



BEAR HUG I

A Is for All

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

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

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Romans 3:9-23

Memorize: Romans 3:23

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

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

However, another "All" offers hope. It is ... *the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to ALL ... who believe ... (Romans 3:22, emphasis added).*

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

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

TASTE AND SEE!

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

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

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



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

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

IDEA 1: Apple Pie

What You Need

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

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

IDEA 2: Scribble Letters

What You Need

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

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

IDEA 3: Magnetic Pom-poms

What You Need

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

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

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

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

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

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

IDEA 1: Letter A Snacks

What You Need

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

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

IDEA 2: Alphabet Crackers of Cookies

What You Need

- Alphabet crackers or cookies

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

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

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

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

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

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

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

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

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Display TC 12.) Sara ran to the neighbor's fence and picked a handful of the biggest, brightest tulips she could find. She ran back to the playhouse and proudly put the flowers in the empty cup.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Display TC 13.) After Emma went home, Sara and her mother walked to Mrs. Brown's house and knocked on her door. When Mrs. Brown opened the door, she noticed the wilted tulips in Sara's hand.

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

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

"I'm sorry," said Sara.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

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

IDEA 1: Bear Hug I Activity Sheet

What You Need

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

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

IDEA 2: Play-Doh Letters

What You Need

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

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

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

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

IDEA 1: Cubbie See, Cubbie Do

What You Need

- Nothing

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

IDEA 2: Letter A Action Game

What You Need

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

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

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

Apple — Children pretend to pick apples from a tree.

Ants — Children form a line and march like ants.

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

Anchor — Children sink to the floor and sit.

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

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

IDEA 3: Search for All People

What You Need

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

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

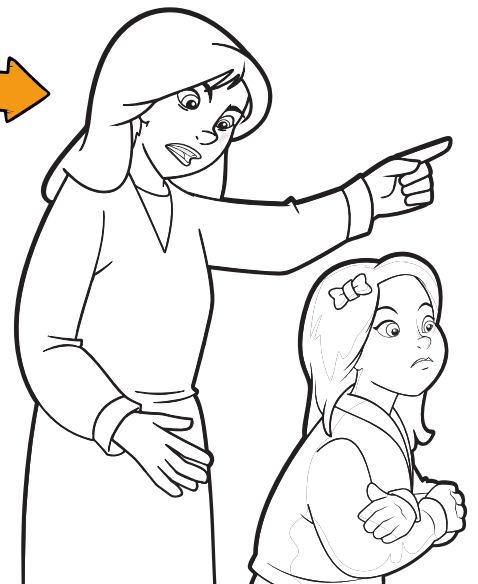
GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

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

NAME: _____



A	A	A	A	A	P
B	D	E	K	A	A
A	A	A	W	X	A
A	N	A	A	A	A
A	V	R	P	O	Z
A	C	A	A		
A	A	A	X		



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

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

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

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