
**BEAR
HUG 7**

The Israelites Worship God at the Temple

Make It Stick: Matthew 4:10: ... *“Worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.”* (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: The Israelites worshiped God at the temple; we can worship God too, in many ways, and at any time and any place. We must worship only the one true God.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: 1 Chronicles 29:1-9; 2 Chronicles 5-7; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Hebrews 12:28-29; Psalm 100

Memorize: Matthew 4:10

The word *worship* is derived from the Old English word *weorthscipe*, which means “worth-ship” or “worthiness.” To worship is to acknowledge the worth of another person or object and act in a manner that expresses that worth.

As Christians, we worship a God of supreme worth. There is no one like Him; no one can do what He does. He is uniquely awesome.

From the beginning, God sought a people who would worship only Him. He founded the nation of Israel and gave them specific instructions on how to worship Him. He expected a lifestyle of worship that shaped their attitudes and actions. God wanted the Israelites to love Him with all their hearts, to humbly revere and respect Him, to come to Him with joy and thankfulness, to obey Him, to love others and pursue justice (Amos 5:21-24). The temple was a focal point of their worship, and it was also the place where they could make sacrifices to atone for those times when they didn't worship God as they should.

In this unit, you will teach Cubbies the Core Truth that God is the one true God. He alone is worthy of our worship. Give your Cubbies a simple definition of worship: Worship is showing love and respect to God because of how awesome He is. Help Cubbies explore various ways they can worship God anywhere and anytime.

Before teaching Cubbies about worship, analyze your own heart. Thank God for His indwelling Spirit that aids you in worship (Philippians 3:3; Ephesians 2:18). Pray you would bring joy to God's heart as your attitudes and actions express His supreme worth.

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. Hear the ways the Israelites worshiped God by giving their best gifts, praying, singing, playing instruments and praising God at the temple.
2. Know that God is the one true God and we should worship only Him.
3. Understand that worship is showing love and respect to God because of how awesome He is.
4. Name and experience some ways to worship God anywhere and any time.
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 with one or more of the following activities.

IDEA 1: Build a Temple

What You Need

- Blocks of various sizes
- Construction paper
- Crayons
- *Optional* — Teaching Cards (TC) 35-36; gold-colored aluminum foil; a variety of rulers, yardsticks, tape measures

Beforehand, you may want to cover some blocks with the gold aluminum foil to represent the gold used for the temple. Remind Cubbies that God told the Israelites to build a temple where they could go to worship Him. To give Cubbies a visual, display TC35-36. Encourage groups of Cubbies to work together to build a temple using the blocks. Some Cubbies may prefer to draw a temple instead of building it. Applaud their imagination and creativity.

As an alternative, make a sample block structure and direct Cubbies to build an exact duplicate. Explain that God told King Solomon exactly how to make the temple. Show Cubbies how to use measuring tools to measure your structure, various blocks or other items in the room. Emphasize that temple builders had to measure very carefully.

IDEA 2: Temple Trumpets

What You Need

- Yellow construction paper
- Colored markers
- Tape
- Matthew 4:10 verse labels (resource CD)
- Pairs of scissors for leaders' use
- *Optional* — stickers, yellow duct tape

Explain that the Israelites played trumpets and other instruments to worship God at the temple (2 Chronicles 5:12). Let each Cubbie use markers and stickers to decorate one side of a sheet of yellow construction paper. A leader will roll the sheet into a cone shape (with the decorated side showing), tape the cone in place and attach a verse label. Leaders should trim any edges that stick out so the cone has flat ends. Yellow duct tape may be placed around the small end where the child blows to prevent soggy paper. Recite Matthew 4:10 with Cubbies and explain that God told the Israelites to worship only Him. He is the one true God!

IDEA 3: Lacing Harps and Lyres

What You Need

- Precut stringed instruments (resource CD; print on card stock)
- Hole punch and scissors for leader's use
- Yarn pieces or shoelaces
- *Optional* — tape for yarn pieces

Beforehand, print and cut out an instrument for each Cubbie. Punch holes where indicated. Wrap tape around one end of each yarn piece to make lacing easier for Cubbies. Tie a knot at the other end. If using shoelaces, tie a knot at one end. Show Cubbies how to lace yarn or a shoelace through the holes on an instrument to look like strings. Explain that the Israelites used instruments like these to worship God at the temple. Review that worship is showing love and respect to God because of how awesome He is. Talk about various ways we can worship God.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, and the A and C verses. Be sure to review the unit Core Truth: God Is the One True God.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Luvie Lamb puppet
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — flower, empty bear-shaped honey bottle, full honey bottle, ball that fits in Katie's mouth

(To prepare, set the optional props within reach of the puppets.)

LEADER: I wonder what our friend, Cubbie Bear, is doing today. Will you help me call him? Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Bring the Cubbie and Luvie puppets into view.)

CUBBIE *(hopping around excitedly):* Hello, everybody!

LUVIE: Baa, baa! Hi, Cubbies!

LEADER *(smiling):* It's great to see you, Cubbie Bear, and you too, Luvie Lamb. Are you doing something fun on the farm today?

CUBBIE: Yes, we've been looking for our best gifts.

LEADER: Your best gifts? Are these gifts for you?

LUVIE: No, they're not for us. We're giving the gifts to two children. Timothy said the children don't have many nice things. He thought we should each give them something that's our very best.

LEADER: I'm sure the kids will really like that! Luvie, what are you giving to the children?

LUVIE: Well, I was looking around at the petting zoo for a gift, and then I remembered how much I like flowers. So I skipped over to Lamb's Meadow and picked the prettiest flower I could find. I hope the kids like it!

(Remove Luvie from view and hold the flower in her mouth or between her hooves. Return her into view.)

LEADER: What a nice gift, Luvie!

(Remove Luvie from view.)

LEADER: Cubbie, what will you give the children?

CUBBIE *(flustered):* Hmm. Ah ... um. I'm not sure yet, but I thought I might give them a honey bottle.

(Remove Cubbie from view and bring him back in to view, holding the empty honey bottle between his paws. Then bring Katie Collie into view, barking.)

KATIE: Ruff, ruff! Hi, boys and girls. Hi, Cubbie! Cubbie Bear, are you talking about giving the kids an empty honey bottle?

CUBBIE: Yes, I was hungry, so I ate the honey. But the kids can put the bottle on a shelf. The bear on the bottle sort of looks like me! *(laughing a little)*

KATIE *(in a motherly tone):* Cubbie, are you sure that's your best gift?

CUBBIE *(hanging his head down; ashamed):* Um ... no. Probably not.

LEADER: Katie, what are you giving to the children?

KATIE: I'm giving them my favorite ball. It lights up when you throw it!

(Remove Katie from view, hold the ball in her mouth and return her to view.)

LEADER: That's very kind of you to give your favorite ball, Katie.

CUBBIE: I have an idea! I was saving a full bottle of honey for my snack, but now I want the kids to have it.

(Move Cubbie to set down the empty bottle of honey and pick up the full bottle of honey.)

LEADER: Oh, Cubbie! That's a great idea. People feel special when we give them our very best. Why don't you two go bring your gifts to Timothy? He's putting all the gifts in a box for the children right now.

KATIE and CUBBIE: OK! Bye, boys and girls.

(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. Use the snack time song from prior weeks to transition Cubbies.

IDEA 1: Chocolate Coins**What You Need**

- Chocolate coin candies wrapped in gold and silver paper

Tell Cubbies the gold and silver coins remind you of when the Israelites gave their best gifts to God (gold, silver, jewels and more) so the temple could be built. Ask Cubbies, "If you decided to give a gift to God, what would it be?" Let Cubbies know that gifts can be something they make or do rather than money or a possession. Explain that giving God our best is one way to worship Him and show that we love Him.

IDEA 2: Temple Cakes**What You Need**

- Pound cake cut into blocks of various sizes
- Strawberry slices or fruit snacks made from real fruit
- Small paper plates
- *Optional* — Serve pretzel rods to resemble logs.

Place three or more cake blocks and fruit pieces on each plate. Let Cubbies stack the cake blocks to build a temple. The fruit pieces can be placed on the temple to resemble jewels. Explain that we don't go to a temple to worship God like the Israelites did. We can worship God anytime and anywhere. Ask Cubbies to name various places where they can worship God.

Instead, simplify the snack by serving only pretzel rods. Talk about how the rods look like the logs that were cut from trees to build the temple (2 Chronicles 2:8-9).

IDEA 3: Bugles Snacks**What You Need**

Bugles® original corn snacks

As Cubbies eat the snack, ask them if the Bugles remind them of little horns. Explain that God's people, the Israelites, played horns, or trumpets,

to worship God at the temple. Talk about other instruments that we can play to worship God. Review that worship is showing love and respect to God because of how awesome He is. Ask Cubbies to name other ways to worship God besides singing and playing instruments.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **"God Made All Things"** (from Bear Hug 3) as a review
- **"My God Is So Big"** or the chorus of **"Our God Is an Awesome God"** by Rich Mullins
- **"Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children"** Add additional verses, replacing "praise Him" with "love Him," "thank Him" and "serve Him."
- **"God Is So Good"**

For extra fun, let Cubbies play rhythm instruments as they sing. Consider inviting some of your church's musicians to come and show their instruments to the Cubbies. They could let the Cubbies touch the instruments or make noise with them. They could share why they enjoy worshiping God through music and lead Cubbies in a few upbeat praise songs.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

Cubbies, do you know what I like about you? I like the way you sing and praise God. (*You may add other specific things you like about the Cubbies.*) When we pray, we can tell God what we like about Him! I like that God is the one true God. There are no other gods except Him. God is very special; there is no one like God. Cubbies, what do YOU like about God? (He is loving, He never sins, He keeps His promises, He is powerful, etc.)

(*Ask if a few Cubbies would like to pray aloud and tell God some of the things the group said they like about Him. They can say, "God, we like that you are the one true God!" or "God we like that you are loving!"*)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 34-37
- Bible with bookmarks placed at 1 Chronicles 29:1-9, 2 Chronicles 5-7 and Matthew 4:10
- *Optional* — gold, silver and jeweled items or pictures of these items (resource CD); rhythm instruments; construction paper crown

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

Wow! It was very kind of Cubbie and his friends to give their best gifts to the children. Boys and girls, what would you have given to the children? Would it be hard to give your best gift? Why or why not? *(Engage in a brief discussion with Cubbies.)*

(Display TC34 and open your Bible to 1 Chronicles 29:1-9.) Here is a group of people, called the Israelites. The Bible tells us about a time when the Israelites all decided to give their best gifts to a very important person. Cubbies, can you guess who the Israelites gave their gifts to? *(Allow response.)* The Israelites gave their best gifts to God!

The Israelites were God's special people, and God had given them a special land to live in, called Canaan. One day God said it was time to build a big, beautiful temple in the land, where they could go to worship God.

(Display your gold, silver and jeweled items or pictures of these items.) The Israelites were excited to bring their best gifts to decorate the temple and make it beautiful for God. Some brought gold. Some brought silver. Others brought precious shiny and colorful jewels. The people were so happy to give gifts to God, because He had given so much to them!

After many years of hard work, the temple was built. *(Display TC35.)* Cubbies, here is the outside of the temple. Isn't it beautiful? *(Display TC36.)* Here is a place inside the temple. Look at all the shiny, gold things and the colorful curtains!

(Turn in your Bible to 2 Chronicles 5-7.) The Israelites had a big party to celebrate because the temple was built. The people sang and played instruments for the Lord. They sang, "God is good, and His love lasts forever!"

Optional: Let Cubbies each pretend to play an instrument or give them rhythm instruments to make a sound of praise to the Lord.

Optional: Choose a Cubbie to play King Solomon and kneel with his hands raised. Let the Cubbie wear a construction paper crown.

The king of the Israelites, King Solomon, led the people in prayer. He knelt down and spread his hands up to heaven. He prayed, "Oh, God, there is no God like You, in heaven or on earth. Thank you for keeping Your promises. Thank you for Your love!" After King Solomon finished praying, God let the people know He was with them at the temple. The people bowed down, with their faces to the ground, and gave thanks to God. They said, "God is good, and His love lasts forever!" *(Direct Cubbies to bow with their faces to the ground and say with you, "God, you are good. Thank You for Your love!" Let them say some of their own prayers of thanks.)*

(Display TC35 again.) The people were glad to have a temple where they could go to worship the Lord. But God gave the Israelites a warning. It was very serious. *(Change to a serious tone of voice and make sure all Cubbies' eyes are looking at you.)* He said, "Do not worship any other gods but Me!" If the Israelites DID worship other gods, God said He would make them leave the special land He had given them. The beautiful temple would be burned down! That would be a very sad day.

(Hold up one finger and invite Cubbies to do the same.) Cubbies, **God is the one true God.** God wanted the Israelites to worship only Him. In our verse, Matthew 4:10, Jesus says: ... "Worship the Lord you God, and Him only you shall serve." *(Turn in your Bible to Matthew 4:10 and tell Cubbies to stand and recite the verse twice with you.)*

continued on next page

continued from previous page

Cubbies, we can worship God, just like the Israelites did. God is awesome! There is no one like God. When you show love and respect to God because of how awesome He is, we call that *worship*.

(Display TC37.) What are the children in this picture doing to worship God? (Reading the Bible, singing to God, giving money to God at church.) Cubbies, can you think of other ways you can worship God? (Pray, give God your best, memorize and obey God's Word, help out at Cubbies or church, be kind to others, etc.)

Cubbies, we don't go to a temple to worship God like the Israelites did. We can worship God anywhere and at anytime: at church, at home, in the car, at Cubbies, at the park. Let's worship God right now by praying to Him. **(Close in prayer, asking God to help you and the Cubbies to worship Him by showing love and respect to Him.)**

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 7 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

IDEA 1: Bear Hug 7 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of Bear Hug 7 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — gold glitter glue, adhesive plastic jewels, copies of Who Is Worshiping? page (resource CD)

Explain that God told King Solomon to build a temple where the Israelites could worship God. After Cubbies color the temple, they may decorate the temple with gold glitter and jewel stickers. They may also cut out pictures of children worshiping God and glue them to the back of the sheet. Review that worship is showing love and respect to God because of how awesome He is. Emphasize that we don't worship God at a temple; we can worship Him anywhere and at any time.

IDEA 2: Who Is Worshiping?

What You Need

- Copy of Who Is Worshiping? page for each Cubbie (resource CD)
- Crayons
- Pairs of child-sized scissors
- Glue sticks
- Construction paper
- Matthew 4:10 verse labels (resource CD)

Talk about various ways Cubbies can worship God (read the Bible, sing, give an offering, pray, love others, etc.). Tell Cubbies to cross off pictures of children who are NOT worshiping God and cut out those who ARE worshiping God. Cubbies will glue worshiping children onto a construction paper or onto the back of the Bear Hug 7 Activity Sheet. Attach a verse label.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Cubbies enjoy and learn through repetition. Repeat one or more of the Cubbies' favorite games from prior lessons as a review. For example repeat IDEA 2: Letter A Action Game (from Bear Hug 1) or IDEA 1: A/C Jumping Bean (from Bear Hug 2). Repeat IDEA 1: Cubbie See, Cubbie Do or IDEA 2: Follow the Honeybee (from Bear Hug 1) and use Matthew 4:10 as the verse in either game. Choose one new game below to fit this week's lesson theme.

IDEA 1: Best Gifts Relay**What You Need**

- Assortment of plastic coins, plastic jewels, toy jewelry
- Bucket for each group

Divide Cubbies into groups. Give each Cubbie an item to hold. Set buckets at an equal distance from each group. The first person in each group will run to drop his gift in the bucket before returning to tag the next person in line that runs to drop her gift in the bucket. Play continues in this pattern until all Cubbies take a turn. Remind Cubbies that the Israelites were excited to bring their best gifts of gold, silver and jewels to help decorate the temple and make it beautiful for God.

Another option is to scatter the items on the game floor and let Cubbies quickly gather items to place in a bucket.

IDEA 2: Gold Coin Toss**What You Need**

- Assortment of plastic coins
- Bucket for each group

Divide Cubbies into groups. Let Cubbies take turns tossing coins into the bucket from a short distance away. Tell Cubbies the Israelites were happy to give their gifts of gold and silver to God so His temple could be beautiful. Ask Cubbies to name ways the

Israelites worshiped God at the temple (they prayed, sang, played instruments, thanked God, etc.). Ask Cubbies to name some ways they would like to worship God.

IDEA 3: Stone Movers**What You Need**

- Blocks
- Towel for each group

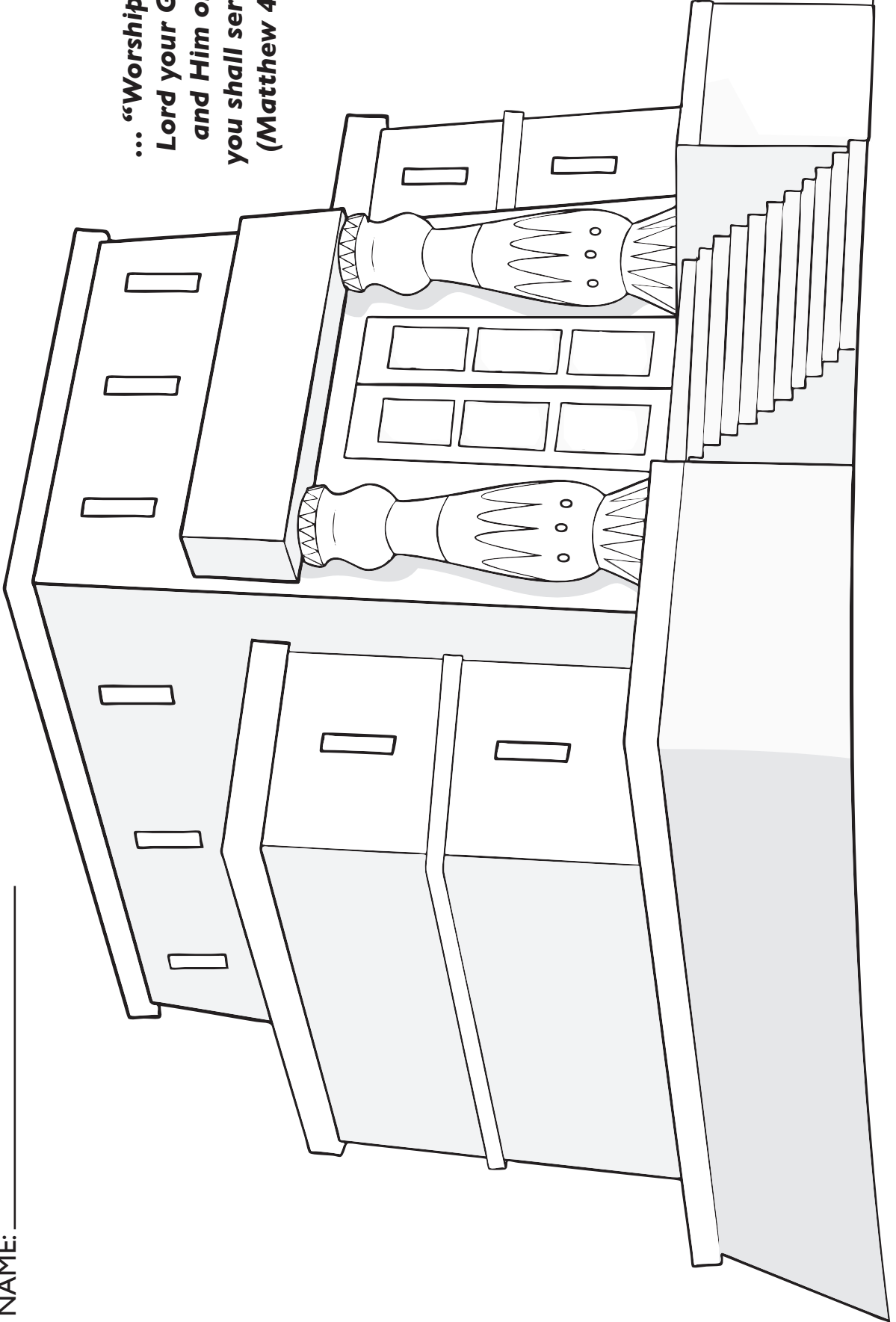
Tell Cubbies that King Solomon hired many workers to build the temple (2 Chronicles 2:2, 17-18). The workers had to move huge amounts of cut stones to where the temple was being built. In this game, Cubbies will pretend to move stones. Set blocks at one end of the room. Divide Cubbies into groups with an even number of members. Within a group, two Cubbies will work together to load some "stones" (blocks) onto the towel and then pull the towel to the other end of the room. Once they have unloaded the stones, they will return the towel to the next pair on their team who will begin loading stones. Continue in this pattern until all Cubbies have had a turn to load stones. Ask Cubbies, "Why did the Israelites build the temple?" (God told them to build it. So they could worship God there.) Explain that we do not worship God at a temple now; we can worship God anywhere and anytime! Review that worship is showing love and respect to God because of how awesome He is.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

Give your Cubbies leaders opportunities to use their God-given gifts and abilities at club. Encourage them to try leading songs, the puppet show, the Bible lesson or games. Watch what they are good at as well as what they enjoy doing. Stress that we are each bringing our best gifts as an offering for the Lord. Just as the Israelites brought tangible items to build God's temple, we bring our gifts and talents to build His new temple — the Church (Ephesians 2:19-22). Thank your leaders for their selfless giving.

NAME: _____

... **“Worship the
Lord your God,
and Him only
you shall serve.”**
(Matthew 4:10)



Basic Instructions: God told His people, the Israelites, to worship only Him. The Israelites worshiped God at the temple. Color the picture of the temple.

Even More Fun: Decorate the doors and pillars of the temple with gold glitter and jewel stickers.

Ultimate Fun: Worship is showing love and respect to God because of how awesome He is. We don't worship God at the temple like the Israelites did; we can worship Him anywhere and at any time. On the back of your sheet, draw or paste pictures from your Cubbies leader of children worshipping God.