God Keeps Noah and His Family Safe

**Memory Seed:** Psalm 4:8: *In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.* (Short version is in bold.)

**The Big Apple:** During the flood, the ark floated on the waters. The people and animals inside could rest peacefully. God had kept them safe, just as He promised.

**SOW THE SEEDS**

**Read:** Genesis 7; Matthew 24:37-39

**Memorize:** Psalm 4:8

God told Noah to build an ark. Think about it. Genesis 2:5-6 says the earth was watered (misted) from the ground. Noah might not have seen rain before — yet Noah trusted God enough to start the project God had assigned him. The ark he built so faithfully is a picture of the salvation offered through Christ.

God instructed Noah to build one door into the ark. Similarly, we have one “door” to heaven (John 10:7; John 14:6).

The ark bore the flood, the expression of God’s wrath. Christ bore the wrath of God for us (Romans 5:9; 1 Peter 2:24).

The ark was a place of safety. In Christ, we are eternally safe. We will never perish (John 3:16; John 10:28).

God offered a refuge (the ark) and while it was being built, He waited patiently for the people to respond (1 Peter 3:20). But they ignored the message and continued life as usual, too busy in their wickedness to even care (Matthew 24:37-39). Today many people still ignore the message of salvation while God patiently waits (2 Peter 3:9).

As Cubbies leaders, we desire to see children respond to God’s offer of salvation. If a child asks a question or expresses an interest in trusting Christ, involve the parent. If the parents are somewhere at church (leading in another club or attending a Bible study), call them to the room and allow them to have the privilege of being there when the child places his or her faith in Christ. If the parents are not available, be sure to relate their children’s questions or comments to them after club.

**SEE THEM SPROUT!**

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

1. Reaffirm that God always keeps His promises, even when we don’t.
2. Remember the promise God made to Noah.
3. Hear how God brought the animals and people into the ark, shut the ark door and kept the ark floating safely in the flood.
4. Sense the peace and rest that we can find in God.
5. For older Cubbies: Believe that God keeps His children safe in His love and safe from sin’s punishment through Christ.

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)
If you asked Cubbies to each bring a stuffed animal to use during Play Time, collect the animals at the door. Stick a label on each animal with the child’s name on it.

IDEA 1: Paper Plate Ark Craft

**What You Need**
- Paper plates
- Sheets of blue construction paper
- Patterns of Noah’s family and ark animals (resource CD)
- Pairs of child-sized scissors
- Crayons
- Stapler

Trace (or let Cubbies trace) the paper plate on a sheet of blue construction paper. While the Cubbie cuts out the circle, the leader cuts the paper plate in half. The child then colors the outside of the half-plate brown to make the ark. Match the edges of the brown ark to the edges of the blue circle and staple around the ark’s edges to attach it. Give Cubbies copies of patterns. They can color Noah, his family and the animals, cut them out and put them in their ark pouch. As they work, ask them if God kept His promise to Noah. Yes, God is faithful. He always keeps His promises. Save the unused plate halves, and next week, let the Cubbies color a rainbow on the ridged edge of the plate. They can cut out the rainbow. Leaders will staple it above the ark, along the top edges of the blue circle.

IDEA 2: Foil Arks

**What You Need**
- Aluminum foil
- Plastic tarp
- Plastic tub or small wading pool filled with water
- Small plastic animals
- Towels

Give each Cubbie a square of aluminum foil. Challenge Cubbies to form the squares into some sort of boat by folding, bending or scrunching it. At first they will say they cannot do it, but with a little encouragement they will try all kinds of designs. Set the tub of water on the plastic tarp and let them test their boats in the tub. Will it float? If not, let them try a new design. If it floats, how many plastic animals will it hold? Preschoolers can spend a long time doing this. Ask Cubbies if they think Noah wondered if the ark would float or sink. Why or why not? How did Noah know that God would keep His promise?

IDEA 3: Noah’s Mixed-Up Animals

**What You Need**
- Box full of plastic animal pairs
- Optional — blocks

Scatter a collection of plastic animal pairs on the floor. Explain that the child’s job is to find two of each animal and place them in the “ark” (the box). Ask them if they think Noah’s job was easy or hard. Would it have been fun, or a lot of work, to take care of all those animals? What would Noah have needed for his family and the animals on the ark? For extra fun, remove the box and ask the Cubbies to use blocks to build an ark to house the animals.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)
Continue your starting routine. Include the “Cubbies Song,” Cubbies key verse, Cubbies motto, unit Core Truth: God Keeps His Promises 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
• Handful of small sticks from outside
• Optional — toy wagon (preferably red) filled with firewood or wooden blocks

(If you brought a wagon, set it in a visible place.)

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

(Hold a few sticks in the Cubbie puppet’s mouth. Bring him into view and move him from side to side with his head down as if he is looking for something on the ground. You could also scatter the sticks on the floor in front of you and Cubbie could pick up each stick with his mouth and set it in a pile. For fun, the children could count each stick as Cubbie sets it in the pile.)

LEADER: Cubbie, what are you doing?

(Cubbie drops the sticks gently from his mouth on the floor. Or if you have a stage, the puppet leader could simply remove Cubbie from view and take the sticks out of his mouth.)

CUBBIE: I’m collecting sticks.

LEADER: Oh. Why are you collecting sticks?

CUBBIE: Timothy and I found some beetles over by a mud puddle. We thought the beetles could use some help to get across the puddle, so we decided to build a bridge for them. I’m looking for sticks to build our bridge.

LEADER: That’s very nice of you two to help the beetles. By the way, I noticed Timothy’s wagon is still sitting here. Why hasn’t he brought it up to the house yet? (Point to the wagon you brought. If you don’t have a wagon, just ask Cubbie if Timothy has brought the wagon to the house yet.)

CUBBIE: Oh, Timothy has been so busy with the beetles that he hasn’t had time to pull the wagon. I’m sure he’ll do it right after we finish our bridge.

LEADER: Well, I hope he finishes his job with the wagon. He promised his dad he would do it, and promises are very important. When you make a promise, you must keep it!

CUBBIE: I think I have enough sticks now. I’d better hurry back to help Timothy build the bridge. See you later!

(Place the sticks back in Cubbie’s mouth or help him pick up the pile of sticks from the floor with his mouth. Children wave goodbye as the puppet is put away.)
SONGS (3-5 minutes)
Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:
• “God Always Keeps His Promises”
  from Bear Hug 11

• “Mr. Noah Built an Ark” to the tune of “Old MacDonald Had a Farm.” Repeat verses with different animals.
  Mr. Noah built an ark (Pretend to hammer.)
  Cause God told him so. (Point up.)
  And on that ark he put two sheep (Hold up two fingers.)
  Cause God told him so. (Point up.)
  With a baa-baa here and a baa-baa there  (Pretend to be a sheep.)
  Here a baa, there a baa, everywhere a baa-baa.
  Mr. Noah built an ark (Pretend to hammer,)
  Cause God told him so. (Point up.)

• “The Animals on the Ark” to the tune of “The Wheels on the Bus.” Repeat verses with different animals.
  The cows on the ark said moo, moo, moo;
  Moo, moo, moo; moo, moo, moo.
  The cows on the ark said moo, moo, moo;
  All forty days.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)
Cubbies, have you ever made a promise to someone? (Give Cubbies examples of promises they might make.) What happened? Did you keep your promise? (Let Cubbies share briefly. You may also share an example of a promise you broke or a promise someone broke to you.)

Cubbies, we should always try to keep our promises. Promises are very important. But sometimes, even when we try hard, we can’t keep our promise. I’m so thankful God always keeps His promises, aren’t you? We can count on Him! (Ask a Cubbie to pray and thank God for keeping His promises.)
LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need
• Teaching Cards (TC) 43-44, 47-48
• Bible with markers placed at Psalm 4:8 and Genesis 7
• Optional — masking tape or chairs, water mister, rain sound effects, ark poster with Noah lesson cutouts (resource CD)

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

Hmm, I wonder if Timothy will ever finish pulling that wagon. What do you think, Cubbies? (Allow response.)

Timothy may not keep his promise. You and I may not keep our promises. But God keeps His promises. (Display TC43.) God is faithful.

(Display TC44.) Cubbies, what promise did God make to Noah? Do you remember? (Allow response.) Yes, God promised to keep Noah and his family safe from the flood.

Noah knew that God would keep His promise. Noah knew that only God could keep him safe. (Open your Bible to Psalm 4:8.) Psalm 4:8 says: … for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

(Open your Bible to Genesis 7 and keep the Bible visible as you teach.) Let’s find out how God kept Noah safe. After Noah finished building the ark, God said, “Go into the ark with your family. Take along two (hold up two fingers) animals, a mommy and a daddy animal, of every kind. Of some kinds of animals, take more than two.”

(Display TC47.) Cubbies, do you see all the animals going into the ark? (Let Cubbies name some of the animals pictured.) What other kinds of animals went into the ark? (Let Cubbies name animals not pictured. Explain that fish or other water animals would have been able to swim through the flood.)

Optional: With masking tape, mark the outline of an ark on the floor of your lesson area. (You could also arrange chairs in the shape of an ark or use the block structure Cubbies made last week — if it’s still standing!) Make a door opening in your ark and make the ark big enough for all Cubbies to sit inside. Line up pairs of Cubbies. Assign a different animal to each pair. Cubbies will walk and make sounds like the animals as they enter the ark. Direct them to sit quietly inside the ark as you continue the lesson.

Optional: Call Cubbies up individually to attach cutouts of Noah, his family or animals onto an ark wall poster. (See patterns on the resource CD.) You could also use a felt board with a felt ark and felt animals. Continue this activity in Handbook Time. Each Cubbie could attach a cutout after he or she recites the verse.

As soon as Noah and his family and all the animals were tucked away safely inside the ark, God shut the door: (If you made an ark with Cubbies, pretend to shut the door.)

Splash! Gush! Whoosh! Fountains burst up from under the earth and rain spilled down from the sky. For 40 days and 40 nights, the rains poured down (make hand motions with Cubbies of rain falling); the waters rose up (move hands upwards). The rains poured down; the waters rose up. (Repeat hand motions.) Higher and higher, the waters rose up — until water covered everything, even the tallest mountains! (Stretch your arms as high as you can.) All the birds, animals and people living on the land died.

Optional: Mist Cubbies lightly with water as you play sounds of a rain storm. Many sound effects can be downloaded for free online. You could also make rain sounds with a rain stick.

Optional: The group could make rain sounds with hand and body motions. Lead the group through these steps:
1. Rub two fingers together.
2. Rub more fingers together.
3. Rub your whole hands together.
4. Snap fingers slowly. (Tell your leaders to snap loudly, since many Cubbies cannot snap well yet.)

continued on next page
5. Snap fingers faster.
6. Pat legs slowly with hands.
7. Pat legs harder and faster and stomp feet (for thunder).

(Display TC48.) But not everything died. On the ark, Noah and his family and the animals stayed alive and dry! Their big, strong boat floated high on top of the water. The storm thundered outside, but Noah and his family could rest peacefully. (Rest your head on your hands and pretend to sleep.) God had kept them safe, just as He promised.

(Open your Bible to Psalm 4:8.) Cubbies, let’s say our verse. Follow my motions as we say it. Here we go: In peace, I will both lie down and sleep; (rest your head on your hands and pretend to sleep) for You alone, O LORD, (point upwards to God) make me dwell in safety (Psalm 4:8). (Cubbies should each hug themselves and imagine they are safe in God’s arms).

(If you have mostly younger Cubbies, end the lesson. For older Cubbies, consider adding further explanation.) Cubbies, God promises to keep His children safe in His love. (See John 10:27-29 and Romans 8:38.) That doesn’t mean bad things won’t happen. When bad things happen, we remember God always loves us. Even though we can’t see Him, He is with us. He holds us close to Him. We don’t have to be afraid.

If you have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, you are safe in a big way — you are safe from the punishment for your sin. Remember, the people died in the flood because of their sin. We have all sinned. Sin is very serious to God. The punishment for sin is death. But Jesus died for you, so you won’t be punished for your sin. You are safe in Christ. (Say Psalm 4:8 as a closing prayer.)

HANDBOOK TIME
(15-30 minutes)
Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 12 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

IDEA 1: Bear Hug 12 Activity Sheet

What You Need
• Copy of Bear Hug 12 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
• Crayons
• Optional — pairs of child-sized scissors, glue, paper gift bags with sides the same size as the activity sheet or larger

As Cubbies color and match the animals, talk about how God kept Noah, his family and the animals safe from the flood (God’s punishment for sin). Ask Cubbies to find the cross on the sheet. Explain that when we trust Christ as Savior, we are safe in God’s love. Our sins are forgiven, and we know God is with us always. We never have to be afraid.

IDEA 2: Get in the Ark!

What You Need
• Table
• Rain sound effects

The director says, “It looks like rain” and plays rain sound effects. Leaders then gather their Cubbies UNDER their table to say their verses. They pretend the table is the ark and they are safe inside. (Setting changes like this can wake up Cubbies’ brains.) If your tables are too small, be creative; use blankets and chairs to create an ark for each handbook group.

IDEA 3: Animal Art

What You Need
• Play-Doh
• Animal cookie cutters
• Animal stencils or shapes to trace
• Paper
• Crayons
• Animal lacing cards

Supply various art materials to the Cubbies and encourage them to make some of the animals that Noah brought on the ark.
PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

IDEA 1: Stuffed Animal Games

What You Need
- Laundry basket or cardboard box for each group
- Several small stuffed animals

Divide Cubbies into groups. Give each group member a stuffed animal to hold. (It could be an animal the Cubbie brought from home.) The first group member runs a lap and places his or her stuffed animal in the box before returning to tag the next runner. After this game, place one basket or box (“the ark”) in the middle of your game floor. Let Cubbies stand behind a line and take turns tossing stuffed animals into the ark. Once all the animals are safely in the ark, the group recites Psalm 4:8. Talk about how God made sure Noah, his family and all the animals were safe in the ark before He sent the flood.

IDEA 2: Flood!

What You Need
- Masking tape or long rope
- Music player

Use masking tape or a long rope to outline the shape of an ark on your floor. While music plays, Cubbies walk, run or move like animals. But when the music stops, and the leader yells “Flood!” they must quickly run into the ark. Let Cubbies pretend to sleep on the ark while they recite Psalm 4:8. Then play the game again. (You could also use the Awana game circle or a portion of it as the ark.)

IDEA 3: Pair Play

What You Need
- Beanbag or ball

Remind Cubbies of the animal pairs that entered the ark. Play your favorite game in pairs. Here are two ideas:

- **Hello, Goodbye** — Everyone pairs up with a friend. When a leader says, “Goodbye,” the partners run away from each other. When a leader says, “Hello,” they run back together.

- **Howdy, Partner** — In pairs, Cubbies hold hands and do actions as they are sung (to the tune of a verse from “Skip to My Lou”).

  Skip around the room with me. (3x)
  Won’t you be my partner?

  (Replace skip with march, jump, tiptoe, gallop, stomp, walk, run, etc.)

  For extra challenge, tell partners to move around the Awana game circle or hold a beanbag or ball between them.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

Arrange chairs in rows. Ask Cubbies to sit in the chairs and pretend they are riding in Noah’s ark. You could also have children sit on the floor inside the masking tape ark outline you used for prior lesson activities. If desired, let children hold the stuffed animals they brought to club. Make or play rain sounds or sing songs from earlier in the lesson, such as “Mr. Noah Built an Ark” or “The Animals on the Ark.” When a child’s parent arrives, he or she pretends to get off the ark onto “dry land.”
Basic Instructions: Remember how God kept Noah, his family and the animals safe inside the ark. Color the pictures. Draw a line to match each pair of animals with their shadows. Write your name on the line.

Even More Fun: Cut out the animal pairs and glue them on the ark over their matching shadows. Can you find the cross on the sheet? What did Jesus do for you on the cross?

Ultimate Fun: Cut out the ark and glue it to a paper gift bag. Put your favorite toy animals in the bag and keep them in a safe place.

NAME: ____________________________

In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety. (Psalm 4:8)