
**BEAR
HUG 17**

Jesus Loves the Crowd of 5,000

Make It Stick: Matthew 6:11: *Give us this day our daily bread.*

The Big Buzz: Jesus is God. He performed the miraculous feeding of the 5,000 to show people that He is God and that He loves them.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: John 6:1-15; Matthew 6

Memorize: Matthew 6:11

The account of the miracle in John 6:1-15 is familiar to most people. But have you ever stopped to think about how this miracle affected the different types of people who surrounded Jesus?

The disciples learned from the miracle that their Master and Teacher cared about the spiritual *and* physical needs of people.

The little boy learned that Jesus could perform the greatest miracles from even the smallest things.

The people saw that He loved them and was powerful enough to meet their needs.

How does your heart respond to this miracle today? Perhaps you are worried about a seeming lack of spiritual or physical resources in an area of your life. You wonder how God will provide. Maybe you want to serve Christ, but you feel small and insignificant. You wonder how God could use you. Or your family may be facing a crisis that seems insurmountable. You wonder how God will show His mighty power.

Remember this: Your Savior knows your situation, and He is already at work to resolve it for His glory. Trust in Him today to meet your every need.

And just as you have struggles, remember that your Cubbies also face problems. What may seem almost comical to you (an “owie” or a lost toy) may be a major ordeal in their little minds. Let your Cubbies know that Jesus cares about the needs on their hearts. They can always take their cares and concerns — no matter how big or how small — to the Great Provider. He will always care about them (1 Peter 5:7).

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. Remember that Jesus is God, and He can do anything!
2. Understand that Jesus loves all people.
3. Learn how Jesus provided for the needs of the humungous crowd in a miraculous way.
4. Trust God daily to meet their physical and spiritual needs.
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: Play Restaurant

What You Need

- Toy food, dishes and utensils
- Tables and chairs

Let Cubbies set up a pretend restaurant and serve each other. Choose some Cubbies to be cooks, others to be servers and others to be guests. After a while, ask if they have enough food to feed all the Cubbies. If not, how could they get more food? Would they have enough food to feed all the people in the church? How could they get more food? Talk about the miraculous way Jesus made more than enough bread and fish appear to feed a huge crowd. Emphasize that Jesus is God, and He can do anything!

IDEA 2: Our Daily Bread Craft

What You Need

- Precut bread slices printed on brown card stock (resource CD)
- Precut bread slices with verse printed on white paper (resource CD)
- Glue sticks
- Adhesive strip magnets
- *Optional* — stickers of Bibles and children praying (resource CD)

Cubbies each glue a white bread slice with verse on a brown bread slice pattern. (To give the craft extra challenge, draw the larger bread slice on cardboard and cut it out to make a tracer. Cubbies can use the tracer to trace a bread slice on brown card stock and then cut out the slice.) Cubbies may choose to add a sticker of a Bible or child praying above or below the verse. Leaders attach a magnet strip to the back of each Cubbie's bread craft so Cubbies can display the craft at home as a reminder to trust God each day to love and provide for them.

IDEA 3: Sharing Activities

What You Need

- Blocks
- Puzzles
- Sets of toys that encourage group play (barn with animals, road or tracks with cars and trains on it, kitchen or home center)

Encourage Cubbies to play together as they arrive so that they have to share things. They could build a block tower together or work together on a floor puzzle. Ask if any of them remember a boy in the Bible who shared something. Talk about the boy who shared his five loaves of bread and two fishes with Jesus. Jesus made the boy's lunch grow so big that it fed a whole crowd.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, unit Core Truth: Jesus Loves All People 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
- *Optional* — whistle to hang around Cubbie's neck, string, lunchbox

(Beforehand, use string to secure the optional whistle around Cubbie's neck. Set the lunchbox within reach.)

LEADER: I wonder if Cubbie Bear and the other members of the Help Club have been able to help anyone today? Let's call to Cubbie and ask him. Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(After children call out, bring the Cubbie puppet into view, hopping back and forth.)

CUBBIE *(still hopping back and forth excitedly):* Hello, boys and girls!

LEADER: Cubbie, we were just wondering if you and the other members of the Help Club were able to help someone today.

CUBBIE *(laughs):* Yep, we sure were! See, Timothy and I were walking around the farm again. We had our whistles ready, looking and listening for anyone who needed help!

(If Cubbie is wearing a whistle, point to it now.)

CUBBIE: Timothy and I walked over to the picnic tables. There were some children from a school visiting Apple Acres Farm. It was their lunchtime, and most of the children were busy eating their yummy lunches that their moms had packed for them.

LEADER: Oh, boy! A picnic on Apple Acres Farm sounds like a lot of fun!

CUBBIE: It *usually* is, but today we noticed one little boy who did not look like he was having fun at all! In fact, he seemed sad.

LEADER: What was wrong, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: He accidentally dropped his sandwich in a puddle. His sandwich got so wet and soggy that he couldn't even eat it! And that was all he had for lunch.

LEADER: What did you do?

CUBBIE: Timothy said we should share our lunches with him. At first, I wasn't so sure. I had planned to enjoy an apple and some fresh honey for my lunch. I was hungry, and I didn't know if my lunch was big enough to share. But Timothy said that his grandma would pack him an extra-big lunch. So we both hurried to get our lunches.

(If you are using a lunchbox for a prop, hold it up now. Ask, "Cubbie, is this your lunchbox?" Have Cubbie nod his head.)

LEADER: What happened next, Cubbie?

CUBBIE: Once we had our lunches, Timothy and I sat down next to the boy. I gave him a shiny red apple and some of my fresh, delicious honey. Timothy shared half of his sandwich, some carrots, crackers and a cookie. The boy was so happy that we shared our lunches with him.

LEADER: I'm so proud of you, Cubbie! You and Timothy are wonderful members of the Help Club. Boys and girls, let's show Cubbie Bear that we are happy he chose to help by sharing his lunch. On the count of three let's shout, "Hooray, Cubbie!" One — two — three. HOORAY, CUBBIE!

CUBBIE *(laughs):* Thanks, Cubbies. *(To the leader)* I need to get going. There may be more people on Apple Acres Farm who need my help. Goodbye, everyone!

(Have children wave goodbye as the Cubbie puppet is put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

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

IDEA 1: Pita Bread and Fish Crackers**What You Need**

- Pita bread
- Fish-shaped crackers
- Cups of grape juice or juice boxes
- Plates

Serve each Cubbie a half of the pita bread and a few crackers. Direct Cubbies to break the bread into smaller pieces, just like Jesus did before He served the crowd. For added fun, let them sit on the floor while they eat and pretend they are sitting on the green grass like the crowd in the Bible story.

IDEA 2: Tuna Salad and Crackers**What You Need**

- Tuna salad
- Crackers

Tell Cubbies that people from the Bible, who lived where Jesus lived, ate fish for most of their meals. Remind Cubbies that the boy in the story had two fish and five loaves of bread for his lunch. Encourage Cubbies to try a little of the tuna salad first. If they don't like it, serve them plain crackers.

IDEA 2: Sliced Bread**What You Need**

- Bread slices
- Spreads (e.g., butter, cream cheese or jelly)

Serve bread slices topped with a favorite spread to remind Cubbies that the Lord provides for our daily needs. Review Matthew 6:11 with Cubbies before they eat.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **“Matthew 6:11”** from the *HoneyComb Handbook Music CD*
- **“God Is So Good”** or any other song that expresses thankfulness to God
- **“J-E-S-U-S”** (from Bear Hugs 15 and 16)
Sing the first verse about the lame man, the second verse about the dead girl and then add this new verse, followed by the verse about Jesus saving us from sin.

Who can feed a hungry crowd?
Do you know His name?
J-E-S-U-S (*Sing 3 times.*)
Jesus is His name.

Who can save us from our sins?
Do you know His name?
J-E-S-U-S (*Sing 3 times.*)
Jesus is His name.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

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

Jesus loves people. He showed His love to many people by helping them. Jesus can help you too! Every day, we can talk to God and ask Him to help us. Is there something you would like to ask God's help for? (*Give several suggestions relevant to your preschoolers, such as being obedient to Mom and Dad, loving a brother or sister.*) Let's pray and ask God to help us right now.

(Thank God for always being with us and for helping us. If any Cubbies mention a request, pray specifically for those requests now. If you have a large class, ask several leaders to take a group of Cubbies and pray with them.)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 64, 70-72
- Bible with bookmarks placed at John 6:1-15 and Matthew 6:11
- *Optional* — a piggy bank or jar with a few coins inside, two fish and five bread loaves cut from construction paper (patterns on resource CD), small basket, pieces of bread and fish crackers, string, clothespins, pictures of items that we need (resource CD), bag

(Before class, cut out the optional five loaves of bread and two fish from construction paper and set them in a basket. Print the optional pictures of items we need from the resource CD. Place the pictures in a bag. Hang string between two points in your classroom, like a clothesline. Place clothespins nearby.)

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

I'm glad that Timothy and Cubbie shared their lunches with the little boy. Have you ever been hungry? Who gave you food to eat? *(Pause for replies.)*

Today we're going to hear a story from the Bible about a lot of people who were hungry. Jesus fed them in a special way! But first, let's say our Core Truth together.

(Display TC64 and direct children to repeat "Jesus loves all people" together two times.) When Jesus lived on earth, He showed His love in many ways. He healed people who were sick, and He even made dead people come alive again! Jesus wanted people to know that He is God and that He was the ONLY one who could forgive sin.

(Open your Bible to John 6:1-15 and display TC70.) Many people wanted to know more about the wonderful things that Jesus did. So whenever Jesus came to their town, they would hurry to meet Him. One day there were LOTS of people

who came to hear Jesus. He taught the people many things about Himself and His Father, God.

The people listened to Jesus for a very long time. Soon it was almost dinnertime. The people were getting hungry! *(Tell Cubbies to rub their tummies.)*

(Point to the disciples on TC70.) Jesus' special helpers, the disciples, told Jesus, "Tell the people to go and get food to eat in the towns nearby." But Jesus loved the people. He wanted to do something very special to show them He was God and that He cared for them. Jesus told the disciples to give the people food.

The disciples did not have food to give to the people, *(hold up the optional piggy bank and shake it)* and they did not have money to buy food for all of them. What were they going to do?

(Point to Andrew and the boy in TC70.) Andrew, one of Jesus' disciples, found a little boy who had brought food with him. Let's see what the little boy had for his food. *(Pull out your basket containing the optional paper fish and bread. Have Cubbies count the fish and the bread.)* This was just enough food for the little boy. It was not enough food to feed ALL the people.

(Display TC71.) But remember: Jesus is God. He can do ANYTHING! He knew that the people needed to eat. So He took the little boy's food. Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed and thanked God for the food.

(Display TC72.) After Jesus had prayed, He broke the bread into pieces and gave the bread and the fish to His helpers, the disciples. He told them to give the food to the people. *(Ask leaders to pass out optional fish crackers and pieces of bread to Cubbies.)*

And do you know what happened, Cubbies? The food NEVER RAN OUT! Every man, woman and child in that humungous crowd of people was able to eat as much as they wanted. And there were even 12 baskets of food left over! *(With Cubbies, count the baskets on the ground in TC72.)* Because Jesus is God, He was able to give

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the people all the food they needed and more. The people were happy! *(Have Cubbies stand and shout, “Praise God” together.)*

Optional: If time permits, have children act out the story with the paper fish, bread and basket, taking turns being the disciples, the crowd, the boy with the lunch, and Jesus.

(Open your Bible to Matthew 6:11.) Cubbies, Jesus also loves us and gives us what we need. Our memory verse today reminds us that Jesus cares for our needs every day. Matthew 6:11 says: *Give us this day our daily bread.* Let’s say our verse together. ***(Repeat the verse several times.)***

There are many things that we need. Cubbies, what are some things we need? ***(Possible responses are house, a bed, clothes, friends, family, medicine, Bible and food. You may have a child who comes from a poorer home or who knows somebody who does. The way that God provides physical things for us today is through the church. Show God’s love to the child by providing a meal or other help to the family.)***

Optional: If you brought the pictures, tell Cubbies that each of the pictures reminds us of something that we need. Choose a Cubbie to pull out a picture from the bag. Help that child use the clothespin to attach the picture to the string. Then have the children say together, “Thank You, God, for (insert the item in the picture).” Continue until all the pictures are hung.

I am glad that Jesus provides all of these things that we need. But I am even happier that Jesus gives us what we need most of all. Jesus died on the cross for our sin. Let’s praise God for being so good to us and meeting our needs. ***(Sing “God Is So Good” together.)***

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 17 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

IDEA 1: Bear Hug 17 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of the Bear Hug 17 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — pairs of child-sized scissors, paper plates, glue sticks

Tell Cubbies to color all the foods they like to eat on the page and cross off the foods they do not like to eat. Pray and thank God together for good food to eat. Ask the Cubbies what other things God gives to them. Help them think of both material and spiritual blessings (e.g., family, toys, church, home, Bible, salvation from sin, love). As a fun option, Cubbies may cut out the foods they colored and glue them onto a paper plate.

IDEA 2: Loaves and Fish Lunch Basket

What You Need

- Loaves and fish patterns (resource CD)
- Crayons
- Brown paper lunch bags
- Pairs of child-sized scissors
- Stapler for leader’s use

Precut the loaves and fish patterns or let Cubbies cut them out at club. (Many Cubbies should be developing in their cutting skills.) Cubbies should color the loaves and fish. Then show the Cubbies how to cut off the top of a flattened paper lunch bag to make a basket. They cut a strip from the discarded part of the bag to make a handle for the basket. Leaders staple the handle to the basket. (See craft photo and instructions on resource CD.) Cubbies place their loaves and fish in the basket and use the items to retell the Bible story to someone.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Play one or two of the Cubbies' favorite games from the last two lessons as a review. Add one new game.

IDEA 1: Pass the Bread, Please**What You Need**

- Several beanbags (or use white paper wads)
- Baskets or boxes

All Cubbies stand an arm's length away from each other in a line. Place a basket of "bread" (beanbags) at the start of the line and an empty basket at the end of the line. To begin the game, say, "Pass the bread, please." The first Cubbie in line picks up one beanbag and quickly passes it to the next Cubbie who passes it down the line. As soon as the first Cubbie passes her beanbag, she reaches into the basket for another one and quickly passes it along. Beanbags are continuously moving down the line. Once a beanbag reaches the Cubbie at the end of the line, that Cubbie drops it into the basket. The game ends when all beanbags are in the basket at the end of the line. To play again, reverse the direction.

IDEA 2: Fish and Bread Relay**What You Need**

- Baskets
- Several white paper wads (loaves of bread)
- Several beanbags (fish)

Divide Cubbies into groups. Give each group several loaves of bread and fish. One at a time, Cubbies must choose an item and run to put it in their group's basket. Once they return to their group, the next player may go. Ask the Cubbies to tell you what happened with the loaves and fish in the Bible lesson today.

IDEA 3: Pick Up the Leftovers**What You Need**

- A large assortment of pom-poms (or use white paper wads from prior ideas)
- A paper lunch bag for each Cubbie

Remind Cubbies that after Jesus fed the crowd of 5,000, His disciples filled 12 baskets with food! Scatter pompoms on the floor. These will represent leftover fish and bread pieces. Give each Cubbie a lunch bag. They will pretend to be the disciples gathering the leftovers. On the game leader's signal, they will run and start picking up pom-poms to put in their bags.

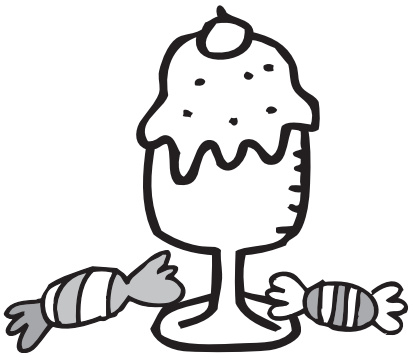
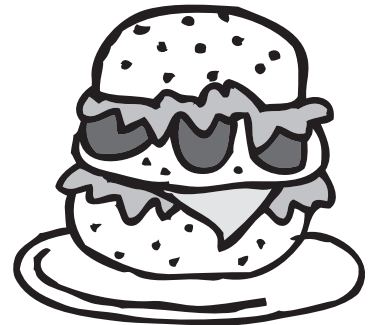
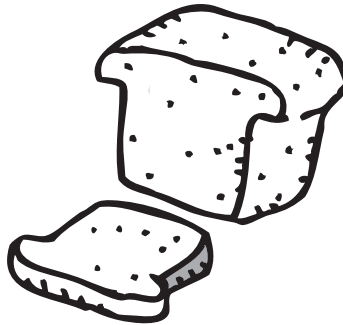
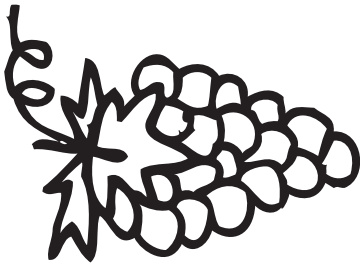
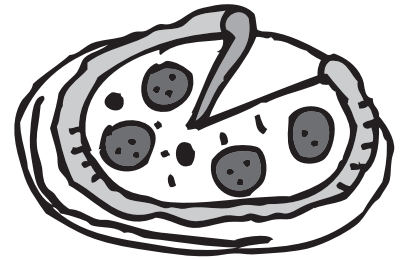
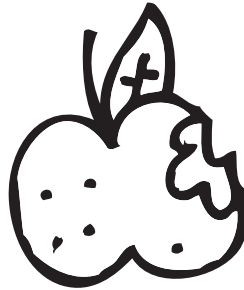
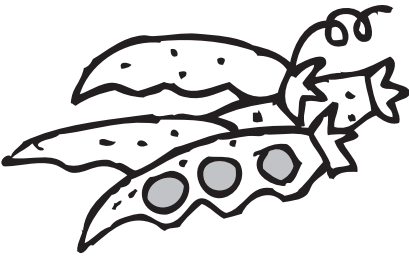
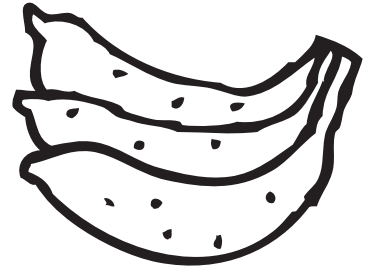
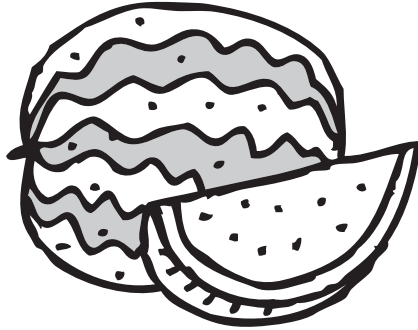
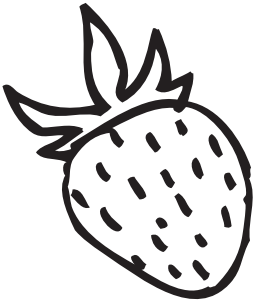
GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

If Cubbies made a Loaves and Fish Lunch Basket during Handbook Time, allow the children to retell the Bible story to leaders using their craft. This is a great way to discover what they heard and understood. Correct any misconceptions and celebrate what they have learned. Encourage them to use their craft to tell the story to someone at home.

Remember, Cubbies are sensory learners. As you prepare your lessons, read the biblical account and try to visualize the scene unfolding before you. What would you have heard, seen, smelled, tasted, touched or felt? For example, in today's lesson, think about the grass on the mountainside tickling your sandaled feet, the pungent smell of fish, the sound of waves lapping the shore, the growling of your neighbor's stomach and the voice of Jesus. Then incorporate these things into your teaching of God's Word. Let Cubbies smell an open can of tuna fish. Play sounds of waves or water falling in the background. Serve Cubbies bread as they sit and listen to the lesson. Bring God's Word to life for your Cubbies, for indeed His Word IS alive!

Give us this day our daily bread.
(Matthew 6:11)

NAME: _____



Basic Instructions: Color the foods you like to eat. Draw an X over the foods you do not like to eat.

Even More Fun: Cut out the foods you colored on the dashed lines.

Ultimate Fun: Glue the foods you cut out onto a paper plate. Pray and thank God for giving us many different kinds of good foods to eat.