

Easter

Memory Seed: 1 Corinthians 15:4: ... *He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.*

The Big Apple: Easter is the celebration of Jesus' death and coming alive again three days later. Because of this, we will one day live with Him forever if we trust Him as our Savior.

SOW THE SEEDS

Read: John 19-20; 1 Corinthians 15:12-22

Memorize: 1 Corinthians 15:4

As adults, it's easy to bypass Easter. We celebrate with church, a family dinner or new spring clothes, and we appreciate the sacrifice the Lord Jesus made for us, but too often it becomes another holiday that sneaks up and passes without any real contemplation. But the Lord's resurrection is such an essential part of our faith! If we don't take the time to think through it and dwell on its significance, how can we expect our Cubbies to do so?

Put yourself in Mary Magdalene's place. She was grieving the death of her Rabboni (teacher) and upon arrival at His tomb, she found that His body was gone. If we found that the gravesite of someone we loved appeared to be ransacked, we'd have some questions and feel anxious too. Mary desperately looked for Jesus and even had two disciples aid in the search. But they couldn't find Him.

Imagine mistaking Jesus to be the gardener. Mary assumed Jesus to be dead and His body stolen so she didn't recognize Jesus when He asked her why she was crying. But when Jesus said her name, "Mary," she knew in an instant that she was standing before Jesus. This should send shivers down our spines. The Lord Jesus rose from the dead just as He had said He would.

When we acknowledge that God's Word came to life in that moment, when we realize the beauty of God's love for us displayed in His Son, then we will project the joy and excitement of Easter. Be excited! Be joyful! Let your Cubbies see that there is a BIG reason to celebrate!

SEE THEM SPROUT!

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

1. Understand that everyone — including them — sins.
2. Know that God loves them and sent Jesus to die for their sins.
3. Understand that God's Word is absolutely true: Jesus rose again the third day just as He said He would.
4. Can explain the gospel with pictures and simple sentences.
5. Start to realize that they too can tell others the message of the gospel.
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)

Welcome Cubbies and reinforce what they learned at home with one or more of the following activities.

IDEA 1: Resurrection Banner

What You Need

- Pattern sheet that pictures Jesus after He rose from the dead (resource CD)
- Jumbo craft sticks (two for each Cubbie)
- Glue sticks
- Yarn

Give each Cubbie a copy of the pattern sheet to color and cut out. Tie one end of the piece of yarn to each end of a craft stick. Then glue, or let Cubbies glue, the craft stick horizontally to the top of the back of the picture; the yarn should form a hanger at the top. Glue the other craft stick horizontally to the bottom of the back of the picture. (Sticks should be hidden; the sticks will keep the picture stiff as it hangs.) As Cubbies work, share and let Cubbies share reasons why they are happy the Lord Jesus is alive.

IDEA 2: Finger-Paint Cross

What You Need

- Glossy finger-paint paper or construction paper
- Masking tape
- Finger paint(s)
- *Optional* — Instead of finger paints, use sponges or paint brushes.

Using masking tape, create a cross in the middle of each sheet of finger-paint paper. Cubbies finger-paint over the entire paper. After the papers dry, slowly remove the tape to reveal a white cross. Talk with Cubbies about what Jesus did for us on the cross.

DEA 3: Foam Cross

What You Need

- Crosses cut from foam sheets (or card stock or poster board)
- Various art supplies like stickers, markers, crayons, glitter
- Glue

Write "Jesus loves (child's name)" in the center of each cross. Let Cubbies decorate the crosses.

IDEA 4: Egg Matching Game

What You Need

- An assortment of plastic eggs in different sizes and colors
- Container

Separate the eggs and place them all in a container. Cubbies match the colors and sizes to put the egg halves back together. As children play, say: "Many children like to play with eggs at Easter, but Easter is about much more than candy and eggs. We'll learn about that in our lesson today."

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse, Cubbies 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
- Flower (artificial or real)

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

(Place or tape the flower in Cubbie's paws.)

CUBBIE *(hopping excitedly):* Hi, Cubbies!

LEADER: Hi there, Cubbie. What's that in your paws?

CUBBIE: This is a flower! It's springtime at the farm. The weather is getting a bit warmer and the grass is starting to turn green. The trees are starting to get their leaves and there are flowers blooming just like this one!

LEADER: That's a very pretty flower.

(Bring the Luvie Lamb puppet into view.)

LUVIE: Hi, Cubbie Bear! Hi, Cubbies!

(Before she says anything else, Luvie sneezes.)

LEADER: Oh, my, Luvie! What's the matter?

LUVIE: I love when it's springtime on the farm, but sometimes my nose itches and I sneeze when I get too close to the flowers.

CUBBIE: I'm sorry, Luvie. I'll put my flower away so it doesn't make you sneeze!

(Cubbie places the flower in an unseen location.)

LUVIE: Thanks, Cubbie.

LEADER: So what kinds of things are you two doing on the farm now that it's getting warmer?

CUBBIE: I'm excited because it's time to get the ground ready for planting! Timothy's mom is busy preparing the soil in her garden. Then she'll plant seeds.

LUVIE: What kinds of seeds is she planting?

CUBBIE: Let's see, there are broccoli seeds, carrot seeds and squash seeds!

LEADER: It sounds like Timothy's mom will be busy with her garden this year!

CUBBIE: Yes, seeing the seeds grow up out of the ground and become plants makes her very joyful because she knows she will have good food for the family.

LUVIE: Yum! I think the food Timothy's mom grows is worth getting excited about! Especially because I get to eat some of it at the petting zoo!

LEADER: What else is going on at the petting zoo?

LUVIE: Well, there is a new zookeeper helping Timothy's dad. We don't know him very well yet. Sometimes he calls for us to come but I don't recognize his voice yet so he has to call for us a couple of times. But he's very nice and loves all of us.

LEADER: That's exciting! It's always fun to meet new people.

LUVIE: Oh, yes, and there's a lot to do. The petting zoo is getting cleaned and ready for people to come visit. All our homes are getting washed out and we're getting fresh straw!

LEADER: There is definitely a lot to be joyful about this spring, isn't there?

CUBBIE: Yes, there is! Well, I'd better get going. There's a lot to do right now!

LUVIE: Yes, and I'd better get back to the petting zoo so I can enjoy my fresh, clean home!

LEADER: OK, we'll see both of you soon! Have a great day!

CUBBIE and LUVIE: Bye, Cubbies! See you next time!

(Children wave as puppets are put away.)

Special Day 3: Easter

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

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

IDEA 1: Donut Tombs

What You Need

- Donuts (cut in half) and donut holes
- Small paper plates
- *Optional* — Instead of donuts and donut holes, use bagels (cut in half) and watermelon or cantaloupe that's been shaped with a melon baller.

Before club, cut donuts in half and stand one donut half on each plate to form a tomb. Cover the donut with a donut hole "stone" that can be rolled away.

IDEA 2: Easter Graham Crackers

What You Need

- Paper plates
- Graham crackers
- Paper cups
- Food coloring in any color
- Craft sticks
- Chocolate chips
- Vanilla frosting or cream cheese

Give each Cubbie a paper cup with a dollop of frosting (or cream cheese) and a drop of food coloring. Let them stir it with a craft stick and spread it on a graham cracker. Give them each several chocolate chips and instruct Cubbies to use the chips to make a cross on top of the frosting. Or you can use the craft stick to sketch the cross shape in the frosting first and then allow Cubbies to place the chocolate chips on your shape.

IDEA 3:

What You Need

- Cheese spread (or jam, applesauce, etc.)
- Whole wheat bread (cut in circles)
- Make the sandwiches ahead of time, using two circles and a dollop of spread for each sandwich
- Small paper plates or napkins

Each Cubbie gets a sandwich. The circles represent the stone that was rolled away from the tomb.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **"Easter Is a Time for Joy"** to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me"

Easter is a time for joy
For all children, girls and boys.
Joyfully today we sing, "Jesus is our risen King!"
Jesus is risen. Jesus is risen.
How do I know it? The Bible tells me so.

- **"Jesus Loves the Little Children"**

Include these verses:
Jesus died for all the children ...
Jesus rose for all the children ...
Jesus lives for all the children ...

- **"If Jesus Lives and You Know It"** to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It."

If Jesus lives and you know it, clap your hands.
If Jesus lives and you know it, clap your hands.
If Jesus lives and you know it, then your face
will surely show it.
If Jesus lives and you know it, clap your hands.

Replace "clap your hands" with "make some noise," "say, 'He arose!'" and "do all three" as you repeat the song.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

Cubbies, Easter is coming! I want to say thank you to God for sending His Son, Jesus, to die for my sins. Jesus died for your sins too. Let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus to die and come alive again to save us from our sins.

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 8, 11, 15-16, 90, 98
- Bible with markers placed in John 20 and 1 Corinthians 15:4
- *Optional* — small wooden cross, nail, gauze bandage, stone, cotton ball dipped in perfume

In our puppet show today, Cubbie and Luvie were excited about the beginning of spring. I'm feeling excited today too, because soon we will celebrate something very special. It's the day we celebrate Jesus coming alive again! Can someone tell me the name of this special day? **(Allow for answers.)** That's right! Soon we will celebrate Easter!

(Open your Bible to John 20.) Easter is a time to celebrate. Let's learn why. **(Hold up your Bible.)** This is God's Word, the Bible. Because it is God's Word, everything in it is true. So what we will learn today is true. Everything happened just as the Bible says it happened.

(Display TC8.) A long time ago, Jesus left heaven and came to earth to teach people about His Father, God. Jesus loved everyone, including the children, like you.

But not everyone loved Jesus. The Bible tells us that some people did not like what Jesus said. Jesus said He was the King of the Jewish people. Jesus also said He was God's Son. That made these people angry, and they didn't believe in Jesus. They took Him to the man in charge of their city, named Pilate, and they asked Pilate to have Jesus killed. Pilate didn't understand why the people were so angry with Jesus. But they were shouting and yelling so loudly that he agreed to what they wanted. He sent Jesus to be killed.

(Hold up TC15. This card along with TC98 and TC16 will be reused, so set them aside.) Some soldiers beat Jesus and made Him carry a very heavy wooden cross. Then they put nails

through His hands and feet and hung Him up on the cross. The people who loved Jesus were very sad.

Optional: Pass around a small wooden cross for children to touch. Hold a nail in your hand and let children come up to carefully feel the nail in your hand.

(Hold up TC98.) After Jesus died, the people who loved and followed Him laid Him in a tomb. This tomb was like a room inside a rock. The tomb was in a garden. A big stone was rolled in front of the doorway to the tomb so no one could get in.

Optional: Pass around a gauze bandage. Explain to Cubbies how Jesus' friends would have wrapped cloth around His body. Then pass around a stone for children to feel.

Three days passed. **(Hold up three fingers.)** On the third day after Jesus died, Mary Magdalene, a friend of Jesus, went to the tomb. She was going to put some special spices on Jesus' body. The spices smelled like sweet perfume.

Optional: Pass around a cotton ball dipped in perfume for children to smell.

When Mary walked up to the tomb, she saw that the big stone had been rolled away from the doorway! Mary was scared and sad. She thought someone had stolen Jesus!

She asked some disciples to help her find Jesus. But no one found Him. Mary started crying and looked in the tomb. Two angels were in the tomb. They asked her why she was crying and she said, "They have taken Jesus!"

Then Mary saw someone. She thought it was the gardener, the person who takes care of the plants and trees. The man asked her why she was crying. She said, "Someone took Jesus! Do you know where He is? If you do I will go get Him."

The man said, "Mary." As soon as He said her name, Mary KNEW the man was Jesus! **(Hold up TC16.)**

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Special Day 3: Easter

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“Rabboni!” said Mary. (Rabboni means teacher.) Jesus told Mary to go tell His helpers, the disciples, that He was alive. Mary obeyed. She was so very excited to see Jesus!

Isn't this wonderful? Jesus died and came alive again three days later just like He said. That's why we celebrate Easter!

But why did Jesus have to die? (**Allow Cubbies to respond.**) Jesus had to die because it was the only way to save us from our sins.

What is sin? (**See if Cubbies remember the definition you've been using throughout the year.**) Sin is anything we think (**point to your head**), say (**point to your mouth**) or do (**hit fist on palm**) that disobeys God. And you know what? Everyone has sinned. Not just a few people. EVERYONE. The Bible tells us that.

(**Hold up TC11.**) Romans 3:23 says that ALL have sinned. That means I have sinned and you have sinned. Have you ever hit your brother or sister in anger or disobeyed your mom or dad? Those are sins. There isn't anyone ever on the earth except Jesus who hasn't sinned. The punishment for sin is very serious. Punishment means getting in trouble for the wrong things you have done. The punishment for sin is death. But the good news is this: Jesus died for us! He was punished instead of us. He did this because He loves us so much!

Cubbies, the things I have told you about today are GOOD NEWS. And good news needs to be told to EVERYONE. We're going to practice a simple way to tell others the good news about Jesus.

(**Display TC15 again.**) Say this with me: “Christ died on the cross for our sins.” (**Let Cubbies repeat the phrase a few times.**)

(**Display TC98.**) Say this next part with me: “He was buried in the tomb.” (**Let Cubbies repeat the phrase a few times.**)

(**Display TC16.**) Now say this with me. This is your verse this week: I Corinthians 15:4: ... *He was raised on the third day in accordance with the to the Scriptures.* (**Let Cubbies repeat the verse a few times.**)

(**Display TC90.**) Here is the last picture. Say this with me: “Everyone who trusts in Him will be saved from sin.” (**Let Cubbies repeat the phrase a few times.**)

All those who trust in the Lord Jesus will live forever with Jesus in heaven! They will be part of God's family, and it's a REALLY big family. (**Keep showing the cards and practicing the phrases until Cubbies can start saying them back to you with little help. Some of them may have worked on this in their handbook with their parents at home. End in prayer, thanking Jesus for everything He has done for us.**)

(**Refer to “Sharing the Gospel with Cubbies” on the Resource CD prior to the lesson. It contains helpful tips for talking with Cubbies about the gospel.**)

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

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

Easter Activity Sheet

What You Need

- A copy of the Easter Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — brad fasteners, pairs of child-sized scissors

Jesus is risen! Instruct Cubbies to color the empty tomb and stone. As an optional craft, Cubbies can cut out the stone and cut along the dashed line. Help Cubbies attach the stone over the entrance of the tomb with a brad fastener. The Xs show where to insert the brad. Cubbies can open and close the stone and retell the events of Jesus' resurrection.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

IDEA 1: Egg Rolling Game

What You Need

- Plastic eggs in various sizes from very small to very large

Before you begin, say: “Many children like to play with eggs at Easter, but Easter is about much more than candy and eggs. We learned what Easter is about, didn’t we?” Ask Cubbies to tell you what Easter is about.

Have Cubbies sit in a circle. Explain that they are going to roll an egg around the circle. The first egg is very tiny and they should roll it using only one finger. The next egg is a little bigger and can be rolled with two fingers. The next egg is even bigger and they can roll it with one hand. The last egg is really big and they need two hands to roll it.

Ask: What did you notice about our eggs? ***(They kept getting bigger and bigger. It was harder to roll them as they got bigger.)*** Do you think you could roll an egg that was bigger than you are? How about a rock that was bigger than you or me? Why not? What would it take to move a rock that big? Maybe a bulldozer. How did the stone get rolled away from the tomb?

IDEA 2: He’s Alive! Relay

What You Need

- Nothing

Divide the Cubbies into groups. Each group stands behind a starting line. On the signal, the first child runs a lap, then tags the next child and says, “He’s alive!” Repeat until all Cubbies have run a lap. Remind the Cubbies that Mary Magdalene and other women friends of Jesus ran to tell the disciples the news that Jesus had risen.

IDEA 3: Stone and Spoon Relay

What You Need

- One “stone” per group — can be a donut hole, a paper wad or something that looks like a stone
- One large spoon per group

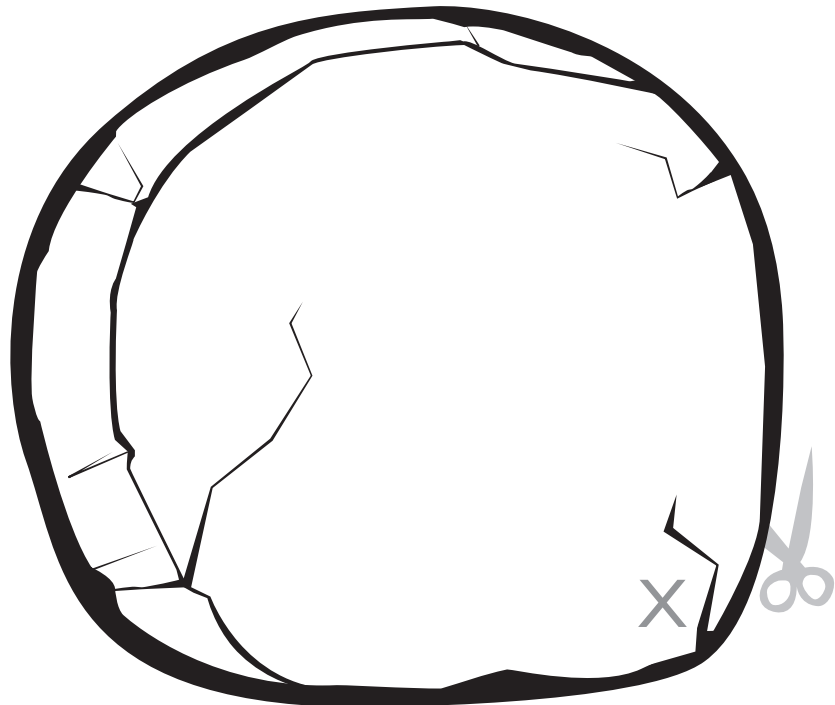
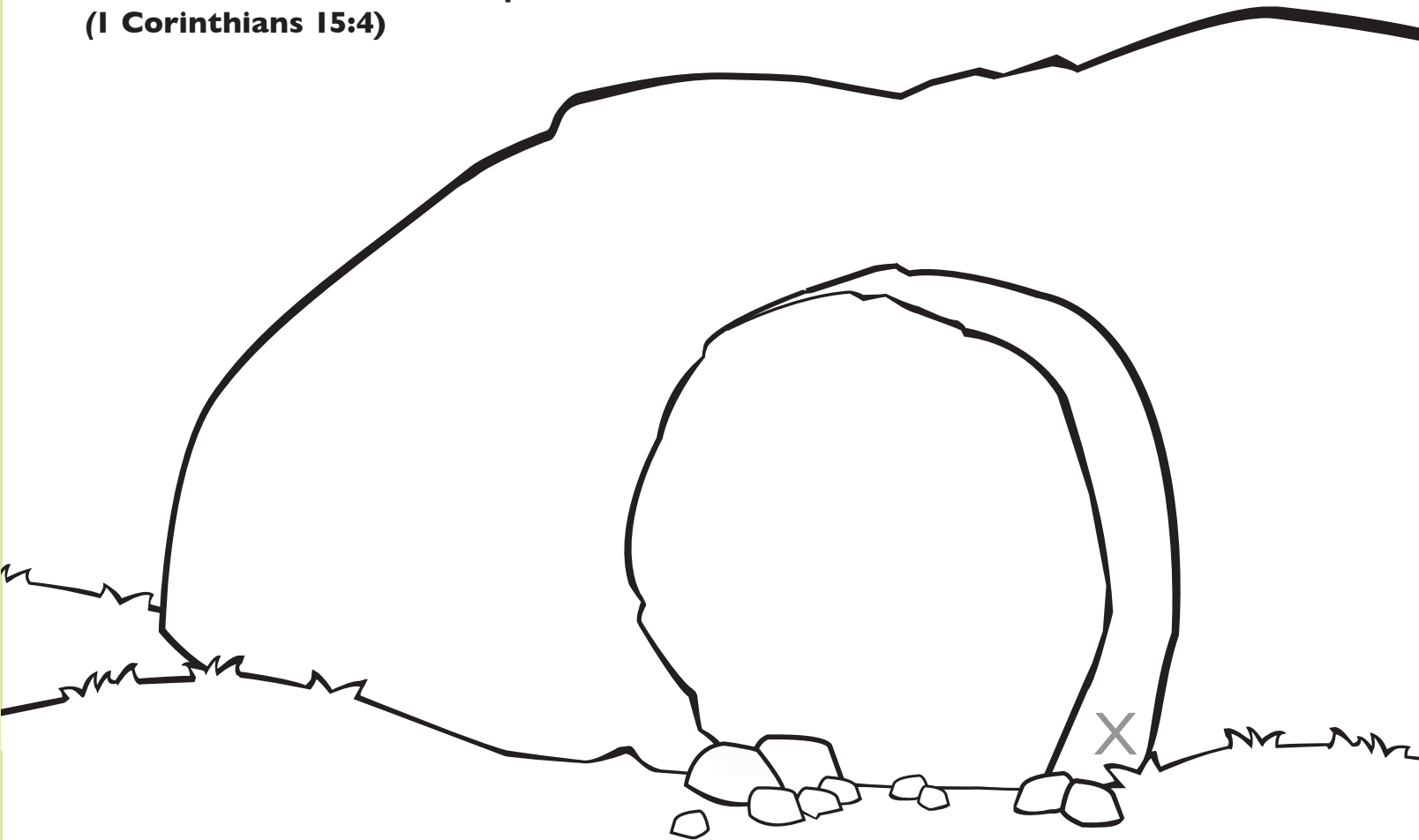
Group members race around a course (small circle or to one end of the room and back) carrying their stone on a spoon. If the stone falls, they must stop and put it back on the spoon before moving again.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

Remember to place the Special Day 3 sticker in the Cubbies’ handbooks before they leave!

... He was raised on the third day in accordance with the the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:4)

NAME: _____



Basic Instructions: Color the empty tomb and stone.

Even More Fun: Cut along the dashed line. Cut out the stone. Ask a grown-up to help you attach it over the entryway with a brad fastener at the Xs.

Ultimate Fun: Open and close the stone as you tell someone that Jesus came alive again and the tomb was empty!