

Thanksgiving: One Thankful Leper

Make It Stick: Psalm 100:4: ***Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise ...***
(Short version is in bold.)

The Big Buzz: God wants us to thank Him for all the wonderful things He has done for us.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Leviticus 13:42-56; Luke 17:11-19; Psalm 100

Memorize: Psalm 100:4

Do you consider yourself a thankful person? Most Christians probably thank God at some point during the day, whether it is before a meal or during devotions (daily prayer and Bible reading). Yet how often do we sit down and reflect on the many, many things that our great God has given to us?

In Luke 17:11-19, Jesus healed 10 lepers, but the focus is on the one who returned to offer thanks. To the Jews, this man would have been detested for two reasons. First, he was a leper. Jews tried to avoid lepers not necessarily because their condition was contagious, but because they were ritually unclean. They dressed as mourners with ripped clothes and were viewed as a symbol of death. They were forbidden from entering the temple and had to live outside the city walls. Anyone who came too close to them was considered temporarily unclean.

Second, this leper was a Samaritan. Samaritans were Jews whose ancestors had intermarried with foreigners. They disagreed over which temple to worship at and which Old Testament books were regarded as Scripture. This story is as much about Jesus teaching His disciples to accept the faith of Samaritans as it is about thankfulness, but with Cubbies you will focus on the latter.

As the old hymn reminds us, encourage Cubbies to “Count their blessings” and “name them one by one.” Remind them especially of the many spiritual blessings we have in Christ. In doing so, you will instill in their hearts a desire to know, love, and serve our wonderful Giver and Provider.

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. Learn what it means to be thankful.
2. Recognize the thankful heart of one of the 10 lepers.
3. Know that God wants them to be thankful.
4. Choose two things for which to thank God.
5. _____
6. _____

(Add the goals 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: Gratitude Jar or Thankful Tree

What You Need

For the Gratitude Jar:

- A jar (or box)
- Colored slips of paper
- Pencils

For the Thankful Tree:

- Apple tree or fall tree drawn on bulletin board paper
- Apple or fall leaf patterns (resource CD)

Choose one of these two ways to help your whole club share things they are thankful for.

Gratitude Jar: As leaders and Cubbies arrive, let them write or dictate things they are thankful for on the slips of paper. Roll the slips around a pencil to make them curly, and then place the slips in the jar. When the jar is full, have a party (during Snack Time) to thank God for all the blessings He has given your group. The slips could be read to parents at the next Cubbies award night.

Thankful Tree: Each Cubbie and leader should draw or write one thing he or she is thankful for on an apple or leaf. Cubbies could dictate to leaders, who will write for them. Attach the apples or leaves to the tree. Above the tree write Psalm 100:4.

IDEA 2: “I’m Thankful For ... ” Placemats

What You Need

- Copy of the “I’m Thankful For ...” coloring sheet for each Cubbie (resource CD)
- Crayons
- Construction paper for mounting sheets
- Glue sticks
- *Optional* — Cover each Cubbie’s placemat with clear contact paper.

Tell each Cubbie to color the items on the sheet for which he is thankful. (Cubbies do not have to color every item.) When the Cubbie is finished coloring, help him glue his paper onto a sheet of construction paper. Explain that God is the one who gives us all the good things we enjoy. In the Bible, God tells us to be thankful to Him. Recite Psalm 100:4 with Cubbies.

IDEA 3: Turkey Hunt

What You Need

- Ten paper turkeys numbered 1 to 10 (print on card stock from resource CD; add additional sets in multiple colors for large groups)
- *Optional* — M&Ms

Print turkeys on card stock and cut them out. Before Cubbies arrive, hide turkeys around the room. As they enter, let them search for the turkeys and place them in numerical order. (To help younger Cubbies, print an extra set of turkeys and arrange them in order on a table. Cubbies can match their turkeys to your turkeys.) If you have a large group, print several sets of turkeys in different colors. Assign a color to each group of 10 Cubbies. Cubbies can only hunt turkeys in their group’s color. Reward each Cubbie with a few M&Ms once all turkeys have been found. Practice counting to 10 with Cubbies. Explain that the Bible lesson is about 10 men. See if any Cubbies can remember the story from their handbook section.

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
- Katie Collie puppet
- *Optional* — empty bottle or jar of honey, craft stick, apple and worm flip card (resource CD), rubber fishing worm

(Beforehand, print the picture card of the apple and the card of the apple with the worm in it from the resource CD. Glue one card on a craft stick and glue the other card to the back of the picture, enclosing the craft stick, so the cards can be flipped. Set other optional props within reach but hidden from Cubbies' view.)

LEADER: Guess what? It's time to talk to Cubbie Bear! Let's count to three and call him together, OK? One — two — three. Cubbie!

(Bring the Cubbie Bear puppet into view, hopping around.)

LEADER: Hi, Cubbie! How are you today?

CUBBIE *(still hopping slightly):* I'm better now, but I was a grumpy bear earlier today!

LEADER: Cubbie, why were you grumpy?

CUBBIE: Well, when I woke up this morning, I noticed that my honey jar was empty. I like to have honey with my apples in the morning for breakfast. It's so yuuuuuummy!!!!

(If you are using the empty jar of honey for a prop, hold it up now.)

LEADER: I'm sorry you were out of honey, Cubbie.

CUBBIE: But that's not all! I went to pick an apple for my breakfast. I chose the biggest, reddest, juiciest apple from the tree. And when I started to take a bite out of it, I noticed a little worm inside MY apple!

(Display the apple card picture, and then flip the card to show the apple with the worm in it. Or

instead, hold up the rubber fishing worm and pass it around for Cubbies to feel.)

LEADER: Oh, no! Then what happened?

CUBBIE: I decided to find Timothy and tell him what happened. I was so upset, because it seemed like NOTHING was going right this morning. But on the way, somebody called my name.

LEADER: Who was it?

(Bring the Katie Collie puppet into view, barking.)

KATIE: It was me! As soon as I saw Cubbie walk by my doghouse, I knew something was wrong. Cubbie is usually smiling and hopping along, but today he looked grumpy! After he told me what happened with his apple and honey, I asked him to tell me three things that he was thankful for.

LEADER: Katie, can you tell the boys and girls what it means to be thankful?

KATIE: Sure! Being thankful means that we are happy for the things that we have!

CUBBIE: I began to think of the things that I could be happy about. I live on a big apple farm, and I can have lots and lots of apples.

KATIE: And you have a nice, big tree you sleep in every night!

CUBBIE *(nodding his head):* Yep, I sure do! AND there is almost always honey at the store on Apple Acres Farm.

KATIE: And don't forget, Cubbie, you have lots and LOTS of people who love you. Timothy, Luvie Lamb, me —

LEADER: And don't forget us! *(To Cubbies)* Cubbies, we love Cubbie Bear, don't we? Let's all count to three and say, "I love you, Cubbie!" *(Encourage children to respond.)*

CUBBIE: Wow! I DO have lots that I can be thankful for. Thanks, Katie, for helping me remember to be thankful. Bye, everyone!

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

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SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

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

IDEA 1: Snack of 10

What You Need

- Goldfish crackers in two colors

Serve each Cubbie nine crackers of one color and one cracker of another color. Use the snack to remind them of the 10 lepers Jesus healed and the one who came back to say "Thank you."

IDEA 2: Ten Trail Mix

What You Need

- Snack-size plastic bags
- Pretzels
- Chocolate chips
- Cheerios
- Plates

Serve each Cubbie a bag which contains exactly 10 of each ingredient. Encourage Cubbies to take out and count each kind of ingredient in their trail mix. (They may use their plate for counting.) Ask Cubbies how many lepers Jesus healed and how many thanked Him. Explain that the thankful leper made Jesus happy. Jesus is happy when we thank Him too.

IDEA 3: Waffle With Blueberries

What You Need

- Small whole-grain waffles
- Blueberries
- *Optional* — low-fat whipped cream to top waffles

Serve each Cubbie a waffle with 10 blueberries on top. Encourage Cubbies to count their berries. Ask Cubbies if they remember the number 10 from the Bible story. Say, "We should remember to thank God for all the good things He does for us." Recite Psalm 100:4 together.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **"Psalm 100:4"** from *HoneyComb Handbook Music CD*

- **"Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children"** Add additional verses, and replace "praise Him" with "love Him" and "thank Him"

- **"Ten Healed Lepers"** to the tune of "Ten Little Indians" Cubbies can count on their fingers as they sing.

One healed, two healed, three healed lepers.
Four healed, five healed, six healed lepers.
Seven healed, eight healed, nine healed lepers,
Ten healed lepers, and only one said thanks!

- **"If You're Thankful"** to the tune of "She'll Be Coming Around the Mountain." Make up additional verses by asking Cubbies to name an action and something for which they are thankful.

If you're thankful for God's love, clap your hands. **(Clap twice)**

If you're thankful for God's love, clap your hands. **(Clap twice)**

If you're thankful and you know it, and you really want to show it,

If you're thankful for God's love, clap your hands. **(Clap twice)**

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

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

Cubbies, our Bible verse this week says: *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise ... (Psalm 100:4)*. This verse means that when we pray, we need to thank God and praise Him for what He has done and what He has given us. What are some things that you can thank God for today? *(Cubbies may mention toys or pets, parents and family or homes and friends. Encourage Cubbies to name spiritual blessings too, such as the Bible, Jesus, church and God's love.)* Let's pray and thank God for these things.

(Lead children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the items mentioned. For fun, you could write each item on a piece of colored paper. Give each Cubbie a paper. On his or her turn, the Cubbie comes to you, and you read the item on the paper. The Cubbie prays aloud, "Thank You, God, for _____" inserting the item on the paper.)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 99, 35
- Teaching Cards (TC) of items to be thankful for: TC 5, 10, 22, 26-28, 30, 33
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Luke 17:11-19 and Psalm 100:4
- *Optional* — box of adhesive bandages, tote bag or box, items or images that represent thankfulness

(Collect items or images that represent things for which Cubbies can be thankful and place them in a tote bag or box. Ideas include photos of families and homes; clothing and shoes; toys; your country's flag; a cereal box or other food item; pet care supplies or pictures of animals; a ball, swim goggles, sand shovel or other recreational item; flowers or other objects from God's creation. Be sure to include spiritually-focused items, like a Bible, photo of your church or a cross.)

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

Cubbies, what are some of the things that Katie reminded Cubbie to be thankful for today? (Apples on the farm, a big tree to sleep in, honey at the farm store, people who love him.) Cubbies, what are some things you are thankful for? **(Allow response.)**

We have many, many things that we can thank God for giving us.

(Open your Bible to Luke 17:11-19 and keep it visible during the lesson.) The Bible tells us a true story about a man who was thankful to Jesus. All the stories in the Bible are true. Let's hear what happened.

When Jesus lived on earth, He showed the people He is God by doing wonderful things. He made sick people better; He made blind people see. He even made some people who were dead come back alive again!

One day Jesus was walking into a town, and He heard 10 men calling out to Him. "Jesus,

help us!" they cried with loud voices. **(Invite all the Cubbies to shout "Jesus, help us!" a few times with you.)**

These 10 men were very sick. They had ugly, hurting sores all over their skin that would not go away. People in the Bible who had this sickness were called *lepers*.

Optional: Hold up the box of bandages. Say: "Cubbies, do any of you have a sore on your skin right now? You might call this an *ouchie* or a *boo-boo*. Maybe a grown-up put a bandage on your sore for you." Tell Cubbies to point to their sores. If you have time, let Cubbies take turns sharing about their sores. Say: "Usually after a little while, our sores feel better and go away. But the lepers had a terrible sickness that stopped their sores from going away."

The 10 lepers called out to Jesus because they wanted Him to heal them and make their skin better. They didn't like being lepers, because they were getting hurt all the time and they didn't have many friends. Because of their sores, they had to stay far away from other people, and they couldn't go to worship God at the temple.

Cubbies, what do you think Jesus did for the 10 men when He heard them calling? **(Allow response.)** First, Jesus said something surprising. He said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests."

The priests worked at the temple. The priests had to check the sores on their skin. The 10 lepers **COULD NOT** be near other people or go into the temple unless the priests said their sores were better. The 10 lepers hurried to obey Jesus and go to see the priests.

(Display TC99.) Then, as the men were going, an amazing thing happened. Jesus made all their sores go away! They weren't sick anymore.

Cubbies, do you remember how many lepers there were? **(Pause for replies and then count the 10 men on the card together.)**

(Point to the thankful leper on TC99.) Jesus healed all 10 lepers, but only **ONE** leper came back to thank Jesus. This leper shouted out praises to

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God. He fell down before Jesus, with his face on the ground, and thanked Jesus for healing him.

Jesus was happy that this man came back to thank Him. He also saw that the man believed in Him. Jesus said, "Rise up and go. Your faith has made you well."

(Turn to Psalm 100:4 in your Bible.) Cubbies, Jesus is happy when we thank Him too. Jesus is God, and we can be thankful to God for all the things He has done for us. Our memory verse says: *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise ... (Psalm 100:4).* **(Repeat the verse together two times.)**

(Display TC35.) In Bible times, God's people, the Israelites, used to go to the temple to thank God. They entered through the gates which were around the temple. They entered into the court area, which you see in this picture. But now, Cubbies, you and I can thank God and praise Him anywhere and at any time!

Cubbies, God wants us to be thankful too. **(One at a time, display various teaching cards that represent thankfulness or items from the bag or box. Ask Cubbies what things the picture or item remind them to be thankful for.)** Let's each think of two things that we can thank God for. **(One by one, ask each Cubbie to say two things that they will thank God for. Larger groups may wish to call on only two or three Cubbies.)** Now let's thank God together. When I count to three let's shout out together "One — two — three. Thank You, God!" **(Encourage children to respond.)**

We can be thankful to God for all the things that He has done for us. **(Pray a prayer of thanksgiving as you close.)**

Optional: To review this week's Bible verse, direct two leaders to stand, facing each other, and connect their hands together overhead. Tell Cubbies to pretend these leaders' hands are a gate. Have Cubbies walk through the gate as they say the first part of Psalm 100:4. After they have walked through the gate, have Cubbies clap and say the rest of the verse.

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Special Day 1 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Special Day 1 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- A copy of the Special Day 1 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — pairs of child-sized scissors, photo of each Cubbie (either alone or with family), glue sticks, construction paper

Repeat Psalm 100:4 with Cubbies. Help them understand that the *gates* and *courts* are referring to places in the temple where the Israelites used to worship God. (Cubbies may remember learning about the temple in HoneyComb Unit 2 lessons.) Emphasize that God wants us to always thank Him. We can praise and thank Him anywhere and at any time! Cubbies may complete the optional activities on the sheet.

IDEA 2: Reminder Bracelet

What You Need

- Pipe cleaners
- Pony beads in two colors
- Scissors for leader's use

Give each Cubbie one pipe cleaner, nine pony beads of one color and one pony bead of another color. Let them thread the beads onto the pipe cleaner. (Supervise Cubbies carefully, since small items like pony beads could become a choking hazard.) Help Cubbies bend the pipe cleaner to fit their wrist. Twist ends together. Make sure they can still slip it on and off their hand. Trim excess with scissors. Tell them to wear it to remember to say thank you like the one leper who was different from the other lepers because he thanked Jesus.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

IDEA 1: Thankful Tag

What You Need

- Short pool noodle(s)

Choose one or more Cubbies to be “It,” depending on the size of your club and your play area. Give “It” a short pool noodle to use to gently tag people. Once a Cubbie has been tagged, she must drop to her knees. She may not get up until she says one thing she is thankful for. Every minute, change who is “It.”

IDEA 2: Put the Thankful Man Near Jesus

What You Need

- Jesus figure (resource CD)
- Thankful leper figure for each Cubbie (resource CD)
- Masking tape
- Blindfold

Beforehand, hang the picture of Jesus on the wall at Cubbies' height. With Cubbies, review the Bible story of the 10 lepers. Blindfold Cubbies one at a time and give them a thankful leper with a tape loop on the back. Tell them to try to place the man on the wall near Jesus. See which Cubbie can get the closest. If you have a large group, hang several pictures of Jesus around the room and have multiple groups playing the game at once, so Cubbies do not have to wait long for their turn.

IDEA 3: Thankful Leper Action Rhyme

What You Need

- Thankful Leper Action Rhyme script (resource CD)

Lead Cubbies in this simple action rhyme. To help children learn the rhyme, say each phrase first with the motions. Then repeat the phrase and motions with the children before moving to the next phrase. Repeat the rhyme several times. After children learn the rhyme, they can do it along with you, and you will not need to repeat phrases.

IDEA 4: Turkey in the Bag

What You Need

- Turkey cards printed on card stock (resource CD)
- Index cards or card stock squares
- Scissors for leader's use
- Crayons or markers
- Paper bag

Cut index cards in half or cut squares of card stock. Use crayons or markers to draw a square of color on the cards. Mix in turkey cards with the colored cards. Place all cards in the bag. Cubbies stand in a circle and take turns reaching into the bag to pull out a card. If they pull out a color, they name something they are thankful for which is that color. If they pull out a turkey, everyone runs around flapping their arms and saying “Gobble, gobble!”

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

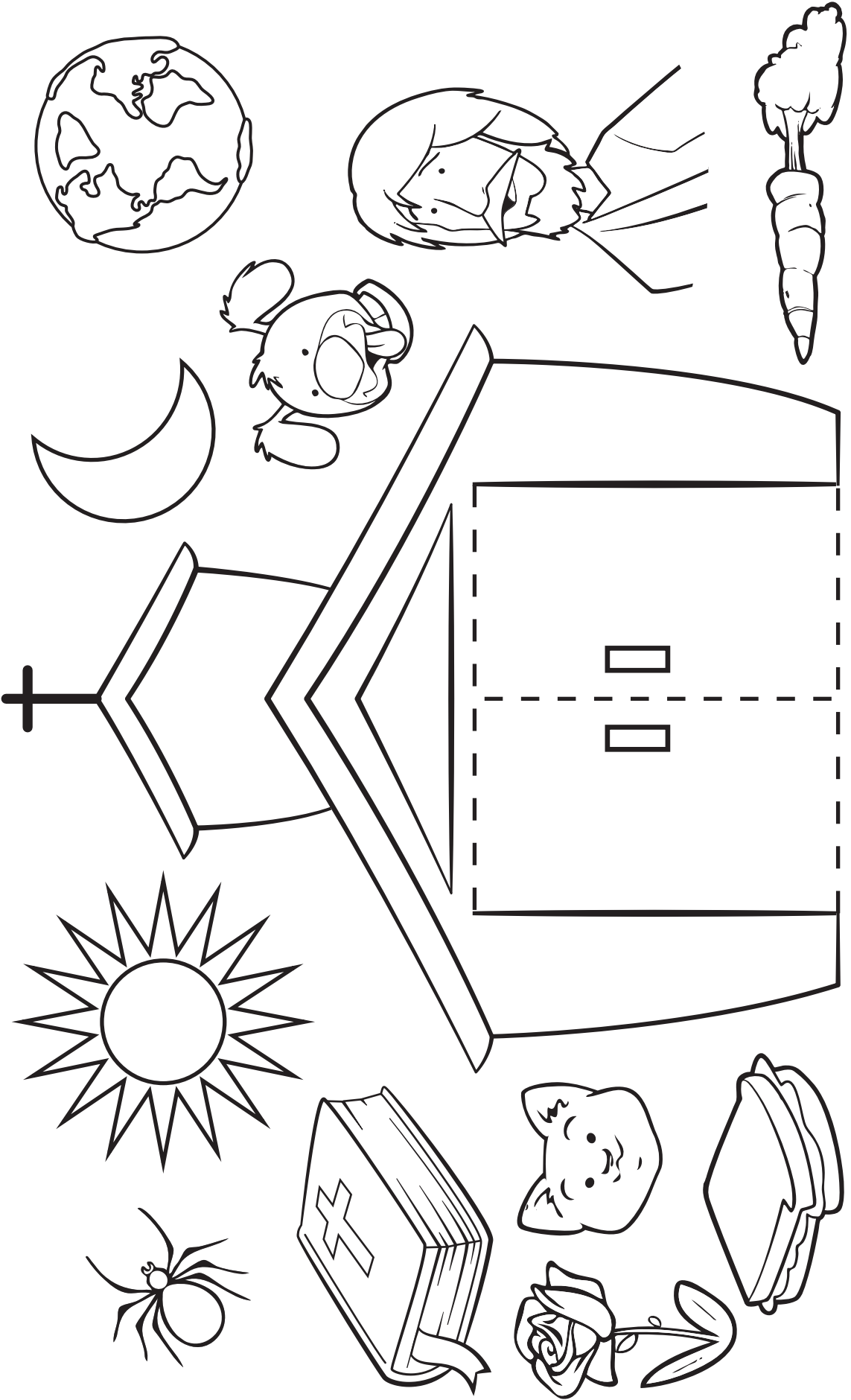
As you wait for parents, let Cubbies take turns sharing about how their family celebrates Thanksgiving.

You could also play a simple game with a beach ball or playground ball. Cubbies sit in a circle with legs apart. The leader begins with the ball and says, “I thank God for (name something). (Insert a Cubbie's name), what do you thank God for?” and rolls the ball to the Cubbie. He names something he wants to thank God for and rolls the ball to another friend. Continue until everyone has had a turn. Sometimes it is helpful to name a category for thankfulness. For example, ask all children to thank God for a family member, a favorite food or a favorite animal.

Remember to model thankfulness to your Cubbies. Thank the Cubbies for showing kindness, sharing, taking turns or helping clean up. During club activities, find things to thank Jesus for and help children to do this as well. For example, say, “Boy, did we have fun today! I am so glad Jesus gave us hands to color and feet to run. Thank you, Jesus!”

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise ... (Psalm 100:4)

NAME: _____



Basic Instructions: Circle and color all the things you are thankful for in the picture. Remember, even though your parents or others may buy things for you or give you things, all good things come from God (James 1:17). He created the whole world and takes care of us.
Even More Fun: Color the church and cut it out. Cut open the doors along the dashed lines. Glue the church on a sheet of construction paper, keeping the doors open. Glue a photo of you (or you and your family) behind the doors. Open the doors to see the photo.
Ultimate Fun: Give the picture of you in the church to someone in your family. Pray and thank God together for your church and all the people in it. Parents, if your family does not belong to a church, ask a Cubbies leader about joining the church where your child attends Cubbies.