

Easter: He Is Risen!

Make It Stick: Matthew 28:6: *He is not here; for He is risen, as He said ...*

The Big Buzz: Jesus came to earth to die on the cross for sin. After three days, Jesus rose again!

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Matthew 26; John 13:34; John 14:1-2, 27; John 16:5

Memorize: Matthew 28:6

Imagine the hopelessness of Christ's disciples in the early hours before the resurrection morning. Their world — their faith — had been shaken to its very core. Jesus, the beloved Master, had been ripped away from them, falsely accused, scorned, and crucified. Consider their bittersweet memories as some of the last words of Christ echoed in their minds.

... *This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me. (Luke 22:19)*

... *This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you. (Luke 22:20)*

... *Love one another; as I have loved you ... (John 13:34)*

... *Let not your heart be troubled ... (John 14:1)*

... *I go to prepare a place for you. (John 14:2)*

... *My peace I give to you ... (John 14:27)*

... *I go ... to Him who sent Me ... (John 16:5)*

Yet, in the midst of their heartbreak, a ray of hope broke through. As the early morning reports of an empty tomb reached these men, the truth of their Master's words began to take hold. And when they witnessed their risen Savior, their faith became sight. They knew — beyond a shadow of a doubt — that their Jesus was indeed the Savior, the very Son of God.

Emphasize to Cubbies the importance of remembering all that Christ has done for us. One important way to remember Christ's sacrifice is through the ordinance of Communion. Cubbies may have questions as they see adults taking Communion during Easter services. Though your Cubbies may not have trusted Christ yet or may be below your church's age requirements for Communion, use this lesson as an opportunity to explain the story behind this central Christian practice.

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. Know that Jesus asked His disciples to remember Him as they ate a special meal together.
2. Understand that Jesus died on the cross for our sins.
3. Believe that Jesus rose from the grave after three days and is alive in heaven.
4. Rejoice that because Jesus died and rose again, we can have our sins forgiven and go to heaven one day to live with Jesus forever.
5. _____
6. _____

(Add the goals the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



Special Day 4: Easter: He Is Risen!

COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

IDEA 1: Remember Jesus Necklace

What You Need

(Instructions on resource CD)

- Card stock or foam sheet, cut into 3x3" (8x8 cm) pieces (could be square, circle or heart-shaped)
- Markers
- Yarn
- Colorful drinking straws
- Pairs of child-sized scissors
- *Optional* — stickers of Jesus, hearts, crosses, etc.

(This craft will probably need to be continued during Handbook Time.) Tell Cubbies that Jesus asked His disciples to remember Him when they shared a special meal together. Let Cubbies make a special necklace to help them remember Jesus. Cubbies can decorate card stock pieces with stickers or by drawing pictures of things that remind them of Jesus. Leaders can model for older Cubbies how to write "Jesus." When Cubbies are finished, punch two holes at the top of each card stock piece to make a pendant. Thread yarn through holes. Let Cubbies cut straws into short sections to thread onto their necklaces. Tie yard ends together in a knot when finished.

IDEA 2: Last Supper Placemat

What You Need

- Construction paper
- Crayons or markers
- Place setting and cup patterns (resource CD)
- Glue sticks
- *Optional* — matzah bread pieces, red tissue paper

Cubbies will decorate the construction paper as a placemat for a very special meal: Jesus' last meal with His disciples. First, let them glue on a place setting and a cup. Next, they may either draw bread and red drink or glue matzah bread on the plate and crumpled tissue paper pieces in the

cup. Finally, let them use crayons and markers to further decorate their placemats. Talk about what the bread and red drink remind us of. The broken bread reminds us that Jesus' body was broken for us. The red drink reminds us that Jesus shed His blood for us on the cross to save us from sins.

IDEA 3: Leader Photo Album

What You Need

- Leaders' photos of special people and places
- *Optional* — Also include photos taken during Cubbies. Talk with Cubbies about what they remember as they see the photos.

Invite leaders to bring in several photos (or other mementos) of special people and places they like to remember: old yearbooks, vacation photos, souvenirs, pictures of relatives who live far away. After leaders share about their photos, they can tell Cubbies that one day Jesus gave His disciples a special way to help them remember Him, and it wasn't a picture taken with a camera or an item from a gift shop. It was a special meal and red drink. Do you wonder how a meal could help us remember something? We are going to learn about this special meal later today. It's called the Lord's Supper and it helps us remember what Jesus did for us.

IDEA 4: Build a Tomb

What You Need

- Lego® bricks, cardboard or wooden blocks or Play-Doh

Let Cubbies use materials to build a tomb and a stone door. Ask Cubbies to describe the events they remember that happened at the tomb.

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.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Luvie Lamb Puppet
- *Optional* — flower pots with flowers, soil, small shovel

(Beforehand, put the props nearby. If you want, you can show the Cubbies how to plant flowers by replanting one from a small pot into a larger one.)

LEADER: Boys and girls, it's time to talk to Cubbie Bear! Let's call him together, OK? Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Bring Cubbie bear into view, hopping around and scratching his head.)

CUBBIE: Hello, everyone. *(Cubbie continues to scratch his head.)*

LEADER: Cubbie, why are you scratching your head?

CUBBIE: I'm trying to remember something that Timothy asked me to do today.

LEADER: Oh.

CUBBIE: I'm thinking so hard, but ... I just can't remember what it was that he told me.

LEADER: Well, do you remember where you were standing when he told you?

CUBBIE: I was out in the meadow with Luvie Lamb. She was smelling some of the pretty flowers.

(Make a giggling noise offstage and bring the Luvie Lamb puppet into view.)

LUVIE (giggling): Did you call my name, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: Oh, hi, Luvie. I was just trying to remember something important that Timothy asked me to do. Do you remember when we were in the meadow yesterday?

LUVIE (nodding): Oh, yes! The flowers smelled wonderful!

CUBBIE: Timothy and I were talking, and he asked me to do something. But now I can't remember what it was!

LUVIE: Well, I think Timothy was talking about the picnic at the farm today.

CUBBIE (excited): Luvie, that's it! *(Begins hopping around.)* Timothy asked me if I could help him and his mom plant some flowers before the picnic! Lots of people are coming to the farm, and we want everything to look nice. Timothy and I will dig the holes with the shovels while Timothy's mom takes the flowers out of the pots and puts them in the holes.

(Show the boys and girls how to plant flowers by filling a large pot with soil, digging a small hole and then transplanting a flower from a small pot into the larger one.)

LEADER: Oh, Cubbie, I'm glad you remembered what Timothy told you. It sounds like he gave you an important job to do.

CUBBIE: He did! In fact, I'd better go right now and see if it's time to start digging.

LUVIE: Can I help too?

CUBBIE: I'm sure you can, Luvie! Come with me, and we'll ask Timothy if you can stay out of the petting zoo for a while and water the flowers after we plant them.

CUBBIE and LUVIE (together): Goodbye, boys and girls!

(Have children wave goodbye as puppets are put away.)

Special Day 4: Easter: He Is Risen!

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during club.

IDEA 1: Bread and Red Drink

What You Need

- Matzah bread, pita bread, breadsticks or crackers
- Red drink

Talk about how the snack is similar to the last meal that Jesus shared with His disciples. As Cubbies eat, ask them to name one thing they remember about Jesus. Break a piece of bread and ask them how the bread reminds them of Jesus. (His body was broken for us.) Ask them how the red drink reminds them of Jesus. (His blood was shed for us.)

IDEA 2: Jesus Is Risen Rolls

What You Need

- Refrigerated breadstick dough
- Large marshmallows
- Margarine spray or melted butter
- Cinnamon sugar
- Baking sheet
- Oven
- Cooling rack

Cubbies could help make the rolls during Coming In Time, and eat them at Snack Time.

Give each Cubbie a lump of dough. Cubbies will knead the dough and press it into a flat circle. Show them how to place a marshmallow in the center, pinch dough around the marshmallow and roll the dough into a ball. Place balls on baking sheet with pinched edges down. Spray with margarine spray or brush with melted butter. Sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Bake at 350 degrees F (180 C) for 12 to 15 minutes until brown. Cool on wire rack. The marshmallows will melt, leaving the inside of the rolls hollow like the empty tomb.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **“First John 4:10”** Review the Cubbies key verse with this song. Sing these lyrics to the tune of “B-I-N-G-O.”

God loved us and sent His Son,
The Bible tells us so.

God loved us and sent His Son,
(Sing three times.)

First John 4:10

- **“You and Me”** to the tune of “Deep and Wide”. Cubbies point to the leader or each other on the word *you* and to themselves on the word *me*. Make up other motions for the song.

(Repeat each verse twice.)

Verse 1: You and me. You and me.
Jesus died on the cross for you and me.

Verse 2: You and me. You and me.
Jesus rose from the dead for you and me.

Verse 3: You and me. You and me.
In heaven, there’s a home for you and me.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

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

Cubbies, it’s time to talk to God in prayer. When we pray, we can tell God we are sorry for our sin. Do you remember what a sin is? *(Allow Cubbies to respond.)* A sin is anything we think *(point to head)*, say *(point to mouth)* or do *(hit your fist in your hand)* that disobeys God. *(Repeat the sin definition and let Cubbies do the motions with you.)* Fold your hands, bow your heads, and close your eyes so that we do not look at anybody else when we talk to God.

(Model a short prayer of admitting a sin to God. You can admit a personal sin or a sin for the group. For example, you could say, “We are sorry, God, for the times we have disobeyed our parents. We know that you say that is a sin. Thank you, God, that our sins are forgiven because of what Jesus did for us on the cross.”)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 17-18, 86, 104-105
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Matthew 26 and 28
- *Optional* — matzah bread or cracker, cracker and paper or plastic cups for each Cubbie, a snack-size sealable bag, cup or glass, a small square of red construction paper, a small magnetic or plastic letter C, a small cross, a roll of gauze, a rock, a small jar of spices, plastic bin, bag of rice

(Before club, place the matzah bread, sealable bag, cup, red construction paper square, letter C, cross, gauze, rock, and spice jar within your reach. Set a plastic bin nearby.)

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

Today Cubbie Bear was trying hard to remember something. Can you tell me what he was supposed to remember? **(Pause for replies.)** Timothy had given him an important job to do, and Cubbie finally remembered what he was supposed to do. To remember means that we think about something so that we will not forget about it.

(Open your Bible to Matthew 26 and keep it visible while you teach.) Jesus wanted His special friends, the disciples, to never EVER forget what He was going to do for them. To help them remember what He was going to do, He planned a special meal for them.

(Display TC104.) At that special meal, Jesus took bread. **(Hold up the matzah bread and break it.)** He broke it and gave the bread to the 12 disciples that were sitting with Him at the table. Jesus said, "This bread is like My body. My body will be broken soon. Eat this bread and remember Me." Jesus knew that soon His body would be hurt and broken on the cross.

His disciples took the bread, and they ate it. **(Place the matzah in the sealable bag and put it in the bin.)**

Then Jesus took a cup with a red drink in it. **(Hold up the cup and the piece of red construction paper. Then place them in the bin.)** "This drink is red, the same color as blood. When you drink this, remember Me." Jesus knew that soon He would bleed on the cross for our sins.

The disciples took the cup, and they drank the red drink.

Optional: Have a leader pass out crackers and empty cups to Cubbies. Encourage Cubbies to eat the crackers and to pretend to drink from their cups. After they eat, have them repeat together, "I remember Jesus."

Jesus knew that soon He would have to finish the work His Father, God, wanted Him to do. After the special meal, Jesus took His disciples to a garden. He told His disciples, "Come and pray with Me."

Jesus prayed to God, but the disciples fell asleep.

Option: Have half of the class pretend to be Jesus by folding their hands in prayer. Then have the other half of the class pretend to be the disciples by closing their eyes and placing their heads on their hands as if they were asleep.

While they were in the garden, angry men came to take Jesus. The men were angry because of the things Jesus was doing. They didn't believe He was the Son of God.

(Display TC17.) Even though Jesus had NEVER sinned, or done ANYTHING wrong, the angry men said that Jesus needed to be put on a cross to die. **(Hold up the letter C. Explain that C stands for Christ and review Romans 5:8. Then place it in the bin.)**

Jesus could have stopped the men from killing Him, because Jesus is God. But Jesus knew this was part of the work His Father wanted Him to do. Jesus also loved us very much, and wanted to save us from the punishment for our sins.

(Display TC86.) After Jesus died, some of His friends took His body. They cleaned it and

wrapped it in special cloth. **(Hold up the gauze. Then put it in the bin.)** They put His body in a room cut from a rock, called a tomb. Soldiers rolled a heavy stone in front of the tomb so that no one could get in and take Jesus' body away. **(Hold up the rock. Then place it in the bin.)** Then the soldiers stood outside to guard the tomb.

Cubbies, this part of our story is very, very sad. But remember, Jesus HAD to die to save us from our sin.

Three long days passed. **(Have Cubbies count to three and hold up three fingers as they count.)**

(Open our Bible to Matthew 28 and display TC105.) The third day after Jesus died, Mary Magdalene and some other women followers of Jesus went to the tomb. They wanted to put special spices on Jesus' body. **(Hold up the spice jar. Then place it in the bin.)** When they got to the tomb, they saw that the soldiers had fallen to the ground because they were so afraid. There had been an earthquake! Look closely at the picture. Do you see anything else that is different? **(Pause for replies. Cubbies should notice the angel and recognize that the stone had been rolled away by the angel.)** The women did not understand what was happening!

The angel sitting on the stone said, *He is not here; for He is risen, as He said ...* (Matthew 28:6). This is our Bible verse for our lesson. Can you say it with me? **(Repeat the verse with Cubbies twice.)**

The women ran to find Jesus' special friends, the disciples. "Jesus is alive!" they shouted! **(Have Cubbies shout together, "Jesus is alive!")** The disciples were happy, except for Thomas. "I want to touch Jesus to KNOW He is alive, or I will not believe it," he said.

(Display TC18.) While the disciples were sitting in a room, Jesus suddenly appeared to them! ALL the disciples saw Jesus. "Thomas, touch My hands and My side," Jesus said.

When Thomas saw that Jesus was truly alive, he was happy! "My Lord and my God!" he said.

Cubbies, I am so glad that Jesus died for our sins and that He came alive again. Now Jesus lives in heaven. When we trust Christ as Savior, our sins are forgiven, and one day we will go to heaven and live with Him there forever. **(Close in prayer, thanking God for sending Jesus to save us from our sin. If time permits, use the following option to review the lesson.)**

Optional: Pour rice into the bin to make it a sensory bin. Ask a Cubbie to come to the front and choose an item from the sensory bin. Review that part of the lesson with Cubbies. Continue until each item has been discovered. (If you have a large class, divide your Cubbies into several smaller groups and assign a leader to each group. Provide a sensory bin filled with items from the story for each group.)

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

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

Special Day 4 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- A copy of Special Day 4 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons

Ask Cubbies what the angel said when the women arrived at the tomb. Remind Cubbies that the angel said the words from their verse, Matthew 28:6. Ask Cubbies: Why are you glad that Jesus Christ rose from the dead? Where is Jesus now? (His body is in heaven; but His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, is with us always.) Have Cubbies color the picture. Then show Cubbies how to fold their paper to make the picture look like a closed tomb. Cubbies open the paper again to see Jesus risen from the dead. Cubbies can fold and unfold their paper as they share the good news of Jesus' resurrection with others.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

IDEA 1: Parachute Tomb

What You Need

- Parachute or large sheet

After spreading the parachute on the floor, review that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, was buried in the tomb and then came alive again. Ask Cubbies how many days Jesus spent in the tomb. (Three) In this game, a leader will call a Cubbie's name and that Cubbie will lie very still on the floor under the parachute. The rest of the Cubbies will grasp the edge of the parachute and slowly count to three as they make the parachute rise up and down three times. When they say "Three!" the Cubbie under the parachute will come out. Repeat with other Cubbies.

IDEA 2: Roll the Stone Relay

What You Need

- Jumbo stacking cups (sold by Awana) or children's buckets
- Playground balls, large newspaper balls or large plastic eggs

Ask Cubbies: Who rolled the stone away from the tomb. (An angel.) What happened after the angel did that? (The angel sat on the stone. The guards were so afraid that they shook and became like dead men.) Divide Cubbies into groups. For each group, place a jumbo stacking cup on its side at a distance away from the group and place a ball in front of the opening. This represents the tomb and the stone door. The first player in the group will run to the cup and roll the ball back to the next player. That player will roll the ball back to the cup and run back to the group. The next player will run to the cup and roll the ball back to the group and so on until everyone has had a turn.

IDEA 3: Wrap Your Leader

What You Need

- Rolls of bath tissue or an old white bed sheet torn into strips
- Music player

Divide Cubbies into groups. Each group needs a leader who is willing to be wrapped up. Explain to Cubbies that this is similar to how Jesus was wrapped up after he died. Play an upbeat song as Cubbies work to wrap their leader. Other leaders may need to assist. When the song ends, stop and admire all the "mummies." Explain that Jesus was placed into the tomb but He didn't stay there. After three days He came back to life. Count to three and let Cubbies quickly unwrap their leaders.

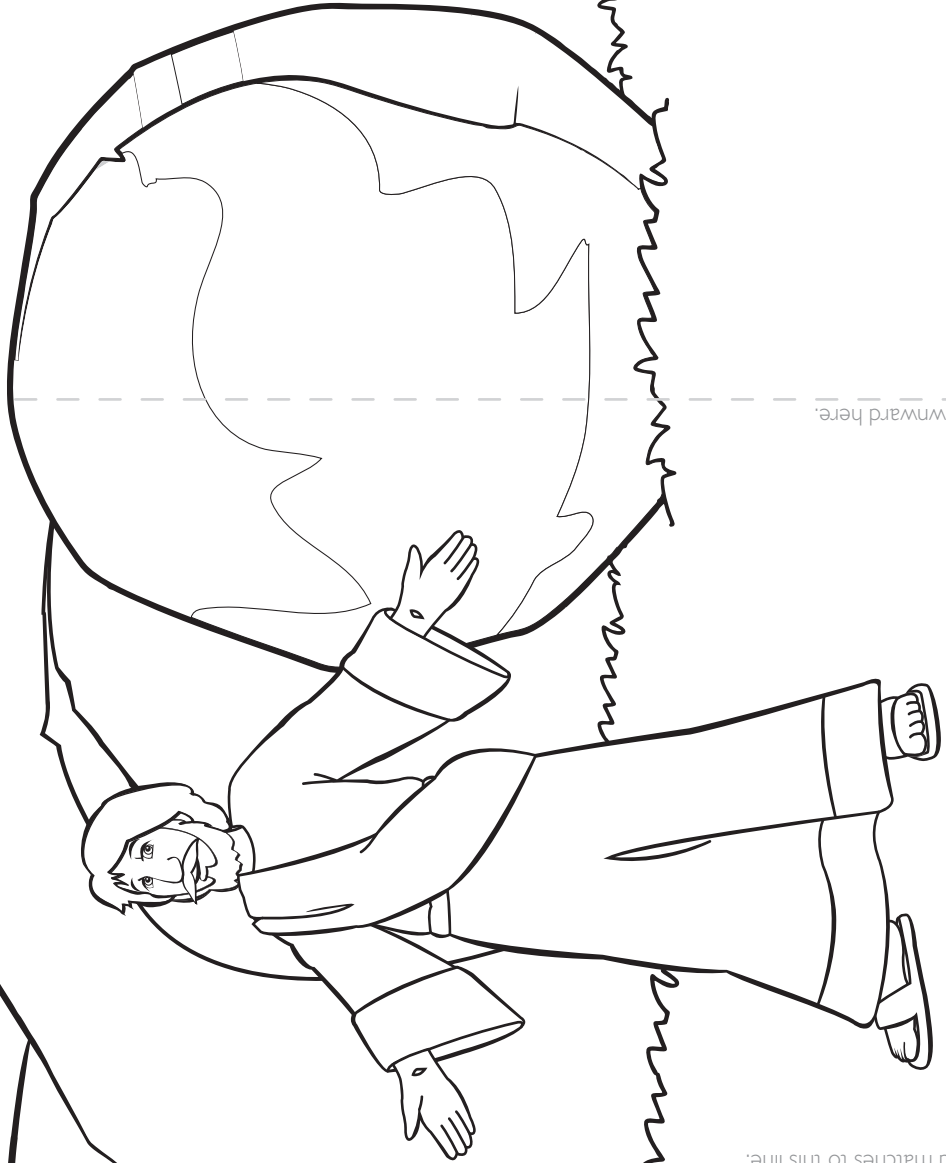
GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

Bring several plastic Easter eggs, including a special egg that is white or gold. Cubbies sit in a circle and pass several plastic eggs as music plays. When the music stops, the Cubbie holding the special egg receives an Easter sticker or other small treat.

Give the parents of your Cubbies some ideas on how to share and celebrate the Easter story with their children at home. Direct them to some resources your church endorses as well as any additional opportunities your church will be providing for families during the Easter season. The monthly *Parent Pause* newsletter also includes Easter ideas for parents. (Download a free newsletter at awana.org.)

NAME: _____

**He is not here; for He
is risen, as He said ...
(Matthew 28:6)**



The fold matches to this line.

Fold forward here.

Basic Instructions: Color the picture of Jesus after He has risen from the dead.

Even More Fun: Make a downward fold on the dashed line to the far right of the page. Move the fold line over to match up with the dashed line on the opposite side and press down to flatten the paper. The picture should look like a closed tomb. Open the paper to see Jesus risen from the dead.

Ultimate Fun: Fold your picture to look like a closed tomb and show someone your paper. Tell the person that Jesus died for our sins and was buried in a tomb. Then open your picture and tell the person that three days later, Jesus rose again from the dead! All who trust Jesus as Savior will be saved from sin.