



**BEAR
HUG** ||

The Good Shepherd Knows and Leads His Sheep

Make It Stick: John 10:27: ***My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*** (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: Jesus is the Good Shepherd to those who trust in Him as Savior. He intimately knows His sheep, leads them and sacrificially cares for their needs.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Psalm 23; John 10

Memorize: John 10:27

In John 10, Christ used the metaphor of a shepherd to teach the audience more about Himself. To the puzzled crowd He offered this simple statement: *I am the good shepherd (John 10:11a)*. While this statement was confusing to those who did not believe in Jesus, the descriptions of the Good Shepherd offer comfort and hope to those who do believe in Him.

My sheep hear My voice. When we trust in Jesus as Savior, we become His sheep. As such, we have the precious opportunity to hear the voice of Christ as His Spirit speaks to us through Scripture.

I know them. Our Good Shepherd intimately knows and cares for us. Christ has planned our days to bring about His greatest purpose for our lives (Psalm 139; Psalm 31:14-15; Romans 8:28-30).

They follow Me. As we grow closer to our Good Shepherd, we will willingly obey Him and follow where He leads, knowing that He is good and His plan is good.

- This week you will introduce this Shepherd to your Cubbies. Take every opportunity God gives you to direct their hearts toward the Good Shepherd.
- Call each child by name and remind him or her that Jesus also knows their names.
- Praise a Cubbie for an accomplishment, and remind the child that Jesus knows every detail about them.
- Remind Cubbies that when they make a good choice to quickly obey, they are choosing to follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

As you model the role of a follower of Christ, your Cubbies will see the joy and peace they can find in trusting the Good Shepherd.

TASTE AND SEE!

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

1. Learn the characteristics and roles of a shepherd.
2. Discuss the concrete ways that Jesus is like a Good Shepherd to us: He loves us and cares for our needs; He knows our names and everything about us; He tells us how to obey Him in the Bible.
3. Know that we become one of Jesus' sheep when we believe He is God's Son and trust Him as Savior.
4. Name ways we can follow our Shepherd by listening to His words in the Bible, obeying Him and making good choices.
5. _____

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



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

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

IDEA 1: Sheep Craft or Sheep Bulletin Board

What You Need

- Small white paper plates
- Sheep heads with ears cut from white construction paper (resource CD)
- Sheep legs cut from gray or black construction paper (resource CD)
- Crayons
- Cotton balls
- Glue sticks
- *Optional* — green bulletin board paper, stapler, craft grass to decorate the bulletin board

This can be a sheep craft that goes home with Cubbies, or the sheep can be attached to a bulletin board for display during the unit. Cubbies follow these steps to make sheep: 1. With crayons, draw a simple sheep face on a sheep head. Color pink inside the ears. (Show Cubbies a sample sheep face.) 2. Glue the head to the top edge of the paper plate. 3. Glue two legs to the bottom edge of the plate back. 4. Cover the sheep's body by gluing cotton balls to the inside portion of the plate. Cotton balls can also be glued at the top of the head.

If applicable, cover your bulletin board with green paper to represent a green pasture. At the top of the board, write John 10:27. If desired, glue tufts of craft grass at various spots on the board. Write each Cubbie's name above his or her sheep once it is attached to the board.

IDEA 2: Whose Voice?

What You Need

- Voice recorder on a phone or other device

As Cubbies and leaders arrive, record individuals saying phrases such as "Jesus loves me" or "Jesus is the Good Shepherd." They could also recite John 10:27. After several voices have been recorded, gather the group and play back each recording. Let Cubbies try to identify whose voice they hear. Explain that in the Bible, Jesus calls us His sheep if we have trusted Him as Savior. Jesus says His sheep hear His voice, which means we listen to what He tells us in the Bible.

IDEA 3: Jesus Knows My Name

What You Need

- Construction paper (9" x 12" [30x46 cm] size)
- Marker
- White liquid glue
- "Jesus Knows My Name!" craft sheets printed on thin paper (resource CD)
- Crayons
- *Optional* — stickers to decorate sheets, colored highlighter pen

A day before, write each Cubbie's name on a sheet of construction paper. (Include one name on each sheet. Make the name the right size to appear when the separate craft sheet is rubbed.) Trace over each letter with a thick line of glue and let the glue dry. Each Cubbie can lay the "Jesus Knows My Name!" craft sheet over his or her name and rub over the sheet with the edge of a crayon to cause the letters to appear in the blank space on the sheet. Remind Cubbies that Jesus not only knows their names (John 10:3), He knows everything about them! He even knows that they are at Cubbies right now.

Instead of tracing letters with glue, leaders can write each name with a highlighter pen on the bottom half of the craft sheet. Cubbies can trace the highlighted name with a crayon.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

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

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Luvie Lamb puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — green towel or felt, whistle

(To prepare, set the towel or felt nearby where Cubbies can see it.)

LEADER: I'm excited to hear how Cubbie Bear is doing today. Can you help me call him? Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(After children call out, bring the Cubbie and Luvie puppets into view.)

CUBBIE (*hopping around excitedly*): Hello, everybody!

LUVIE (*giggling*): Hi!

(Cubbie and Luvie puppets put their heads together, whispering and giggling.)

LEADER: Cubbie and Luvie, you look like you are sharing a special secret.

LUVIE (*giggling*): No, I was just telling Cubbie Bear about my wonderful day with all of the other sheep.

CUBBIE: Why don't you tell everyone, Luvie? *(Cubbie looks at the children.)* I'm sure the boys and girls would love to hear about your day, wouldn't you? *(Encourage Cubbies to respond.)* Besides, I'm getting hungry, and Timothy said I could share some of his snack. I'm going to go find him!

(Remove Cubbie Bear from view and prepare to use the Katie Collie puppet.)

LUVIE: I woke up early at the petting zoo today, when I heard the special whistle from Timothy's dad.

LEADER: Did it sound like this? *(Whistle or blow a whistle.)*

LUVIE (*shaking head*): Oh, no! His whistle sounds different from any other whistle. His special whistle means that he wants me and the other sheep to come to him and follow him

all the way to Lamb's Meadow. As soon as we heard our special whistle, we came running to him at the gate!

(Make a barking noise as you bring the Katie Collie puppet into view.)

KATIE (*barking*): It's my job to make sure all the sheep stay together as they follow Timothy's dad. I run behind them and beside them to keep them moving the right way.

LEADER: It sounds like you are a good sheep-dog, Katie.

LUVIE: She sure is! She stayed right by us as we passed the apple orchard and the pumpkin patch until we *finally* reached Lamb's Meadow.

LEADER: Luvie, what did you do in Lamb's Meadow?

LUVIE: First, I ate some of the sweet, green grass. I munched and munched and MUNCHEd until my tummy was full.

(If you are using the felt or towel, have Luvie point to it and say, "The meadow is soft and green, like this!")

LUVIE: Then I played King of the Hill with some of the other lambs!

LEADER: How do you play that, Luvie?

LUVIE: Well, we race to the top of the hill, and the first one to the top is the king. I won lots of times.

KATIE: Luvie is the fastest lamb on Apple Acres Farm.

LUVIE: I like to run, but all that running made me tired! *(Yawning)* I found a shady spot under a tree and took a nap. I felt safe with Timothy's dad and Katie Collie watching over me.

LEADER: I'm so glad you had a special day, Luvie.

LUVIE: Me too! *(Yawn)*

KATIE: Luvie, it's time for me to take you back to the meadow. Timothy's dad wants all the sheep to stay close to him so he can watch them and make sure they are safe.

LEADER: Boys and girls, can you say goodbye to Katie and Luvie?

(Children wave goodbye as puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

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

IDEA 1: Cottage Cheese Sheep**What You Need**

- Non-white paper plates
- Tubs of cottage cheese
- White cheese slices
- Circular crackers
- Spoons

For each Cubbie, arrange a spoonful of cottage cheese on a plate to resemble a sheep's woolly body. Cut two rectangular cheese slices to look like front and back legs. Use a circular cracker or cut a cheese circle to represent a head. Arrange all items on sheep. Before serving, ask Cubbies, "What kind of animal does God say we are like sometimes?" Later ask Cubbies, "Whose voice do sheep listen to? Whose voice should we listen to? Who's our Good Shepherd?"

IDEA 2: Green Pastures**What You Need**

- Graham crackers
- Green frosting
- Knife for leader's use
- Mini marshmallows

For each Cubbie, spread green frosting on top of a graham cracker to make a "pasture." Top the frosting with a few marshmallow (sheep). As Cubbies are eating, discuss some of the ways a shepherd takes care of his sheep. Transition into talking about how Jesus takes care of us. Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

NOTE: Supervise Cubbies carefully while they eat mini marshmallows. Small, chewy snacks can become a choking hazard.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **"Jesus Loves Me"**
- **"The B-I-B-L-E"** Explain that Jesus talks to us in the Bible. He wants us to listen and obey Him. To help, literal-minded preschoolers, change the last line of the song from "I stand alone on the Word of God ..." to "I like to hear the Word of God. The B-I-B-L-E!"
- **"The Shepherd Knows His Little Lambs"** to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb." This is a good theme song to repeat during the unit. New verses will be added in future lessons.

The Shepherd knows His little lambs,
Little lambs, little lambs.
The Shepherd knows His little lambs,
He knows them each by name.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

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

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. When we choose to trust Him as our Savior, we become His sheep. Just like a shepherd loves and takes good care of His sheep, Jesus loves and cares for us. Can you help me think of ways that Jesus cares for us? *(Responses from Cubbies may include: He keeps us safe; He provides food and shelter; He teaches us how to make good choices; He gives us families.)* Let's thank God that we have a Good Shepherd who takes care of us. *(Pray a model prayer, like this: "Thank You, God, that Jesus, our Good Shepherd, provides food for us." Encourage any Cubbies who wish to pray to thank God for one way the Good Shepherd loves or cares for us. If you have a large group, have Cubbies pray aloud in unison, "Thank You, God, for a Good Shepherd who loves us.")*

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 50-54 or Good Shepherd stand-up figures (resource CD)
- Bible with a bookmark placed at John 10
- *Optional* — Lincoln Logs® or blocks, green felt square or green hand towel, blue felt circle or blue paper circle, shoe box to store stand-up figures, bath robe, cane

(If you are using the stand-up figures, make them in advance as directed in the instructions on the resource CD. Enlarge the figures depending on visibility and the size of your group. Before the lesson starts, prepare your scene. Build a sheep pen on the floor near you with Lincoln Logs or blocks. The sheep pen should have an opening for the gate and no roof. It should be big enough to contain the six stand-up sheep. Lay a green felt square or towel on the floor to represent a grassy pasture. Lay a blue felt or paper circle on the floor to represent water. When you teach, sit on the floor with Cubbies seated on the floor in a semicircle in front of you. Move the figures, as directed in the lesson, in the floor space directly in front of you.)

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

Luvie sure had fun today at Lamb's Meadow. Who watches over Luvie and the other sheep when they play in the meadow? *(Timothy's dad, Katie Collie.)* A person who watches and takes care of sheep is called a shepherd. Shepherds make sure their sheep stay safe. Sometimes, shepherds have sheepdogs, like Katie Collie, to help them watch the sheep.

(Open your Bible to John 10. Stand the shepherd figure near your sheep pen on the floor in front of you. Instead of using figures, you may display TC50 and point to the shepherd.) When Jesus lived on earth, people didn't know that He is God's Son and that He loved them very much. To help them understand, Jesus told them that He is like a good shepherd.

(Keep displaying TC50 or stand the six sheep figures inside your sheep pen.) A shepherd

would get up early each day and go to the sheep pen. He called the names of the sheep that belonged to him, and they came out to follow him. His sheep listened because he was their shepherd and they knew the sound of his voice. They wouldn't follow anyone else except their shepherd.

(Slowly move four of the six sheep figures through the gate of the pen and position them behind the shepherd. Two sheep remain in the pen because they don't belong to the shepherd.)

Optional: Think together with Cubbies of a name for each of the shepherd's four sheep figures and use the sheep's names through your demonstration. Emphasize that the shepherd knows each sheep's name. Likewise, Jesus knows all the Cubbies' names.

Optional: Tell Cubbies to pretend you are their shepherd and they are your sheep. Wear a bathrobe and carry a cane to represent a staff. As you call each Cubbie by name, direct the Cubbie to come up and stand beside you and form a line. When all Cubbies are lined up beside you, lead the group around the room or down a hallway and then back to their seats. For added fun, ask another leader to try to call the Cubbies too. Remind Cubbies that sheep should only listen to their shepherd.

(Display TC51 or move the shepherd first and sheep figures after him in a line to the green felt.)

The shepherd would lead the sheep to a green pasture where they could eat grass, rest and play. The shepherd watched over the sheep to make sure there was nothing that would hurt his sheep.

(Display TC52 or move the shepherd and sheep figures to the blue felt.) The shepherd also led the sheep to good, clean water. He would make sure that even the smallest lamb had fresh, cool water to drink.

(Display TC53 or move the shepherd and sheep figures back to the prepared sheep pen.) After a long day in the pasture, the shepherd would

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lead the sheep back home to their pen. The shepherd would count the sheep as they went back into the pen to make sure no sheep was missing. (*Count each sheep figure with Cubbies as you move it back into the pen.*)

(*Display TC54.*) Jesus said that He is the Good Shepherd. Those who followed Him and believed that He is God's Son were His sheep. Now they were not *really* sheep. They didn't have white woolly coats and four hooves! But just like sheep follow and obey their shepherd, the people who followed Jesus and obeyed Him were like HIS sheep. (*Open your Bible to John 10:27.*) In John 10:27, Jesus says: *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.* (*Repeat the verse twice with Cubbies. For fun, say the verse in different voices, and tell Cubbies to raise their hands when they hear your true voice. Remind Cubbies that the sheep know the shepherd's voice.*)

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, wants ALL people to be His sheep. But in order for us to be His sheep, we must belong to Him. We belong to the Good Shepherd when we trust Jesus as our Savior. That means we each believe that Jesus is God's Son, who died on the cross for our sins and then came alive again. When you trust Jesus as your Savior, then you belong to Him, just like one of His sheep. (*Point to the boys and girls in TC54.*)

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, loves you very much. He knows your name and everything about you! He takes care of you, just like the shepherd takes care of his sheep.

Just like sheep follow their shepherd, we can follow our Good Shepherd by listening to His words in the Bible, obeying Him and making good choices. (*Encourage children to think of ways they can make good choices. Answers may include obeying parents, loving others.*)

(*Close in prayer, thanking Jesus for being our Good Shepherd. Pray that the Cubbies would trust Him as Savior and follow Him.*)

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

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

IDEA 1: Bear Hug II Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of Bear Hug II Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — pairs of child-sized scissors, two empty bath tissue rolls for each Cubbie (cut one roll in half), glue sticks, blocks, extra sheep patterns (resource CD)

Direct Cubbies to color the shepherd and his sheep. Explain that Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd, and He calls us His sheep if we have trusted Him as Savior. Clarify that we are not really sheep, but we are *like* sheep because we are known and cared for by our Shepherd, the Lord Jesus, and we can listen to and obey Him. As a fun option, let Cubbies follow the directions on the bottom of the page to make stand-up figures and a sheep pen. To make extra sheep, Cubbies can use patterns on the resource CD.

IDEA 2: Sheep Lacing Shapes

What You Need

- Sheep shapes cut from card stock (resource CD)
- Hole punch
- Yarn lengths
- Tape

Beforehand, punch holes as indicated along the edge of each sheep. Tape a length of yarn onto the back of each sheep. Wrap a small piece of tape around one end of the yarn to make threading easier. As Cubbies thread the yarn through the holes, say John 10:27 together and talk about the ways Jesus, our Shepherd, cares for us, His sheep.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)**IDEA 1: Shepherd Says****What You Need**

- Nothing

Say to Cubbies, "I will be your shepherd, and you will be my sheep. Listen closely and do **ONLY** the things I tell you to do. If another person, comes and tells you to do something, don't do it, because sheep should only listen to their shepherd." Ask Cubbies to perform various actions, such as say baa, lie down and run in place, pretend to eat grass or drink from a stream, jump over an imaginary rock or follow you around. Call on individual Cubbies to perform an action: e.g., "Grant, shake a hand. Lily, touch your toes. Tristan, count to five. Madelyn, spin in a circle." At some point, another leader will start directing Cubbies to perform actions. No Cubbies will be out for obeying the imposter, but remind them to only listen to the voice of the shepherd. End by reciting John 10:27 together and saying, "It's important to listen to Jesus, our Good Shepherd. His words are in the Bible." Pray and ask God to help you and the Cubbies obey Jesus better.

IDEA 2: Pin the Wool on Luvie**What You Need**

- White poster board
- Mounting putty
- Enlarged picture of Luvie Lamb (resource CD)
- Glue stick
- Cotton balls
- Clear tape
- Blindfold
- *Optional* — Laminate your poster for durability and reuse. Instead of cotton balls and tape, use white pom-poms and self-adhesive VELCRO dots. Attach hook (nonfuzzy) dots all over Luvie's body. Attach a loop (fuzzy) dot to each pom-pom.

Enlarge the picture of Luvie Lamb and print it on the largest size of paper. Glue the picture to the poster board and mount it on your wall within the children's reach. Attach a tape loop to each cotton ball. Blindfold one Cubbie at a time and let him or her try to stick a cotton ball on Luvie's body. If you have a large club, make several posters.

IDEA 3: The Shepherd Calls His Sheep**What You Need**

- Nothing

Sing "The Shepherd Calls His Sheep" to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." Cubbies pretend to be sheep in a pen. A leader pretends to be the Good Shepherd, Jesus. When each Cubbie hears his or her name, he or she comes out of the pen to join the Shepherd.

The Shepherd calls His sheep. (Repeat)
Baa, baa. They follow Him.
The Shepherd calls His sheep.

The Shepherd calls (*name of child 1*)
The Shepherd calls (*name of child 2*)
Baa, baa. They follow Him.
The Shepherd calls (*name of child 3*)

Continue the song until all children have been called. Then sing the following verse as you lead children around the room. Tell Cubbies that we follow our Good Shepherd, Jesus, by listening to His words in the Bible, obeying Him and making good choices.

His sheep follow Him. (Repeat)
Baa, baa. They follow Him.
His sheep follow Him.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

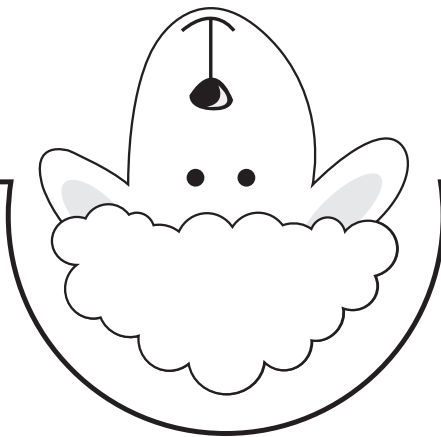
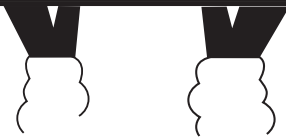
Continue the IDEA 2: Whose Voice game from Coming In or play a similar game, using a blanket. Two leaders hold the blanket. Half of the Cubbies sit on one side of the blanket; the other half sits on the other side. A leader points to a child on one side. The child says, "Jesus is the Good Shepherd." Cubbies on the other side of the blanket try to guess who spoke. Once they have correctly guessed, a child on the other side says the phrase.

Do you pray for your Cubbies specifically by name? Use prompts to remind you. For example, if you know Joey loves trains, pray for him each time you see a train. Some leaders post Cubbies' photos on their refrigerator or in a photo album by their nightstand as a reminder. Pray that each Cubbie would learn to follow and obey the Good Shepherd as He calls them each by name.

NAME: _____



***My sheep hear My voice,
and I know them, and they
follow Me. (John 10:27)***



Basic Instructions: Color the shepherd and sheep. Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd. He calls us His sheep. We become sheep of the Lord Jesus when we trust Him as Savior. (To trust Jesus as Savior means you believe He died on the cross for your sin and came alive again.)

Even More Fun: Cut out the shepherd and sheep. Hold the shepherd upright and glue him around an empty cardboard bath tissue roll so he can stand. Cut another bath tissue roll in half. Glue each sheep around a half-roll. (Ask your Cubbies leader for extra sheep patterns.)

Ultimate Fun: Make a pen for your sheep from blocks. Move the sheep out of the pen behind the shepherd. Pretend the sheep are following the shepherd to a grassy pasture or a cool stream. Then move the sheep back to the pen again.