


**BEAR  
HUG 21**

# Jesus Loves Mary of Bethany

**Make It Stick:** 1 Corinthians 15:3-4: ... *Christ died for our sins ... He was buried ... He rose again the third day ...* (Short version is in bold.)

**The Big Buzz:** Jesus delighted in Mary's sacrificial gift of love for Him. Jesus showed love to us by dying for our sins and coming alive again. Because of what Jesus did for us, we want to show love to Him too.

## HONEY FROM THE COMB

**Read:** Luke 10:38-42; John 11; John 12:1-11

**Memorize:** 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

What was the greatest gift you ever received? Maybe you recall a favorite present you received for Christmas or for your birthday. Or maybe it was the moment you trusted Jesus as your Savior.

Whatever gift comes to mind, understand that it was the result of some sort of sacrifice offered by the giver. And often that sacrifice makes the gift that much sweeter.

In each instance where Mary of Bethany is mentioned in the Gospels, we see her love, devotion and faith (e.g., Luke 10:38-42; John 11; John 12:1-11). The depth of her love and sacrifice is most vividly captured when she anointed her Savior. All four Gospels record this memorable act. Through this act she sacrificed financially (the perfume was worth as much as a year's wages) as well as socially (washing the feet of guests was the duty of the lowest servant, and a woman loosing her hair could be considered as scandalous). Mary was not concerned what others thought of her; she desired only to show honor to her Savior.

Have you considered your ministry in Cubbies as a demonstration of love? Just as Jesus was pleased with Mary's outpouring of love, He is also delighted and honored by those leaders who sacrifice their time, efforts and energy in giving 100 percent to their Cubbies.

While you may view your role as a Cubbie leader as a small gesture, it is much more. Service from a humble and willing heart is a beautiful gift to the Savior when it is completed as a loving act of worship.

## TASTE AND SEE!

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

1. Recognize Mary's sacrificial gift as an act of love for Jesus.
2. Understand Christ's honor and delight in Mary's sacrifice.
3. Know that Jesus came to earth to save us from our sin. Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and on the third day, He came alive again.
4. Tell Jesus they love Him and discuss other practical ways to show love to Him.

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

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



## COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

### IDEA 1: “I Love You, Jesus” Jar Craft

#### What You Need

- Two jar patterns printed on card stock for each Cubbie (resource CD)
- “I Love Jesus” idea strips (resource CD)
- Scissors for leader’s use
- Hole punch • Tape • Crayons
- Yarn pieces long enough to lace around the jar

Beforehand, prepare yarn and two jar patterns for each Cubbie according to the instructions on the resource CD. Also cut out a set of idea strips for each table. When Cubbies arrive, give them each a jar craft that is ready to lace. After Cubbies are done lacing around the jar, leaders secure the yarn with a knot at the last hole at the top of the jar. The mouth of the jar should remain open. Cubbies can color their jars. Ask Cubbies if any of them know what was inside the jar that Mary of Bethany brought to Jesus. Explain that the perfume cost Mary a lot of money, but she wanted to give it to Jesus because she loved Him. Ask Cubbies if there are things they can give to Jesus or do for Jesus to show they love Him. Read suggestions on the idea strips. Cubbies can put any idea strips they like into their jars. Encourage them to put other special items for Jesus inside their jar when they get home, such as stickers, money for an offering, notes or pictures.

### IDEA 2: 3-D Heart Craft

#### What You Need

- Sticky-back foam sheets in pink, purple and red (sold at craft stores)
- Scissors for leader’s use • Card stock
- *Optional* — glue sticks and items to decorate hearts, such as foam stickers, jewel stickers, glitter glue, sequins, cloth, ribbon

**NOTE:** Simplify this craft by giving each Cubbie a large construction paper heart to color or decorate with various items.

In advance, cut several small, medium and large hearts from the foam sheets. (Use the heart patterns on the resource CD as a guide.) Give each Cubbie three hearts, each a different size. Cubbies will peel the backing off the hearts and place them on a card stock sheet on top of each other from largest to smallest. The largest heart will be on the bottom, touching the sheet. Cubbies can decorate their hearts and papers with various items. Say that the hearts remind us of how much Jesus loves us. He showed His love by dying for our sins on the cross and coming alive again. Ask Cubbies to name ways they could show love to Jesus because of all He has done for us. Leaders could write “I Love You, Jesus!” on each Cubbies’ paper.

### IDEA 3: Smell the Cups

#### What You Need

- Coffee cups with lids that peel back (or other containers with lids that have holes)
- Various items with strong scents that pre-schoolers will recognize (crayons, flower, Play-Doh, ketchup, perfume or scented lotion on a cotton ball, cinnamon, toothpaste, lemon, orange, onion)
- *Optional* — Instead of cups, set out cards and attach a different scratch-and-sniff sticker to each card.

Put an item into each cup and set a few cups at each table. Talk with Cubbies about how our noses help us smell good things, like food or flowers. Our noses also help us detect danger, like smoke from a fire. Direct small groups of Cubbies to rotate to different tables to smell the different cups and guess what is inside, without looking into the cup. After the activity, say: “In our Bible story today we will hear about a wonderful smell that filled a house.”

## STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the “Cubbies Song,” Cubbies key verse and motto, unit Core Truth: Jesus Came to Save Us and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.

## PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

### What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- *Optional* — handmade birthday invitation

*(If you are using the birthday invitation, place it within your reach.)*

**LEADER:** I wonder how Cubbie Bear is doing today. Maybe he will come out and talk to us. When I count to three, let's all say "Hi, Cubbie!" Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

*(Bring Cubbie Bear into view, hanging his head.)*

**CUBBIE (sadly):** Hi, boys and girls.

**LEADER:** Cubbie, is something wrong?

**CUBBIE:** Kind of. Do you know what tomorrow is?

**LEADER:** No ... is tomorrow a special day?

*(If using the invitation, have Cubbie point to it. Hold it up so all the Cubbies can see.)*

**CUBBIE:** It is the most special day for my most special friend, Timothy. It's his birthday!

**LEADER:** How fun! Is Timothy having a birthday party?

**CUBBIE:** He is, and I'm supposed to go to his party. *(Cubbie hangs his head again.)*

**LEADER:** Then why are you sad, Cubbie?

**CUBBIE:** I don't have ANYTHING to give to him!

**LEADER:** Oh, I see.

**CUBBIE:** Luvie Lamb is giving Timothy a pet caterpillar, so I can't give him that! I looked all over the playground, because sometimes boys and girls who visit the farm leave their toys. I thought that maybe I could find a car or something to give Timothy. But I couldn't find ANYTHING!

**LEADER:** Surely there is SOMETHING that you could give Timothy.

**CUBBIE:** Well, I did find the PERFECT gift for Timothy at the farm market. There is a shiny, green tractor for sale in the shop. I don't like tractors AT ALL, but Timothy LOVES tractors, and green is one of his favorite colors!

**LEADER:** Well, can you get the tractor for Timothy's birthday?

**CUBBIE (shaking his head):** No. The tractor costs three dollars, and I only have some pennies in my honey jar bank!

**LEADER:** Three dollars IS a lot of money for you, Cubbie Bear. *(Pauses, as if thinking.)* Hey! I've got an idea! Why don't you go and count your pennies to see how much money you have. Then maybe Katie Collie or one of your other friends would have some money you could borrow.

**CUBBIE:** That's a great idea! I'm going to go find out right now! Goodbye, everybody!

*(Have children wave goodbye as the Cubbie puppet is put away.)*

**SNACKS** (5-10 minutes)

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

**IDEA 1: Pink Yogurt****What You Need**

- Strawberry yogurt (or other pink flavor)
- Stick pretzels
- Spoons
- Bowls (if needed)

As you serve the snack, ask Cubbies to name items that are pink or red. Point out that hearts are usually pink or red. Talk about how hearts remind us of love. Ask Cubbies: How did Mary of Bethany show her love to Jesus in the Bible story? What did Jesus do to show His love to us? Let Cubbies use their pretzel sticks to make a cross shape. Review that Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins and came alive again on the third day.

**IDEA 2: Red Heart Jell-O® Jigglers®****What You Need**

- Red Jell-O Jigglers
- Heart cookie cutter
- Baking pans
- Serving plate
- *Optional* — Serve heart-shaped cookies instead of Jigglers. If possible, let Cubbies smell the cookies baking.

Follow instructions on the Jell-O package. Let the Jell-O set in the refrigerator in square or rectangular baking pans. After the Jell-O sets, dip the bottom of the pan in warm water for 15 seconds. Cut the Jell-O into heart shapes and lift the shapes to a plate. Serve to Cubbies. Remind them of how much Jesus loves them and talk about ways they can show love to Jesus.

If you are serving cookies, and Cubbies can smell the cookies baking, talk about how the smell of Mary's perfume filled the room where Jesus was, just like the smell of the cookies fills the room.

**SONGS** (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

**SING:**

- **“Jesus Loves Me”** or the chorus of the hymn **“Oh, How I Love Jesus”**

- **“Jesus Wants Us to Love Him”** to the tune of “London Bridge Is Falling Down.” For fun, let Cubbies toss curly ribbons up in the air on the last line. Cubbies will want to sing it again and again.

Jesus wants us to love Him,  
To love Him, to love Him.  
Jesus wants us to love Him.  
I love Jesus!

- **“Do You Know What Jesus Did?”** to the tune of “The Muffin Man” (from Bear Hug 20). Add this new verse:

*(Leader calls to Cubbies)*

Oh, do you know what Jesus did?  
What Jesus did, what Jesus did?

*(Cubbies respond to leader)*

Oh, yes I know what Jesus did!  
He rose from the dead for me.

**PRAYER** (1-2 minutes)

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

Cubbies, God has done so many great and wonderful things for us. He created us. He sent Jesus to save us from sin. When we talk to God today, let's tell Him why we love Him. I will pray first. Then if any of you would like to pray, you can tell God why you love Him. *(As you pray, tell God one reason you love Him. Encourage any Cubbies who wish to pray to follow your example. If you have a large class, divide into smaller groups and assign a leader for each group.)*

## LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

### What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 5, 17, 82-86
- Bible with bookmarks placed at John 12:1-11 and I Corinthians 15:3-4
- *Optional* — box with a lid, wrapping paper, spray bottle of perfume, jar of money, a red construction paper heart, cotton ball, small zip-top bag, bread slices, cheese cubes

*(Before class, wrap the box so that the lid can be removed without unwrapping the box. Place the bottle of perfume, the jar of money, the construction paper heart and your Bible inside the box. Put a small amount of perfume on the cotton ball. Place the cotton ball in the plastic bag and seal it.)*

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

I hope Cubbie finds enough money to buy Timothy a birthday present. EVERYONE likes birthday parties. What are some fun things that happen at parties? *(Pause for replies.)* There is lots of food, and sometimes there are presents! *(Place the prepared box on a table next to you.)*

Do you know what? This present reminds me of a special gift that someone gave to Jesus. Inside this present are some things that will help me tell a true story from the Bible. *(Take the Bible out of the box. Open the Bible to John 12:1-11.)*

When Jesus lived on earth, He did many wonderful things to show He is God's Son. He helped blind people see. He helped people walk again. He even made dead people come alive again!

Jesus had many special friends who believed that He is God's Son. *(Display TC82.)* Two of these friends were sisters named Mary and Martha. *(Point to Martha.)* When Jesus came to visit them, Martha served Jesus, and Mary loved to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to Him teach. *(Point to Mary in the picture.)*

As Jesus was traveling on the road from Jericho to Jerusalem, He stopped at the town

called Bethany where Mary, Martha and their brother Lazarus lived. All of Jesus' friends in Bethany decided to have a big dinner party for Him. The party would be at a friend named Simon's house.

*Optional: Pass out bread slices and cheese cubes. Encourage Cubbies to pretend that they are eating at the special meal with Jesus. For fun, you could have Cubbies eat in the same position as the people in TC83. In Bible times, guests would lie on their sides around a low table. They rested on one elbow and ate with the other hand.)*

*(Display TC83.)* There were many people at this dinner who believed in Jesus. His special helpers, the disciples, were there. Jesus' friend Martha was helping to serve the meal. *(Point to Martha in the picture.)* Martha's brother, Lazarus, was there too. *(Point to Lazarus; He is sitting to the left of Jesus.)* Jesus loved all the people at the dinner. He was happy that many of them believed in Him. But there was one person who wanted to do something EXTRA special for Jesus. That person was Mary *(Point to Mary in the picture.)*

Mary brought out a very special jar. *(Pull out the jar of perfume from your box.)* Inside the jar was perfume. It smelled very pretty.

*Optional: Open the zip-top bag containing the cotton ball that has been sprayed with perfume. Pass around the bag and encourage Cubbies to smell the fragrance.*

*(Point to the jar in the picture.)* This jar of perfume was very special. It cost a lot of money! But Mary didn't care how much it cost. She loved Jesus, and she wanted to do something very, very special to show Him how much she loved Him.

*(Display TC84. Point to the picture on the left half.)* Because this perfume was in a special jar, Mary had to break off the top of the jar so she could pour out the wonderful smelling perfume. Carefully, Mary broke open the jar. She poured the perfume over Jesus' feet. (This

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was what people used to do sometimes for very important guests at a dinner.) The whole room smelled so wonderful.

**Optional:** Spray a few squirts of perfume in the air.

**(Keep displaying TC84. Point to the picture on the right half.)** Then Mary sat at Jesus' feet and began to wipe His feet with her hair. Usually only the servants washed the feet of guests. Mary wasn't a servant, but because Mary loved Jesus and wanted to serve and obey Jesus, SHE did this job of the servant and washed Jesus' feet.

**(Display TC85. Take out the jar of money from the box.)** Some of Jesus' disciples in the room were angry with Mary. "Why did you waste that perfume by pouring it on Jesus?" they asked. "That perfume costs a lot of money."

But Jesus was happy with Mary. He was glad that Mary had done something so special for Him. "Do not be angry with Mary," He told them. "Many people will hear about the good and beautiful thing she has done for Me," Jesus said.

Mary's gift was EXTRA special to Jesus, because by pouring the perfume on Jesus, she was helping to get His body ready to be buried. In those days, perfumes and spices used to be put on bodies before they were buried. **(Display TC17.)** Jesus knew that soon He would go to Jerusalem and die on the cross for our sins. **(Display TC86.)** His body would be buried in a tomb. Then, on the third day, He would come alive again.

**(Display TC5.)** Cubbies, Mary believed that **Jesus came to save us. (Repeat the Core Truth, Jesus came to save us, with Cubbies twice. Then open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.)** Our verses this week remind us of what Jesus did to save us from sin. First Corinthians 15:3-4 says: ... *Christ died for our sins ... He was buried ... He rose again the third day ... (Repeat the verses twice with Cubbies.)* Because of what Jesus did for us, we want to show love to Him.

**(Take out the red heart from your box.)** Cubbies, we don't have to give Jesus a gift to show Him that we love Him. We can show Jesus we love Him in other ways, like obeying our parents or telling others that Jesus loves them. We can even say to Jesus, "I love you!" I am glad that we can show Jesus we love Him, just like Mary did.

**Optional:** Choose one of the ideas below to help children express love for Jesus.

Tell Jesus you love Him in prayer. (You could have children pray out loud or simply say in unison, "I love You, Jesus!")

Tell a friend sitting next to you, "Jesus loves you!"

Act out scenarios of Cubbies obeying their parents.

## HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 21 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

### Bear Hug 21 Activity Sheet

#### What You Need

- A copy of the Bear Hug 21 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons (or for added fun use scented markers)
- *Optional* — pairs of child-sized scissors, construction paper, glue sticks

The pictures on the sheet help Cubbies to visualize the verse. Say 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 as you and the Cubbies point to each picture. Keep reviewing the verse as Cubbies color the pictures. As a fun option, direct Cubbies to cut out the picture boxes and then arrange them in the correct order, while saying the verse. Cubbies can glue the pictures in order onto a sheet of construction paper to hang up at home.

**NOTE:** Additional Handbook Time idea is on the Bear Hug 21 Handbook Leader Sheet.

**PLAY TIME** (15-20 minutes)

Repeat any games Cubbies have enjoyed from the unit so far as a review. For example, repeat IDEA 2: Blindfolded Games (from Bear Hug 19) or repeat IDEA 1: Pay Your Taxes (from Bear Hug 20).

**IDEA 1: Bottle Relay****What You Need**

- Bottle of scented lotion or baton for each group
- *Optional* — Make a glitter sensory bottle with recycled water bottles, water, Karo<sup>®</sup> syrup, gold glitter and a hot glue gun. See instructions at the end of this idea.

Divide Cubbies into relay groups. Give each group a bottle. Let them take turns smelling the lotion in the bottle. Talk about the special, costly perfume Mary poured on Jesus and ask Cubbies why Jesus liked her gift so much. Explain that Jesus knew He would die on the cross and be buried soon. People used to put perfume and spices on bodies before they were buried. Give the bottle to the first person in each group. That person will carry the bottle and walk a lap before returning, handing the bottle to the next person and sitting down. Tell Cubbies to carry their bottles carefully and pretend there is something that costs a lot of money inside. Continue until all Cubbies have had a turn.

Instructions to make a glitter sensory bottle: Remove label from water bottle. Fill it half full with water. Add Karo syrup and about two tablespoons (28 g) of glitter. (Adjust glitter amount based on the size of bottle.) Bottle should be almost full of liquid. Hot glue cap onto bottle. When bottle is shaken or turned over, glitter will slowly float to bottom.

**IDEA 2: Pass the Bottle****What You Need**

- Bottle of scented lotion
- Music player
- *Optional* — Make and use the glitter sensory bottle described above.

Direct Cubbies to sit in a circle. While the music plays, the group passes the bottle around the circle. Whoever is holding the bottle when the music stops tells the group something they remember from the Bible lesson or recites the Core Truth: Jesus came to save us.

**IDEA 3: Verse Relay****What You Need**

- Pictures cut from Bear Hug 21 Activity Sheet for each group (best if printed on card stock)

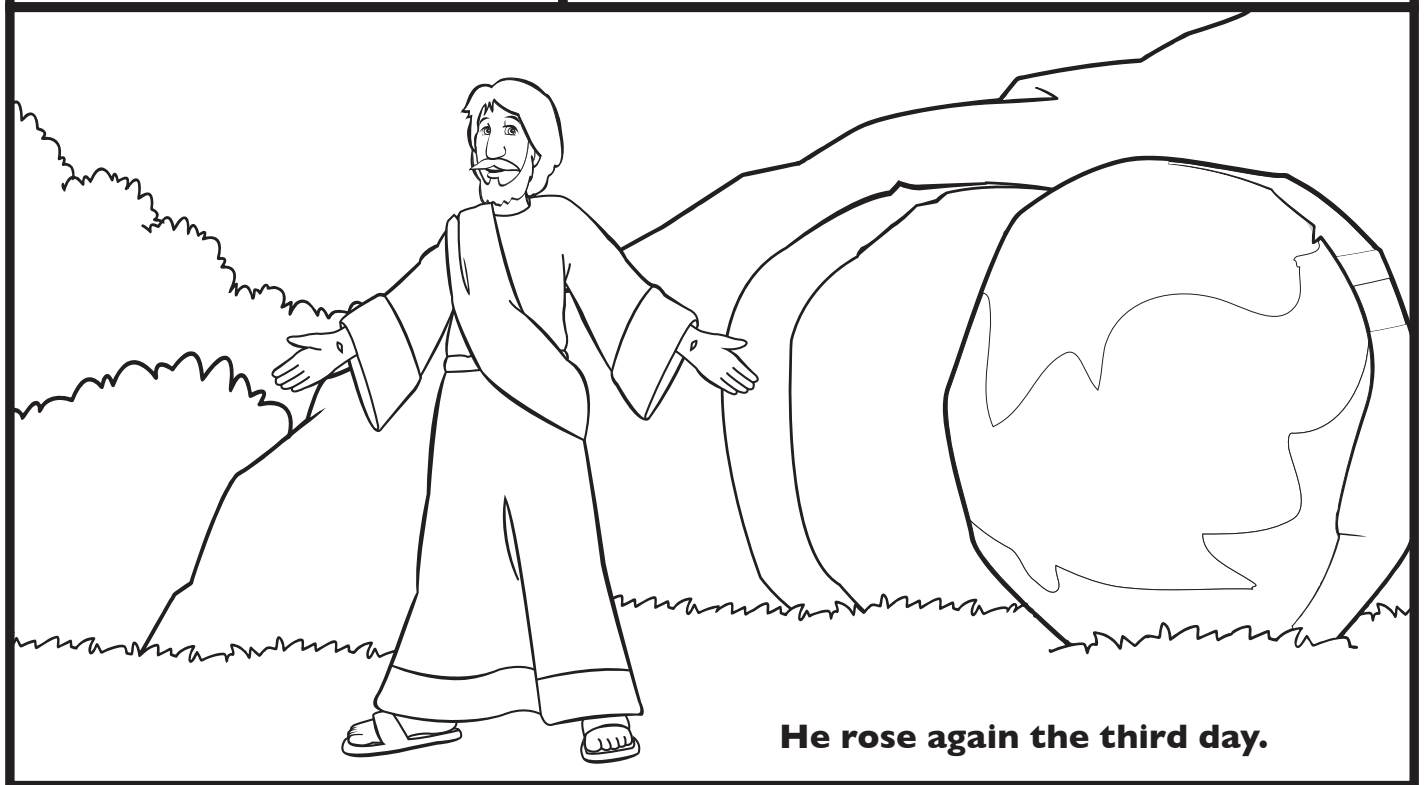
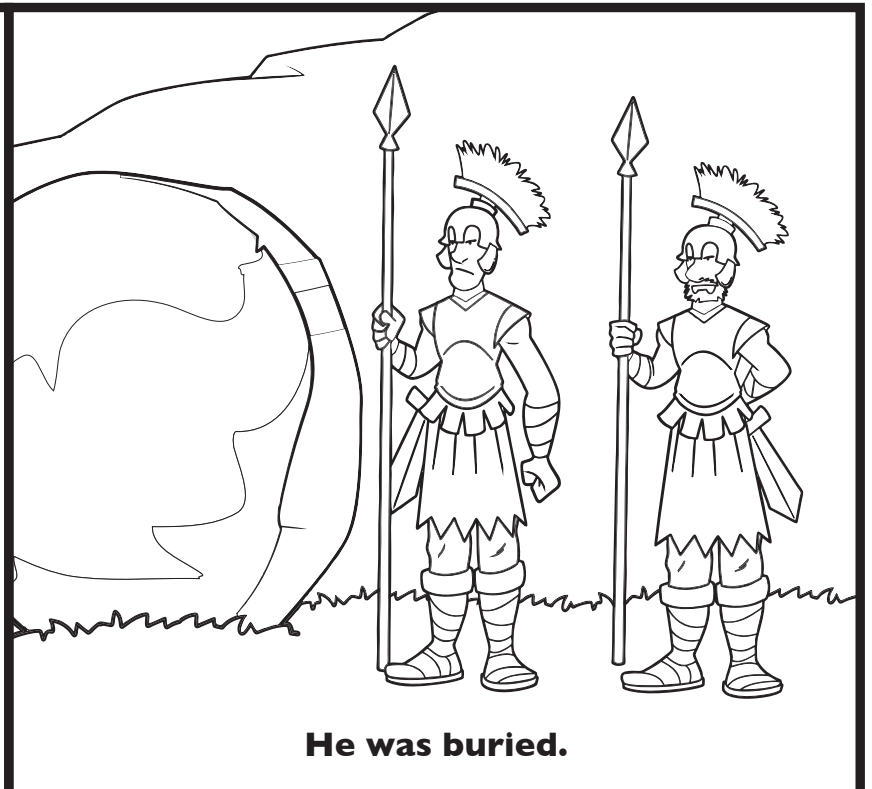
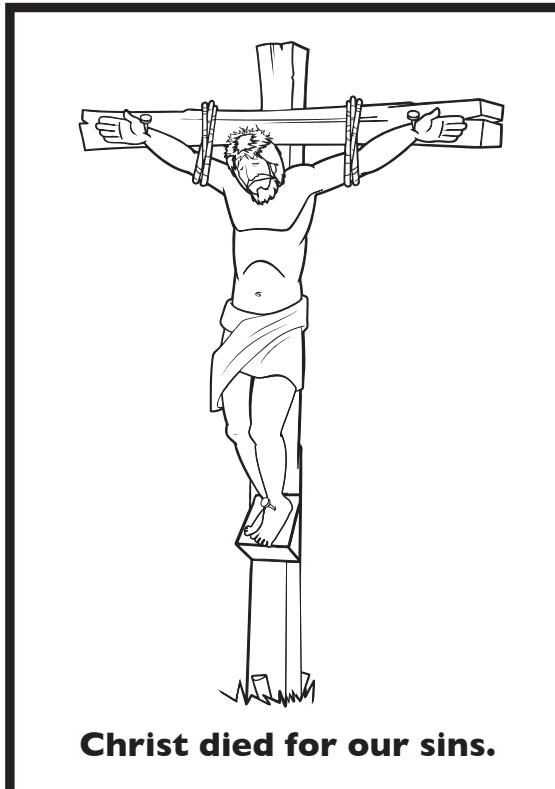
Divide Cubbies into groups of three. Set the pictures face down at the opposite end of the play area. The first Cubbie in each group will run to take a picture and bring it back to her group. When she returns, the second Cubbie runs to take another picture. The third Cubbie runs to take the final picture. Tell groups to work together to put the pictures in order so that they can say 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 by looking at their pictures.

**GOING HOME** (5-10 minutes)

Say: "We talked tonight about the very special gift that Mary gave to Jesus. What was the best gift you ever received?" After a few Cubbies share, talk about why trusting Jesus Christ as your Savior was the best gift you ever received. Explain the gospel clearly and age-appropriately to Cubbies.

**... Christ died for our sins ... He was buried ... He rose again the third day ...**  
**(1 Corinthians 15:3-4)**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



**Basic Instructions:** Ask a leader or other grown-up to read you the words below each picture. (These words are the same as your verse, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.) Color each picture. These pictures help us remember what Jesus did for us.

**Even More Fun:** Cut out the three picture boxes. See if you can line up the pictures in the order they happened. (Recite 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 to help you know the right order.)

**Ultimate Fun:** Glue the pictures in order onto a sheet of construction paper. Hang the picture up at home to remind everyone of what Jesus did for them.