


**BEAR
HUG 4**

God Created All People and You Too!

Make It Stick: Psalm 139:14: *I will praise You, for **I am** fearfully and **wonderfully** made ...* (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: God created all the different people in the world. People are God's most important creation because they were made in the image of God. God created each of us uniquely, and He knows and loves us.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Genesis 2; Psalm 139

Memorize: Psalm 139:14

Have you ever studied a 3D ultrasound picture of a baby in the womb? At various stages of development, many features of the unborn child can be clearly seen, even the fine, downy hair on his head. These images reveal the great transformation that takes place in the 40-week long journey of life before birth and they point onlookers to the skilled Craftsman at work.

From the moment of conception, God begins His artistry in the lives of each individual. Deep inside the womb, God's handiwork is displayed in the developing baby (Psalm 139:13). God's careful detail to even the most fragile forms of human life shows His comprehensive and intimate care for those bearing His image. And His thoughts toward us are vast, full of purpose and plans (Psalm 139:16-17).

Think about it: each of your Cubbies is a masterpiece, God's great handiwork. His plan and purpose for their lives has already been written, and YOU are a part of that plan. You have the opportunity to introduce these little ones to the Creator and Sustainer of their lives.

Purpose this week to show these little ones how precious they are in God's sight. Emphasize that they are God's special and unique creation, and that God loves them just as they are. Share with them that God cares about every detail of their little lives. Encourage them to offer praise to the One who has a great plan for their future.

As you do so, reflect on God's goodness in your life and thank Him for His active work and direction. Reacquaint yourself with your Creator and worship Him in praise.

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 that God created Adam and Eve and ALL people, including each of them.
2. Learn that each person is important and beautiful to God, even though we are all different from one another.
3. Understand that ALL people are made in God's image, which means they are like God in many ways. People can know, love and serve God.
4. Grasp the truth that God loves us. He knows and cares about every detail of our lives.

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 in their handbooks with one or more of the following activities.

IDEA 1: Paper Dolls

What You Need

- Boy or girl pattern page for each Cubbie (resource CD)
- Vest patterns (resource CD)
- Scissors for leader's use
- Crayons and markers
- Glue sticks

Ahead of time, cut out the vest patterns. Cubbies can color the vests blue, or you can print the vests in color. Give each Cubbie a page with a boy or girl pattern on it. They should each glue a blue Cubbies vest on their child and decorate the child to look like themselves. Encourage them to use the correct skin, eye, hair and clothes colors. As they work, remind them that God made them exactly how He wanted them to be, and He knows everything about them – even the number of hairs on their heads! Cubbies may fold their papers along the dashed lines to make the child figure stand or you could cut out the Cubbies' decorated child figures and use them to create a bulleting board display.

IDEA 2: Shaving Cream Portraits

What You Need

- Cans of non-mentholated shaving cream
- Baby wipes or a wet cloth

Clear off tables. Leaders will spray a pile of shaving cream on the table in front of each Cubbie. Cubbies smooth the shaving cream on the table with their hands and then use a finger to draw a picture of themselves. Show them how to draw a circle head, eyes, nose, mouth and hair. They can also draw their family members or friends. Clean Cubbies hands with a wipe or wet cloth when they

are finished. Explain that God created each one of them, and they are special to God.

IDEA 3: Fingerprint Craft

What You Need

- Construction paper
- Crayons or markers
- An ink pad with dark, washable ink
- Verse labels (resource CD)
- Baby wipes or a wet cloth
- *Optional* — magnifying glasses

Leaders use a crayon or marker to trace each Cubbie's hand on a piece of construction paper. Cubbies stick a verse label at the top or bottom of their paper. Leaders then assist children in pressing one finger at a time into the ink pad and placing the appropriate fingerprint on each finger of the traced hand. Messy hands can be cleaned with the wipes or wet cloth. For added fun, let Cubbies examine each other's fingerprints with a magnifying glass. Talk about how no two fingerprints are exactly alike. God made everyone different.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

In your starting routine, include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto and the A and C verses. Kids may enjoy singing the "Where Is the A?" and "Where Is the C?" songs (from Bear Hug 2). This is also a good time to review the unit Core Truth: God Is Creator.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — family photo to display

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!

(Before the puppet show begins, hang the picture of a family on a nearby wall. Bring the Cubbie puppet into view. Keep Cubbie's head down low.)

LEADER: Is something wrong, Cubbie?

CUBBIE *(still holding head down)*: I'm a little sad today. I really wanted to play with my friends. But they were all busy. Timothy had to go to the farmer's market with his family. I know he had to go, but I was still sad that he couldn't spend time with me.

LEADER: What about Katie Collie. Did you ask her to play with you?

CUBBIE: Yes. I asked if she wanted to play catch with me at the playground but —

(Bring Katie Collie puppet into view.)

KATIE *(barking as she enters)*: Did I hear someone call my name?

LEADER *(laughing)*: We were just talking about you, Katie. Did Cubbie ask you to play with him today?

KATIE: Yes, but I was too busy to play catch with Cubbie Bear. I had to watch the house since Timothy and his family were away. I AM the family dog, after all. *(Katie lifts her nose and turns her head from side to side proudly.)*

CUBBIE: I know you had a special job to do, Katie. I was just a little sad that you couldn't play with me.

KATIE: Maybe tomorrow we can play catch.

Right now, a group of school kids are coming to the farm, so I need to go walk around the farm to make sure all the kids stay safe!

(Katie Collie puppet exits.)

CUBBIE *(to the leader)*: See, no one wants to play with me.

LEADER: What about Luvie Lamb? Did you ask her to play a game with you?

CUBBIE: Luvie Lamb had to go out in the pasture today. A pasture is a place where she and the other sheep like to eat grass. See? Even SHE was doing something with her family. It's just not fair.

LEADER: What's not fair, Cubbie?

(If you have the optional photo hanging, Cubbie should point to it and say, "See that picture on the wall?" The leader should respond by saying, "Yes, it's a picture of a happy family.")

CUBBIE: All of my friends have families who love them and take care of them, but I don't have ANYONE who loves me or takes care of me.

LEADER: Now wait just a minute, Cubbie. I know there are LOTS of boys and girls in this room who love you! Boys and girls, do you want to tell Cubbie you love him?

(Lead children in saying "We love you" to Cubbie together.)

CUBBIE: That makes me feel a little better.

LEADER: Good. And I also know that there is one little boy who loves you and takes care of you. I'm sure he even gives you lots of fresh, juicy apples.

CUBBIE *(laughing)*: Timothy! *(Pauses.)* I guess you are right. Timothy said that he would help me look for my family tomorrow. He said that my family will look like me. I'm excited to start looking for them! I'll come back and tell you what happens. Goodbye, everyone!

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

IDEA 1: Decorate a Gingerbread Person

What You Need

- Gingerbread person cookies
- Tubes of colored icing
- Sprinkles or chocolate chips

Serve each Cubbie a gingerbread person cookie. Cubbies can use the icing and sprinkles or chips to decorate the cookie to look like themselves. Recite Psalm 139:14 together and identify some of the unique ways God has made each Cubbie.

IDEA 2: Similar Yet Different

What You Need

- Two or more types of snacks that have both similarities and differences (e.g., three kinds of fruit, two types of cereal, two kinds of cookies, three sizes of round crackers)

Show Cubbies the snacks and talk about how the snacks are different and similar. For example, each kind of fruit may have a different color or texture but they are all fruits and taste sweet. The cookies may have a different shape and flavor, but they are both cookies and were both baked in an oven.

As Cubbies eat the snack, explain that people are the same and different too. Talk about the things that are the same about the Cubbies (they have bodies, they can laugh, they can talk to God, etc.) and things that are different (eye or hair color, feelings, families, etc.). God made us all different, but God loves us all. He knows everything about us.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **“God Made All Things”** from Bear Hug 3

- **“Jesus Loves the Little Children”** As you sing the song, replace the line “red and yellow, black and white” with three or four of the children’s names in your group. Here is an example:

Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world
(Jake) and (Abby), (Will) and (Jessica)
They are precious in His sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

After a child’s name is called, he or she should stand. Repeat the song with different names until all children are standing. (Sometimes you will need to speed up the syllables in a child’s name so it fits the tune.)

- **“God Made Me”** to the tune of “London Bridges”

God made me and all of you,
All of you, all of you.
God made me and all of you.
How He loves us!

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

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

Our Bible verse this week reminds us that we should praise God because He made us. We can praise God by telling Him thank You for making all the parts of us. Let’s start with our head. What did God make in or on our head? *(Let children answer by saying eyes, eyebrows, eyelashes, brain, hair, noses, etc. Pray and thank God for each item after it is named.)* God also made our arms and legs. He made our hands and feet and our fingernails and toenails. He made our whole bodies! He also made the person we are on the inside. He knows what we like and what we think. He loves us so much!

(Ask if a few Cubbies would like to pray aloud for the group and say, “Thank You, God, for creating us!” Or instead, ask Cubbies to name specific prayer requests for themselves or their families. Remind them that God knows and cares about every part of our lives. For more personal attention, large clubs may want to divide children into small groups to share prayer requests with a leader.)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 21-26
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Genesis 2 and Psalm 139:14
- *Optional* — three or four handheld mirrors; a small, tightly sealed, clear jar of dirt

Cubbies, do you think Cubbie will find his family? **(Allow response.)** Timothy said that Cubbie Bear's family would look like him. Many times boys and girls look like their mommies or their daddies.

(Pass out optional mirrors. Encourage children to look at their features in a mirror and then pass the mirror to the person sitting next to them.) Cubbie Bear has brown fur and black eyes. Maybe one of his parents has brown fur and black eyes too. What color is your hair? What color are your eyes? **(If you have a small club, allow individual children to answer while looking in a mirror. If you have a large club, ask those with a certain hair or eye color to stand. For example, say, "If you have blond hair, please stand." Make sure all Cubbies get a chance to stand.)**

Some of you have brown or black hair, and some of you have blond or red hair. Some people have brown eyes, and other people have blue or green eyes. No one else looks exactly like you. **(If you have a set of twins in your club, explain that even though they look alike, there are differences between them. Perhaps the twins, the Cubbies or you can point out some differences.)**

Did you know that God made you to look exactly the way you look? In fact, God made each person special, starting with the first two people He made. Let's learn more about these people in God's special book, the Bible.

(Open your Bible to Genesis 2 and display TC22.) Do you remember our true story from last week? A long, long, time ago God made all things. He made the earth, sky, sun, birds, plants, fish and all the rest of the animals. **(Display TC21.)** He made the moon and the stars to shine at night. **(Display TC24) God is Creator.** God used only His words to make all those things.

(Display TC23. Point to Adam in the picture.)

After God made the animals, He made a special person, someone who would be able to talk with God and know God. He made a man! But God did not make man in the same way as He made all the animals. He did something special when He made man. The Bible says that God made man from dust, or dirt, and then God breathed into man so that He could be alive. He named this man Adam.

Optional: Hold up or pass around a jar of dirt when you talk about God making Adam from dust. When you talk about God breathing into Adam, have children stand, breathe in deeply and exhale. Explain that only our powerful Creator could breathe life into Adam.

God knew that Adam needed a special friend who could help him take care of all of God's creation. So God made a woman to be a special friend for Adam. Her name was Eve.

Adam and Eve were the most IMPORTANT of God's creations. Adam and Eve were different from all the other things that God made because Adam and Eve were made in God's image. That means that they were like God in many ways. Adam and Eve could know **(make an open Bible with your hands, since we know God through the Bible)**, love **(cross arms over chest)**, and serve God **(lift both hands up to God)**. None of the other things God made — not even the animals — could do that! God told Adam and Eve to take care of the earth, and God put them in charge of the fish, the birds and all the other animals. He also told them to have children, so the earth would be full of people.

(Display TC25.) God made all the people that now live on the earth. He made people who are all different sizes. Some people are tall and some people are short. **(Ask one Cubbie to come up and point to a person in the picture who is tall. Let another Cubbie point to a person who is short.)** Some people are young; some are older. **(Ask one Cubbie to point to a young person and an older person. Continue having Cubbies point to different**

continued on next page

continued from previous page

people as you describe various features.) Some people have light colored skin, and other people have dark skin. Some people wear glasses, and some people need wheelchairs or walkers to help them get from place to place. No matter what a person looks like, every person God made is beautiful to God. You and I and all people are made in God's image. We are like Him in many ways. We can know, love and serve God. We serve God by obeying Him and doing what He tells us to do in the Bible.

Optional: Emphasize that each person God made is special and important to God. Call out different positive traits of your Cubbies and have them stand (e.g., "If you have brown hair, stand up"). After each group of children stands, say together, "I am special to God!"

(Open your Bible to Psalm 139:14.) Here is a verse from the Bible that tells us about how God made us. Psalm 139:14 says: *I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made ...* Let's practice that verse together. **(Invite Cubbies to repeat the verse with you twice.)** That word *fearfully* means "awesomely." God did an awesome and wonderful job when He created you.

Because God created you, He also knows about you. Cubbies, did you know that God knows EVERYTHING about you? God knew all about you, even when you were a teeny, tiny baby growing inside your mom's body. The Bible tells us that God even knows how many hairs are on your head **(point to or grab a few strands of your hair)**. Wow! God even knows about all of the things you are good at and like to do. **(Display TC26. Discuss with Cubbies the individual likes of the people in the picture. Ask Cubbies to share things they like to do.)**

God made you just the way you are, and He loves you very, very much. Let's praise God for making each of us by reviewing our verse for today. *I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made ... (Psalm 139:14)*. **(Have children clap hands as they say the word praise and repeat the verse with you several times.)**

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 4 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

IDEA 1: Bear Hug 4 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of the Bear Hug 4 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — pairs of child-sized scissors, glue sticks, construction paper

Show Cubbies how to draw a line from one face half to the matching face half. As a fun option, Cubbies can cut out the halves, fit the matching halves together like a puzzle and glue the completed puzzles onto a sheet of construction paper.

IDEA 2: Memory Matching Game

What You Need

- A set of people face game cards for each handbook group (resource CD)
- *Optional* — Laminate cards for durability. For fun, you could mix in some photos of Cubbies or Cubbies leaders as cards.

Mix up the cards and set them face down on the table in rows. After each Cubbie says Psalm 139:14, he or she gets a chance to flip over two cards. If the faces on the cards match, the Cubbie removes the two cards and takes another turn. If the cards don't match, the Cubbie flips them back over, and the next Cubbie gets a chance to say the verse and take a turn. Point out all the different faces on the cards. Explain that God created so many different people, but each person is special to God and loved by Him.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Play your favorite game from last week's lesson as a review.

Idea 1: "I Can ..." Game**What You Need**

- A can (make sure it has no sharp edges) or a recycled disinfecting wipes container
- Jumbo craft sticks or slips of paper
- Thin marker or pen

Ahead of time, write different actions on the sticks (or slips). Here are sample actions: jump, bend, twist, march, stand on one foot, run across the room, wiggle your toes, clap your hands, kick. Place sticks in the can. Put a label on the can that says "I can ..." Before starting the game, review with Cubbies that God, the Creator, gave each one of us an amazing body that can do all kinds of things. Recite Psalm 139:14 together. Let Cubbies take turns choosing a stick from the can. Read the action and direct the Cubbies to perform the action. Be sensitive to any Cubbies that have physical limitations, and be sure to include some actions that they can perform.

Idea 2: Seeds and Sprouts**What You Need**

- Nothing
- *Optional* — Cubbie Says

This game is played just like Simon Says, but you will replace the name Simon with Cubbie. For extra fun, use the puppet to speak action commands. Do not eliminate any Cubbies who do an action that is not preceded by the phrase "Cubbie says." Rather, encourage them to continue listening closely and following directions. Mention many body parts in your commands. Here are examples: Touch your elbows. Point to your ankles. Wiggle your fingers. Stick out your tongue. Blink your eyes. Stand on your toes. Bend your knee. At the end of the game, say, "God created such wonderful bodies for us. Isn't He amazing? Let's praise Him by reciting Psalm 139:14 together." Recite the verse twice with Cubbies.

Idea 3: Tail Tag**What You Need**

- Bandanas

Before starting the game, lead Cubbies in a prayer thanking God for bodies that can run and play. Give each Cubbie a bandana "tail" to stick in his back pocket, belt loop or waistband. The object of the game is to pull off other player's tails and drop them on the floor. If a Cubbie's tail is pulled off, she must stop and put her tail back on before she can resume play. (Note: This is a high energy game that Cubbies love. Do not play it for long. They will tire very quickly. You may also want to set boundary lines for this game if you are in a large area.)

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

If you had Cubbies bring photos, as suggested in the last lesson, give each Cubbie a turn to tell the group about their photo. If you have a large group, you may want to divide into handbook groups for the sharing. Ask Cubbies questions about their photo to get them talking. No Cubbie should be forced to share, since some may be too shy or lacking in social or verbal development.

If you are doing Coming In IDEA 1: Family Scavenger Hunt in the next Bear Hug, give families directions on how to participate.

Remember, preschoolers have the same general characteristics but they are each created as individuals. Get to know the children in your club and (or) handbook group. Do you know their skills, personalities, abilities, likes and even their dislikes? Seek and search your heart: Do you truly notice each child in your small group? How about each parent? Though your Cubbies and their families are all different, they are all alike in the most important ways: God created them. They are fearfully and wonderfully made. God loves them and died for them. Let these truths guide your interactions with Cubbies this year.

I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made ... (Psalm 139:14)

NAME: _____



Basic Instructions: God made all the different people in the world, including you! The faces on this sheet are all different. Draw a line from each of the face halves to its complete match. The first one has been done for you.

Even More Fun: Cut out each face half. Fit the matching faces together like a puzzle.

Ultimate Fun: Glue the face puzzles onto a sheet of construction paper. Ask a grown-up to help you cut a photo of yourself in half like a puzzle, fit it back together and glue it to the sheet.