


**BEAR  
HUG 5**

# God Made Your Family!

**Make It Stick:** Ephesians 6:1: **Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.** (Short version is in bold.)

**The Big Buzz:** God made each family, and God gives each family member a special role to fill in his or her family.

## HONEY FROM THE COMB

**Read:** Ephesians 5:22-6:4

**Memorize:** Ephesians 6:1

Have you glanced through your childhood photo album lately? If so, the photos likely produced feelings of nostalgia as you remembered long-past memories of loved ones, the people whom you call “family.”

The photos in your album are varied, just like the personalities behind the faces. Each person has individual traits or quirks, and yet those characteristics blend together to create the family you grew up with, the people who influenced you.

God designed the family to bring glory to Him; but in order to honor God as we should, every family member has a certain job to fulfill. Ephesians 5:22-6:4 offers biblical guidelines for each person in the family. Ephesians 5:22-33 outline roles for the husband and wife. Ephesians 6 begins with the child’s responsibility (vv. 1–3) and continues with a special admonition to parents (v. 4).

As you study these passages, think back on the influence your family had in your life. Even if you come from a difficult family situation, you can still find reasons to thank God. Thank God for your childhood and the lessons you learned through your family, and then ask for His help in strengthening your current role as a spouse, parent or influential adult in a child’s life.

Make extra effort to be aware and sensitive to each Cubbie’s family situation. You will probably have Cubbies who live with only one parent or share time between two divorced parents. Other children may live with a grandparent, aunt, uncle or foster parent. Sadly, there may be Cubbies who do not feel safe or cared for at home. Watch for any signs of abuse and report your suspicions in accordance with your church’s child protection policies.

## 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 gave them their families and has special jobs for each family member to do.
2. Understand that God has chosen the people in each Cubbie’s household.
3. Learn that God wants them to obey their parents happily and quickly and to be kind and forgiving to their siblings.
4. Hear and discuss practical ways children can obey their parents and show kindness to siblings.

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)

### IDEA 1: Family Scavenger Hunt

#### What You Need

- Copy of the list of scavenger hunt items for each family

Beforehand, create and distribute a list of common, inexpensive items that parents could help their child find at home. Items could include a tube of toothpaste, a family photo, a baby item or hat from a family member, a favorite book, or a leaf or stone from their yard. Cubbies and parents will bring the items to club in a bag. During Coming In, divide parents and Cubbies into hand-book groups to show and tell about their items.

### IDEA 2: Paper Doll Families

#### What You Need

- Precut family paper dolls (resource CD)
- Crayons and markers
- Construction paper
- Glue sticks
- *Optional* — items to further decorate dolls, such as fabric clothes patterns, buttons, sequins, lace, ribbons, yarn for hair (Supervise Cubbies carefully with small objects to prevent choking hazards.)

Tell Cubbies to decorate paper dolls to look like some or all of the people in their family. Ahead of time, print and cut out several mother, father, child and baby paper doll patterns. The mother and father dolls can represent any adult that is caring for the child, such as a guardian or grandparent. (If Cubbies will be gluing decorations or clothes on the dolls, it is best to print the dolls on card stock.) The resource CD also includes several clothes patterns for the dolls, which can be printed on colored paper and cut out or used to make doll clothes from fabric. Remind Cubbies that God has created and chosen the people in each of their families. Cubbies can glue their dolls on a sheet of construction paper. Dolls could also be sent home for families to work on together.

### Idea 3: Paper Bag Puppet

#### What You Need

- A paper lunch bag for each Cubbie
- Art supplies (crayons, markers, colorful paper or fabric scraps, yarn or dried noodles for hair, etc.)
- Glue sticks
- *Optional* — eye and nose patterns to glue on the puppet (resource CD)

Tell Cubbies to choose one person in their family and make a puppet that resembles that person. Let Cubbies use art supplies to decorate the puppet. Cubbies stick their arm in the bag and place their hand in the flap at the bottom of the bag to make the puppet talk. Ask each Cubbie to tell you about the person whom his or her puppet resembles. Talk about that person's role in the Cubbie's family.

### IDEA 4: Play Centers

#### What You Need

- Toy kitchen, table, dishes, eating utensils and toy food
- Blocks
- Toy families or pictures of families (resource CD)

Set up a kitchen center and a block center. In the kitchen center, set up a toy kitchen, table and props for serving a meal. Ask Cubbies about the jobs that different family members do in their homes. (Expect that situations may be different in each Cubbie's home.) Ask Cubbies to play the roles of various family members as they set the table and pretend to prepare a meal and serve it. In the block center, set out toy families or pictures of families. Encourage Cubbies to build a home for each family.

## STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, and the A and C verses, along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions. Review the unit Core Truth: God Is Creator.

## PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

### What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Picture (in color) of bears from the resource CD or your own picture

**LEADER:** Boys and girls, I wonder what Cubbie Bear has been up to today? Let's see if he will come and talk with us. On the count of three, say "Hi, Cubbie!" Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

*(Beforehand, set the bear picture within easy reach of your free hand. To begin, bring the Cubbie Bear puppet into view. Move the puppet from side to side and turn his head to look around the room, as if he's searching for something.)*

**LEADER:** Hi, Cubbie *(pauses)*. Cubbie? Are you OK?

**CUBBIE** *(distracted, looking around)*: Oh, hi.

**LEADER:** Cubbie, are you looking for something? Can we help?

**CUBBIE:** Yeah! I'm looking for my family. Can the boys and girls help me look for them?

**LEADER:** Well, why don't you tell us a little more about your family so that we know who we are looking for?

*(Remove the Cubbie puppet from view and put the picture in his mouth or between his paws. Then bring him back into view.)*

**LEADER:** What's that you're holding, Cubbie Bear? *(If necessary, pull the picture out of Cubbie's mouth so he can talk.)*

**CUBBIE:** This is a picture of what I think my family will look like. They will have brown fur, just like mine, and they will have black eyes like me. I'm sure they will love apples just as much as I do.

*(With your free hand, take the picture from Cubbie and display it to the Cubbies.)*

**LEADER:** Boys and girls, do you see any of Cubbie Bear's family in our room today? *(Have children look around the room and respond.)* I'm sorry, Cubbie. We don't see them anywhere around here.

**CUBBIE** *(sadly)*: That's OK. Timothy and I looked for my family all over the farm today. We found other animals that looked a little like me. Kitty has brown fur, but she has pointy ears and whiskers. She said she isn't part of my family.

**LEADER:** She's right! Cats are different from bears. Were there any other animals like you on the farm?

**CUBBIE:** Well, I talked with Mr. Chuck, the woodchuck. He has brown fur and black eyes, and he even likes apples. But his family lives in holes on the farm, and I live in my favorite apple tree.

**LEADER:** Hmm ... *(looks at Cubbie and then looks at the boys and girls)*. You know what, Cubbie Bear? These boys and girls don't have brown, fuzzy fur like you, and they don't have shiny black eyes like yours. But these boys and girls DO have blue vests, just like you!

**CUBBIE** *(looking at the Cubbies)*: They sure do!

**LEADER:** Even though we are not your family, we still love you, Cubbie Bear. Boys and girls, let's count to three together and say, "We love you, Cubbie!" Ready? One — two — three. "We love you, Cubbie!"

**CUBBIE** *(laughing)*: Ah ... thanks, everybody! I'm so glad I have good friends like you. *(Looks around.)* Since I don't see my family anywhere in here, I think I will check the barn before I go to bed. I'll see you next week.

**LEADER:** Bye, Cubbie!

*(Allow children to say goodbye as the puppet is put away.)*

**SNACKS** (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during club. If you want a family to bring a favorite snack for next week (as suggested in the next lesson), let them know ahead of time.

**IDEA 1: Crispy Heart Treats****What You Need**

- Rice Krispies Treats®
- Heart cookie cutter
- *Optional* — red and pink ball sprinkles

Make Rice Krispies Treats. To make the treats, coat Rice Krispies cereal with a mixture of melted marshmallows and butter. Press the cereal mixture into a greased pan. Top with colored sprinkles, if desired. When cool, cut out treats with the heart cookie cutter. Serve the snack, and explain that God can help families stay close and stick together just like marshmallows and Rice Krispies® stick together.

**IDEA 2: Mini Muffins****What You Need**

- Mini muffins or another snack that parents often make for their children

As you serve the snack, ask Cubbies if anyone in their family ever makes muffins. Say, "Isn't it great that God gives us people who love us and take care of us? What are some things we can do to show people in our family that we love them?"

**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”** (from Bear Hug 4) Insert various Cubbies' names in place of the line “Red and yellow, black and white.”
- **“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”** When you sing about the different things God has in His hands, insert various types of family members. For example, he’s got the brothers and the sisters, the grandmas and the grandpas, and the mothers and the fathers in His hands.
- **“With My Family”** to the tune of **“Do You Know the Muffin Man?”** Each time you sing the song, choose a child to share an activity he likes to do with his family (e.g., go to the park, play a game, eat dinner).  
Oh, tell us what you like to do,  
Like to do, like to do.  
Tell us what you like to do with your family.

**PRAYER** (1-2 minutes)

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

God gave each of us a family. God wants the people in each family to love one another and help one another. I love my family and I am glad that God gave them to me, but sometimes it is hard for me to be kind and loving to people in my family. *(Share real examples from your own life. For example, share that you’re not always patient when a family member is late or you get upset when someone forgets to clean up after themselves.)* God can help me, and God can help you love and be kind to your family! Let’s pray and ask God to help us.

*(Lead Cubbies in a time of prayer, asking for God’s help to love and care for the people in your families.)*

## LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

### What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 27–33
- Bible with a bookmark placed at Ephesians 6:1
- *Optional* — family photo or photo album or portrait

Cubbie has been looking all over for his family. I hope he finds them soon. I wonder who is in his family. Do you think he has a mom and a dad? What about a brother and a sister? Where do you think his family lives? **(Allow Cubbies to share ideas.)**

Cubbies, I have a family. God gave me my family, and they are special to me. **(Give details of your family. If desired, let Cubbies look at your family photo, portrait or album as you describe the people in your family.)**

Cubbies, God gave each of you a family too. Families have different people in them. Some of you may live with a mommy and a daddy, just a mommy or just a daddy. Some boys and girls may live with their grandmas and grandpas. Other boys and girls live with special grown-ups who take care of them. You may have only one brother or sister, or you may have LOTS of brothers and sisters — or none at all. **(Be sensitive to any Cubbies who may have unusual circumstances in the home.)**

Remember, **God is Creator. (Repeat the Core Truth, God is Creator, two times with Cubbies.)** He made all people, and He made all families. God knew EXACTLY who He wanted to be a part of your family. And He chose to give you a special family who loves you and takes care of you.

**(Open your Bible to Ephesians 6.)** Did you know that God has a special job for each person in the family? Let's look at some pictures of different families and learn more about what God wants each person in the family to do.

**(Display TC27. Point out that this family unit includes a mom and two children.)** God wants parents to love and take good care of their children. This mommy is obeying God by

praying with her little girls and giving them good food to eat. There are LOTS of ways that your parents take good care of you. Can you help me think of ways that your parents take care of you? **(Allow children to respond. Answers may include parents working at their jobs, cleaning the house, giving Cubbies medicine when they are sick, taking them to school or to play with friends, playing with them.)**

**Optional:** To emphasize ways that parents care for their children, have Cubbies pantomime several of the following activities: cooking a meal, cleaning the house, working at the office, mowing the lawn, driving their child to Cubbies.

**(Display TC28. Point out the two parents, the grandma and the many siblings in this family.)** It's good for families to do fun things together. Your parents take care of you by bringing you to many fun places. Have any of you gone somewhere fun with your family this week? **(Allow response.)**

**(Display TC29. Point out that this family includes a father and two children.)** God also wants parents to teach their children about God. The dad in the picture is reading the Bible to his children. Maybe your mom and dad read to you from the Bible or from your Cubbies handbook. Your parents are obeying God when they teach you all about Him.

**(Display TC30.)** How are these parents teaching their little girl about God? **(Allow response.)** That's right! Whenever your mom or dad brings you to church or Awana, they are helping you learn more about God. If your parents don't take you to church or Cubbies, you can ask them to take you sometime.

God wants moms and dads to love their children, take care of them, and teach them about God. That is the parents' job in their family. But parents aren't the only ones with special jobs. You have TWO special jobs in your family! Our Bible verse tells you one thing you are to do. **(Read the verse from your open Bible.)** *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is*

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right (Ephesians 6:1). Let's stand and say our verse together. (**Repeat the verse two times.**)

We obey our parents when we quickly and happily do whatever they ask us to do. (**Display TC31. Point out that the little boy is obeying his mother quickly and happily.**) Can you think of some things that your mom or dad might ask you to do? (**Allow children to respond. Answers may include picking up their toys, setting the table, helping with laundry.**)

**Optional:** Have children pantomime several simple chores a preschooler might do: e.g., picking up their toys, setting the table. As children role-play these activities, remind them of the importance of obeying quickly and happily.

The other special job that God wants boys and girls to do is to be kind to their brothers and sisters (**based on Ephesians 4:32**). How many of you have a brother or a sister? (**Allow children to respond.**)

(**Display TC32.**) Is this brother being kind? Is this sister being kind? (**Discuss how the sister stole her brother's toy and the brother pulled her hair.**) Sometimes it is hard to love and be kind to our brothers or sisters, especially if they do something to hurt us. But in the Bible, God says to be kind to others.

(**Display TC33.**) God is happy when we choose to be kind and to forgive our brothers or sisters if they do something bad to us. To *forgive* means "to stop being mad and to not be mean back." How are the brother and sister being kind to each other now? (**Discuss how the sister gave the toy back, the brother stopped pulling her hair and they forgave each other and hugged.**)

Cubbies, when we choose to obey our parents and to be kind to our brothers and sisters, we are doing what God wants us to do, and our family will probably be much happier too! (**Close in prayer, thanking God for families and praying that He would help Cubbies to obey and be kind to those in their families.**)

## HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 5 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

### IDEA 1: Bear Hug 5 Activity Sheet

#### What You Need

- Bear Hug 5 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — brother and sister card patterns (resource CD), glue sticks, pairs of child-sized scissors

Direct Cubbies to circle the pictures of the brothers and sisters who are being kind and mark an X through the pictures of the brothers and sisters who are being unkind. Remind Cubbies that God wants children to be kind and forgiving to their brothers and sisters and friends. God also wants children to obey their parents happily and quickly. Recite Ephesians 6:1 together. As a fun option, let Cubbies cut out the two pictures they circled and glue them onto a card for a brother or sister or friend. (Cubbies can use the card patterns from the resource CD.)

### IDEA 2: Play-Doh Families

#### What You Need

- Play-Doh for each handbook group table
- Various sizes of gingerbread people cookie cutters

While Cubbies wait to recite the verse to a leader, tell them to use the cookie cutters to shape their family members from the Play-Doh.

## PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

### IDEA 1: Clean Your Room

#### What You Need

- Several soft balls (or newspaper wads)
- Cones or masking tape
- Whistle

Divide the play area into different quadrants with cones or lines of masking tape on the floor. Scatter balls over the entire area. Place approximately the same number of Cubbies in each quadrant. Recite Ephesians 6:1 together and say, "Cubbies, you obey your parents when you quickly and happily do what they ask you to do. Let's pretend now that our parents asked us to clean our room." Explain that when the whistle blows they are to "clean their room" (the quadrant to which they are assigned) by tossing the balls out of their quadrant and into another quadrant. When the whistle blows again, everyone must stop. Which "room" looks the cleanest? (Note: This is a high energy game that Cubbies love. Do not play more than a few rounds. They will tire quickly.)

### IDEA 2: Laundry Basket Toss

#### What You Need

- Laundry basket(s)
- Several rolled socks (or beanbags or soft balls)

Recite Ephesians 6:1 together. Explain that parents often ask their children to do many things around the house. For example, they may ask children to clean their room, set the table or pick up their dirty clothes and put them in the laundry basket. Let Cubbies take turns trying to toss socks into the laundry basket from a distance. If you have a large club, divide the Cubbies into smaller groups and include several laundry baskets so Cubbies do not have to wait long for their turn.

### IDEA 3: Helper Action Song

#### What You Need

- Nothing

As a group, sing "This Is the Way I Help at Home" to the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush." Cubbies will act out the lyrics while singing.

This is the way I help at home,  
Help at home, help at home.  
This is the way I help at home  
All through the day.

This is the way I make my bed,  
Make my bed, make my bed.  
This is the way I make my bed,  
So early in the morning.

Ask Cubbies to think of other ways they help their families. Repeat the song and insert those actions in the place of make my bed (e.g., dress myself, brush my teeth, pick up my toys). Feel free to adjust early in the morning to other times of day.

## GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

Have any of your Cubbies recently welcomed a new sibling to their family through birth or adoption? Help them celebrate by awarding them a Big Brother or Big Sister Certificate. See the resource CD for templates.

If you are doing Bear Hug 6 Coming In IDEA 1: Family Photo Picture Frame next week, consider obtaining a picture of each Cubbie and his or her family.

As you help Cubbies understand what it means to obey the Lord and their parents, be sure to take time to examine your own heart. Are there authorities in your life you need to obey? Are you quick to obey God's will in ALL areas of your life? Allow God to teach and convict you prior to teaching the children. Remember, your Cubbies are watching you and will often follow your example more than your words.

**Children, obey your parents in the Lord,  
for this is right. (Ephesians 6:1)**

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



**Basic Instructions:** God gave you your family! God wants children to obey their parents and be kind and forgiving to their brothers and sisters. Circle the pictures of the brothers and sisters who are being kind. Mark an X through the pictures of the brothers and sisters who are being unkind.

**Even More Fun:** Color the two pictures you circled.

**Ultimate Fun:** Make a card for a brother or sister or friend. Cut out the two pictures you colored and glue them onto the card. Ask your Cubbies leader to give you a pattern to help you make your card.