



**BEAR
HUG 12**

The Good Shepherd Looks for Lost Sheep

Make It Stick: Isaiah 53:6: *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to this own way ...*
(Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: Jesus is the Good Shepherd. As a good shepherd loves and seeks his sheep who are lost, Jesus loves and seeks us when we are lost in sin. He came to earth to save us from sin and help us to follow Him.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Ezekiel 34:11-16; Luke 15:1-7; Isaiah 53:4-6

Memorize: Isaiah 53:6

Have you ever been lost? If so, do you remember the moment when you realized you were alone? Your happy, calm spirit probably evaporated as panic and fear crept in.

Is it any wonder that Christ refers to sinners as being "lost"? Nonbelievers seem carefree, not knowing that sin has separated them from their Creator, not understanding that they face an eternity of punishment for their sin. At one point, you were there.

Yet even while you were lost in sin, God provided a way for you to be right with Him. Christ bore the punishment for your sin. He took the wrath and the agony of your punishment and paid the price to redeem you. Those of us who have realized our lost state and placed our faith in Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, are saved.

But consider this. Some of your Cubbies' parents may still be "lost." They still need someone to awaken them to their desperate condition. Here are some suggestions for sharing the good news of the gospel with unsaved parents:

1. Periodically send a letter to parents offering to answer any questions they may have about what their child is learning in Cubbies.
2. Invite parents to attend your church services.
3. Be friendly to the parents. The more comfortable they feel with you, the more comfortable they'll be asking questions.
4. Have a few parent nights during the club year and be sure to clearly present the gospel during those nights.

TASTE AND SEE!

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

1. Know that Jesus is like a shepherd who loves His lost sheep. When he finds His lost sheep, He is very happy!
2. Grasp the concept that they too have gone astray.
3. Believe that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, loves them even though they sin. He died on the cross and came alive again to save them from their sin.
4. Name ways to follow and obey Jesus. This means that they must trust in Jesus as their Savior.
5. _____

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



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

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

IDEA 1: Sheep Search

What You Need

- Set of five numbered sheep and parent note for each Cubbie (resource CD)
- Scissors for leader's use
- Envelopes (6 ¾ regular size, #7)
- Glue sticks
- Crayons

In advance, print and cut out parent notes and a set of five numbered sheep cards for each Cubbie. Before Cubbies arrive, leaders hide all the sheep cards, except one card, around the room. Hide the remaining card in a Bible. Cubbies search for the cards and bring them to a table, where a leader sorts the cards into sets numbering one to five. When all the cards have been found except the one in the Bible, express concern about the one missing sheep and look around the room frantically for it. Finally, open the Bible to find the sheep. Tell Cubbies that today's Bible lesson is about a lost sheep. Give each Cubbie a complete set of five sheep and an envelope in which to store the sheep. The Cubbie will glue a parent note on the front of the envelope and write his or her name on the back. Cubbies and parents can play a game with the cards at home.

IDEA 2: Cotton Ball Painting

What You Need

- Sheep cut from black and white construction paper (pattern on resource CD)
- Black and white crayons
- Black and white tempera paint
- Wooden spring-type clothespins
- Small paper plates • Cotton balls
- *Optional* — Beforehand, spray-paint clothespins black and let dry.

Ahead of time, cut out sheep shapes from black and white construction paper. Cubbies can choose a black or white sheep and draw eyes, mouth and ears on the head with a black or white crayon. Pour a small puddle of black paint on one plate and a small puddle of white paint on another plate. (Black paint is for white sheep. White paint is for black sheep.) Cubbies will each pick up a cotton ball with a clothespin, dip the cotton ball in the paint and dab the paint on the sheep. When the paint is dry, Cubbies clip two clothespins on the sheep's body for legs. Leaders reposition legs, if necessary, so sheep can stand. Review the story of the lost sheep from Luke 15:3-7.

IDEA 3: Counting Sheep

What You Need

- Five plastic berry produce baskets (or sheets of brown construction paper) for each table, numbered one to five
- Cotton balls or small and large white, brown and black pom-poms • Crayons
- Brown construction paper • Glue sticks

At each table, set out five numbered berry baskets or numbered sheets of brown construction paper. These represent sheep pens. Dump a pile of cotton balls or pom-poms at each table to represent sheep. Talk about how a shepherd counted the sheep in his pen every night to make sure no sheep were missing. Cubbies will work together to place the correct number of sheep in each pen. If you have pom-poms, you could add challenges like "Place only brown sheep in pen number 2" or "Place only large sheep in pen number 5." Give each Cubbie a sheet of construction paper. Cubbies can draw a square pen on the sheet and count and glue sheep inside the pen. At the bottom of the sheet a leader can write "(Cubbie's name) counted (number of sheep on paper) in her pen."

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

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

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Luvie Lamb puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — real red flower to smell

LEADER: Hi, Cubbies! Let's see if Cubbie Bear will come out and say hello. Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

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

CUBBIE *(looking around and calling):* Luvie, Luvie?

LEADER: What's wrong, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: I'm looking for Luvie. I want to hear more about her day at Lamb's Meadow. Have you seen her, boys and girls?

(Encourage children to respond.)

LEADER: Not tonight, Cubbie.

CUBBIE: Hmm ... I'm going to go look for her in the petting zoo again. *(Cubbie puppet exits while calling)* Luvie! Oh, Luvie!

(Pop the Luvie Lamb puppet into view.)

LUVIE: Here I am! Was someone calling me?

LEADER: Oh, there you are, Luvie! Cubbie Bear has been looking all over for you. He thought you were lost!

LUVIE *(giggling):* Well, as a matter of fact, I was lost, but then I was found!

LEADER: Really, Luvie? What happened?

LUVIE: Well, yesterday I went with the other sheep to Lamb's Meadow. We ate lots of grass and played fun games. Then I took a long nap. When I woke up, I noticed a beautiful flower.

(If you have a red flower, ask, "Like that one?" Ask a leader to pass it along for the Cubbies to smell.)

LUVIE: I stopped to smell that flower, and then the next flower and the next flower. There were so many beautiful flowers, and each one smelled so pretty. But soon I looked up, and I realized that I was far, far away from Lamb's Meadow.

LEADER: Oh, no! Were you scared?

LUVIE: I was *really* scared. I looked one way *(Luvie looks left)*, and then the other way *(Luvie looks right)*. I couldn't see any one! I began to cry.

LEADER: What happened next, Luvie?

(Bark from offstage and bring Katie Collie puppet into view.)

KATIE: I noticed that Luvie was missing from Lamb's Meadow, so I went to look for her. At first I couldn't find Luvie ANYWHERE, but I didn't give up! I lifted up my ears and listened carefully. Soon I heard a "Baaa, baa!" from far away. I knew it was Luvie. I ran as fast as I could, and I found Luvie in the apple orchard, between some apple trees.

LUVIE: I'm so glad that Katie came and found me. I was alone and scared.

LEADER: I'm glad too. Did you learn a lesson yesterday, Luvie?

LUVIE: I sure did. I should have obeyed Timothy's dad and not wandered off from the rest of the sheep. *(Giggles)* And I'm sure glad that Katie Collie is such a smart sheepdog.

LEADER: Me too, Luvie! Well, you had better go and find Cubbie Bear. He will want to know that you are safe. Boys and girls, can you say goodbye to Katie and Luvie?

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

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

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

IDEA 1: Shepherd's Party**What You Need**

- Cupcakes, Rice Krispie Treats or other preschool party food

Serve the party snack. Remind Cubbies that the shepherd in the story was so happy when he found his lost sheep that he celebrated with his friends. The Bible tells us that Jesus still loves us even when we sin. In fact, He came to save us from our sin. When we trust Him as Savior, He helps us to obey Him. That is something we can celebrate.

IDEA 2: Snack Counting**What You Need**

- Small paper cups
- Small crackers or dry cereal pieces
- Napkins

Give each Cubbie a cup with up to 10 small crackers or dry cereal pieces in it. Tell the children to take the pieces out of the cup and count them on the napkin. Talk about how a shepherd would count his sheep each night to make sure none were missing. Explain that it's easy to count a snack but probably hard to count moving sheep.

IDEA 3: Bread and Butter Sheep**What You Need**

- Bread
- Sheep cookie cutter
- Butter
- Knife for leader's use
- *Optional* — Make cheese sandwiches by placing a slice of cheese between two pieces of bread before cutting with the cookie cutter.

Use the cookie cutter to cut sheep shapes from bread and serve. If desired, spread the bread with butter before serving.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **“Jesus Loves Me”**
- **“The Shepherd Knows His Little Lambs”** to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb” (from Bear Hug 11). Add this new verse:

The shepherd looks for His lost sheep,
His lost sheep, His lost sheep.
The Shepherd looks for His lost sheep,
He loves them each the same.
- **“The Scared Lost Sheep”** to the tune of “The Wheels on the Bus”

The scared lost sheep cries, “Baa, baa, baa.”
“Baa, baa, baa. Baa, baa, baa.”
The scared lost sheep cries, “Baa, baa, baa.”
All through the night.

The good shepherd calls, “Where are you?”
“Where are you? Where are you?”
The good shepherd calls, “Where are you?”
All through the night.

The happy shepherd says, “I found you!”
“I found you! I found you!”
The happy shepherd says, “I found you!”
All the way home.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

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

Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He wants us to listen to Him and obey what He says in the Bible. But sometimes we sin and do what we want to do instead of what Jesus wants us to do. A sin is anything we think (*point to head*), say (*point to mouth*) or do (*hit your fist in your hand*) that disobeys God. (*Name a few sins that are relevant to preschoolers. Consider sharing a personal example.*) God promises that He will always forgive us. Let's thank God for His forgiveness right now. You can pray this quietly in your head while I pray out loud.

(Pray a short prayer before starting Lesson Time.)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 53-57
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Luke 15:3-7 and Isaiah 53:6
- *Optional* — ten cotton balls, toy lamb, sheet of brown construction paper, bottle of peroxide, gauze, stand-up figures used in Bear Hug 11 and stand-up thorn bush (resource CD)

(Adapt the words of this lesson to fit you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

Poor Luvie Lamb! I am sad that she was lost, but I am so glad that Katie Collie was able to find her! That reminds me of a story Jesus told in the Bible about another sheep who was lost.

(Open your Bible to Luke 15:3-7.) One day, Jesus was talking to some men who didn't understand who He was. To help them understand, Jesus told a special story about a shepherd who had 100 sheep.

Optional: In front of you, set out 10 cotton balls (to represent sheep) on a brown piece of construction paper (to represent the sheepfold). Follow instructions involving the cotton balls included throughout this lesson.

Optional: To tell the story, set up the stand-up figures as directed in Bear Hug 11 and add the thorn bush figure somewhere in the scene. Repeat the demonstration with the figures from Bear Hug 11, but as the sheep are returning to the sheep pen, slip one sheep behind the thorn bush. When the shepherd counts his sheep and discovers that one is missing, move him out to find the sheep and lead it home.

(Display TC53.) That shepherd loved his sheep. He took good care of them! Each night, the shepherd counted his sheep as they walked into their sheepfold. "One, two, three, four ..." he counted. He kept counting until he reached the last of the sheep. "97, 98, 99 ..." Oh, no! One of the sheep was missing! *(While you talk, discreetly*

hide one cotton ball sheep from your set of 10 under your lap or in a pocket. You may also choose to hide this sheep or toy lamb somewhere in the room before the lesson starts. Count the remaining sheep, expressing alarm that one sheep is missing.)

The shepherd was worried. Even though there were 99 sheep who were safe in the fold, he wanted to find the one missing sheep. Each sheep was very special to him.

(Display TC55.) Off he went, looking for his lost sheep. *(Have children mimic your actions.)* He called out for his sheep. *(With children, make up a name for the lost sheep, place hands over mouth and call the sheep's name.)* He looked everywhere for his sheep! He looked high up on the mountains *(place a hand over your eyes and look up)*; he looked low in the grassy meadows *(get down on your knees and look on the ground)*. He looked behind rocks and trees *(place a hand over your eyes and pretend to look behind something)*.

(Ask a child to come up front and find the lamb in TC55.) Cubbies, how do you think this sheep got lost from the other sheep and the shepherd? *(Let children suggest ideas.)* Jesus didn't tell us how this sheep got lost, but usually sheep get lost when they wander off and go where THEY want to go rather than following the shepherd. This is dangerous for the sheep! Its leg might get caught in a bush with sharp thorns, like this one. Then the shepherd would have to gently pull it out.

(Display TC56.) Finally, the shepherd found his sheep! If the sheep's leg was scratched, the shepherd would put oil or medicine on its sores *(hold up the peroxide)* and wrap the hurt leg in a bandage *(pass around the gauze for children to feel)*.

(Display TC57.) Then the strong shepherd carried his sheep home on his shoulders. Do you see the big smile on his face? He was so happy that his lost sheep was found! He had a big party with all his friends. *(You and the children should "find" the hidden toy lamb or cotton ball sheep in the room or in your lap and cheer.)*

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(Display TC54.) Cubbies, Jesus told this story to help people understand who He was. Jesus wanted them to know that He is like a good shepherd who loves all of His sheep, even the ones that are lost. This card says, **Jesus is the Good Shepherd.** Can you say that with me? *(Ask children to repeat the Core Truth with you twice.)*

Like a shepherd loves that one lost sheep, Jesus loves each one of us. Cubbies, do you remember how that sheep got lost because it did what it wanted to do instead of listening to the shepherd? We are like that too. We all sin and do what we want to do instead of what God tells us to do in the Bible. *(Turn in your Bible to Isaiah 53:6.)* The Bible says: *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way ... (Isaiah 53:6).* *(Have children repeat the memory verse with you twice.)*

Gone astray means that we sin and do what we want to do instead of obeying Jesus. Do you remember what a sin is? A sin is anything we think *(point to your head)*, say *(point to your mouth)*, or do *(hit your fist in your hand)* that disobeys God. Can you think of a sin that someone might do? *(Help Cubbies think of typical sins of preschoolers: e.g., disobeying parents, getting angry and hitting a sibling.)*

I'm so glad Jesus loves us even though we sin. He came to earth to save us from our sin by dying on the cross and coming alive again! *(Display TC54 again.)* When you trust Jesus as your Savior, Jesus helps you learn to follow Him. What are some ways you can follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd? *(Responses may include listening to the Bible, learning Cubbies verses, attending Awana, being kind to others.)*

(If necessary, review with Cubbies what it means to trust Jesus as Savior. Then close in prayer, thanking Jesus for loving us even though we sin. Pray that you and the Cubbies would obey the Good Shepherd.)

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 12 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

IDEA 1: Bear Hug 12 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of Bear Hug 12 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — cotton balls, glue sticks, clear tape, poster with a sheep pen drawn on it or a poster of Luvie Lamb (resource CD), mounting putty

Help Cubbies find a sheep on the sheet. Then let Cubbies look for the rest of the sheep on their own and circle them. For fun, tell Cubbies to say "Baa" when they are ready to recite the verse. Once each Cubbie completes the section, give him or her a cotton ball with a tape loop attached to it. They can stick the cotton ball on the poster you have hung on the wall either inside the sheep pen or on Luvie Lamb's body. Keep the poster up through the unit and see how long it takes your club to fill the appropriate spaces on the poster.

IDEA 2: Find the Lost Sheep Game

What You Need

- Green construction paper
- Scissors for leader's use
- Crayons
- Sheep stickers or cutouts (resource CD)
- Glue sticks (if you are not using stickers)

Cut a sheet of construction paper into four equal rectangles for each Cubbie. Let Cubbies use crayons to draw a bush on the front side of each rectangle. Give each Cubbie one sheep sticker or cutout to attach to the back of one rectangle. To play, Cubbies pair up. One player lays his bushes down. The other player flips over one bush at a time to find the lost sheep. Then the Cubbies reverse roles and play again.

PLAY TIME (15-0 minutes)**IDEA 1: Gather the Sheep****What You Need**

- Many white, brown and black pom-poms or large cotton balls
- Box (size of box will depend on how many cotton balls or pom-poms)
- Music player
- *Optional* — Hula-Hoops, Awana game batons (or empty paper towel tubes)

Scatter pompoms or cotton balls all over your play area. These represent sheep. (Know the exact number of sheep you are scattering so that later you will know if one is missing.) Place the empty box in the middle of the room. This represents the sheep pen. While music is playing, Cubbies each run to pick up ONE sheep and place it in the pen before they get another sheep. See if they can gather all the sheep, getting them home safely before the music stops. When you stop the music, count the sheep in the box together. If one or more sheep are missing, look for them together. Say, "A good shepherd always looks for his lost sheep. He loves each one of his sheep very much." If all the sheep are in the box, commend Cubbies by saying, "You were good shepherds. You took good care of your sheep, just like Jesus takes good care of us." Ask them to name some of the ways Jesus takes care of them.

As an alternative game, set Hula-Hoops on the floor as pens. Cubbies use game batons to push, or "herd," the sheep across the floor and into the Hula-Hoop pens.

IDEA 2: Hide the Sheep**What You Need**

- Stuffed toy sheep or large cotton ball

Hide the toy sheep or cotton ball in your game area or in a classroom. Lead Cubbies around the room or down the hall and into different rooms to look for the lost sheep. With Cubbies, think of a name for the lost sheep, such as Marshmallow. As you walk, call together, "Marshmallow! Marshmallow! Where are you?" When a Cubbie finally spots the sheep, cheer together. Review the

story from Luke 15:3-7. Talk about how happy the shepherd was to find his lost sheep. Explain that like that shepherd loved his lost sheep, Jesus loves each one of us very much.

IDEA 3: Sheep Freeze Tag**What You Need**

- Nothing

Choose one child to be the shepherd. The rest of the children are sheep. On the leader's signal, the sheep scatter. The shepherd tries to tag the sheep in order to keep them from running away and getting "lost." Once they are tagged, they must sit down. (Or instead, the tagged sheep could form a line behind the shepherd as he continues to tag sheep. Each Cubbie holds onto the shoulders or waist of the person in front of him or her.) If your club is large, designate a few Cubbies as sheepdogs that help the shepherd tag the sheep. Once everyone has been tagged, choose a new shepherd and play again. Recite Isaiah 53:6 together. Explain that sometimes sheep go astray, which means they go where they want to go and do what they want to do instead of following the shepherd. The Bible says we are like sheep that go astray. We go astray when we sin and do what we want to do instead of obeying what Jesus says in the Bible.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

Make sure Cubbies do not forget envelopes made for IDEA 1: Sheep Search. Tell parents about the game when they come to the door.

Play IDEA 5: Shepherd, Shepherd, Where's Your Sheep? from the "Anytime Games" document on the resource CD.

Cubbies is almost at the halfway mark. What are some things you can do to celebrate your leaders? Here are a few ideas: Send a note stating that you can always count on them, give them more responsibility as you experience their spiritual gifts, pray specifically for them and send them birthday cards. Count them as your most important resource and acknowledge their service.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way ... (Isaiah 53:6)

NAME: _____



Basic Instructions: In Luke 15:3-7, Jesus tells a story about a shepherd who lost one of his sheep. The shepherd searched and searched until he found it. Circle each sheep you find in the picture.

Even More Fun: Count all the sheep you circled. Tell your leader how many you counted. (There should be 12.)

Ultimate Fun: Draw one more sheep hiding somewhere in the picture, or glue on a cotton ball in the open space to represent a sheep. Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd. He calls us His sheep. Like sheep, sometimes we go astray, which means we sin and do what we want to do instead of obeying Jesus. Ask Jesus to help you to obey His words in the Bible. He loves you so much!