# Cubbies AppleSeed Teaching Plans

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Introduction to Cubbies AppleSeed 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; all those who practice it have a good understanding. (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, 1 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!
**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.

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**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.
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 AppleSeed 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 AppleSeed 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.
Introduction to Cubbies AppleSeed Teaching Plans

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 AppleSeed 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 created animals,” 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 makes an animal mask in Coming In, watches a puppet show about the animals who live on Apple Acres farm, listens to a lesson (with pictures) about God creating the animals, eats animal crackers and plays a game in which children pretend to move like animals. In all these various sensory activities, the teacher repeats and discusses the truth that God created animals.

Implementing TTT is easy because each weekly lesson plan includes several 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. The Special Day lessons are optional and can be plugged in at any time during the club year. If your club meets for less than 32 weeks, we recommend skipping Bear Hug B and the review lessons in Bear Hugs 6, 10 and/or 14, since these are familiar Bible stories.

The resource CD for the Appleseed Teaching Plans includes 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 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, prayers and goals 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 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 mentioned previously.) 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.

**The Memory Seed** 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 Apple summarizes the lesson theme (main idea) in one or two sentences. Each unit (Units 1–6) has a Core Truth. The Core Truth is a simple statement about God’s character that is repeated in each lesson of a unit (God is Creator, God’s Word is truth, God keeps His promises, etc.). Although each unit lesson still has a specific memory verse and lesson theme (The Big Apple), these themes and verses all reinforce and coordinate with the larger Core Truth about God. 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 several 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 Sow the Seeds. Let God’s Word teach and transform you before you teach it to Cubbies. Pray about the goals listed in See Them Sprout! 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 (teaching cards or digital images) before you teach. Cubbies easily lose focus if you are constantly fumbling around for cards or trying to figure out how to work the projector. The AppleSeed Teaching Cards and digital images come with a numbered list of visuals for each lesson for your reference. Some teachers find it easier to post cards on the wall or display cards on a music stand, chair or easel instead of holding them while teaching. Laminate the cards for extra durability.

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 several 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 the 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 we 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 section of awana.org. This newsletter gives parents ideas...
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cubbie Bear Buddy Levels</th>
<th>When to use it:</th>
<th>Behavior:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cubbie Bear Buddy Level One</td>
<td>Lesson Time, Puppet Show</td>
<td>Cubbies sit still and listen quietly unless the leader directs them otherwise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cubbie Bear Buddy Level Two</td>
<td>Coming In, Handbook Time, Going Home</td>
<td>Cubbies may talk quietly as they interact with leaders and other Cubbies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cubbie Bear Buddy Level Three</td>
<td>Play Time</td>
<td>Cubbies may cheer, jump and play while following game rules.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
Parent Night
Cubbies Key Verse
1 John 4:10

Memory Seed: 1 John 4:10: ... God ... loved us and sent His Son ...

The Big Apple: God loves us very much! He sent His Son to be our Savior.

SOW THE SEEDS

Read: Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23; 1 John 4:7-10
Memorize: 1 John 4:10

Imagine a seed planter (sower) heading down a dusty path toward his field — a field he’s prepared for planting. But on the way, some of his seed falls along the roadside and waiting birds swoop down for a tasty lunch. Other seed blows onto rocky ground and the sprouts quickly die because their roots had nowhere to grow.

The sower continues walking. Again, seed falls to the ground and blows into a patch of thorns. For awhile, these seeds seem to be doing well, but soon the thorns choke the fledgling plants.

The only seeds that prosper are those planted in the field that is richly prepared with soil and water. Notice that the seed is the same in all four scenarios. Only the environment is different.

As Cubbies leaders, we all have the same seed — the Word of God. First, we pray that the “field” of our own hearts would be richly prepared to receive God’s Word. Then we pray for the hearts of our Cubbies. We pray that God would give our Cubbies hearts with “good soil” so they can grow by spiritual leaps and bounds this year. Finally, we pray for the “field” of our classroom. A richly prepared club environment nurtures healthy spiritual growth. Pray for:

1. A place that is welcoming, loving and safe.
2. Leaders who show love and respect for God in both word and action and who understand the age characteristics of the children.
3. Parents who are included in club activities and supported as they spiritually nurture their sons and daughters.

4. Feel happy because God still loves us even though we disobey. He sent His Son to be our Savior.
5. Know that the Lord Jesus died for our sin. When we trust Him as Savior, we learn how to love and obey God, because God helps us.
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)

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 Collage**

**What You Need**
- Sheet of construction paper for each Cubbie with “Who Loves You?” printed at the top
- Glue sticks
- Piles of paper hearts or heart stickers of different colors and sizes

Direct Cubbies to each make a collage by gluing (or sticking) the various hearts on the sheet of construction paper. Leaders or a child’s parent should write a name of someone who loves the child on or above each heart (e.g., Mom, Dad, Grandma, Uncle Jeff). On the biggest heart, the leader or parent should write “God,” and explain that God loves the child most of all.

**IDEA 3: Apple Picking**

**What You Need**
- Picture of an apple tree on poster board (branches should be at a child’s height)
- Tape or sticky putty
- Laminated green, red and yellow paper apples (“Apple Patterns” on the resource CD)
- Basket
- Optional — blindfold

Hang the apple tree on the wall. Put tape or putty on the back of each apple and allow Cubbies to take turns either putting apples on the tree or picking them off and placing them in the basket. (Only do this with a small number of Cubbies at a time. Preschoolers do not like to wait long for their turn. Large clubs could divide Cubbies into smaller groups and provide a tree poster and set of apples for each group.) To turn this into a Play Time game, blindfold Cubbies as they try to stick apples on the tree.

**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, celebrate upcoming Cubbies’ birthdays, sing the “Cubbies Song” or recite key Cubbies verses. This first week of club may be a good time to teach the theme song, since new Cubbies haven’t learned verses yet. See the “Cubbies Song” lyrics and music on the resource CD.
PUPPET SHOW
(3-5 minutes)

What You Need
• Cubbie Bear puppet
• Katie Collie puppet
• Luvie Lamb puppet

LEADER: Hi, Cubbies! Welcome to the first night of club — aren’t you excited? I want you to meet a special friend of mine.

When I count to three, call “Cubbie.” OK? 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): Hi, boys and girls! I’m so excited to meet you.

LEADER (laughing): I can SEE that you’re excited. Can you stop jumping and hopping for a minute so I can ask you a question?

(Slow down Cubbie’s hopping motions.) Cubbie Bear, we’re going to talk about love tonight. Tell me something that you love.

CUBBIE: Love? Oh, I love apples — red apples, green apples, golden yellow apples. I also like honey and raspberries and, well, anything else that tastes sweet. (Cubbie laughs.) But most of all, I love my best friend, Timothy.

LEADER: Timothy, who’s Timothy?

CUBBIE (looking out at all the Cubbies): Timothy is a boy who’s in Cubbies like you! I live with Timothy on his family’s apple farm. We have so much fun exploring together.

LEADER: Exploring? Where do you like to explore?

CUBBIE: Just today, we went down to the creek.

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

KATIE: You know you and Timothy aren’t supposed to go that far from the house. I had to follow you and bring you back.

CUBBIE (chuckling): Kids, meet my other friend, Katie Collie. Do you know what she loves? She loves to remind Timothy and me to obey the rules. But she only does it because she wants us to be safe. She’s a good dog, and very smart too.

(Lift Katie’s chin up slightly and turn her head from side to side as if she’s proud of herself.)

LEADER: It’s nice to meet you, Katie! Cubbie, are there any other friends we should meet?

(Remove Katie from the scene so your hand will be free for the Luvie Lamb puppet. If you need extra time to switch puppets, Cubbie can act like he’s looking for Luvie.)

CUBBIE: Of course. You still have to meet my friend, Luvie Lamb. LUVIE!

(Hide the Luvie Lamb puppet behind the Cubbie puppet and poke her head out from behind Cubbie playfully.)

LUVIE (poking her head out): Boo! (She giggles and hides again.)

(Hide Luvie behind a few other places and peek her head out to say “Boo” or “Hi” and giggle.)

CUBBIE: Luvie Lamb loves to play silly games.

LEADER: What a fun time! We met three new friends, and we also found out what they love. Cubbie loves apples and his best friend, Timothy. Katie Collie loves to keep Cubbie and Timothy safe. And Luvie Lamb loves to play silly games.

CUBBIE: Wait! There’s something else I want to say. As soon as I get to know the boys and girls in Cubbies this year, I’m going to love THEM too.

LUVIE (nodding): Yeah, me too!

LEADER: Yes, I’m sure you both will. And we’ll love you too, Cubbie and Luvie Lamb. Right, boys and girls? (Let children respond.)

(If you will be using Cubbie Bear Buddy Levels for classroom management, Cubbie can explain them here.)

CUBBIE: Goodbye for now. We’ll see you next week!

(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.

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: Heart Treats

What You Need
- Red Jell-O® Jigglers® or watermelon slices cut in the shape of hearts (Or any heart-shaped snack, such as cookies or cereal pieces, will work!)

Talk about God’s love for us as Cubbies eat the heart snack.

IDEA 2: Apple Snacks

What You Need
- Slices of red, green and yellow apples or apple-flavored cereal pieces  
- Apple juice  
- Optional — poster chart with three columns labeled red, yellow and green; red, yellow and green stickers

Give each Cubbie a cup of apple juice and a slice of each color of apple. (For Cubbies under age four, it is best to cut the apples into half-inch pieces to prevent any possibility of choking.) For extra fun, let them each vote on which apple color tastes best by putting that color of sticker in the matching column on the chart. To save preparation time, serve apple-flavored cereal pieces instead of apples. Remind them that Cubbie Bear loves apples. Talk about the things and people they love and share about God’s love.

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, so use this time each week to intentionally teach the basics of prayer and set a good example. Say the following in your own words.)

Now let’s talk to God. Talking to God is called prayer. When we pray at Cubbies, we fold our hands, bow our heads and close our eyes. You can pray in other ways too, but praying like this helps us to remember that we are talking to God.

(Pray a short prayer with children to prepare them for Lesson Time. Here’s a model. “Dear God, thank You for loving each one of us. Help us to learn more about Your love and Your Son, the Lord 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

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

Cubbies, we’ve been talking and singing about love today. Sometimes we say we love cookies or we love to play outside. But when people say they love YOU, it means something different. The people who love you care about you very much. They want to be with you and help you. Cubbies, who are some of the people who love you? (Allow children to answer. Possible answers are parents, grandparents, friends, etc.)

Good answers, Cubbies. Yes, your parents love you! (Display TC1. Point to the picture of the Cubbie with his parents. If some of your Cubbies do not live with their parents, you could also say “guardians” or the “grown-ups who live with you.”)

(If parents are visiting your club, encourage parents to give their child a hug at this time.)

Your grandparents love you too. (Display TC1 again, pointing to the picture of the Cubbie with her grandparents.)

Who else loves you? Do you have friends at Cubbies that love you? (Display TC2 pointing to the Cubbie with her friends.)

Let’s all try to be friends that love each other! (Ask children to each turn to the Cubbies sitting next to them and smile.)

What about the leaders at Cubbies, like me? Do we love you? (Display TC2 again, pointing to the Cubbie with the leaders.)

(Optional: Ask Cubbies to stand up. Tell them to watch and copy what you do. First, hop and smile. Say, “God loves you when you’re happy. He loves you all the time.” Make a sad, crying face. Say, “God loves you when you’re sad.” Pretend to kick or throw a ball. Say, “God loves you when you’re playing outside.” Fold your hands under your head as if you’re sleeping. Say, “God loves you when you’re sleeping in your bed at home. God loves you all the time!” Add your own ideas and motions.)

God loves each one of us very much. He wants us to love Him too. We can show that we love God when we obey what He says in the Bible.

But guess what? (Show a sad expression on your face as you display TC3.) We don’t always obey what God tells us in the Bible. Cubbies, have you ever said something mean to someone? When you say something mean, you are not obeying God. Cubbies, have you ever done something your mom or dad told you not to do? (Name some typical ways preschoolers disobey...)

Yes, we love you a lot, Cubbies. But guess what? There’s someone who loves you even more than all of us love you. Do you know who? (Allow one or two kids to answer.)

God. That’s who! God loves you so much. God loves you more than anyone else could ever love you.

God talks to us in a very special book called the Bible. (Hold up your Bible. Communicate reverence for God’s Word by the way you hold and handle the Bible.) Many of you have a Bible at your house. Maybe your Bible has pictures in it. Bibles may look different. But all Bibles have God’s words inside.

Cubbies, do you want to hear something God says to us in the Bible? (Open your Bible to 1 John 4:10. You will read the verse in the form that Cubbies will memorize.) First John 4:10 says: … God … loved us and sent His Son … Say that with me. (Repeat the verse a couple of times.)

Optional: Ask Cubbies to stand up. Tell them to watch and copy what you do. First, hop and smile. Say, “God loves you when you’re happy. He loves you all the time.” Make a sad, crying face. Say, “God loves you when you’re sad.” Pretend to kick or throw a ball. Say, “God loves you when you’re playing outside.” Fold your hands under your head as if you’re sleeping. Say, “God loves you when you’re sleeping in your bed at home. God loves you all the time!” Add your own ideas and motions.

continued on next page
When you don’t listen to your mom or dad, you are disobeying God. All of us disobey God. This makes God sad. (Frown and look sad again.)

(Smile broadly.) But I have GOOD NEWS, Cubbies! God still loves us, even when we don’t love and obey Him. He showed His love when He sent His only Son, Jesus, to live here on earth and be our Savior. (Display TC4.) First John 4:10 says … God … loved us and sent His Son … Say that again with me. (Repeat the verse a couple more times.)

(Keep this next part simple and short for kids, but also remember that this is a great chance to share the gospel with parents.)

When Jesus lived on earth, He never disobeyed His Father, God. But, remember; all of us have disobeyed God; we have all sinned. We should be punished for this. Being punished means getting in trouble for the wrong things we have done. But God loved us and sent Jesus to be punished instead of us. Jesus died on the cross for our sin. (Point to the crosses on TC4.) Then, three days later; He came alive again! (Point to Jesus and the open tomb on TC4.) Each of us must trust Jesus Christ as Savior. That means you believe that He died on the cross for your sin. When you trust Jesus as Savior, you start learning how to obey God more and more, because God helps you. (The Holy Spirit is the one who indwells us and teaches us how to obey God, but this concept is difficult for many young children to grasp and is not necessary to explain in this first lesson.)

(Display TC5. Talk about how the girl in the picture is showing love and obedience to God by listening to the Bible as her mother reads it.) Cubbies, what are some other ways we can love and obey God? (praying, singing songs to Him, helping someone, etc.) God loves us, and He helps us to love Him too. Let’s say our verse together one more time: First John 4:10: … God … loved us and sent His Son …

HANDBOOK TIME
(15-30 minutes)
Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug A Handbook Leader Sheet from the 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 — Cubbies Key Verse sheet (resource CD), scissors, glue sticks and a sheet of construction paper for each child

Point to the pictures on the maze as you say 1 John 4:10 with Cubbies several times. Encourage them to say the verse as they complete the maze and color the pictures. Give older Cubbies copies of the Cubbies Key Verse sheet. They can color the boxes, cut them out and glue them on a piece of construction paper in the proper order. Parents can help their child with either of these activities.

IDEA 2: Verse Shapes

What You Need
- Play-Doh®
- Rolling pins
- Heart and cross cookie cutters
- An Apple Acres entrance booklet for each child

Flatten a piece of Play-Doh with a rolling pin. Say “God loved us” and make a heart with a cookie cutter. Say “and sent His Son” and make a cross. Let Cubbies copy you. Cubbies can also make a cross by rolling two “snakes” between their hands: a longer snake and a shorter snake. The shorter snake is laid across the longer snake to make a cross. While Cubbies work with dough, listen to individual Cubbies recite the verse or show parents how to use the Cubbies Apple Acres entrance booklet with their child at home. Answer any questions parents have about Cubbies.
PLAY TIME  (15-20 minutes)

IDEA 1: Heart Races

What You Need
- Several different colors and sizes of paper hearts (use leftover hearts from Coming In)

Beforehand, hide the hearts around the room, except one medium-sized heart and one large heart. To begin the game, hold up the medium-sized heart and ask Cubbies to name family or friends who love them. Hold up the big heart and ask Cubbies to name who loves them most of all: God! Repeat 1 John 4:10. Let Cubbies race to see how many hearts they can find. Or instead of hiding hearts, you could also spread them out on the floor. Call out a color, and Cubbies will race to pick up all the hearts of that color.

IDEA 2: Red Apple, Green Apple

What You Need
- Red paper apple and green paper apple

Play this just like the game Red Light, Green Light except hold up a red or green apple. Red means stop. Green means go. If Cubbies don’t stop in time, they don’t have to return to the starting line. Just encourage them to pay attention.

IDEA 3: Puppet Games

What You Need
- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Red number one paper, yellow number two paper and green number three paper

Use the Cubbie puppet to help children practice the Cubbie Bear Buddy Levels. When Cubbie yells “Buddy Level One!” and you hold up the red paper with the number one on it, children sit on the floor in silence, with their legs crossed and their hands in their laps. When Cubbie yells “Buddy Level Two!” and you hold up the yellow number two paper, children talk quietly to a partner. They may be sitting or standing. When Cubbie yells “Buddy Level Three!” and you hold up the green number three paper, children cheer, jump and run around the room. (Tell them which direction to run to help avoid collisions.) You could also play Simon Says with the Cubbie puppet as Simon. No one is eliminated. Just encourage Cubbies to listen closely and follow directions. End the game with low-impact body movements to prepare Cubbies for snacks and/or Going Home.

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 theme of your meeting. For example, seat Cubbies in a circle and pass a plastic apple, heart-shaped box or beanbag around the circle as music plays. When the music stops, whoever is holding the object says his or her name and the group recites 1 John 4:10.

Whether parents have been with you at club or they 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 give 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. This newsletter can also be emailed to parents.

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 once their child brings the handbook home.
Basic Instructions: Trace on the dotted line in the maze as a leader or parent says the Cubbies Key Verse.
Even More Fun: Color the pictures in the maze.
Ultimate Fun: Show your maze to someone and tell them, “... God ... loved us, and sent His Son ...”.

... God ... loved us and sent His Son ...
(1 John 4:10)
Apple Patterns
Apple Patterns
Basic Instructions: Color the words and pictures.
Even More Fun: Cut along the lines. Paste the pieces on a sheet of paper in the right order.
Ultimate Fun: Give your creation to someone who needs to know the Lord Jesus.
Cubbies Motto
Jesus Loves Me

Memory Seed: Jesus Loves Me
The Big Apple: Jesus loves the children, and Jesus loves you.

SOW THE SEEDS
Read: Mark 10:13-16; Matthew 18:1-14
Memorize: Cubbies Motto

You are a Cubbies leader and that means Christ has entrusted you with one of His most precious possessions — His little children! He loves them dearly. In the Gospels, He goes out of His way to include them. He gives surprisingly strong warnings to those who hinder or hurt them or cause them to sin.

The Lord Jesus knows that children are spiritually vulnerable. They can’t read the Bible. They can’t study a commentary. They can’t get themselves to church. They depend on parents or other adults to provide the training they need.

Think of the magnitude of our responsibility because of a child’s limitations. We (the adults) are the first “Bible” they read. We are a child’s first glimpse of God’s character. Only through watching us do they understand how much God loves them. Only through watching us do they learn respect for His greatness.

Before us lays the responsibility to come alongside parents and teach these young children about our loving heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. Let’s be prayerful and careful to lay the right kind of spiritual foundation — the kind that can be built on for years to come.

SEE THEM SPROUT!
Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. See and hear the way Jesus values children. Jesus spent time with children and prayed for them.
2. Realize that Jesus loves each of them personally.
3. Desire to interact with Jesus and show Him affection.
4. Trust in Jesus and feel excited about the home He is preparing for them 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: Name Spelling Fun

What You Need
• Sheet of construction paper for each Cubbie with “Jesus loves ________” printed on it
• Small construction paper squares for writing letters
• Markers for leaders
• Glue sticks
• Crayons
• Heart stickers

Optional — Use rubber letter stamps, letter stickers or foam letters. For fun, let Cubbies glue a photo of themselves on the paper.

At tables, leaders use markers to write the letters of each Cubbie’s name on a paper square. (Letters could also be written ahead of time.) Give each Cubbie all the letters for his or her name and help Cubbies glue the letters in the proper order on the blank line. Young Cubbies may need a leader to write their name on the line first so they can glue matching letters over it. Read each Cubbie’s sheet to the group: “Jesus loves Adam,” “Jesus loves Claire,” etc. Say that Jesus loves all the children at Cubbies today. Children can further decorate the sheet using crayons, heart stickers or a personal photo.

IDEA 2: Lacing Hearts

What You Need
• “Jesus Loves Me Lacing Heart” for each Cubbie (resource CD)
• “Jesus Loves Me Card Stock Heart” for each Cubbie (larger than “Jesus Loves Me Lacing Heart” on the resource CD)
• Yarn pieces cut long enough to lace around each heart
• Hole punch
• Tape
• Crayons
• Glue sticks

Due to the amount of preparation, this craft may be best for small clubs. Beforehand, cut out all the hearts and punch lacing holes along the edge of the hearts printed on card stock paper. (The card stock heart pattern shows where to punch holes.) Wrap one end of each yarn piece with tape so it is easier to lace. Knot the other end of each yarn piece. Give a “Jesus Loves Me” heart and a card stock heart to each Cubbie. Cubbies can glue the “Jesus Loves Me” heart in the center of the larger card stock heart. Let them color the heart and trace the word ME. Give each Cubbie a yarn piece to practice lacing now or wait to use this as a Handbook Time activity. Talk about Jesus’ love for children while Cubbies work.

IDEA 3: Apple Sorting

What You Need
• Laminated green, red and yellow paper apples (resource CD)

Optional — three baskets or bowls

You can use the apples you made for apple picking in Bear Hug A. (Or instead of apples, you could use paper hearts of various colors.) Set the baskets in the middle of the table and assign a color to each basket. Give each Cubbie a stack of paper apples and let him or her sort the apples according to color and place them in the correct baskets. Ask Cubbies if they love apples as much as Cubbie does. Talk about those who love the Cubbies, especially Jesus.

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 while 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!”).
**PUPPET SHOW**
(3-5 minutes)

**What You Need**
- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Luvie Lamb puppet

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

When I count to three, call “Cubbie.” OK? 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):** Hi, Cubbies, how are you today?

(Let children respond.)

**LEADER:** Cubbie Bear, I think it’s time you learned some of the names of the boys and girls.

**CUBBIE (still hopping slightly):** That’s a great idea!

(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, continue the process for a few weeks until all children are named, or instruct the children to all say their names at once. Cubbie can make a joke of it by saying, “Wow, that’s a lot of names. I’ll have to keep working on it!”)

**LEADER:** We all need to learn each other’s names. It’s important to know the names of our friends, and I hope all of us can become good friends this year! Speaking of friends, Cubbie, what are you and your best friend, Timothy, doing today?

**CUBBIE:** We’re going apple picking with Timothy’s dad!

(Bring the Luvie Lamb puppet into view.)

**LUVIE:** Oh, that sounds so fun. (With a giggle) Can I come too?

**CUBBIE:** I wish you could, Luvie. But lambs are supposed to stay in the petting zoo. Goodbye, everyone. I’m off to find Timothy!

(Remove the Cubbie puppet from view, but keep him on your hand.)

**LUVIE (sadly):** That’s not fair. I want to go too. Cubbie and Timothy get to do all the fun stuff, and I always have to stay in my stall at the petting zoo.

**LEADER:** I’m sorry, Luvie. Maybe you’ll get to go next time. And I’m sure all the kids that visit the farm will miss seeing you if you’re not at the petting zoo.

**LUVIE (still sad):** Yeah, I know. But I still wish I could come out sometimes to play with Timothy and Cubbie.

(Bring the Cubbie puppet into view again.)

**CUBBIE:** Luvie, I asked Timothy, and he said you could come and pick apples with us today!

**LUVIE (excited):** Oh, YAY! I’m so happy. Thank you Cubbie and Timothy. (Starts to sing her next words) I’m going apple picking! (I’m going apple picking! (Stops singing suddenly) Wait a minute — I don’t even know how to pick apples. Can I pick apples with my hooves? (While she pauses to think, make sure her hooves are visible to Cubbies.) Oh well, it doesn’t matter. I’m just excited I get to go. Goodbye, boys and girls. I’ll see you later!

**LEADER:** Goodbye, Luvie! Goodbye, Cubbie! Have fun today.

(Tell kids to wave goodbye to the puppets as they 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: Decorative Hearts

What You Need
• Frosted heart cookies
• Sprinkles
• Paper cups
• Optional — Serve pre-decorated or plain heart cookies or any other heart-shaped snack.

Give each child a cookie and a cup containing a layer of sprinkles. (Make sure the cookie frosting is still soft for decorating.) Let children decorate their cookies with the sprinkles. Talk about how much Jesus loves us as Cubbies eat the heart snack.

IDEA 2: Apple Parfaits

What You Need
• Cinnamon graham crackers
• Sandwich-size Ziploc® bags
• Cups of applesauce
• Plastic spoons
• Healthier option — Replace graham crackers with whole-grain granola.

Beforehand, seal a cracker piece in a Ziploc bag for each Cubbie. During snack time, let Cubbies crush the crackers by pounding on and crumpling the bags. Serve each Cubbie a cup of applesauce and tell Cubbies to sprinkle the cracker bits on top of the applesauce. Ask Cubbies if they love apples as much as Cubbie does. Talk about other foods they love. Remind them of the people that love them. Recite the Cubbies motto.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:
• “First John 4:10” and “Jesus Loves Me” from Bear Hug A. Teach children sign language for “Jesus Loves Me” or make up your own hand motions.
• “Jesus Loves the Little Ones” If you are unfamiliar with this song, it comes up easily in an Internet or iTunes® search. Here are the lyrics:
  Jesus loves the little ones like me, me, me.
  (Repeat.)
  Little ones like me sat upon His knee.
  Jesus loves the little ones like me, me, me.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

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

Cubbies, now let’s talk to God. Talking to God is called prayer. You can pray in the morning, at lunchtime and at bedtime. You can pray any time! When we pray at Cubbies, we fold our hands, bow our heads and close our eyes. This helps us not to look at other things, so we can think about God.

(Pray a short prayer with children to prepare them to hear God’s Word in 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

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

Cubbies, do you remember why Luvie Lamb was so sad today? *(Let children answer.)*

Yes, Luvie Lamb was sad because she couldn’t go apple picking with Cubbie and Timothy. I’m glad that later Cubbie and Timothy said she could go, aren’t you?

Cubbies, have you ever wanted to go somewhere, and then someone said you couldn’t come? *(Talk with Cubbies about their experiences. If they are quiet, give examples. Maybe Mom and Dad went out to eat and said a Cubbie couldn’t go with them, or maybe a big brother said a Cubbie couldn’t ride bikes with him because she was too little.)*

Today I’m going to tell you a story about some children like you. At first, these children weren’t allowed to do something they really wanted to do. This story is from the Bible. *(Hold up your Bible. Communicate reverence for God’s Word by the way you handle the Bible.)* The story about Luvie and Cubbie is just pretend. It’s a make-believe story. But all the stories in the Bible are true. When I open my Bible, you know that what I tell you really, really happened. Let’s pray and ask God to help us listen to the true things He wants to tell us from the Bible. *(Pray with Cubbies to help mark the transition to learning from God’s Word.)*

Our Bible lesson today is from Mark 10:13-16. *(Open your Bible to the right spot and hold it or set it in front of you while you teach. Even though you will not read these verses directly, you are showing that your lesson is from God’s Word.)*

*(Display TC6.)* One day, Jesus was talking to lots of people. He was telling them true words from His Father; God. Some moms and dads came to see Him. *(Point to the parents in the picture.)*

The moms and dads brought their children with them. Do you see all the children? *(Point to the children in the picture.)*

The moms and dads said, “We want our children to see Jesus!” So the moms and dads moved their children closer to Jesus.

Cubbies, can you imagine how excited the children were to meet Jesus? Would you have been excited to meet Jesus? *(Allow response.)*

Then something very sad happened. *(Display TC7.)* Some of Jesus’ helpers, called the disciples, told the families to STOP.

*(Point to the disciples in the picture.)* The disciples said, “Go away. The children can’t come to see Jesus today.”

Oh, no! The children probably felt so sad. They wanted to see Jesus, but the disciples said they couldn’t come.

The children turned around. The moms and dads turned around. The families started to go away.

*(Point to Jesus in the picture.)* Cubbies, look at Jesus. Does He look happy that the children are going away? *(Allow response.)*

No, Jesus is not happy. He is angry that His disciples told the children to go away. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me. Do not stop them!”

*(Display TC8.)* Hooray! Jesus said the children can come. See Him touching them and loving them? *(Display TC9.)* They sit in His lap. Jesus hugs them. Jesus prays for each one of them.

**Optional:** If your Cubbies seem engaged, talk about what the children are doing in the picture. Ask individual Cubbies these questions: Where would you be if you were with Jesus? Would you sit in His lap like this child? Would you sit near Him like this boy or
would you be shy and peek out like the girl in the back? Would you give Him a hug or a kiss? Would you hold His hand? Cubbies might have fun identifying a child who looks a little like them in TC8 or TC9.

Cubbies, Jesus loves the children. *(Point to your Cubbies.)* 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 Jessica,” “Jesus loves Colton,” etc.)*

You know what else, Cubbies? *(Display TC10.)* Jesus said that everyone who believes (or trusts) in Him like a little child will have a home with Him in heaven. Jesus is getting that home ready right now (John 14:2-3). In heaven, we will live with Jesus always! *(Emphasize Jesus’ love for children and repeat the Cubbies motto a few more times.)*

**Optional:** If children are attentive, talk about what they see in the picture. Ask them, “What do you think will be the best part about living with Jesus in heaven?” Explain that the Bible doesn’t tell us very much about what heaven will look like, but it will be a happy, perfect and more-fun-than-we-can-imagine kind of place.

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**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
- Optional — Bring materials for Coming In Idea 2 (Lacing Hearts). Older Cubbies can cut out the “Jesus Loves Me” heart from their activity sheet. Younger Cubbies will need the heart to be pre-cut.

Talk about how Jesus is showing love to the child in the picture. Cubbies can complete one or more of these extra-fun options: (1) Draw a face on the child. (2) Trace the heart and the word ME, and then color the picture. (3) Make the lacing heart craft. Encourage kids to talk to Jesus as they work. For example, they can tell Him, “I love You” or “Thanks for loving me.”

**IDEA 2: Mirror Images**

**What You Need**

- Handheld mirror or small locker mirror

Pass around the mirror and tell Cubbies to each look in the mirror to see whom Jesus loves. Listen to Cubbies recite the motto individually while others complete the Bear Hug B Activity Sheet.
PLAY TIME  (15-20 minutes)
Preschoolers love repetition, 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: Heart Races

What You Need
- Several different colors and sizes of paper hearts (use the ones you made for Bear Hug A)
- Optional — curling ribbons, craft feathers, cloth flowers or leaves, etc.

Continue the heart games from last week with adaptations. For example, each time a Cubbie finds a red heart or a big heart, they could say, “Jesus loves me.” You can also add this new heart game: First, explain that loving Jesus should make us excited and happy. Give each Cubbie a handful of hearts, ribbons or other items. Then, to the tune of “London Bridge,” sing together “Jesus wants us to love Him, to love Him, to love Him. Jesus wants us to love Him. I love Jesus!” After children sing the last line, let them throw their items up into the air and watch them float down. Cubbies will want to play this game over and over!

IDEA 2: Jesus Loves YOU!

What You Need
- Nothing

This game works best with older Cubbies. Play this like Duck, Duck, Goose, except change the words. When a Cubbie taps each head in the circle, he says “Jesus loves.” When he reaches the person he wants to tag, he shouts “You!”

IDEA 3: Let the Children Come

What You Need
- TC8 (picture of children coming to Jesus)
- Optional — Instead of TC8, use the red apple and green apple from Play Time Idea 2 in Bear Hug A.

Play an adapted version of Red Light, Green Light. Tell Cubbies to line up on one side of the room. Designate one leader to play Jesus and another leader to play a disciple. These leaders will stand together at the opposite side of the room. To start, the leader acting as Jesus faces the children, holds up TC8 or the green apple and says “Let the children come.” Cubbies can run, walk, hop or skip towards Jesus. When the disciple says “Stop!” or holds up the red apple, children must freeze in place. (Children who don’t stop immediately do not have to return to the starting line. Just remind them to pay attention.) Repeat this sequence until all the Cubbies reach Jesus. Review the lesson from Mark 10:13-16, and be sure Cubbies understand that the children in the lesson were not playing a game.

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.

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.
Cubbies Motto: Jesus Loves Me

Basic Instructions: Draw your face on the child with the empty face.

Even More Fun: Trace the word ME, then color the picture.

Ultimate Fun: Show your picture to someone and say, “Jesus loves you!”
Jesus Loves Me
Lacing Heart (1 of 2)
Jesus Loves Me
Card Stock Heart (2 of 2) (Print on card stock)

Paste Jesus Loves Me heart here.
A Is for All

Memory Seed: Romans 3:23: … All have sinned …

The Big Apple: We are all sinners who need a Savior.

SOW THE SEEDS

Read: Romans 3:10-26
Memorize: Romans 3:23

The apostle Paul paints a depressing picture of a depraved and sin-filled world in Romans 3. We are all sinners. None of us is righteous. If we stopped at verse 18, we would face desperate hopelessness. Our only purpose for working with Cubbies would be to enjoy their cuteness. We would have no hope to share — because, yes, they are sinners too. We are all born with a sin nature (Romans 3:10-11; Psalm 51:5).

But Romans 3 continues. Our hope comes through trusting Christ and being saved through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. What a privilege we have to convey that message of hope to the Cubbies we teach!

Young children often see God’s love and authority through their families. If their earthly parents are loving and caring, they will see their heavenly Father as loving and caring too. (We need to be sensitive to those children who come from unstable homes. We need wisdom as we teach these children the comfort of knowing their heavenly Father.)

As children begin to understand that disobedience to parents is sin and that obeying and respecting parents is a right choice, they will learn to respect and obey the authority of God.

Our lessons should emphasize obedience to parents (that, in itself, is obedience to God). This is a first step to understanding authority and recognizing the ultimate authority of our sovereign God.

SEE THEM SPROUT!

Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Understand that all people have sinned and are born sinners.
2. Can define sin as “anything we think, say or do that disobeys God.”
3. Are able to name specific examples of sin.
4. Personally recognize that they are sinners who need 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: Decorate A’s

What You Need

• “A is for All” craft sheet for each Cubbie (resource CD)
• Pre-cut squares with faces of people on them (resource CD)
• Glue sticks
• Crayons
• Optional — Use stickers of people instead of the pre-cut face squares. Cubbies could also decorate the A by tearing pieces from colored paper and gluing the pieces on the A.

Put a pile of people face squares at each table. Cubbies color the large A on their sheets and select three or more different people to glue INSIDE the black lines of the letter. Ask them what the A stands for in Cubbies. Explain that all people have sinned, no matter who they are or what they look like. To help Cubbies, especially those who need extra sensory input, trace the border of the letter with puffy paint or bottled glue. Do this ahead of time, so paint dries. Children can feel the raised border and more easily stay within it as they glue items on the A.

IDEA 2: Stick A’s

What You Need

• Glue
• Pile of long sticks
• Pile of short sticks (Sticks can be craft sticks, pretzel sticks or sticks cut from cardboard or construction paper)

Show Cubbies how to make an A with two long sticks and a short stick. Each time they succeed at making an A, encourage them to say “A is for all” and recite Romans 3:23. You may want to let Cubbies glue the sticks together once they have mastered the task. This is especially good for younger Cubbies. If Cubbies finish early, let them play with letter puzzles and find the letter A puzzle piece.

IDEA 3: Concentration Game

What You Need

• A few sets of cards (eight cards in each set) that picture matching people faces (resource CD)
• Optional — Laminate cards for durability and include photos of your Cubbies as cards.

Set the cards face down on the table in random order. (To make it easier for younger Cubbies, keep the cards facing up.) Let Cubbies play individually or 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. Occasionally point to a face on a card and ask if that person has sinned or flip over ALL the cards as a reminder that ALL have sinned. Cubbies could also play with these cards (or cut out their own set) in Handbook Time and take turns reciting Romans 3:23 before flipping the cards. If Cubbies make their own card sets, stripe the back of each card sheet with a different color before the cards are cut out. This helps children to know which cards are theirs. Provide bags or envelopes for Cubbies to take the cards home.

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. For the key verse, you could sing “First John 4:10” (from Bear Hug A).
PUPPET SHOW
(3-5 minutes)

What You Need
- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Luvie Lamb puppet
- Teaching Card (TC) 11 or an A cut from construction paper
- Optional — apple, apron or pictures of an apple and an apron

(If you have an apron, put it on before you begin.)

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

When I count to three, let’s call “Cubbie.” OK? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

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

CUBBIE (hopping around): Hi, Cubbies! How are you today?

(Let children respond. If desired, you could have Cubbie continue learning names of Cubbies, an activity which was started in the Bear Hug B puppet show.)

LEADER (holding up TC11 or the letter A): Cubbie, we’re going to be talking about the letter A today. Do you know anything that starts with the letter A?

CUBBIE (hopping excitedly): OH! I know all about the letter A! Timothy and I just got back from hunting for things that start with A.

LEADER: You did? What did you find that starts with A?

(If you brought an apple, show it to the kids when Cubbie mentions it.)

CUBBIE: First, we found apples. Then we found an animal called an alpaca. He looks sort of like a small llama and he has a coat like a sheep.

(Pop the Luvie Lamb puppet into view.)

LUVIE (with a giggle): He’s very cute. He’s one of my friends at the petting zoo. First Cubbie asked me if MY name started with an A, but I said, “No, silly! My name is Luvie, and Luvie starts with an L.”

CUBBIE: Sorry, Luvie. Sometimes I get my letters mixed up. After that, we found Grammy Lois wearing an apron. Timothy told me that apron starts with A. Then we ate cupcakes. Yum!

(Point to your apron if you are wearing one.)

LEADER: It sounds like you had a wonderful time looking for A’s.

(If you have time and the kids are engaged, ask Cubbie and Luvie if they see any A’s or A words in the Cubbies room. They could mention the A’s on the Cubbie’s vests, people’s names that start with A or items such as awards, ankles, arms, amigos. Amigo is the Spanish word for friend.)

CUBBIE: Goodbye for now, Cubbies. See you next week.

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

LEADER: Cubbies, we just named lots of things that start with A, but we missed an A word that is very important. This word is in the Bible. We’ll find out what it is in Lesson Time today.
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: Pretzels

What You Need
• Thin pretzel sticks

Give each Cubbie three pretzel sticks. Show Cubbies how to make the letter A with the sticks. They will need to break one stick in half so they can use one of the halves as the middle part of the A. Review what the A stands for in Cubbies.

IDEA 2: Snacks That Start With A

What You Need
• Any food that starts with the letter A (e.g., Apple Jacks® cereal, apple turnovers, animal crackers, angel food cake, apricots)

Say the name of the snack while Cubbies eat and see if they can tell you the beginning letter of the snack. Think of other words that start with A. Ask what the A stands for in Cubbies.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

What You Need
• Teaching Card (TC) 11 or a construction paper A

SING:
• “Jesus Loves Me” or “Jesus Loves the Little Ones” from Bear Hug B

• “Oh Be Careful Little Eyes” Use this traditional Sunday school song to teach Cubbies the definition of sin. Explain that sin is anything we think (point to head), say (point to mouth) or do (hit fist on palm) that disobeys God. Give concrete examples of how a child might sin in these three areas. As you sing, point to or move the appropriate body part (eyes, ears, feet, etc.). Be sure to add the line “be careful little mind what you think.”

• “Where Is the A?” to the tune of “Where Is Thumbkin?” Hide TC11 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 intentionally to 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 tell God we are sorry for the times we have sinned. Sin is anything we think (point to head), say (point to mouth) or do (hit fist on palm) that disobeys God. (Name a few sins that are relevant to preschoolers: disobeying parents, lying, etc.) Let’s tell God we are sorry right now and thank Him for sending Jesus to save us from sin.

(Pray a short prayer with children before you start Lesson Time.)
LESSON TIME  (15-20 minutes)

What You Need
• Teaching Cards (TC) 3-4, 11-13
• Bible with a bookmark placed at Romans 3:23

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

Cubbies, we’ve had fun talking about things that start with A, haven’t we? But there’s another word we didn’t talk about that starts with A.

This word is found in the Bible. (Take out your Bible and open it to Romans 3:23.) The Bible is God’s special book. God talks to us in the Bible. Listen to what God says to us in Romans 3:23. (Emphasize the word All as you read a shortened version of the verse.) … All have sinned … (Romans 3:23).

Cubbies, in this verse, the word All starts with A. (Display TC11 and trace the A with your finger.) In Cubbies, we say that the letter A stands for the word all.

Optional: Use objects to illustrate the concept of all in addition to the illustration with people below. Bring a container filled with items of the same kind. For example, bring a cup filled with crayons or a bag filled with cotton balls or blocks. Spill the items on the floor. Call up children, one at a time, to pick up a certain number of the items and put them back into the container. After each child takes a turn, ask the group if ALL the items have been put back. Continue in this pattern until all the items are back in the container. To save time, limit the number of items and tell children who don’t get a turn that they will be part of the next illustration.

Cubbies, what does the word all mean? How many is all? (To illustrate the concept, tap one Cubbie gently on the shoulder and ask him to stand.)

How many Cubbies are standing? (Count together with the group.) Is ONE Cubbie all?

(While kids answer no, tap another Cubbie gently and ask her to stand.)

How many Cubbies are standing now? (Count together.) Are TWO Cubbies all?

(While kids answer, tap three more Cubbies gently and ask them to stand.)

How many Cubbies are standing now? (Count together.) Are FIVE Cubbies all?

(Keep this counting and standing routine going depending on the size of your group and the level of children’s engagement. Eventually ask all Cubbies and leaders to stand.)

What about now, are all Cubbies standing? (Let Cubbies answer yes.) Yes! Finally, ALL Cubbies are standing. And look, leaders are standing too.

(Display TC11 again.) A is for all. The Bible says: … All have sinned … Let’s say the verse again together: … All have sinned … (Romans 3:23). This verse means that not one of us, not two of us, not five or 10 of us, but all of us have sinned.

Cubbies, what is sin? (Leave the question hanging as you direct Cubbies to sit down while you display TC12.)

What are the sisters doing in this picture? (Display TC12 pointing to the left half as children answer.) That’s right. They are fighting and making mean faces at each other. God says being mean and unkind is a sin.

What is the girl doing in this picture? (Display TC12 pointing to the right half as children answer.) You’re right. This girl is not obeying her mom. The Bible says that’s a sin too.

(Continue in this pattern with TC13.)

Cubbies, sin is anything we think (point to your head), say (point to your mouth) or do (hit one fist on your palm) that disobeys God. (Repeat

continued on next page
**Handbook Time**

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 1 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.

**Bear Hug 1 Activity Sheet**

**What You Need**

- Copy of the Bear Hug 1 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- Optional — pairs of child-size scissors, glue sticks, poster or bulletin board with “All Have Sinned” written on it

Tell Cubbies to circle and then color ALL the people who have sinned. (Christ should be the only person not circled.) Challenge Cubbies who are skilled with scissors to cut out a few of the people’s faces from the sheet. They could glue the people to your poster or bulletin board. As you listen to Cubbies recite the verse individually, help each child to realize that he or she is a sinner. For example, you could ask, “Jordan, have you sinned?” Name sins typical of preschoolers to make the concept of sin more concrete. However, don’t embarrass or shame the child; rather, point to Christ. Christ never sinned, but we all sin. That’s why we need the Savior!

The definition and hand motions often with Cubbies. For older Cubbies you can add this: “Sin is also NOT doing the good things God has told us to do.”) When we sin, it’s very sad, because we are not showing love to God. (Display TC3 to remind kids about your first lesson on God’s love.)

I want each of you to close your eyes for a minute. Think about a time when you disobeyed God. Did you keep playing when your mom said it was time to go? Did you think a mean thought about someone, like “I don’t like you”? Did you say mean words to them, like “You’re not my friend”? Did you hit someone or take away their toy? (Add other examples that you know are relevant to your Cubbies. This helps them personalize the concept of sin.)

Open your eyes and look at me, Cubbies. Every one of us is born a sinner. We can’t change ourselves! We are all sinners, and we all need someone to save us from our sin.

Here’s the best part, Cubbies! (Display TC4.) God loved us and sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from our sin. Jesus is our Savior. We’ll learn more about the Savior next week.
PLAY TIME  (15-20 minutes)

**IDEA 1: Letter A Races**

**What You Need**
- Several beanbags or small balls
- Bucket or trash can with letter A taped to side
- Optional — If you have Cubbies divided into groups, include beanbags or balls in group colors.

Scatter the beanbags or balls on the game floor. When you give the signal, Cubbies will quickly pick up ALL the items and drop them in the bucket or trash can. To help keep Cubbies from trying to grab the same items, assign Cubbies to groups and tell the groups to pick up a certain color: For example, the red group picks up all the red balls. Remind Cubbies to be kind as they pick up items: they should watch where they are going; they shouldn’t push others or take items from them. Large clubs may want to have smaller groups play in their own assigned area with their own bucket. After ALL the items are picked up, point to the A on the bucket. Together, say “A is for all” and recite Romans 3:23.

**IDEA 2: Concentration Card Relay**

**What You Need**
- A set of concentration cards (8 cards in a set) for each group of four Cubbies (resource CD)
- Container for each group in which to place matches
- Optional — Laminate the cards for durability.

(Use the cards you made for Coming In Idea 3 for this game.) Divide Cubbies into groups of four players. Give each member of the group a different card from the set. Place the matching cards on a large table (with cards divided by group) or on the floor near a pin designated for each group. On your signal, the first Cubbie in each group will go to his group’s area, find a card that matches his card, bring it back and place the matching pair in his group’s container. The next Cubbie will then go to find her matching card and place her matching pair in the group’s container. When all the Cubbies have had a turn, give them new cards and play the game again. Remind Cubbies that ALL people have sinned, no matter how old they are, what they look like or what kind of job they do.

**IDEA 3: Run to the A**

**What You Need**
- TC11 or large letter A attached to wall

Direct all Cubbies to sit against the wall at one end of the room. The A should be hanging on the wall at the other end of the room. Certain Cubbies will run to the A, depending on your command. For example, say, “If you have a sister, run to the A” or “If you have a pet cat, run to the A” or “If your eyes are blue, run to the A.” Cubbies should run back to the group and sit down before you give the next command. Occasionally say, “All Cubbies run to the A!” Remind Cubbies that “A is for all” and recite Romans 3:23 together. For fun, tell Cubbies to hop, crawl or tiptoe instead of run. If you have a small space, hold the A and tell Cubbies to stand or take a certain number of steps to reach you instead of running.

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, blocks or other items before the timer sounds or the music stops. Review “A is for all” and Romans 3:23.
... All have sinned ... (Romans 3:23)

NAME: ____________________________

Basic Instructions: Circle all the people who have sinned. (The first one is done for you.)

Even More Fun: Color the people. Cut them out on the black lines and tape or glue them to the “A Is for All” craft sheet (resource CD).

Ultimate Fun: Glue the squares to a poster or bulletin board on the wall below the words: … All have sinned … (Romans 3:23).
... All have sinned ... (Romans 3:23)
... All have sinned ... (Romans 3:23)
Either print on paper, cut and attach to craft, or print on Avery labels 48663, template 5163 and use as stickers. (Cut stickers to create individual images.)
**Basic Instructions:** Color all the people who have sinned.

**Even More Fun:** Draw a line between each matching picture or cut out the squares and play a concentration game. (Best if printed on card stock.)

**Ultimate Fun:** Glue the squares to a poster or bulletin board on the wall below the words: … All have sinned … (Romans 3:23).
**Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:**

1. **Hear key events from Jesus’ life:**
   - He lived on earth.
   - He died on the cross.
   - He rose from the dead.
   - He returned to heaven.

2. **Realize why Christ died:**
   - To show His love for us and to pay the punishment for our sin.

3. **Know that Christ never sinned.**

4. **Tell how someone gets to heaven:**
   - By trusting Jesus as Savior.

5. **Begin to understand the gospel,**
   - So at the right time, they will trust Christ personally as Savior.

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

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**SOW THE SEEDS**

**Read:** Romans 5:1-11

**Memorize:** Romans 5:8

Do you have a treasured letter from a parent or grandparent who passed away some time ago? Reading the letter can comfort us and bring back good memories, but we know the person isn’t actually saying those words to us “in the moment” — the person is physically dead.

In contrast, the Bible is the living Word of God (Hebrews 4:12). The verses we read are God’s direct message to us. God could not be closer or more real to us if He were visibly sitting across the table, telling us of His love. Those words are alive right here and right now. Today.

The Bible contains God’s message of love to us which we, in turn, share with the Cubbies.

God loved us before we trusted Him as Savior, when we were still sinners.

God loves us now. Even though, as Christians, we do still sin. But we are learning to walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5).

Here is a key question to repeat over and over with your preschoolers.

**Question:** How does God talk to us?

**Answer:** The Bible.

Emphasize that the Bible is God’s message to us. The words inside the Bible are the words God wants us to hear and obey.

Show Cubbies that you respect your Bible by keeping it visible while you teach and by reading their memory verse from it directly. Lay the Bible gently in a safe place when you aren’t using it and hold it carefully when you are. Allow them to see that the Bible is different from other books.

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**SEE THEM SPROUT!**

Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. **Hear key events from Jesus’ life:**
   - He lived on earth.
   - He died on the cross.
   - He rose from the dead.
   - He returned to heaven.

2. **Realize why Christ died:**
   - To show His love for us and to pay the punishment for our sin.

3. **Know that Christ never sinned.**

4. **Tell how someone gets to heaven:**
   - By trusting Jesus as Savior.

5. **Begin to understand the gospel,**
   - So at the right time, they will trust Christ personally as Savior.

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: Decorate C's

What You Need
• “C is for Christ” craft sheet for each Cubbie (resource CD)
• Pre-cut colored cross squares (resource CD)
• Pre-cut Jesus face squares (resource CD)
• Crayons
• Glue sticks
• Optional — Use cross stickers instead of cross squares.

Put a pile of cross squares and a pile of Jesus face squares at each table. Cubbies color the large C on their sheets and glue three crosses and one Jesus face inside the black lines of the letter. Ask them what the C stands for in Cubbies. Explain that Christ died on the cross to save us from our sin. He did it because He loved us so much.

IDEA 2: A and C Letters

What You Need
• Piles of short and long sticks from the Stick A idea in Bear Hug 1
• Play-Doh
• Cookie cutters in shapes that start with C (e.g., chicks, cars, crosses, cats)
• Optional — letter puzzles

Set up the Stick A activity from Bear Hug 1 and add a C activity, which includes Play-Doh and cookie cutters. Show Cubbies how to roll a “snake” with Play-Doh and curve it into a C. Say that in Cubbies, C stands for Christ. Christ is another name for God’s Son, Jesus. Recite Romans 5:8.

Cubbies can use cookie cutters to make chicks, crosses, clowns or any other C word. Talk about the words that start with A and C and review what the A and C stand for in Cubbies. Cubbies who finish early can play with letter puzzles and find the A and C puzzle pieces.

IDEA 3: Clothespin Game

What You Need
• Two half-gallon cardboard milk cartons with tops cut off
• Permanent marker
• Several clothespins (the kind with springs)

Beforehand, use the marker to write an A on one milk carton and a C on the other one. Write either an A or C on each clothespin. Tell Cubbies to sort the clothespins into two groups. Let them either try to drop the clothespins into the corresponding carton or clip them to the top edge of the carton. (Clipping the clothespins is a great way to practice fine motor skills.) Review that A is for All (Romans 3:23) and C is for Christ (Romans 5:8) while children do the activity.

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, the Cubbies motto, the A verse (Romans 3:23) and the C verse (Romans 5:8). When you say, “A is for all,” tell Cubbies to trace the A on their vests with a finger. When you say, “C is for Christ,” Cubbies can trace the C on their vests.
**PUPPET SHOW**  
(3-5 minutes)

**What You Need**
- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- Large C written on poster board or cut from construction paper
- Optional — bag filled with as many of these items as possible: cow, chicken, cat, ear of corn or can or corn, car

**LEADER:** Hi, Cubbies! Are you ready to see Cubbie Bear today? Let’s call him together! One — two — three. CUBBIE!

*(Do not bring Cubbie out yet.)*

**LEADER:** That’s strange! Let’s call him again. Maybe he didn’t hear us. One — two — three. CUBBIE!

*(Peek Cubbie’s head out tentatively.)*

**LEADER:** Cubbie, what’s wrong? You’re not your usual hopping and jumping self today.

**CUBBIE** *(looking from side to side, nervously):* I heard a tractor in here, and I’m really scared of tractors.

**LEADER** *(laughing):* Oh, no, Cubbie! There aren’t any tractors in here, are there, Cubbies?

*(Let children respond.)*

**CUBBIE** *(still looking around, but not trying to hide anymore):* OK, but I really thought I heard a tractor.

**LEADER:** That’s just your imagination, Cubbie. Don’t worry anymore!

**LEADER** *(holding up the letter C):* Cubbie, we’re going to be talking about the letter C today. Do you know anything that starts with the letter C?

**CUBBIE** *(hopping excitedly):* OH! I know all about the letter C! Timothy and I were hunting for C words today on the farm.

**LEADER:** Oh, were you? What did you find? *(Bring the Katie Collie puppet into view, barking.)*

**LEADER:** Hi, Katie! Cubbie is about to tell us some of the things he found on the farm that start with C.

**KATIE:** Wait, I know lots of things on the farm that start with C. There are animals that start with C, like cows and chickens and cats.

*(If you brought the items in the bag, you can pull them out as Katie mentions each one in her part above and her part below.)*

**LEADER:** That’s right, Katie! You’re such a smart dog. Cow and chicken and cat all start with C.

**KATIE:** There’s corn on the farm too. Corn starts with C. And there are lots of cars on the farm. The families come to the farm in cars. I like to run and tell Timothy when the cars are coming.

**LEADER:** Right again, Katie! Corn and cars both start with the letter C. Cubbie, what did you and Timothy find today?

**CUBBIE:** On the playground, we found three C’s on Captain Chip’s Cruise Ship. Then we saw Timothy’s dad drive up in the t-t-tractor *(stuttering and shaking a little)* cab. And that’s when I got scared.

**LEADER:** Yes, cab starts with C. *(Concerned)* Oh, Cubbie. I’m so sorry you’re afraid of tractors. But you felt better at the end of your hunt for C’s, didn’t you?

**CUBBIE** *(hopping excitedly):* Oh, yes! Timothy told me one more thing that starts with C—that’s ME! Cubbie starts with C. Then he gave me a hug.

**LEADER:** Oh, that’s wonderful, Cubbie! I’m sure you didn’t feel so scared after you got a hug from your best friend.

**CUBBIE:** Goodbye for now, Cubbies. See you next week.

*(Let children wave goodbye as the puppets are put away.*)
SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during your club meeting. Use the snack time song from prior weeks to transition Cubbies. Provide a way for Cubbies to sanitize their hands before eating snacks.

IDEA 1: Snacks that Start With A and C

**What You Need**
- Any foods that start with the letter A or C (e.g., applesauce, animal crackers, apricots, cookies, corn chips, Colby cheese, cucumbers and dip)

Say the name of the snack while Cubbies eat and ask them to tell you the beginning letter of the snack. Review what the A and C stand for in Cubbies.

IDEA 2: Alphabet Snack

**What You Need**
- Any snack that comes in the shape of alphabet letters (e.g., alphabet cereal, pasta, cookies, pretzels, fruit snacks)

As you eat the snack, tell Cubbies to look for A’s and C’s. Whenever they find an A or C, they can hold it up or point to it while the group repeats the word and verse that goes with the letter.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

**What You Need**
- TC11 or a construction paper A
- TC14 or a construction paper C

**SING:**
- “Jesus Loves Me”
- “Oh Be Careful Little Eyes” from Bear Hug 1. Explain that sin is anything we think (point to head), say (point to mouth) or do (hit fist on palm) that disobeys God.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

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

Cubbies, let’s talk to God in prayer. When we pray, we can thank God. Let’s thank God for His love. He loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us. Fold your hands, bow your heads and close your eyes so we can talk to God and not look at anybody else.

(Pray a short prayer with children before you start Lesson Time.)
LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need
• Teaching Cards (TC) 9-11, 14-16
• Bible with a bookmark placed at Romans 5:8

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

Cubbies, wasn’t that fun talking with Cubbie and Katie about things that start with C? (Pause for response.) Guess what? We missed the most important C word of all. We’ll have to check our Bible to find this word.

(Open your Bible to Romans 5:8.) The Bible is God’s special book. God talks to us in the Bible. Listen to what I read and tell me if you hear the word that starts with C.

(Emphasize the word Christ as you read the verse.) Romans 5:8 says: … While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Cubbies, did you hear the C word? What is it? (Let children answer.) You’re right, the word Christ starts with C. (Display TC14 and point to the word Christ.) Christ is another name for God’s Son, Jesus. We sometimes call Him Christ or Jesus Christ.

(Display TC9.) God sent Jesus Christ to live on earth. He showed love to everyone, including the children. How did Jesus show love to the children? (See if Cubbies can name specific examples from your picture or retell the events from Mark 10:13-16.) Let’s say our Cubbies motto. (Say “Jesus loves me” several times with the Cubbies. They should point to themselves whenever they say “me.”)

(Display TC15.) Jesus showed His love in a BIG way when He died for us on the cross. It was very hard for Him to die on the cross. It hurt Him a lot, but He did it because He loves us very much.

Cubbies, let’s say Romans 5:8 together: … While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Repeat the verse several times.)

Cubbies, do any of you know why Jesus had to die? (Wait for response. Cubbies may have a hard time understanding this.) Jesus died because of our sin. Jesus Christ never, ever sinned. But all of Us have sinned.

Do you remember what sin is? (See if Cubbies can answer.) Sin is anything we think (point to head), say (point to mouth) or do (hit fist on palm) that disobeys God. We are all sinners.

God said that sin must be punished in a BIG way. The word punished means “getting in trouble for the wrong things you have done.” At home, you might get in trouble when you don’t do what your mom or dad tells you to do.

God says our sin gets us in very serious trouble. The punishment for sin is death. But we don’t have to worry! God loved us, so He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be punished instead of us. Jesus Christ died to save us from being punished for our sin.

(Display TC16.) Guess what, Cubbies? Jesus didn’t stay dead. On the third day, (hold up three fingers and invite Cubbies to do the same), Jesus Christ came alive again! Then He went back up to heaven to be with His Father, God.

(Display TC10.) Now, here’s the best part, Cubbies. All of us can go to heaven someday and live with Jesus forever! But how do we get to heaven? Do we get there in a rocket ship? Do we fly there like an eagle? What must we do to go to heaven? (Allow Cubbies to answer.) We need to trust Jesus as Savior. That means each of us must believe that Jesus Christ died to save us from our sin. We believe that … While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Cubbies, we’ve heard a lot about Jesus today. What questions do you have about what you’ve heard? (This lesson content 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.) Those are good questions, Cubbies. Now let’s remember what we learned!
(Display TC11.) A is for all. … All have sinned … (Romans 3:23).

(Display TC14.) C is for Christ. … While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

(Alternate displaying the cards for children to recite with you. You could make this into a game. For example, tell all the boys to stand and recite the A card. Girls recite the C card. Or kids wearing socks recite the C card. Kids who like ice cream recite the A card, etc.

In Cubbies, your goal is to explain the gospel clearly, consistently and frequently. Children often need to hear the gospel many times before they understand and respond to it. Be accurate and age-appropriate as you explain the gospel. Also, be very careful about prompting Cubbies for a response, such as asking them to come forward or raise their hand or directly asking them, “Do you want to trust Christ as Savior?” Preschoolers are very eager to please adults and they can easily be persuaded into almost anything. It is best to wait for the child to start asking questions and take the initiative in this important decision. If you know a child’s parents are saved, let the parents know the child has been asking questions and encourage the parents to talk with the child at home. What greater joy could parents have than leading their own child to Christ!

Find helpful tips in the document Sharing the Gospel with Cubbies on the resource CD.)

**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
- A red and green crayon for each Cubbie
- Optional — Print the activity sheets on card stock. Gather small squares of colored tissue paper, glue, pairs of child-size scissors, a hole punch and a strand of yarn for each Cubbie.

Tell Cubbies to color all the shapes with an A in green and all shapes with a C in red. This will reveal a picture of a red cross in the center of the page. To help Cubbies know what shapes to color, color a sample picture for them or print a copy of the color version of this activity sheet (resource CD). Talk about Christ’s death on the cross for us. For extra fun, let Cubbies glue tissue squares on the cross so it resembles stained glass. Challenge advanced Cubbies to cut out the cross. Punch a hole at the top of each cross and tie a strand of yarn through the hole. Cubbies can take the cross home to hang up or give as a gift.

**IDEA 2: Letter Bag**

**What You Need**
- Paper bag, plastic letter A, plastic letter C
- Optional — Instead of plastic letters, use cardboard or foam letters, wooden letter puzzle pieces or alphabet blocks.

Put the A and C in the bag. Pass the bag around the table and let Cubbies take turns reaching into the bag and pulling out an A or a C. Whenever a letter is pulled from the bag, the group should recite the corresponding verse.
PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

IDEA 1: Letter A and C Races

What You Need
• Several green and red beanbags or small balls
• Bucket with green letter A taped to side
• Bucket with red letter C taped to side
• Optional — Instead of beanbags or balls, use index cards. Write a large green A on half of the index cards. Write a large red C on the other half.

Play this like the “Letter A Races” game from last week, except you add a bucket for C. Set the buckets together at one end of the room so Cubbies will all be running in the same direction. Scatter the beanbags, balls or cards on the game floor. Explain that all the green balls go into the A bucket and all the red balls go into the C bucket. (If you don’t have red and green balls, adapt this activity to the color you have.) Let Cubbies race to put the items in the correct bucket. Play several rounds. At the end of each round, review the A and C verses. For a fun (and possibly less chaotic) variation, divide Cubbies into relay groups. One child from each group will run to pick up an item and drop it in either the A or C bucket. Runners will return to their group to tag the next runner. Rather than having groups compete, challenge all the groups to work faster with each round.

IDEA 2: Clothesline Letters

What You Need
• Clothesline to hang in the room
• Clothespins (the kind with springs) (Use the clothespins from Coming In Idea 3.)
• Index cards with either an A or C written on them
• Containers for clothespins

Hang the clothesline within easy reach for Cubbies. Divide Cubbies into groups and give each player an A card or a C card. Members of a group should all have the same letter. Players will take turns going to the clothesline, grabbing a clothespin and clipping their cards on the line.

(A leader should demonstrate first.) After all the groups have hung their cards, ask the A groups to recite Romans 3:23. Then ask the C groups to recite Romans 5:8. You could play another round and have each player remove his or her card from the clothesline.

IDEA 3: Get to Heaven

What You Need
• Nothing
• Optional — TC10 or a gold sheet of paper

Designate one area of the room as heaven. You may hang TC10 or a gold paper in this area. Ask Cubbies if they can get to heaven using various modes of transportation. For example, say, “Cubbies, can you get to heaven on roller skates?” Cubbies will slide their feet on the floor as if they are skating. Replace roller skates with pogo sticks (Cubbies jump in place), a rocket ship (Cubbies crouch and jump up with their hands together overhead), a car (Cubbies pretend to steer a wheel). Finally, ask Cubbies how we really get to heaven. When they say “Trust Christ as Savior!” they can run to the heaven area.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

AWARD ALERT! Cubbies finish the AppleSeed Trail this week. Each Cubbie will receive a Red Apple emblem and an AppleSeed 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.
Basic Instructions: Color the A shapes green and the C shapes red. (Color example on resource CD.)

Even More Fun: Glue small squares of colorful tissue paper on the cross.

Ultimate Fun: Cut out the cross, punch a hole at the top and tie a strand of yarn through the hole. The children may hang it up in their home or give it to someone and say Romans 5:8. (Best if printed on card stock.)

... While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)
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Either print on paper, cut and attach to craft, or print on Avery labels 48863, template 5163 and use as stickers. (Cut stickers to create individual images.)
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