


**BEAR
HUG 26**

We Can Tell the Good News

Make It Stick: Mark 16:15: ... **“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”** (Short version is in bold. This verse was learned in Bear Hug 23.)

The Big Buzz: Missionaries have a special job of telling others the good news that Jesus died for their sin and came alive again. We can tell others the good news too!

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Isaiah 55:9-11 and Hebrews 4:12

Review: Mark 16:15

What do you think of when you hear the word *missionary*? Some may automatically picture a person who travels to the deepest jungles of South America or Africa. Others may envision the prayer card of a missionary their church supports. Everyone has his or her own image of a missionary, but how often do you picture *yourself* in that role?

All Christians are commanded to share the good news of Christ, but some Christians have a special mission or job to share the gospel in a certain place or with a certain people group. In this sense, you are a missionary to your Cubbies. Your “people group” is the preschool children in your Cubbies club. God wants you to minister to these children, and He has given you great promises in His Word to strengthen and equip you in completing your task. As you reflect on this past year with your Cubbies, consider the ways God has kept, and is still keeping, these promises:

- God is always with you (Isaiah 41:10).
- The Holy Spirit gives you power and gifts for gospel ministry (Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12).
- The Scriptures make you wise for salvation and equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:15-17).
- God uses you even when you are weak (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- God’s Word will accomplish His purposes; it will not return void (Isaiah 55:9-11; Hebrews 4:12).

Even if you cannot see many tangible effects of your ministry with Cubbies this year, do not lose heart. Your Cubbies may grow up to be future Sunday school teachers, church leaders or even pastors or missionaries. You have provided them with a solid foundation built on God and His Word. And God’s Word is living and active; it will not be without effect.

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. Understand that a missionary is someone who has a special job of telling others the good news.
2. Know that missionaries may go far away or stay close to home to do their special job.
3. Learn a true story about a missionary and hear the ways the missionary shared the good news about Jesus.
4. Review the good news that Jesus died for our sins and came alive again.
5. Desire to obey Jesus’ command to tell others the good news.

6. _____

(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)

IDEA 1: Tell What You Learned

What You Need

- Bulletin board paper
- Marker(s)

As Cubbies enter, ask them to tell you things they learned about Jesus in Cubbies. Write their responses on the paper in large letters. Be sure to display this paper on the wall or a bulletin board for parents at the end of the night. You could also display it at your year-end awards ceremony.

IDEA 2: Good News Bible

What You Need

- Bible Craft Page (resource CD)
- Bible picture cutouts or stickers (resource CD)
- Lengths of ribbon
- Glue sticks

Cubbies glue a ribbon down the center of the Bible to resemble a bookmark. Cubbies attach stickers or glue cutouts of Bible pictures on the Bible. Review Bible stories in the pictures. Talk about how the Holy Spirit helped the disciples, Philip and Paul and Silas to share the good news of Jesus. Point to the picture of children and remind Cubbies that they can share the good news too, and the Holy Spirit will help them. Recite Mark 16:15 together.

IDEA 3: Toy People and Town

What You Need

- Toy people, such as Lego people or Fisher Price Little People®
- Blocks and toy buildings or a play mat with a town pictured on it
- Toy cars, buses, planes, trains
- *Optional* — Make your own play mat by drawing a town on a white table cloth. In your town, include places that Cubbies go during a week, such as church, grocery store, library, home or the park.

Review the good news: Jesus Christ died for our sins and came alive again. All those who

trust in Him will be saved from sin and be alive with Him forever in heaven. Tell Cubbies to choose some of the toy people to go and tell other toy people the good news, using various forms of transportation. Cubbies can act out the conversation using the people.

IDEA 4: Missions Centers

What You Need

For Center 1: Globe or world map, travel brochures or books about other countries, clothing, toys and other items from other countries, photos or pictures of children and places in other countries

For Center 2: Small suitcase or backpack packed with items a missionary might take on a trip (such as toothbrush, camera, flashlight, Bible, sunscreen)

Center 1: As Cubbies explore the items, talk with them about the people, environments, clothing, food and cultural activities of the countries represented. If applicable, focus on the country of your missionary guest. If you are telling the story of Amy Carmichael in Lesson Time, focus on India. Remind Cubbies that Jesus loves all people, and He wants us to tell people in all places about Him. For fun, teach Cubbies how to say "Hello" or "Jesus loves you" in another language or two.

Center 2: Tell Cubbies that God wants all of us to share the good news, but a missionary is someone who has a special job of telling others the good news. Some missionaries stay close to home. Others have to pack suitcases and travel far away. Show Cubbies the items in the suitcase and name each item. While Cubbies close their eyes, remove one item. Ask Cubbies to identify the missing item.

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
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — padlock and key or combination lock, sound effects of a lawn mower (Many sound effects can be downloaded for free online.)

LEADER: Last week Timothy and Cubbie were trapped in the woodshed. I wonder what happened to them. Let's find out! On the count of three, let's call for Cubbie. Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Do not reveal the puppet yet. Pause for a moment, and then lead the children in calling again for Cubbie Bear.) Cubbie? Are you there?

CUBBIE (*hopping into view*): Here I am!

LEADER (*with concern*): Oh, Cubbie, I was so worried about you! Last week we heard that you were trapped in the woodshed.

CUBBIE: We were! Timothy tried to open the big door, but it was locked from the outside!

(If you are using a padlock or combination lock, hold it up now and lock it. Consider allowing children to pass it around and examine it. Play sounds of the lawn mower as Cubbie Bear continues talking.)

We yelled and yelled for help, but Timothy's dad was mowing the lawn. Nobody could hear us over the loud mower! I was scared, but Timothy was very brave.

LEADER: What happened next, Cubbie?

(Stop any lawn mower sounds.)

CUBBIE: All of a sudden, the lawnmower stopped. Then we heard Katie Collie!

(Make barking noises and bring the Katie Collie puppet into view.)

KATIE: I was running after the lawnmower, barking as loudly as I could! Finally, Timothy's dad saw me and stopped the mower. I kept barking so he would know something was wrong. He followed me to the shed.

CUBBIE: We heard them coming toward us, so Timothy and I yelled, "Help! Help!" really loud! Timothy's dad unlocked the door and let us out. We were free!

(If you brought a lock, let Cubbies watch you unlock it.)

LEADER (*sighs*): Whew! Cubbie, I'm so glad you and Timothy are safe now!

CUBBIE: Me too. And I'm glad I have special friends like Katie Collie. She helped us when we were in trouble.

KATIE: Aw ... you know me. I always like to help. I'm glad I'm your friend too, Cubbie. *(Looking at the children)* And I am glad that all of YOU are our friends, isn't that right, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: That's right, Katie. I'm feeling a little sad tonight because this is (*almost*) our last week of club. I'm going to miss seeing all the boys and girls every week at Cubbies.

LEADER: We'll miss you too, Cubbie. Some of us will be back after the summer. Others will move to Sparks® this fall. But I'm sure they'll come back and visit!

CUBBIE: Oh, good. So this is not really a goodbye. It's a see-you-later. See you later, Cubbies! Here's a big bear hug from me! *(Cubbie spreads out his arms.)*

(Bring out the Luvie Lamb puppet and let children pretend to give each of the puppets a hug goodbye. If you have a small club, the puppets could actually hug each child. Be mindful of guidelines for safe child contact.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

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

IDEA 1: International Snack**What You Need**

- Food item from another country

If you have been focusing on a particular country for the lesson, choose a food item from that country. For example, serve naan (bread) from India, crepes from France, hummus and pita chips from an Arab country or mango slices, corn chips and salsa from Mexico.

IDEA 2: Donut Forget**What You Need**

- Donut holes

Serve donut holes and tell Cubbies this knock-knock joke.

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Donut.

Donut who?

Donut forget to tell the Good News!

IDEA 3: Cubbies' Choice

Since it is the last club meeting of the year, serve the Cubbies' favorite snack. While you eat, ask the Cubbies to share what they are doing over the summer. Say goodbye to Cubbies who will be entering Sparks in the fall.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

What You Need

- Bible for "Go and Tell the Good News" song and game

SING:

- **"Go and Tell the Good News"** (from Bear Hug 23; play the game with the song) or **"I'll Tell the Whole World"** (from Bear Hug 24)
- Teach the Cubbies a familiar song (such as **"Jesus Loves Me"**) in another language or watch children singing the song online.
- **"You and Me"** to the tune of "Deep and Wide." Cubbies point to the leader or each other on the word *you* and to themselves on the word *me*. Make up other motions for the song.

(Repeat each verse twice.)

Verse 1: You and me. You and me.

Jesus died on the cross for you and me.

Verse 2: You and me. You and me.

Jesus rose from the dead for you and me.

Verse 3: You and me. You and me.

In heaven there's a home for you and me.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

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

Cubbies, God wants all of us who have trusted Jesus as Savior to tell the good news. But some people have a special job of telling others the good news. These people are called missionaries. *(You may want to hold up a picture of a missionary on a missionary newsletter or prayer card.)* Some missionaries go to places far, far away so the people who live in those places can hear about Jesus. Other missionaries serve close to their homes. Let's pray for the missionaries in many places around the world. *(Pray for the missionaries who tell the good news to others. If you are having a special missionary guest speak to Cubbies at club, pray specifically for that missionary.)*

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 5, 14, 17, 91, 96-98
- Bible with a bookmark placed at Mark 16:15
- *Optional* — several handheld mirrors, a globe or a world map, coffee pot, bowl, dry cloth, Amy Carmichael booklets for the leader and Cubbies (resource CD)

Choose one of the options below to teach Cubbies how modern-day missionaries share the good news with people all over the world.

Option 1: Invite a missionary your church supports to speak to Cubbies during Lesson Time. You could also ask the Awana missionary in your area to come and present his or her ministry. Ask the missionary to use age-appropriate teaching methods (i.e., pictures, video, objects, skits or costumes, interaction) to share the ministry with your Cubbies. At the end of the missionary's presentation, allow time for Cubbies to pray for the missionary.

Option 2: Tell the story of Amy Carmichael below or tell your Cubbies another exciting story from a missionary's life. Choose a current-day missionary or a missionary from history. Check your church's library or search the websites of the following organizations for children's books or teaching ideas:

Wycliffe Bible Translators: wycliffe.org/Resources/Kids.aspx* – SIM: simkids.org* – New Tribes Mission: usa.ntm.org/childrens-speakers*

Cubbies, I am so glad that Katie Collie was able to help rescue Timothy and Cubbie from the woodshed. Do you remember what she did to help? (**Pause for replies.**)

Today in our lesson we are going to learn about a woman who was able to help boys and girls who were in trouble. God used her to tell many, many boys and girls the good news about Jesus. Her name was Amy Carmichael. Listen, and I will tell you a true story about Amy.

(**Display TC96.**) Here is a picture of when Amy was a little girl. Cubbies, God made Amy with pretty brown eyes. But there was a problem. Amy DID NOT like her brown eyes. She wanted blue eyes.

Optional: Direct leaders to pass out mirrors to Cubbies and help them recognize the color of their eyes.

There is nothing wrong with having brown eyes, but as a little girl, Amy prayed and asked God to change her brown eyes to blue eyes. Remember, Cubbies, God hears our prayers and God can do ANYTHING He chooses. But God never chose to make Amy's eyes blue. They stayed brown. And do you know what? God used Amy's brown eyes in a very special way.

Amy wanted to be a missionary when she grew up. Cubbies, do you know what a missionary is? (**Allow Cubbies to suggest ideas.**) A missionary is someone who has a special job of telling others the good news about Jesus. Some missionaries go to a place far away to do their special job, or some stay near their home to do their special job. Missionaries tell people the good news that Jesus died for their sins and came alive again. One day, when Amy was a grown-up, she traveled far away to the country of India to tell people the good news about Jesus.

Optional: Show children your location on the world map or globe. Then show the location of India. Briefly explain how long it would take to travel to India so that Cubbies get the idea of how far it is from them.

(**Display TC97.**) The people of India looked different from Amy: they had dark skin, and Amy had light skin. But do you know what? The people of India had brown eyes, just like Amy! Amy loved all the people of India, but she especially loved all the boys and girls.

Some of the boys and girls in India did not have anyone to love them or take care of them. Amy made a special home where these boys and girls could live. She took care of them and told them

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all about Jesus. Amy wanted them to feel safe with her, so she did something special.

Optional: Have a female leader pantomime the following section of the story. Give her a coffee pot, a bowl and a dry cloth as props.

(Display TC98.) Amy made dark, dark, coffee. When it was cool, she rubbed the coffee on her arms, face and hands. When the coffee dried, her skin looked dark! And with her brown eyes, Amy looked very much like the people of India. This helped the boys and girls feel safe with Amy. They called her “Amma.”

Amy saved many, many boys and girls from danger. Sometimes she would have to travel a long, long way to save them and take them to her home where they would be safe.

Cubbies, remember what Amy asked God for when she was a little girl? **(Pause for replies.)** God did not give Amy blue eyes, but Amy was able to use her brown eyes to help the children in India and tell them the good news about Jesus.

(Open your Bible to Mark 16:15.) Amy’s true story reminds me of our memory verse this week. In Mark 16:15, Jesus says ... “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” **(Repeat the verse two times with your Cubbies.)** God had a special plan for Amy, and with her brown eyes, she was able to tell many people in India the gospel, which is the good news of Jesus Christ.

(Display TC91.) Cubbies, God has made you special too! And God has a plan for you, just like He had a plan for Amy. Jesus wants YOU **(point to all the Cubbies)** to share the good news with others. Who is one person to whom you can tell the good news about Jesus? **(Let Cubbies share ideas.)**

Do you remember what the good news is? **(Allow response.)** The good news is that Jesus died for our sins and came alive again. All those who trust in Him are saved from the punishment for sin and one day they will go to heaven and be alive with Jesus there forever!

Choose one of the following options to help Cubbies practice sharing the good news:

Option 1: Invite two or three Cubbies to come up front at a time. Ask them to tell you about the A and C on their vests. You and the rest of the Cubbies can help these Cubbies remember that A is for All and C is for Christ. Recite Romans 3:23 and Romans 5:8 together. Use TC5, 14 and 17 to aid the review.

Option 2: Give each Cubbie their own little booklet about Amy Carmichael to color (from the resource CD). In small groups, read the booklet with them encourage Cubbies to use the book to tell her story to someone. Review with Cubbies what the A and C stand for on the last pages of the book.

*References to websites and resources not created by Awana are for your information and are not necessarily an endorsement of content.

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of the Bear Hug 26 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Bear Hug 26 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of the Bear Hug 26 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — pairs of child-sized scissors, glue sticks, envelopes

Recite Mark 16:15 together. Explain to Cubbies that God wants all those who have trusted Christ as Savior (Christians) to tell others the good news of Jesus. Help them complete the optional suitcase craft.

NOTE: Additional Handbook Time idea is on the Bear Hug 26 Handbook Leader Sheet.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Repeat the Cubbies' favorite games from the unit or from the club year. If there's any time left, try one of the games below.

IDEA 1: Soccer Ball Pass**What You Need**

- Playground balls

Place Cubbies into groups no larger than six. Each group has a ball, spreads out and stands in a circle. Person with ball will place it on the ground and say, "(Cubbie 1), Jesus loves you!" before gently kicking the ball to (Cubbie 1). (Cubbie 1) will do the same thing before kicking the ball to (Cubbie 2). Keep the ball moving around the circle. You can change the sentence after everyone has had a turn. For example, "Jesus Says to Tell the Good News."

IDEA 2: Parachute Play**What You Need**

- Parachute or large sheet

Say to Cubbies, "Jesus Says to Tell the Good News. We are going to practice telling things we know about Jesus in this game." Cubbies will stand in a circle around the parachute and hold it waist high. Game leader will choose one Cubbie to crawl under the parachute and touch the feet of another Cubbie. The one who is touched must tell one thing they know about Jesus before trading places with the Cubbie under the parachute. Then they may crawl and touch another Cubbie.

IDEA 3: Streamer Games**What You Need**

- Lengths of streamers in any color

Give half of your Cubbies a length of streamer to hold. At your signal, they each quickly go and find a Cubbie without a streamer and give him or her the streamer while saying "Jesus loves you!" or "Jesus died for your sin." That Cubbie must go find someone with whom to share a streamer and the good news.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)**AWARD ALERT!**

Cubbies will earn their final Red Apple emblem for completing Unit 6. Plan a special award night for parents to see their child earn the HoneyComb Book Award ribbon and other Cubbies awards.

Leaders, take some time to stop, pray and praise. Think back over the club year. What have you seen God do? Is that Cubbie who would not talk now saying his verse with confidence? Is the Cubbie who used to just stand silently and watch the games now playing and laughing? Have new families started coming to your church? Has a parent shared a story of what Cubbies has meant to her? May God bring to remembrance all the wonderful things He has accomplished this year through your faithful service. Praise the Lord!

As you continue to serve your Cubbies and their families, do not forget to communicate any upcoming summer family events, such as a church-wide sports camps or a vacation Bible school. Hand a flyer out at your end-of-the-year celebrations to alert them to these opportunities.

Do you encourage continued spiritual learning during the summer? Awana has a family Bible memory program called TruthScripts that you may share with Cubbies families. Visit awana.org for more information.

... "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)

NAME: _____



Basic Instructions: God wants all Christians to tell others the good news that Jesus died for our sins and came alive again. Some Christians, called missionaries, have a special job of telling others the good news. Missionaries may stay close to home to do their special job, or they may travel to a far place. Color the items a missionary might pack for a trip. Draw an X through those items that the missionary would not pack.

Even More Fun: Cut out the items you colored and place them inside an envelope.

Ultimate Fun: Decorate the envelope to look like a suitcase, or cut out the suitcase pictured above and attach it to the outside of the envelope. Carry your suitcase and pretend you are a missionary going to share the good news. When you see someone say, "Jesus died for your sin" or recite Mark 16:15.