



BEAR HUG 2

C Is for Christ

Make It Stick: Romans 5:8: ... *While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

The Big Buzz: While we were sinners, God loved us and sent His Son to live a perfect life and then die for our sins and rise again. Those who trust Christ as Savior will live in heaven with Him forever.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Romans 5:1-8

Memorize: Romans 5:8

We have all heard heroic stories of men and women who gave their lives trying to save another person, and our response is usually one of awe and — if we are honest — surprise.

It is good to remember such deeds, but we often fail to recognize the greatest personal sacrifice of all time: ... *While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).*

Christ, the perfect, sinless Son of God, knowingly gave up the riches of heaven to face a torturous death on the cross for all people. For you. For the Cubbies in your club.

The greatest demonstration of love took place on the cross of Calvary, and the benefits are eternal. As you recall the ultimate sacrifice made on your behalf, may your heart echo the praises of Paul: *To Him be glory ... to all generations ... (Ephesians 3:21).*

This week you get to introduce your Cubbies more fully to the person and work of Jesus Christ. As you relive the account of Christ's birth, earthly ministry, death and resurrection, emphasize that Christ *chose* to come to earth and die for our sin because He loves us. As the boys and girls begin to recognize God's great love for them, their hearts will be tender to their need of a Savior.

Be sure to leave time at the end of this lesson for Cubbies to ask questions. Over the last three lessons, you have been explaining the gospel in a variety of ways. Cubbies often need to hear the gospel several times before they understand it. Use this question time to check their level of understanding.

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. Remember that God loves us, even though we have sinned. God sent His Son to save us from the punishment of our sin.
2. Believe that Jesus is the sinless Son of God.
3. Learn that Jesus lived on earth, loved people, died on the cross for our sins, rose again and now lives in heaven.
4. Realize that those who trust Jesus as Savior will live with Him forever in heaven someday.
5. Begin to understand the gospel message, so at the right time, they will trust Christ personally as Savior.
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)

Welcome Cubbies and reinforce what they learned at home in their handbooks by continuing the IDEA 1: Apple Pie or IDEA 3: Magnetic Pom-poms from Bear Hug 1 or by choosing one or more of the activities below.

IDEA 1: Crayon Reveal A and C

What You Need

- Construction paper
- White crayons
- Water color paints
- Paint brushes
- Cups of water
- *Optional* — Romans 3:23 and Romans 5:8 verse labels (resource CD)

Ahead of time, a leader presses firmly with a white crayon to draw a large A or C on each paper. Cubbies paint over the paper with watercolors to reveal the letter. Review what the A and C stand for in Cubbies and recite the corresponding verses. You may also attach the corresponding verse label to each picture.

IDEA 2: Pipe Cleaner C's

What You Need

- Pipe cleaners
- Drinking straws in various colors
- Pairs of child-sized scissors

Let Cubbies use scissors to snip off sections of the straws. (This is great practice with scissors that even the younger Cubbies can do!) Then Cubbies will thread a pipe cleaner through several straw sections until the pipe cleaner is almost covered. Leaders fold a short portion of the pipe cleaner over the first and last straw sections to keep all the sections in place. Finally, show Cubbies how to bend the pipe cleaner into the shape of the letter C. Remind them that C stands for Christ and recite Romans 5:8 together.

IDEA 3: We've Got Mail

What You Need

- Several envelopes
- Pen or marker
- Two boxes
- *Optional* — decorate the boxes to look like mailboxes

Ahead of time, seal the envelopes and write an A or C on the front of each envelope. Also write a large A on one box and a large C on the other box. Give each Cubbie a handful of envelopes. Let Cubbies pretend to be mail carriers and place the mail in the correct mail boxes. Review what the A and C stand for in Cubbies.

IDEA 4: Ping-pong Scoop

What You Need

- Several ping-pong balls
- Permanent marker
- Clean, recycled ice cream bucket
- Ice cream scoop
- Plastic or paper bowl for each child or only two bowls (an A bowl and C bowl)

Beforehand, write an A or C on each of the balls. Place balls in the empty ice cream bucket. Cubbies take turns using the scoop to retrieve a ball from the bucket. If the Cubbie can identify the letter and recite the corresponding verse, she may place the ball in her bowl or in the right letter bowl. Otherwise, it is placed back in the bucket, and the next child takes a turn. For large clubs, include several sets of buckets and scoops so children do not have to wait long for their turn. Save the balls and bucket for use with Play Time IDEA 1:A/C Jumping Bean.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. For example, sing the "Cubbies Song" and "If You're Happy You're at Cubbies" (from Bear Hug A). Recite the Cubbies key verse, the Cubbies motto, the A verse (Romans 3:23) and the C verse (Romans 5:8).

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — adhesive bandage

(Before the puppet show, place the optional adhesive bandage on the Cubbie Bear puppet's nose.)

LEADER: Hi, Cubbies! I wonder how our friend, Cubbie Bear, is doing today. Are you ready to see him? When I count to three, call "Cubbie!" I'm sure he will come out and talk with us! One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(After children call out, bring the Cubbie puppet into view. He should either have the bandage on his nose or hold his nose with his paw.)

CUBBIE: Hi, boys and girls.

LEADER: Cubbie, is something wrong with your nose?

CUBBIE (*rubbing his nose*): Yes, I got stung by a bee today.

LEADER: A bee!? Oh, no, Cubbie, what happened?

CUBBIE: Well, Timothy and I decided to search the farm to find all the things that start with the letter C. We found toy *cars* in Timothy's room, a picture of a *castle* in the living room, and ...

LEADER: Well, I still don't understand how you hurt your nose!

CUBBIE: While we were outside looking for things that begin with C, I got really hungry! I remembered one of my favorite C words: a *comb*!

LEADER (*confused*): Do you mean the kind of comb you use in your hair?

CUBBIE: No, a *honeycomb*! I remembered the beehive we found near the apple orchard. And bees make honeycombs in their hives. Everybody knows that when you find a honeycomb, you will surely find some yummy honey! Timothy and I walked to the orchard near the beehive. We tried to be quiet ...

(Make a loud barking sound and bring the Katie Collie puppet into view.)

KATIE (*interrupting*): I reminded Cubbie and Timothy to stay away from the beehive, or they might get stung!

CUBBIE: Timothy and I tried to be careful. We thought the bees were away visiting flowers on the farm. We tiptoed to the hive, but then we saw that the bees were still home! They came out of their hive, and one of the bees stung me right on the nose!

LEADER: Ouch! I'm sorry, Cubbie.

CUBBIE: That's OK. It doesn't hurt anymore. Timothy put medicine and a bandage on my nose.

KATIE: And I licked Cubbie Bear's paw to cheer him up.

LEADER: I'm glad you have Timothy and Katie Collie to help you feel better.

CUBBIE (*laughing*): I am too! Timothy says he is happy to have a great friend like me, even though sometimes I like honey too much, and I get us into trouble.

KATIE: And I am glad that I have you for a friend, Cubbie, even though you don't always listen to me.

LEADER: And you both have a good friend, Timothy, who loves you. Boys and girls, can you say goodbye to Cubbie and Katie Collie?

(Let 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. Provide a way for Cubbies to sanitize their hands before eating the snack.

IDEA 1: Letter C Snacks

What You Need

- Any food that begins with the letter C (e.g., cantaloupe, cottage cheese, crackers, corn cereal, croissants, cucumbers and dip, cross-shaped cookies)

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 C. Remind Cubbies that the most important word that starts with C is *Christ*. Recite Romans 5:8 together and talk about why you are glad Jesus died on the cross for our sin.

IDEA 2: Carrot Cake Mini-Cupcakes

What You Need

- Carrot cake (or chocolate) mini-cupcakes
- *Optional* — substitute chocolate chip cookies for cupcakes

Review the sound of the letter C with Cubbies. Say the name of your snack and tell Cubbies to raise their hands when they hear a C sound. Ask Cubbies to tell you what the C stands for in Cubbies. Ask if any Cubbies want to recite Romans 5:8 for the group.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **“The B-I-B-L-E”** Change the last line of the song to “I like to hear the Word of God. The B-I-B-L-E!”
- **“Where Is the A?”** from Bear Hug 1. Turn this song into a game by having Cubbies sit in a circle. Choose one Cubbie to stand and close his eyes while you give a small foam or plastic A (or index card with A written on it) to a child in the circle, who hides it from view. Before the group sings “Here it is!” the child standing should open his eyes and guess who has the A. The child with the A should display it while the group finishes the song and she becomes the guesser on the next round. Repeat the song so several Cubbies have a turn to hold the A.
- **“Where Is the C?”** Sing this to the Thumbkin tune as you did for “Where Is the A?” This can also be a game as described above. Use a foam C instead of the foam A.
Where is the C? Where is the C?
Here it is! Here it is!
Tell us what it stands for.
Tell us what it stands for.
C is for Christ. C is for Christ.
(Repeat the last two lines but use these words.)
... While we were still sinners,
... Christ died for us. ... Christ died for us.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

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

Cubbies, I am glad that we can talk to God in prayer. You can pray to God at any time and at any place. When we pray, we can thank God for all He does for us. We can thank Him for His love. Let’s thank God for loving us and sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. Fold your hands, bow your heads and close your eyes so that we can talk to God.

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 8, 10, 14-19
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Romans 3:23 and 5:8
- Cubbies vest
- *Optional* — box filled with paper shreds to represent hay in a manger; baby doll, small cross for Cubbies to pass or larger sanded wooden cross to display, a small stone

(Adapt this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Choose only one or two of the suggested options so you will have time for questions at the end. Open with prayer.)

Katie Collie loves Cubbie Bear very much, even though Cubbie did not listen to her when she told him not to go to the beehive. You have people who love you too! Can you think of some people who love you? *(Responses might include their parents, grandparents, siblings, friends.)*

I know someone who loves you even *more* than anyone else does. Do you know who it is? *(Pause for response.)* It's God! Let's learn more about His love from our special book, the Bible.

(Hold up your Bible and open it to Romans 3:23.) The Bible tells us the truth about God's love for us. God loves each of us, even though we have all disobeyed God and sinned. *(Display TC14.)* Remember last week's lesson? We learned that A is for All. Can you say last week's verse with me? ... *All have sinned ... (Romans 3:23).* *(Remind Cubbies 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 verse and definition and let Cubbies do the motions with you.)*

Because we have all sinned, we all deserve to be punished by God. (Being punished is when you get in BIG trouble because of the bad things you have done.) The punishment for sin is death. But God loves us, and He chose to do something for us because of our sin. One day, when the time was just right, God sent Jesus, His very own Son, to save us by dying on the cross and being punished for us.

(Show TC15.) What do you think of when you see this picture? *(Let children discuss how this picture reminds them of Christmas, the time we celebrate Jesus' birth.)* Jesus was born as a tiny baby. He didn't have a warm, soft bed or cuddly blankets. He had a manger for His bed. A manger was usually filled with hay for the animals to eat.

Optional: Ask children to stand and sing "Away in a Manger." Add simple motions, if desired.

Optional: Set out a box filled with paper shreds and let Cubbies pretend it is a manger. Set a baby doll in the manger. Let girls take turns pretending to be Mary and rock the baby. Boys can pretend to be Joseph kneeling by the manger and keeping Mary and the baby safe.

You were once a tiny baby, just like Jesus. You didn't stay little for long, and neither did He! He grew and grew. *(Lift arms higher and higher above your head and encourage Cubbies to do the same.)*

(Display TC16.) As a boy, Jesus loved to go to the temple. The temple was the place where people went to worship and learn about God. While Jesus was in the temple, He told the teachers many things about His Father, God. They were surprised at how much He knew!

Jesus was very special. Remember, He is God's Son! That means that Jesus never, ever sinned. He never disobeyed His parents. He never fought with his brothers.

(Display TC8.) As a man, Jesus showed love to all people. He loved the oldest grandmas and grandpas, the moms and the dads and the tiniest babies. Jesus was happy to have little children near Him. He loved them very much.

Many people loved Jesus, but some men did not like Jesus at all. They did not believe that Jesus is God's Son. *(Display TC17.)* These men hurt Jesus and then put Him on a cross. Jesus is God's Son. He could have stopped the men, but He didn't. Jesus chose to die on the cross for our sins. He was punished for us so we wouldn't have to be punished for our sins.

Optional: Pass around a small cross for Cubbies to examine or let them come up to touch a

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larger wooden cross. When you talk about the tomb, pass around a small rock.

It was hard for Jesus to die on the cross, but He did it because He loves us very much. **(Point to the letter C on TC17. Hold up a Cubbies vest and point to the C on the vest. Have Cubbies locate the C on their vests.)** C stands for Christ. **(Read the verse from your open Bible.)** ... While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). **(Have children use their finger to trace the C on their vest or in the air as they repeat the memory verse several times.)**

After Jesus died, His friends put His body in a tomb, which is like a cave in a rock. His friends were very sad that Jesus died. The soldiers put a large stone in front of the opening. Three days passed. Can you count to three with me? **(Encourage children to count on their fingers.)**
One — two — three.

I'm glad this is NOT the end of our true story! **(Display TC18.)** On day three, Jesus came alive again! His friends were so happy that Jesus was alive. They praised God and told everyone, "Jesus is alive!"

Optional: Have children stand and clap their hands and shout, "Jesus is alive!" Or clap and sing the following words to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."

Jesus is alive. Jesus is alive.

I will clap my hands and sing. Yes, Jesus is alive.

(Display TC19.) Soon it was time for Jesus to go back to His Father, God. Before Jesus went up to heaven, He told His friends that He would come back one day to take us to heaven to be with Him too. **(Display TC10.)** Those who trust Jesus as Savior, who believe He died on the cross for their sins and came alive again, can one day live in heaven with Him. Heaven will be a happy, safe and more-fun-than-you-can-imagine kind of place. We will love and serve Jesus there forever.

Cubbies, we've heard a lot about Jesus today. What questions do you have about what you've heard?

(This lesson may be new and difficult for some Cubbies. Allowing them to ask questions gives you a chance to hear their reactions, gauge their level of understanding, explain the lesson more fully and discern how the Holy Spirit may be at work. Cubbies may have questions about how to trust Christ as Savior. Review the document "Sharing the Gospel with Cubbies" on the resource CD to find helpful tips on presenting the gospel in an accurate and age-appropriate way.)

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 2 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

IDEA 1: Bear Hug 2 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of the Bear Hug 2 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — construction paper, glue sticks, pairs of child-sized scissors

Review the events from Christ's life as children color the puzzle. For the Ultimate Fun option at the bottom of the activity sheet, Cubbies can cut out the pictures, fit them together as puzzle and glue them to a piece of construction paper.

IDEA 2: Letters in the Haystack

What You Need

- Yellow shredded paper (or green Easter grass)
- Several craft sticks
- A box or tub for each handbook table

Write an alphabet letter on each craft stick, including mostly A's and C's. Place shredded paper in each box. Mix in craft sticks. Cubbies take turns pulling out a stick from the box. When they find an A or C, they recite what the letter stands for and the corresponding verse.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

IDEA 1: A/C Jumping Bean

What You Need

- Several ping-pong balls
- Permanent marker
- Jumping bean labels (resource CD)
- Bucket
- *Optional* — Use index cards instead of ping-pong balls. Write an A or a C on most cards and glue a jumping bean picture on the remaining cards.

Ahead of time, write the letter A or C on most of the ping-pong balls. Attach a jumping bean label to each of the remaining ping-pong balls. Cubbies take turns choosing a ball from the bucket. If an A ball is chosen, the group says "A is for All" and Cubbies make an A shape by raising their arms and touching their fingertips together overhead. The group recites Romans 3:23. If a C ball is chosen, the group says "C is for Christ" and Cubbies make a C shape with their arms. The group recites Romans 5:8. If a ball with a bean is chosen, Cubbies yell "Jumping Bean!" and everyone jumps up and down three times.

IDEA 2: Follow the Honeybee

What You Need

- Nothing
- *Optional* — cut-out flower patterns (resource CD)

Direct Cubbies to line up behind the game leader, who pretends to be a honeybee leading all the other honeybees (the Cubbies) back to their hive. (Designate a spot in the room as the hive.) The leader can lead Cubbies in all directions around the room while they all flap their arms like wings and make buzzing noises. When they reach the hive, the leader chants, "Busy, buzzing honeybees, can you say your verse with me?" The Cubbies recite Romans 5:8 together and the game begins again. For fun, attach flower patterns to the floor or a wall for the bees to stop at as they travel to their hive.

IDEA 3: Color Run

What You Need

- Awana® Game Square or masking tape and construction paper in red, blue, green and yellow
- *Optional* — Use Teaching Cards 14, 17, 18 and 10.

If you do not have a Game Square available, tape one color of paper on each wall in your room. Gather Cubbies in the middle of the play area. Tell Cubbies that they must listen and follow your directions. First, tell the Cubbies to walk slowly to the green line or paper. Once all Cubbies arrive, recite Romans 3:23 together. (Hold up TC14 if desired.) Next, tell Cubbies to crawl to the red line or paper. Recite Romans 5:8 together. (Hold up TC17.) Then, tell Cubbies to smile and hop to the blue line or paper. Cheer together and say, "Jesus came alive again!" (Hold up TC18.) Finally, tell Cubbies to run to the yellow line or paper. Say that yellow reminds you of streets of gold in heaven where we will live with Jesus someday. (Hold up TC10.) Repeat the game and change the order in which you call colors.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

AWARD ALERT!



Cubbies finish the HoneyComb Trail this week. Each Cubbie will receive a Red Apple emblem and a HoneyComb Trail emblem to attach to his or her vest. This is a good time to tell parents about the adhesive Badge Magic sheets, available in the *Awana Ministry Catalog*.

You may want to tell parents to arrive a few minutes early to see their child receive the awards.

C is for Christ.

**... While we were still sinners,
Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)**

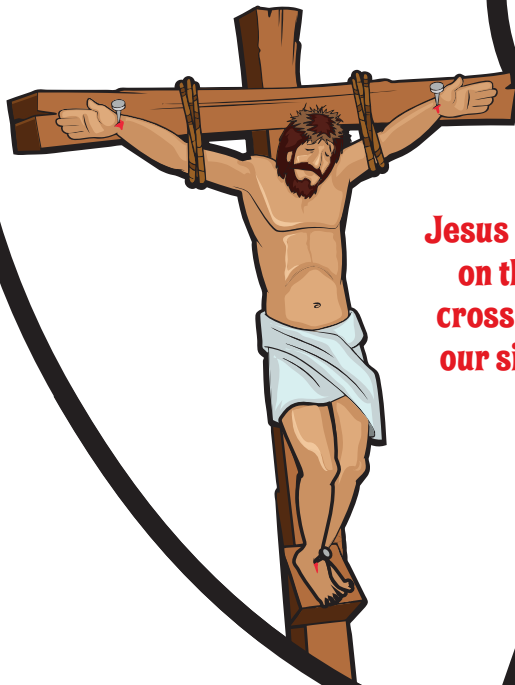
NAME: _____



Jesus loved the children.



Jesus was born and laid in a manger.



**Jesus died
on the
cross for
our sins.**

**Jesus
came alive
again!**



Basic Instructions: Tell your leader or another grown-up what is happening in each picture. Color the background of each picture.

Even More Fun: Cut out the pictures. Fit the pictures together like a puzzle to make a C shape.

Ultimate Fun: Glue your puzzle onto a sheet of construction paper. Use this paper to tell someone else about Jesus.