


**BEAR
HUG 3**

Our Magnificent Creator

Make It Stick: Revelation 4:11: *“You are worthy, O Lord ... **for You created all things ...**”* (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: God is our Creator. In six days, God made all things, including the first man and woman. God placed Adam and Eve in charge of the earth and all the animals.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Genesis 1; Colossians 1:15-20; Revelation 4:1-11

Memorize: Revelation 4:11

You have most likely studied the account of creation countless times, focusing on the very first chapter of God’s Word. And while this passage offers great depth and insight into the majesty and might of our Creator, the story does not end here.

Throughout the rest of Scripture, God’s sustaining power and personal plan for His creation is unfolded. At the center of God’s plan is Christ: all things were created by Him and for Him, and in Him all things consist, or hold together. With His blood, He reconciled everything in heaven and on earth to Himself (Colossians 1:15-20).

In the very last book of the Bible, we catch a rare glimpse of our creator God in His home. In Revelation 4, John compares the magnificence of the Almighty to priceless jewels. Around the throne sit 24 elders, clothed in white, each adorned with a golden crown. Peals of thunder, lightning and voices echo from the throne, which overlooks a sea of crystal-clear glass. Near the throne reside four creatures — odd in appearance — always seeing, taking in all the details of the Holy One in His majesty. The job of these creatures, day and night, is to offer constant praise.

This is our God, the Alpha and Omega, the Creator and Sustainer and Redeemer of all things. He is still on His throne, still in control.

As you prepare this week’s lesson, reflect often on the One who is seated on His throne. Offer Him the praise and honor that He is worthy to receive. As your Cubbies see your awe of the Creator, they will begin to understand just how great our God is.

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. Grasp that God is our powerful Creator; He made the world from nothing, using only His words.
2. Understand that God created everything in six days and rested on the seventh day.
3. Recognize that Adam and Eve were God’s special creation. God put them in charge of all the earth and animals and told them to start a family.
4. Praise and thank God together for His creation.

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 handbooks with one or more of the following activities.

IDEA 1: Envelope Animal Puppets

What You Need

- A supply of envelopes (number 6 ¾ or number 10 size envelopes)
- Pairs of child-sized scissors
- Precut puppet animal faces (resource CD)
- Precut puppet animal add-ons (resource CD)
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons

Show each Cubbie how to lick and seal an envelope. The Cubbie will cut off one of the short sides of the envelope to make a pocket to insert his or her hand into the puppet. Let Cubbies select an animal face and corresponding add-ons to glue on the puppet. Cubbies can color their puppets. As Cubbies work, ask them to name some of their favorite animals that God created.

IDEA 2: Creation Riddles

What You Need

- Toy animals and other creation objects (e.g., star, flower, leaf, fruit, vegetable, doll)
- Drawstring or paper bag
- *Optional* — instead of toys and other objects, use creation pictures (resource CD)

Place creation objects or pictures in the bag. (You can use objects you are using in the optional creation bins activity for Lesson Time.) A leader will choose an item from the bag and describe it with a riddle (while keeping the item in the bag so Cubbies can't see it). The Cubbie who first raises his or her hand and guesses correctly gets to hold the item. Continue choosing items and saying riddles as time allows. Here are sample riddles:

- God created me. I have four legs. I have a long swishy tail and a mane. I say neigh. What am I? (A horse.)
- God created me. I twinkle in the sky at night. I have pointy sides. What am I? (A star.)
- God created me. I have colorful petals. I have a long green stem. I smell so very sweet. What am I? (A flower.)

At the end of the game, tell Cubbies with items to hold them up while the whole group recites Revelation 4:11. Play this game again during Going Home.

IDEA 3: Big Red Barn

What You Need

- Large sheet of red construction paper (size 12" x 18" [31 x 46 cm])
- Scissors (for leader's use)
- Crayons (including a white crayon)
- Farm animal stickers or cutouts (resource CD)
- Glue sticks (if you are using cutouts)

Beforehand, use the red construction paper to make a barn. Lay the sheet horizontally and fold the left and right sides so that they meet (not overlap) in the middle. These are the barn doors. Use scissors to trim the top corners to resemble a barn roof. (See sample on resource CD.) Draw doors and windows with the white crayon. Let Cubbies attach farm animal stickers or cutouts inside the barn. Cubbies can color the animals and draw food, hay or stalls for the animals. For large clubs, divide Cubbies into groups and include several sets of barns and animals. Thank God together for the animals He created.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Review the A verse (Romans 3:23) and C verse (Romans 5:8) from prior lessons. Since these verses offer a simple explanation of the gospel, consider including them in your starting routine each week. This is also a good time to introduce the unit Core Truth: God Is Creator.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Luvie Lamb puppet
- *Optional* — large red apple; clear, plastic bags of grass blades

LEADER: Hi, Cubbies! Are you ready to see our friend, Cubbie Bear? On the count of three, let's call him. One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Bring the Cubbie puppet hopping into view.)

CUBBIE *(still hopping):* Hello, everybody!

LEADER: Hi, Cubbie Bear! I see you're hopping and jumping as usual. Why are you so excited today?

CUBBIE: Well, this morning I was sleeping on a branch in my favorite apple tree. All of a sudden, I felt something tickling my nose.

LEADER: Was it your friend, Timothy?

CUBBIE *(shaking head):* No. Timothy was still inside, sound asleep in his warm bed. I'll give you a hint. It was little and had feathers. It flies high in the air and lives in a nest in my favorite apple tree.

LEADER: Boys and girls, what do you think woke up Cubbie Bear? *(Allow response.)*

CUBBIE: That's right! A little bird called a chickadee was tickling me with her feathers. She pointed out the beautiful sun that was just coming up this morning. It was yellow and orange.

LEADER: Boys and girls, do you see anything in this room that is yellow or orange like the sun? *(Encourage boys and girls to look around and respond.)*

CUBBIE: We had fun watching the sunrise while I ate a big, red juicy apple for breakfast.

(Hold up the optional apple when Cubbie mentions it. Cubbie could notice the apple and say, "Hey, that looks just like the apple I ate for breakfast!")

CUBBIE: Other animals on the farm were waking up and eating breakfast too.

LEADER: Really? What other animals did you see?

(Set the optional bag of grass where children can see it or place it in between Luvie's hooves so she is carrying it. Bring the Luvie Lamb puppet into view.)

LUVIE *(giggling):* I was up early this morning. Cubbie came over to visit me, and I said he was welcome to eat some of my yummy, green grass.

(If the bag of grass is visible, Luvie can ask Cubbie, "Do you want some?")

CUBBIE *(shaking his head):* No, thank you, Luvie. Bears like me love sweet juicy apples and delicious honey. We do NOT eat grass.

LUVIE *(giggling again):* That's OK. There's more for me!

CUBBIE *(turns to leader):* You know, there are a lot of animals on Apple Acres Farm, and each animal is different.

LUVIE: That's right! Cubbie and I eat different foods, and we do not look the same.

CUBBIE: I have brown fur, and I wear a blue vest.

LUVIE: And I have white wool and a purple ribbon on my head.

LEADER: You're right, Cubbie Bear and Luvie Lamb. You are very different from one another. But you have three things that are the same.

LUVIE: We do?

LEADER: Yes! You are both animals. You both live at Apple Acres Farm. And you both have a special friend who loves you and takes care of you.

CUBBIE AND LUVIE: Timothy!

LEADER *(laughs):* That's right!

CUBBIE: Hmm, I wonder what Timothy's doing right now. I think I'll go find him.

LUVIE: I think I'll go and finish eating my grass!

LEADER: OK, we'll see you again soon. Goodbye, Cubbie and Luvie!

(Children wave 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: Underwater Scene Snack

What You Need

- Plain rice cakes
- Cream cheese
- Blue food coloring
- Knife (for leader's use)
- Fresh vegetable assortment (celery, red and green peppers, broccoli)
- Fish-shaped crackers

Top each rice cake with cream cheese tinted blue with food coloring. Slice veggies to resemble plants that would be found in the water. Create an underwater scene by arranging a couple of veggies and two or three fish crackers on the cream cheese portion of each rice cake. As Cubbies eat, ask them if they can name other animals that live in the ocean or water. Talk about how awesome God is for creating so many different kinds of animals.

IDEA 2: Animal Trail Mix

What You Need

- Animal cookies
- Fish-shaped crackers
- Cheerios®
- Small pretzels
- Chocolate chips
- *Optional* — For added fun, serve the mix in ice cream cones.

Mix all ingredients and store in an air-tight container. Serve the mix in cups or ice cream cones. As Cubbies are eating, ask them to identify the animals on their cookies. Pray together and thank God for creating the animals.

IDEA 3: Light and Dark Cookies

What You Need

- Chocolate cookies or cupcakes with a light cream filling, such as Oreo® cookies

As you serve the cookies, explain that the dark portion reminds us that at first the earth was dark. The light portion reminds us that God created the light and gave us the daytime to enjoy. God made the light and everything else. Can we do that? No! Only God can.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **“God Made All Things”** to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.” This is a good theme song to repeat during the unit.

God made all things, God made all things,
I will clap my hands in praise
For God made all things.

- **“My God Is So Big”** or **“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”** Kids really enjoy the hand and body motions to these songs too!

- **“The Cows in the Barn”** to the tune of “The Wheels on the Bus”

The cows in the barn go moo, moo, moo,
Moo, moo, moo, moo, moo, moo.
The cows in the barn go moo, moo, moo,
God made them all!

Repeat the song with other animal verses: The pigs in the pen go oink, oink, oink. The ducks in the pond go quack, quack, quack. The rooster on the fence goes cock-a-doodle-doo.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

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

Cubbies, today we will learn that God is our Creator. That means He made all things. He made all the animals, and He made all people, including me and you! We can praise God for being our awesome Creator. Fold your hands, bow your heads and close your eyes to help us remember we are talking with our creator God. Listen to the words I pray, and then you can repeat the words after me.

(Pray various short statements of thanks to God for aspects of creation and let children repeat each statement in unison. For example, say, “Thank you, God, for creating the big, blue sky” or “Thank you, God, for creating flowers and trees” or “Thank you, God, for creating me.”)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 20-24
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Genesis 1 and Revelation 4:11
- *Optional* — flashlight, fruit or vegetable, an empty milk carton and egg carton, seven plastic bins or bags, items that represent each day of creation to place in the appropriate bin or bag (See ideas below in the Days of Creation Bins optional idea.)

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

Cubbie Bear and Luvie Lamb are very different from each other, and they enjoy different types of foods. Cubbies, what are some of your favorite foods? (*Allow response.*)

Some of the foods we enjoy, like fruits and vegetables, grow in the ground or on plants and trees. Some of the other foods we enjoy come from animals. For example, milk comes from cows, and eggs come from chickens. (*Show the optional fruit or vegetable, milk and egg cartons or other food items.*) Did you know that God made all of the plants and trees that grow food for us? God also made all the animals. In fact, our big God made EVERYTHING! Let's learn more about all the things that God made.

(Open your Bible to Genesis 1.) A long, LONG time ago there were no trees, no people, no animals, no sun and no earth. It was quiet and dark!

Optional: Dim the lights and close the window shades to illustrate darkness (but leave a little light so Cubbies are not scared). Shine a flashlight when you talk about God creating light.

In that great darkness of nothing, there was only God. God was there before there was ANYTHING else. Our big and powerful God has always been there. NO ONE made Him; He has always been alive!

Our great big God had a wonderful plan. The very first verse in God's special book, the Bible, tells

us that God created the heavens and the earth. (*Read Genesis 1:1 from your Bible. Some Cubbies may recognize this verse from AppleSeed.*)

To *create* means "to make something out of nothing" (*To illustrate, open your hands to show they are empty and ask kids if there is anything in your hands.*) God made the whole world and everything in it out of nothing! He used His words to create.

Optional: Ask the Cubbies to try several times to make a dog appear by just saying the words, "Let there be a dog." Then have them try to speak something else into existence. Emphasize that no matter how hard we try, we can't make something out of nothing.

Only our powerful God could speak and make something out of nothing. Let's look at all the wonderful things God made by speaking.

On Day One, God created the light. He called the light "day" and the darkness "night."

(Display TC20 and point to the sky.) On Day Two, God said to let there be sky. A beautiful sky appeared above the waters.

On Day Three, God said to let the land appear. Green grass, plants, and lots of trees and flowers grew on the land! (*Point to the land and plants in the picture.*)

On Day Four, God made lights for the day and night. (*Point to the sun.*) God said to let there be a big, bright sun during the day. (*Display TC21.*) God also made the moon and all the stars to shine at night.

(Display TC22.) On Day Five, God said to let there be fish swimming in the waters. (*Point to the fish in the picture. Have children put their palms together and wiggle their hands back and forth as if they were fish swimming.*) God also made birds on Day Five. (*Point to the birds. Have children stand and flap their arms as if they were birds flying high in the sky.*)

On Day Six, God spoke, and all kinds of animals were created. (*Let children identify some of the different animals in the picture.*)

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Optional: Have children stand and pretend to be different animals. Remind children that ALL land animals were created on Day Six.

(Display TC23. Point to Adam and Eve.) Then God created two very special people. God made Adam and Eve and put them in charge of the earth and all the animals. He told them to start a family so that many more people would live on the earth.

God saw that everything He made was very good, and it was! On Day Seven, God rested. He wasn't tired. He was happy with all of the beautiful things that He created just by speaking!

Optional: Days of Creation Bins: Include items similar to these in seven bins or bags: a flashlight in the first bin; cotton balls and a sheet of blue construction paper for the second bin; small, sealed jar filled with dirt, silk flowers and plastic or real fruits and vegetables for the third bin; star shape or black sheet of paper with star stickers on it, yellow paper circle and picture of the moon for the fourth bin; toy fish and birds for the fifth bin; toy animals and a boy and a girl doll for the sixth bin. (The seventh bin is empty.) Set out the bins, station leaders at different bins and let Cubbies take turns exploring the items in each bin. Or Cubbies may stay seated, and a leader can pull out items in each bin as he or she teaches or reviews the days of creation.

(Display TC24.) Cubbies, I am so glad that our big and powerful God is the creator of all things. This is a picture of the earth, where we live, and other planets in space. At the top, the picture says **God is Creator**. Can you say that with me? **(Have children repeat the Core Truth phrase two times.)**

When I think of all the things that our God created, it makes me so happy. I want to praise our creator God for all that He has made. Our memory verse this week reminds us that we should praise God. **(Open your Bible to Revelation 4:11.)** "You are worthy, O Lord ... for You created all things ..." (Revelation 4:11).

God is worthy means that He deserves our praise and thanks. Let's point to God as we say our verse together. **(Point upwards to God as you repeat the verse with your Cubbies. Close with a prayer of praise to God for His creation. You may also want to sing the song "God Made All Things" listed in the Songs section.)**

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 3 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

IDEA 1: Bear Hug 3 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of the Bear Hug 3 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons

Tell Cubbies to find and circle the five items in the picture. Do the first one together. While Cubbies work on finding the other items, review that God created all things. Repeat Revelation 4:11 together, pointing upwards to God. Explain that the word *worthy* means that God deserves our praise and thanks. Pray together, thanking God for some of the specific things He created.

IDEA 2: Honeybee Stick Puppet

What You Need

- Precut bee patterns (resource CD)
- Jumbo craft sticks
- Glue stick

Make a honeybee stick puppet for each handbook group by gluing a bee pattern to the top of each craft stick. When it's a child's turn to say the verse, the child holds the puppet while the handbook group leader says, "Busy, buzzing honeybee, can you say your verse with me?" This activity can be used with any Bear Hug verse.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Repeat one or two of the Cubbies' favorite games from the last two lessons as a review. For example, repeat the Letter A Action Game or A/C Jumping Bean.

IDEA 1: Sleeping Cubbies**What You Need**

- Nothing

Direct Cubbies to lie on the floor and pretend to sleep. For fun, Cubbies can make snoring sounds. The game leader says:

Sleeping, sleeping. All the Cubbies were sleeping. But when they woke up, they were (frogs)!

As soon as the leader finishes speaking, the Cubbies "wake up" and start jumping around like frogs. Then the leader directs Cubbies to sleep again and repeats the saying, inserting a new animal (in place of frogs) or another item God created. Cubbies pretend to be whatever animal or other item is inserted. Here are examples of items to insert: trees, elephants, sun, eagles, sharks, rocks. At the end of the game, thank God for creating the items mentioned.

IDEA 2: Animal Musical Chairs**What You Need**

- Small chairs
- A different animal picture for each chair (resource CD)
- A music player

Set up chairs in a circle, with seats facing outside the circle. Include a chair for each Cubbie and one **extra chair**. (If you have a large club, set up several circles of chairs so you can have more than one game going at a time.) Place an animal picture face-down under each chair. When the music plays, Cubbies walk around the outside of the circle. When the music stops, each Cubbie sits on the chair closest to him or her. The game leader shows Cubbies the picture under the empty chair, and Cubbies get one minute to stand up and act like the animal or walk around the circle while acting like the animal. The leader

replaces the picture under the chair and the game begins again. Play until Cubbies have acted out many different animals.

IDEA 3: Feed Cubbie Bear**What You Need**

- Cardboard box
- Glue stick
- Cubbie face printed on card stock (resource CD)
- Scissors for leader's use
- A and C apple cards printed on card stock (resource CD)

Use this game to review creation as well as the A and C verses. Print, cut out and glue the Cubbie face onto a side of the box. Cut an opening in Cubbie's mouth and the box behind it. As you begin the game, ask Cubbies to name some animals God created. Talk about what each animal eats. Say that Cubbie Bear likes to eat apples and he is very hungry today. Scatter the apple cards in the play area. Choose a few Cubbies at a time to each find an A apple card to put in Cubbie's mouth. (Keep groups moving quickly, so Cubbies do not have to wait long for their turn.) Review what the A stands for in Cubbies (A is for All, Romans 3:23) or talk about animals that start with A (ant, alligator, alpaca, etc.). Scatter the apple cards again. This time, choose a few Cubbies at a time to find C apple cards to feed to Cubbie Bear. Review what the C stands for in Cubbies (C is for Christ, Romans 5:8) or talk about animals that start with C (camel, cat, cow, etc.).

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

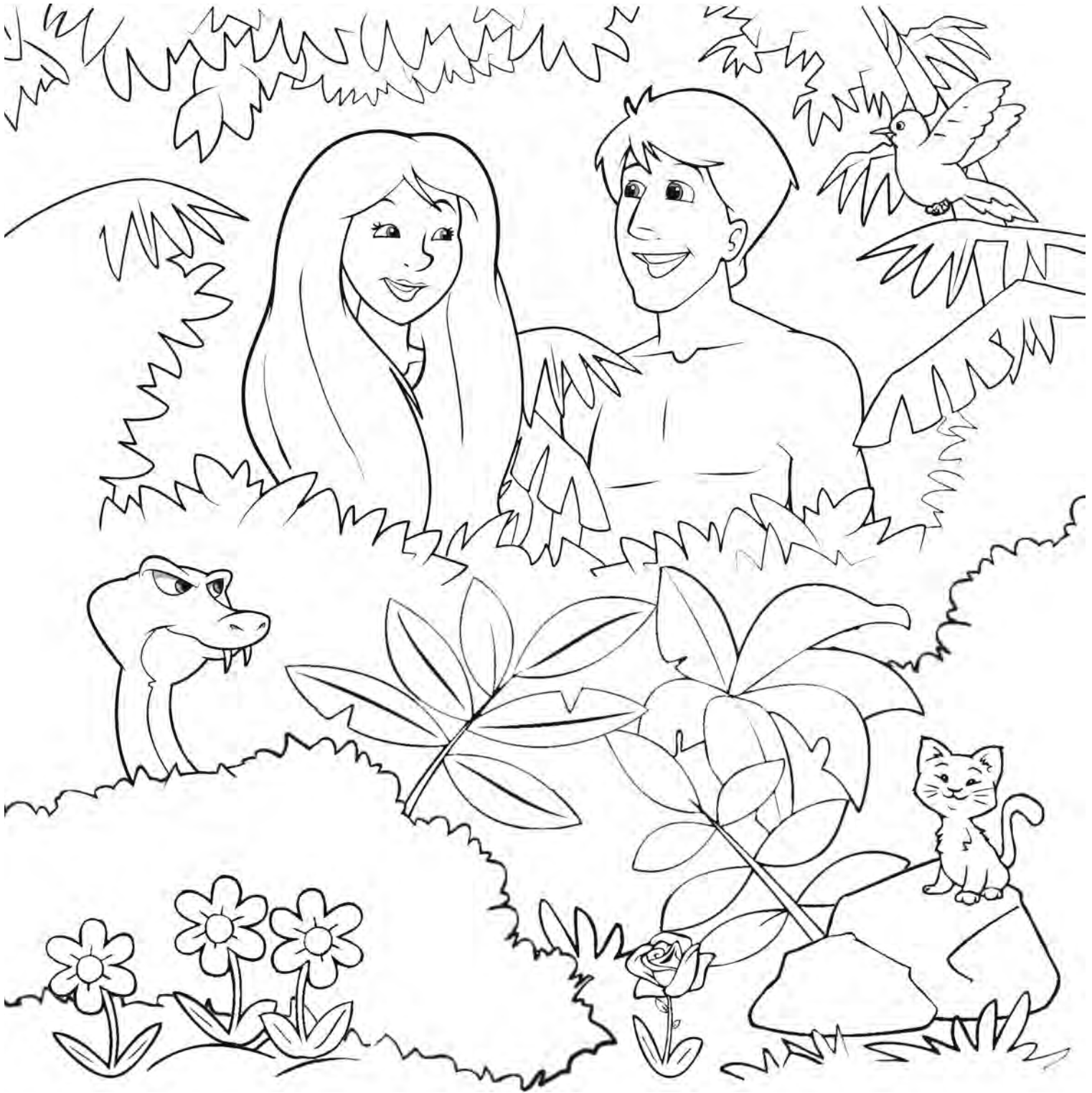
Tell parents of Cubbies to help their child find a photo to bring to club next week. Choose one of the following kinds of photos for Cubbies to bring (or let parents choose which kind of photo to have their child bring):

- A photo of their family or someone in their family
- A photo of a pet in their house
- A photo of themselves doing a favorite activity
- A photo of something God created

During Going Home in the next Bear Hug, you will lead Cubbies in a time of group sharing about their photos.

“You are worthy, O Lord ... for You created all things ... ” (Revelation 4:11)

NAME: _____



Basic Instructions: Each of the five items in the boxes is in the picture somewhere. Find and circle the items in the picture.

Even More Fun: Color the picture.

Ultimate Fun: On the back of the paper, draw a picture of one of your favorite things God created. You can also create a picture using your favorite stickers of things God created.

