans 5:8. Then place it in the bin.)*

Jesus could have stopped the men from killing Him, because Jesus is God. But Jesus knew this was part of the work His Father wanted Him to do. Jesus also loved us very much, and wanted to save us from the punishment for our sins.

(Display TC86.) After Jesus died, some of His friends took His body. They cleaned it and

wrapped it in special cloth. **(Hold up the gauze. Then put it in the bin.)** They put His body in a room cut from a rock, called a tomb. Soldiers rolled a heavy stone in front of the tomb so that no one could get in and take Jesus' body away. **(Hold up the rock. Then place it in the bin.)** Then the soldiers stood outside to guard the tomb.

Cubbies, this part of our story is very, very sad. But remember, Jesus HAD to die to save us from our sin.

Three long days passed. **(Have Cubbies count to three and hold up three fingers as they count.)**

(Open our Bible to Matthew 28 and display TC105.) The third day after Jesus died, Mary Magdalene and some other women followers of Jesus went to the tomb. They wanted to put special spices on Jesus' body. **(Hold up the spice jar. Then place it in the bin.)** When they got to the tomb, they saw that the soldiers had fallen to the ground because they were so afraid. There had been an earthquake! Look closely at the picture. Do you see anything else that is different? **(Pause for replies. Cubbies should notice the angel and recognize that the stone had been rolled away by the angel.)** The women did not understand what was happening!

The angel sitting on the stone said, "*He is not here; for He is risen, as He said ...*" (Matthew 28:6). This is our Bible verse for our lesson. Can you say it with me? **(Repeat the verse with Cubbies twice.)**

The women ran to find Jesus' special friends, the disciples. "Jesus is alive!" they shouted! **(Have Cubbies shout together, "Jesus is alive!")** The disciples were happy, except for Thomas. "I want to touch Jesus to KNOW He is alive, or I will not believe it," he said.

(Display TC18.) While the disciples were sitting in a room, Jesus suddenly appeared to them! ALL the disciples saw Jesus. "Thomas, touch My hands and My side," Jesus said.

When Thomas saw that Jesus was truly alive, he was happy! "My Lord and my God!" he said.

Cubbies, I am so glad that Jesus died for our sins and that He came alive again. Now Jesus lives in heaven. When we trust Christ as Savior, our sins are forgiven, and one day we will go to heaven and live with Him there forever. **(Close in prayer, thanking God for sending Jesus to save us from our sin. If time permits, use the following option to review the lesson.)**

Optional: Pour rice into the bin to make it a sensory bin. Ask a Cubbie to come to the front and choose an item from the sensory bin. Review that part of the lesson with Cubbies. Continue until each item has been discovered. (If you have a large class, divide your Cubbies into several smaller groups and assign a leader to each group. Provide a sensory bin filled with items from the story for each group.)

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Special Day 4 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Special Day 4 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- A copy of Special Day 4 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons

Ask Cubbies what the angel said when the women arrived at the tomb. Remind Cubbies that the angel said the words from their verse, Matthew 28:6. Ask Cubbies: Why are you glad that Jesus Christ rose from the dead? Where is Jesus now? (His body is in heaven; but His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, is with us always.) Have Cubbies color the picture. Then show Cubbies how to fold their paper to make the picture look like a closed tomb. Cubbies open the paper again to see Jesus risen from the dead. Cubbies can fold and unfold their paper as they share the good news of Jesus' resurrection with others.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

IDEA 1: Parachute Tomb

What You Need

- Parachute or large sheet

After spreading the parachute on the floor, review that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, was buried in the tomb and then came alive again. Ask Cubbies how many days Jesus spent in the tomb. (Three) In this game, a leader will call a Cubbie's name and that Cubbie will lie very still on the floor under the parachute. The rest of the Cubbies will grasp the edge of the parachute and slowly count to three as they make the parachute rise up and down three times. When they say "Three!" the Cubbie under the parachute will come out. Repeat with other Cubbies.

IDEA 2: Roll the Stone Relay

What You Need

- Jumbo stacking cups (sold by Awana) or children's buckets
- Playground balls, large newspaper balls or large plastic eggs

Ask Cubbies: Who rolled the stone away from the tomb. (An angel.) What happened after the angel did that? (The angel sat on the stone. The guards were so afraid that they shook and became like dead men.) Divide Cubbies into groups. For each group, place a jumbo stacking cup on its side at a distance away from the group and place a ball in front of the opening. This represents the tomb and the stone door. The first player in the group will run to the cup and roll the ball back to the next player. That player will roll the ball back to the cup and run back to the group. The next player will run to the cup and roll the ball back to the group and so on until everyone has had a turn.

IDEA 3: Wrap Your Leader

What You Need

- Rolls of bath tissue or an old white bed sheet torn into strips
- Music player

Divide Cubbies into groups. Each group needs a leader who is willing to be wrapped up. Explain to Cubbies that this is similar to how Jesus was wrapped up after he died. Play an upbeat song as Cubbies work to wrap their leader. Other leaders may need to assist. When the song ends, stop and admire all the "mummies." Explain that Jesus was placed into the tomb but He didn't stay there. After three days He came back to life. Count to three and let Cubbies quickly unwrap their leaders.

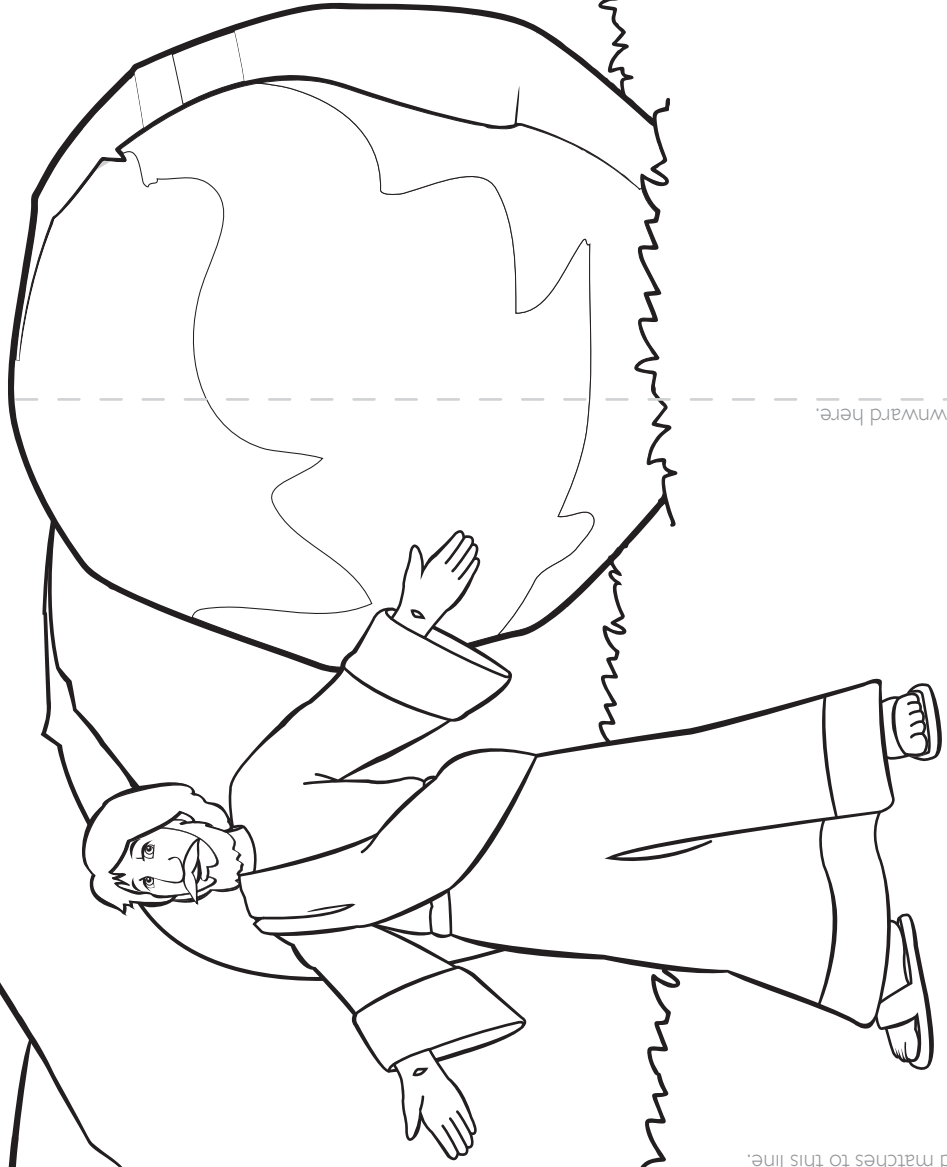
GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

Bring several plastic Easter eggs, including a special egg that is white or gold. Cubbies sit in a circle and pass several plastic eggs as music plays. When the music stops, the Cubbie holding the special egg receives an Easter sticker or other small treat.

Give the parents of your Cubbies some ideas on how to share and celebrate the Easter story with their children at home. Direct them to some resources your church endorses as well as any additional opportunities your church will be providing for families during the Easter season. The monthly *Parent Pause* newsletter also includes Easter ideas for parents. (Download a free newsletter at awana.org.)

NAME: _____

**He is not here: for
He is risen, as He said ...
(Matthew 28:6)**



The fold matches to this line.

Fold downward here.

Basic Instructions: Color the picture of Jesus after He has risen from the dead.

Even More Fun: Make a downward fold on the dashed line to the far right of the page. Move the fold line over to match up with the dashed line on the opposite side and press down to flatten the paper. The picture should look like a closed tomb. Open the paper to see Jesus risen from the dead.

Ultimate Fun: Fold your picture to look like a closed tomb and show someone your paper. Tell the person that Jesus died for our sins and was buried in a tomb. Then open your picture and tell the person that three days later, Jesus rose again from the dead! All who trust Jesus as Savior will be saved from sin.