


**BEAR
HUG 23**

Jesus Is Baptized and Says No to Satan

Memory Seed: John 1:29: ... **“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”** (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Apple: God used John the Baptist to help people turn away from sin and prepare to meet the Savior. Jesus is God’s Son, who never sinned. God sent the Savior to take away our sin.

SOW THE SEEDS

Read: Luke 3:1-22; Luke 4:1-13; John 1:29-34

Memorize: John 1:29

The Core Truth for this unit is God sent the Savior. The Bear Hugs tell about when Jesus was first introduced by John the Baptist, how He began choosing His disciples and about His power over the stormy sea. The review lesson climaxes with Christ’s death and resurrection and ends with a hopeful look towards Christ’s return. All these events build upon each other and paint a picture of who Jesus is — the One sent from God to save us from our sin.

In this lesson, Cubbies will hear about Christ’s baptism. There’s no need for you to give a detailed explanation of baptism with this age group. However, if Cubbies begin asking questions, explain that people in your church are baptized to show they have trusted Christ as Savior (see Acts 8:12). Baptism also reminds us of what Christ did for us (see Romans 6:3-4). When the pastor lays the person under the water, we remember that Christ died for our sins and was laid in a tomb. When the pastor raises the person out of the water, we remember that God raised Christ back to life and we also have a new life in Christ. Check with your pastor about any guidelines for child baptism in your church.

You have the option of ending this lesson with Jesus’ temptation in the desert. A major part of our Savior’s mission was to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8) and reverse the damage that began in the garden of Eden. Children need to know that Satan is real, and he’s active in our world today. Even so, consider the age and maturity of your Cubbies before including this part.

SEE THEM SPROUT!

Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Learn about John the Baptist and the ways he helped get people ready to meet the Savior.
2. Know that Jesus is God’s Son and that His Father loves Him and is pleased with Him.
3. Believe that Jesus is the only one who always obeyed God and never sinned.
4. Believe that Jesus came to die for us and take away our sin.
5. Sense excitement and thankfulness because God sent His Son to be our Savior.
6. _____
7. _____

(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: Paper Plate Dove

What You Need

- Card stock or cardboard templates of a flying dove and wing (resource CD)
- Paper plates (with scalloped edges if possible)
- Pencils with grippers on them
- Scissors (in both adult and child sizes)
- Crayons or markers
- White, silver or gold glitter glue
- *Optional* — blue construction paper and glue sticks for mounting or string to hang birds, X-Acto® knife for cutting slit

Beforehand, copy several flying dove and wing templates on card stock or cardboard. Cut out the templates. Show Cubbies how to lay the templates on a paper plate and trace them using a pencil. The photo on the resource CD shows how the tracing should appear. (Younger clubbers may need a leader to do this part. You can also trace and cut out the pieces before club.) Next, Cubbies cut out the two pieces and color the beak yellow or orange. A leader should cut a slit in the bird's body and slide the wings halfway through the slit. (An X-Acto knife works best.) Finally, Cubbies will decorate the ridges of the dove's tail and wings with white, silver or gold glitter glue. Let dry. If desired, direct Cubbies to mount the dove on a sheet of blue construction paper. You may also attach a string to the top of each bird and hang them from the ceiling.

IDEA 2: Sand Writing

What You Need

- A shallow pan or tray with rim
- Dry sand (or cornmeal)

Pour just enough sand in the pan to cover the bottom. Remind Cubbies that the events in this Bible lesson took place in the desert and talk about what a desert is

like. Demonstrate how to use one finger to write letters in the sand, and then erase the letters by brushing the sand to smooth it. Ask Cubbies to write an L in the sand and say Lamb of God, which starts with L. Cubbies can also write an A and recite the A verse (Romans 3:23) or a C to recite the C verse (Romans 5:8).

IDEA 3: Wonderful Water Play

What You Need

- A tub of water
- A plastic mat or old bath mat to contain spills
- Water toys (small plastic cups, measuring cups, eye droppers, funnel, toy boat, etc.)
- Towels to dry hands

Talk with Cubbies about how we use water. We use it to wash our clothes, bodies and dishes. It helps plants grow. Our bodies need water to be healthy. Ask Cubbies if they remember hearing anything about water when they read the handbook section with someone at home. If needed, remind them of Cubbie Bear Creek and of John's baptism of people and the Lord Jesus. It is not necessary to go into detail about baptism with this age group, but if Cubbies do ask questions, use the information in Sow the Seeds as a guide for discussion. Allow Cubbies to do some free play with the water toys but remind them that this water is for playing and NOT for drinking or splashing each other. When finished, have Cubbies help clean up any spills with towels.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse, Cubbies motto, unit Core Truth: God Sent the Savior 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

LEADER: Hi, Cubbies! Are you ready to see our friend, Cubbie Bear? Let's call him together. One — two — three! CUBBIE!

(Bring the Cubbie puppet into view, hopping excitedly.)

CUBBIE *(still hopping):* Hi, boys and girls! I'm so happy to see you today.

LEADER: Hi, Cubbie! We're happy to see you too. What are you so excited about *this* time?

CUBBIE: Timothy and I are going down to Cubbie Bear Creek to see if Timothy's boat will float.

LEADER: Wow! That does sound exciting. Where did Timothy get his boat?

CUBBIE: He made it with his dad in the woodshed. He used some sticks and string to make the bottom part. Then he put some cloth on the top to make a sail. It's a very nice boat.

LEADER: Oh, I wish we could see it! Is the boat big enough for you and Timothy to ride in?

CUBBIE: Oh, no! It's just a small, toy boat. But someday, I hope to ride in a real boat.

LEADER: Yes, riding in boats can be fun. *(Speaking to Cubbies)* Have any of you ridden in a real boat? *(Allow response.)*

CUBBIE *(hopping and singing softly to himself to the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush"):*

Here we go down to Cubbie Bear Creek,
Cubbie Bear Creek, Cubbie Bear Creek.
Here we go down to Cubbie Bear Creek,
to see if our boat will float.

LEADER: What are you singing, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: It's the song Timothy and I sang as we hopped and jumped along to the creek.

LEADER: Can you teach it to us?

CUBBIE: Sure!

(Lead the children in singing the song along with Cubbie. For extra fun, they can hop in place as they sing. Towards the end of the song, bring the Katie Collie puppet into view, barking loudly to warn Cubbie.)

KATIE *(barking loudly with alarm):* RUFF, RUFF! Cubbie, you shouldn't go down to the creek with Timothy. It's too far from the house, and Timothy's dad told him not to go there without him.

CUBBIE: Don't worry, Katie. Timothy said it's OK this time, because we'll only be gone for a minute. Wait, do you hear that? *(You or another leader calls Cubbie's name softly.)* Timothy is calling me right now. I'll see you all later!

(Remove the Cubbie puppet from view.)

KATIE *(worried):* I don't have a good feeling about this. Timothy shouldn't disobey, and besides, the creek can be dangerous. I'm going to follow behind and keep an eye on them.

LEADER: Good idea, Katie! I know Timothy and Cubbie are excited to see their boat float, but they should have asked Timothy's dad to go with them. Goodbye, Katie! Please keep them safe.

KATIE: I'll do my best. Goodbye!

(Children wave as the Katie Collie puppet is put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

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

IDEA 1: Pudding Cups**What You Need**

- Vanilla pudding cups (regular or sugar-free)
- Finely-ground graham cracker crumbs

Serve pudding topped with crumbs to represent sand. Explain that sand is often found in deserts. Ask Cubbies: “Do you remember hearing about a desert in our lesson today?” Talk with Cubbies about the time John or Jesus spent in the desert.

IDEA 2: Rolls and Honey**What You Need**

- Rolls, bread slices or crackers
- Honey

Remind Cubbies that the Bible says John ate honey in the desert. Let them taste the honey on a slice of bread, roll or cracker.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **“Oh Be Careful, Little Eyes”** Here are the lyrics:

Oh, be careful little mouth what you speak
(Repeat 2 times)

For the Father up above is looking down
in love

So be careful little mouth what you speak.

Replace mouth with different body parts such as ears, hands, feet or mind. As you sing, point to or move the appropriate body part (eyes, ears, feet, etc.). Use this song to review the definition of sin. Sin is anything we think (*point to head*), say (*point to mouth*) or do (*hit fist on palm*) that disobeys God.

- **“Do You Know the Savior?”** to the tune of “Do You Know the Muffin Man?”

Oh, do you know who Jesus is?

Who Jesus is, who Jesus is?

Oh, do you know who Jesus is?

He is God’s Son, the Savior.

- **“I Want to Obey and Love Jesus”** to the tune of “Here We Go ‘Round the Mulberry Bush”

I want to obey and love Jesus,

Love Jesus, love Jesus.

I want to obey and love Jesus,

He saved me from my sin!

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

Cubbies, why are you excited that God sent the Savior? (*Allow response. If Cubbies are slow to share, tell them why you are excited about the Lord Jesus.*) Let’s thank God for sending the Lord Jesus Christ to be our Savior. (*Lead Cubbies in a brief prayer.*)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 4, 81-84 (include TC37 and TC85 if you will talk about Jesus' temptation)
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Luke 3 and John 1:29
- *Optional* — toy grasshopper or locust, container of honey, male leader dressed as John the Baptist

Timothy and Cubbie were excited to get down to the creek today, weren't they? Why were they so excited? **(Allow response.)** Yes, they wanted to see if Timothy's boat would float in the water. But Katie Collie told us that Timothy wasn't supposed to go down to the creek without his dad. I wonder if Timothy and Cubbie will get into trouble. What do you think? **(Allow speculation.)**

(Open your Bible to Luke 3.) In our Bible lesson today, we're going to hear about some people who were excited to get down to the water too — except they weren't checking to see if their boats would float and they weren't disobeying their parents. They were hiking down to the Jordan River to see a man who looked a little strange. Does anyone know who they were going to see? **(Allow response. Children who read the handbook section with their parents may know you are talking about John the Baptist.)**

Optional: Ask a male leader to dress like John the Baptist and enter when you start describing John. Conduct the next section of the lesson, until the time you display TC83, in an interview format where you and the children ask John questions about his appearance, diet and job as a prophet. Emphasize that God gave John the job of helping people get ready to meet the Savior.

(Display TC81 and keep it ready to display again.) They were going to see John the Baptist. **(Point to John.)** John the Baptist wore clothes made of camel's hair **(see Matthew 3:4)**. He probably didn't comb his hair very much because he lived outside all by himself in a place called a desert.

And you won't believe what he ate for breakfast, lunch and dinner!

(Display TC82.) What do you see John eating in the picture? **(Allow response.)** John ate the food he found in the desert, which was locusts and wild honey from the bees. Cubbies, do you think you would like to eat locusts for a snack? What about honey? **(Allow response. Show your honey container and toy grasshopper or locust if you brought them.)**

(Display TC81 again.) John looked like this so people would know He was a prophet from God. Another prophet from the Bible named Elijah had worn camel's hair clothes and lived in the desert too **(see 1 Kings 17:1-6 and 2 Kings 1:8)**. Prophets listen for God's words **(cup your hand over your ear as if you are listening)** and speak God's words to the people **(touch your mouth)**.

So the people listened to John, and what did he say? **(As Cubbies pretend to be the crowd, walk among them as if you are John preaching passionately to them. Make eye contact with individual Cubbies during your preaching.)** He said, "Stop sinning! Love God and obey His commands. Share your food and clothes with the people who don't have very much. Don't lie, cheat or steal."

When the people heard John, some of them felt very sorry for their sin. Do you see the people crying? **(Point to the people crying on TC81.)** They asked John to baptize them with water to show that they wanted to stop sinning and start obeying God.

When John baptized people, he would lay them under the water for a few seconds **(make motions as if you are laying a person under the water)** and raise them back up again **(make motions as if you are lifting the person out of the water)**.

Optional: It is not necessary to give any further detail about baptism in this lesson. However, if Cubbies start asking questions, use the explanation in Sow the Seeds as a guide.

(Display TC81 again.) Soon the people started to wonder about John. Do you see the man

continued on next page

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pointing at John? (*Point to the man in purple who is pointing to John.*) The people felt so excited that they had to ask John a question: "Are you the Savior we have been waiting to meet?"

"No," said John. "The Savior is much mightier than I am. He is coming soon! John was doing all these things to help the people get ready for the Savior."

(Display TC83.) One day, a special visitor came to the river. The visitor's name was Jesus! Jesus asked John to baptize Him. "Are you sure?" John asked. John didn't think he should baptize Jesus, because Jesus had never sinned. But Jesus said, "This is what God wants us to do. I must obey God." (*See Matthew 3:13-15.*)

John baptized Jesus with water. Then a surprising thing happened. (*Open your Bible and read Luke 3:21-22 aloud while displaying TC84.*) Cubbies, did you hear that? God, the Father, was speaking to His Son, Jesus! God said He was very happy, or pleased, with His Son and that He loved Him.

When John heard God's special words and saw the dove land on Jesus, He knew exactly who Jesus was (*for reference, see John 1:32-34*). Jesus was God's Son — the Savior everyone had been waiting to meet.

Later, when John saw Jesus again, he told the people: "*Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*" Wait a minute, Cubbies. That sounds like our memory verse! Let me say that again. (*Open your Bible to John 1:29 and read the memory verse. Ask Cubbies to repeat the verse a few times with you.*)

(Display TC4.) Cubbies, Jesus is called the Lamb of God because He died on the cross to take away our sin. God sent the Savior. Let's thank God right now for sending His Son to be our Savior. (*Close in prayer.*)

(Depending on the age and maturity of your Cubbies, teach this optional ending and connect it to what they learned about Adam and Eve in Unit 2.)

After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. Jesus stayed in the desert for 40 long days. While He was there, Satan came to talk to Him.

(Display TC37.) Do you remember when Satan came to Adam and Eve in the garden? He made himself look like a serpent and tried to get Adam and Eve to listen to him instead of God. What did Adam and Eve do? (*Allow response.*)

(Display TC85.) When Satan came to Jesus in the desert, the Bible doesn't say what he looked like. But the Bible does tell us some of the things Satan said. He tried to get Jesus to listen to him instead of God.

Cubbies, do you think Jesus listened to Satan? Why didn't He listen? (*Allow response.*) Jesus never sinned. He is the only person who always obeyed God. That's why He is our Savior. That's why He could die on the cross to take away OUR sin. Let's thank God for sending His Son to be our Savior. (*Close in prayer.*)

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of the Bear Hug 23 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Bear Hug 23 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of the Bear Hug 23 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — dove stickers or cutouts (resource CD), blue and white tissue paper, tape or glue stick, white or silver glitter glue

Cubbies can color the page and either draw a V-shaped dove above Jesus, add a dove sticker or cutout, or twist a piece of white tissue paper into a V shape to make a tissue paper dove. Help Cubbies fold the paper according to directions. For ultimate fun, Cubbies may trace the dove with glitter glue or glue blue tissue paper on the water.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)**IDEA 1: Color (or Shape or Number or Letter) Walk****What You Need**

- Construction paper and masking tape or interlocking foam play mats in various colors

Place papers/mats on the floor in a circle. If using construction paper, tape it down to secure it. What you use will be dependent on what you want to review with your Cubbies. If it's colors, place different colored papers on the floor. If it's numbers, write numbers on the papers. If it's shapes, cut construction paper into different shapes or draw different shapes on the paper. Play some fun music and let Cubbies walk around the outside of the circle. When the music stops, they stand on the nearest spot. Leader then calls out a color (or number or shape). (You could even pull a color out of a bucket or bag.) Any Cubbie(s) standing on that color recites John 1:29 or the Core Truth: God sent the Savior.

IDEA 2: Feather Pass**What You Need**

- A large white craft feather

Cubbies sit in a circle. The leader asks Cubbies what God did right after Jesus was baptized. (He sent a dove to rest on Jesus and told Jesus that He was His Son, whom He loved and with whom He was pleased.) A leader holds a feather and asks the Cubbies if the feather reminds them of the dove. The leader demonstrates how to pass it to a Cubbie while saying the verse, John 1:29: ... **“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”** (Short version is in bold.) Cubbies can say either the short or long version — whichever they learned at home that week. Say it with those Cubbies who are shy or struggling to remember the verse. Each Cubbie passes the feather as he or she says the verse.

IDEA 3: Float a Boat**What You Need**

- Plastic tarp
- Small wading pool
- Water
- Towels

In advance of this night, send a note to Cubbies' parents asking them help their child design a simple boat (like Timothy did in the handbook story) from recycled materials: a plastic cup, a water bottle, aluminum foil, a Styrofoam® tray, etc. Keep it simple. Have them test their boats at home to make sure they float.

Invite the Cubbies to bring their boats on the night this Bear Hug is taught. Give them a chance to tell their leader and fellow Cubbies about their boat. Cover the floor with a plastic tarp. Partially fill a wading pool with water and give Cubbies some time to play with their boats in the water. Be sure a leader supervises water play. Have plenty of towels for children to dry their hands.

Optional — Have materials available for Cubbies who don't bring a boat. Have a leader help them quickly design one.

Optional — Seal two ends of a section of gutter. Place it on a low table and fill it with water. Challenge Cubbies to blow their boats from one end to the other. (Caution: don't make the gutter longer than a few feet or your Cubbies will become very winded.)

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

Make sure Cubbies don't forget their boats if you played Float a Boat during Play Time.

NAME: _____

... "Behold, the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin
of the world!" (John 1:29)



Fold downward here

Fold downward here

Folds meet
together here.

John called
Jesus the
Lamb of God.
Jesus died to
take away
our sin.

Fold downward here

Fold downward here

- Basic Instructions:** Color the picture of John baptizing Jesus. Draw a V dove above Jesus' head or attach dove materials from your leader.
- Even More Fun:** Make downward folds on the dashed lines. Bring the dashed lines together and match them at the center dotted line. Press down, creating two more folds. Fold and unfold the paper to see Jesus.
- Ultimate Fun:** Use glitter glue to trace the dove. Glue blue tissue paper on the water.