

Valentines' Day: The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Make It Stick: Matthew 22:39: ... "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

The Big Buzz: Jesus wants us to love others, even our enemies. We display our love to others with kind words and actions.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Luke 10:25-37; Matthew 5:43-48

Memorize: Matthew 22:39

"I love you."

Very few words evoke the emotions and memories of these precious words; yet these words are sometimes misused or misunderstood.

Consider, for instance, the people of Jesus' day. At the Sermon on the Mount, Christ's new command to love and pray for one's enemies likely caused a big upheaval in their society (Matthew 5:43-48). Later, when a lawyer, a Pharisee, tested Jesus with the pressing question "Who is my neighbor?" the parable Jesus told in response surely rattled the lawyer's understanding (Luke 10:25-38).

The parable of the good Samaritan focuses on the kindness of not just *any* stranger, but one who was abhorred by Jews for ethnic and religious reasons. And yet this Samaritan not only rescued the wounded man, but he also personally paid for the man's lodging and medicine.

The example set by the Good Samaritan demands that we show our love by going above and beyond the norm. While the personal sacrifice demanded of the giver is not easy, the impact it makes on the receiver can last a lifetime.

Do you love your Cubbies better than, or at least as much as, you love yourself? Are you willing to go beyond what is expected of you as a leader to live out the example of Christ's love to them? This type of love will not be easy, but God will bless your effort in extraordinary ways.

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 God loves all people.
2. Understand the definition of neighbor as anybody, not just those who live near them or those they get along with.
3. Recognize the kindness and love displayed by the Good Samaritan.
4. Choose to love others in practical ways.
5. _____
6. _____

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



Special Day 3: Valentine's Day: The Parable of the Good Samaritan

COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

IDEA 1: Group Valentine's Day Card

What You Need

- White and pink construction paper
- Scissors for leader's use
- Red paint
- Small paper plate
- Hand wipes
- Glue stick
- Marker

Let Cubbies make a Valentine's Day card to thank someone who serves in the church (e.g., custodian, secretary, pastor or nursery worker). Cut a large heart from white construction paper. With Cubbies, compose a message to the person, and write it in the middle of the heart. Put a small amount of red paint on a plate. Each Cubbie will dip his or her thumb in the paint, and then press it on the heart to make a thumbprint. Afterwards, Cubbies clean their thumbs with hand wipes. When dry, mount the heart on pink paper and deliver the card.

IDEA 2: Valentine's Day Game

What You Need

- Game card for each Cubbie (resource CD)
Be sure to print all three versions of the card so Cubbies have different cards for the game.
- Set of game card picture squares for each table group
- Game markers (foam hearts or conversation heart candy)

Seat Cubbies at tables. From an extra game card, cut out a set of game card picture squares for the leader at each table. The leader will hold up a picture. If Cubbies have that picture on their game card, they should cover it up with a marker. A Cubbie wins when he has covered three pictures in a row, either horizontally or vertically. Play as many rounds as time allows. Talk with Cubbies about what you see in the pictures.

IDEA 3: Special Day 3 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of the Special Day 3 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Red puff paint for leader's use
- Crayons

About 24 hours in advance, put three or four dots of red puff paint on the man pictured on the sheet to give him sores. As you show the picture, this "blood" will immediately grab the attention of the Cubbies and get them talking and asking questions. Continue the conversation as they begin coloring this page. Ask Cubbies questions like these: What do you think happened to him? What is the other man doing? Have you ever gotten hurt? Who helped you? Have you ever helped anyone who was hurt? Cubbies should finish coloring the sheet in Handbook Time.

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* — a handmade card that says "I love you"

LEADER: Are you ready to talk to Cubbie today? Let's count to three and see if he will come and talk to us. Ready? One — two — three. Cubbie!

(Bring Cubbie bear puppet into view, hopping.)

CUBBIE: Hi, boys and girls. Hi, leaders!

LEADER: Hello, Cubbie.

CUBBIE: I have important work to do today.

LEADER: That sounds exciting. What is your important work, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: Luvie Lamb told me yesterday that I need to be more loving to others. So I decided to do something special for each of my friends on Apple Acres Farm.

LEADER: Cubbie, that's a wonderful idea! What are you doing to show others you love them?

CUBBIE: First, I got up really early this morning and went to the meadow to pick some fresh grass. Luvie Lamb LOVES fresh grass from the meadow. I tiptoed to the petting zoo and put the grass inside her feeding dish. Then I put an apple next to the bowl so she would know the grass was from me!

(Bring the Luvie Lamb puppet into view, giggling.)

LUVIE: I HEARD you this morning, Cubbie Bear. I think it's hard for bears like you to be quiet, even when you are tiptoeing. But I enjoyed my grass very much. Thank you!

CUBBIE: You're welcome, Luvie! Am I doing better at loving others?

LUVIE: Yes, you sure are! Did you show love to anyone else today?

CUBBIE: Yeah, I picked up a red ball that was lost on the playground and brought it to Katie Collie. I know how much she likes finding things that are lost. I even told her that I would play catch with her later!

LUVIE: That's very nice of you, Cubbie!

LEADER: Yes, Cubbie, that's very nice. I'm proud of you. What about Timothy? Did you do anything nice for him today?

CUBBIE: Well, that was the hard part. See, Timothy does so many nice things for me, and he's my best friend. It took me a while to think of something special to do for Timothy. So I decided to make him a card to tell him that I love him and I'm glad he is my friend.

(If you are using the card prop, hold it up now. Pretend the card was made by Cubbie and pass it around so the children can see it.)

LEADER: You know what, Cubbie? Sometimes just telling people that we love them is the very BEST thing we can do for them. It makes them happy when we say kind things and show them that we think they are special.

LUVIE (giggling): Cubbie, you are doing such a great job at loving others now that I think we should start calling you Luvie Bear! *(Giggles again.)*

CUBBIE (laughing): That's funny, Luvie! I still like being called Cubbie Bear the best, but I'm glad you think I'm doing a good job at loving others. I'm going to find Timothy and give him my card. Bye, everyone!

LUVIE: Bye-bye!

(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: Strawberry Yogurt

What You Need

- Strawberry yogurt cups and spoons or yogurt push-up tubes

Let Cubbies demonstrate love for each other in a practical way. Direct one table of Cubbies to serve another table the snack.

IDEA 2: Cuties

What You Need

- Cuties®, peeled and sectioned

Serve a healthy snack to the neighbor on your left. The fruit sections resemble smiles. Say to Cubbies, "Doesn't it feel good to help other people? It makes them happy too."

IDEA 3: Jam Sandwiches

What You Need

- Whole wheat bread (or waffles)
- Strawberry jam
- Heart-shaped cookie cutter

Make strawberry jam sandwiches. Cut them into heart shapes before serving. You could also toast bread or waffles, cut them into heart shapes and spread with strawberry jam. Recite Matthew 22:39 together as you eat the heart snack.

IDEA 4: Heart-Shaped Snack

What You Need

- Items such as cookies, watermelon slices, cupcakes or red Jell-O Jigglers cut into heart shapes

Use a heart-shaped cookie cutter to make hearts or bake cupcakes or muffins in a heart-shaped muffin pan. Talk about how much God loves us and how we can show love and obedience to Him when we love others.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **"Jesus Loves Me"** or the chorus of the hymn **"Oh, How I Love Jesus"**
- End your song time with the **"Love Your Neighbors Action Rhyme."** Say each phrase by yourself first with the motions. Then repeat the phrase and motions with the children before moving to the next phrase. Repeat the rhyme several times until children can do it along with you easily.

I will love my neighbors. (*Cross your hands at the wrists and hold them over your heart.*)

Each and every day. (*Point finger out in front of you as you say each word.*)

I can help them. (*Pretend to pick up something from the ground.*)

I can hug them. (*Wrap arms around yourself as if you are giving yourself a hug.*)

And for them I will pray. (*Hold hands in front of you as if you are praying.*)

Jesus is happy. (*Make a happy face.*)

When I love them and obey. (*Wrap arms around yourself as if you are giving yourself a hug.*)

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

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

Cubbies, God wants us to love others. We can show our love for others by praying for them. God even wants us to pray for the people who are mean to us. Cubbies, think of one person you would like to pray for. (*Give Cubbies a few ideas of people to pray for.*) You can pray for that person right now! You do not have to pray out loud; God knows what you mean when you pray. Let's bow our heads and close our eyes. Without saying anything out loud, you can pray in your mind by thinking, "God, please help _____ (insert person's name)." (*Give Cubbies 10 or 20 seconds to pray silently. Then close in prayer, asking God to help the Cubbies remember to love others by praying for them.*)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 33, 73, 74 or Teaching Cards (TC) 102, 103 (optional)
- Bible with a bookmark placed at Luke 10:25-37
- Good Samaritan stand-up figures (resource CD)
- *Optional* — long strip of brown felt for a road, box to store stand-up figures, roll of gauze wrap, adhesive bandage, bottle of olive oil

(To prepare, make the stand-up figures as directed on the resource CD. Enlarge the figures depending on visibility and the size of your group. Set up the scene by placing a strip of brown felt on the ground to represent the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Place the Robbers Figure somewhere along the road. Place the Inn Scene at the end of the road. Keep the other figures hidden in a box beside you when they are not being used in the lesson. When you teach, sit on the floor with Cubbies seated on the floor in a semicircle in front of you. Move the figures in the floor space directly in front of you as you tell the story.)

(Open your Bible to Luke 10:25-37 and keep it visible during the lesson.) When Jesus lived on earth, He told people how they can know God and love God. One day, Jesus said, . . . *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself"* (Matthew 22:39). This is our Bible verse this week. Can you say it with me? *(Repeat the verse two times.)*

The people did not understand. "Who is my neighbor?" someone asked. Jesus wanted the people to know that a neighbor could be ANYBODY, someone they knew, like a friend or a family member. And a neighbor could ALSO be someone they didn't even know, or someone they didn't get along with or even like!

Jesus wanted to help the people understand, so He told them a story.

(If you are using the stand-up figures, display the Man Figure now at the start of the road. Move him slowly down the road. If you are using the

teaching cards, display TC102 and point to the man in the first scene box.) One day an Israelite man was walking down the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. *(Move the Robbers Figure towards the man or point to the robbers in the second scene box of TC102.)* Bad men saw the man, and they hurt him. They took his clothes and his money. They left him lying on the road, almost dead.

(Remove the character figures from view. Place the Wounded Man Figure on one side of the road.) Oh, no! Who would help the hurt man? *(Have Cubbies repeat the question with you.)*

(Move the Priest Figure slowly down the road or point to the third scene box on TC102.) A priest from the temple walked by. A priest was a leader of the people. He told the people how to worship God. Surely this priest would help the hurt man. Do you think the priest stopped to help him? *(Pause for replies.)* The priest walked right on by. *(Move the Priest Figure past the Wounded Man Figure on the opposite side of the road to a spot near the Inn Scene.)*

How sad! Who would help the hurt man? *(Have Cubbies repeat the question with you.)*

(Move the Levite Figure slowly down the road or point to the Levite in the fourth scene box on TC102.) Next, a Levite from the temple walked by. A Levite knew many things about God. He liked to sing and play instruments for God at the temple. Do you think he helped the hurt man? *(Pause for replies.)* NO! The Levite walked right on by too. *(Move the Levite Figure past the Wounded Man Figure on the opposite side of the road to a spot near the Priest.)*

How sad! Who would help the hurt man? *(Have Cubbies repeat the question with you.)*

(Move the Samaritan Figure and the Donkey Figure slowly down the road.) Finally, a Samaritan man walked by the hurt Israelite man. Samaritans and Israelites did not usually like each other. They were not kind to one another.

(Display TC103.) But do you know what, Cubbies? When the Samaritan saw the hurt

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man, he stopped. He went over to the man. **(Move the Samaritan Figure to the Wounded Man Figure.)** He put bandages on the man's sores. Then he set the man up onto his own donkey. **(Remove the Samaritan, Donkey, and Man Figures and replace with the figure that includes both the Samaritan and the wounded man.)** He took the man to an inn. In the inn there were clean beds and food and water. **(Move the figure down the road to the inn.)**

Optional: Pass out a roll of gauze or bandages for Cubbies to touch. Pour a few drops of olive oil on each Cubbie's hand.

(Hold up the figures of the priest, the Levite, and the Samaritan when you mention them or display TC102 and TC103 again.) Cubbies, which person was a good neighbor? Was it the priest? **(Allow response.)** No! Was it the Levite? **(Allow response.)** No! Was it the Samaritan? **(Allow response.)** That's right! The Samaritan was a good neighbor. He loved the hurt man, and he helped take care of him.

Cubbies, Jesus wants YOU to be a good neighbor too! He wants you to love ALL people. Remember our verse? ... "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). We need to love ALL people, and we also need to treat them the way that we would want to be treated.

(Choose one of the following options to help Cubbies apply the truths they have learned from the story of the good Samaritan.)

Option 1: Have leaders act out the following scenarios briefly. After each scenario, have Cubbies repeat the Bible verse, Matthew 22:39, and then think of a way that the leaders could love each other. Leaders act out the Cubbies' suggestion.

Two children fighting over a toy

Two children playing and one gets hurt

One child playing, and a parent asks the child to help pick up toys

Option 2: Have leaders hold up TC 33, 73 and 74. Ask, "How are these boys and girls being good neighbors?" Then ask, "How can YOU be kind to others around you?" Cubbies may suggest sharing toys with friends, obeying right away, loving brothers or sisters, etc. Encourage Cubbies to be a good neighbor to at least one person today.

Option 3: Lead Cubbies in the action rhyme in the Songs section.

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Special Day 3 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Special Day 3 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- A copy of the Special Day 3 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* – small adhesive bandages or pieces of gauze, glue sticks, construction paper

As Cubbies color, talk about the ways the Samaritan was a good neighbor to the hurt man. Emphasize that Cubbies can be good neighbors too. Make sure Cubbies understand that a neighbor can be anybody, not just those who live near us or those we like. Discuss ways Cubbies can love others in practical ways, such as sharing a toy, speaking kindly to a sibling or obeying parents right away. Cubbies may choose options to further decorate the sheet.

NOTE: Additional Handbook Time idea is on the Special Day 3 Handbook Leader Sheet.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

IDEA 1: Good Samaritan Scooter Board Relay

What You Need

- Scooter board

Divide Cubbies into two groups: Samaritans and Injured People. Groups stand at opposite ends of the room. A Samaritan rides a scooter board across the game floor and rescues one of the Injured People by placing her on the scooter and pushing her back across the room. Then the next Samaritan takes a turn. After all the Injured People have been rescued, the groups change roles.

IDEA 2: Musical Hearts

What You Need

- Numbered paper hearts with a Bible story review question on the back
- Music player

Beforehand, write a review question on the back of each heart. Lay the hearts on the floor in a circle, with numbers visible. While music plays, Cubbies walk around the hearts. When the music stops, the leader calls out a number. The Cubbie standing nearest to that heart picks it up and hands it to a leader, who will read the review question on the back. If the Cubbie answers correctly, the heart is placed back on the floor so the number is no longer showing. If the answer is incorrect, the heart is placed so the number shows. Continue playing until all questions have been correctly answered.

IDEA 3: Musical Shares

What You Need

- Hula-Hoops
- Music player

This game is played like Musical Chairs, except no one is ever out. Lay the Hula-Hoops on the floor in a circle. When the music plays, Cubbies walk around the hoops. When the music stops, each

Cubbie stands inside a hoop. If no hoop is empty, they share a hoop with a friend. After each round, remove a hoop. Play until hoops cannot hold any more Cubbies. Encourage Cubbies to be good neighbors to each other in the hoops. For example, good neighbors do not push or hit each other or try to get in the hoop first.

IDEA 4: Act Out the Story

What You Need

- *Optional* — Props such as a stick horse or donkey, money bags, ace bandage, bottle of oil, different hats or sashes for characters

This is a great story to act out, and Cubbies have vivid imaginations. Choose your actors: a traveler, two robbers, a priest, a Levite, a Samaritan and an innkeeper. For added fun, capture the skit on video and show it to Cubbies and their parents at the end of club.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

If you made movable figures for Lesson Time, allow Cubbies to play with the figures now and reenact the story. The figures can be kept in the room as a review tool.

As Cubbies wait to leave, play Who Is My Neighbor? Gather Cubbies around and start describing one of the Cubbies by giving clues about him. For example, say, "My neighbor is wearing white sneakers. My neighbor has brown hair. My neighbor is wearing a green shirt. My neighbor has a brother named Ethan. Who is my neighbor?" At any point a Cubbie thinks he might be the neighbor being described, he can say "I'm your neighbor!" The leader can describe more neighbors.

Are there any families or children in your club that are struggling due to health, economic, or family issues? Often we are ready to help during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season but are not so intentional at other times of the year. What could you do as a club to minister to them for Valentine's Day?

NAME: _____

... "You shall love your neighbor
as yourself." (Matthew 22:39)



Basic Instructions: Color the picture of the Good Samaritan helping the hurt man. Find all the sores on the hurt man and color them red.

Even More Fun: Attach a small adhesive bandage or piece of gauze over each sore. The Good Samaritan put bandages on the man's sores. Then the Samaritan set the man on his donkey and brought him to a safe place to stay.

Ultimate Fun: Mount your picture on a sheet of construction paper. Hang it up at home to remind you to love others. What are some ways you can love others?