


**BEAR
HUG 23**

Peter and the Disciples Tell the Good News

Make It Stick: Mark 16:15: ... **“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”** (Short version in bold.)

The Big Buzz: The Lord Jesus told His disciples to tell everyone the good news that He died for our sins and came alive again. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to help them tell the good news. Those who trust Christ as Savior also have the Holy Spirit to help them tell the good news.

HONEY FROM THE COMB

Read: Mark 16:14-20, John 14:15-29; Acts 1-2

Memorize: Mark 16:15

Imagine for a moment the scene that took place on the Mount of Olives (Acts 1). The crowd had witnessed much in the past 40 days and in the weeks leading up to Christ’s crucifixion. They had listened with confusion as their Teacher warned of His upcoming death (Matthew 16:21; Mark 8:31-32). They had heard of His promise of a Comforter and Helper (John 14:15-29). They had watched in horror as He was taken from them to be crucified (Mark 14:43-50). They had mourned at His death (John 19:38-42) and rejoiced in His resurrection (John 20). Yes, these men and women had been through much with this Savior, and yet they were only beginning to understand Who He is. Even as the last words of Christ’s command to go and be witnesses echoed in their ears, they still seemed at a loss.

Then on the powerful day of Pentecost, the promised Helper arrived, and their lives were never the same. His power and understanding came upon them, and their witness led thousands to believe.

Cubbies need to meet this third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. Kids are often more drawn to Jesus at this age, because He had a visible body, but they must still be aware of the important role the Holy Spirit plays in their salvation and spiritual growth. Explain that the Holy Spirit is God, and He comes to live inside us when we trust Christ as Savior. We can’t see Him, but He helps us remember and obey Jesus’ words and tell others the good news. Remember, it is the Holy Spirit Who will work through you to help and teach them all things.

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 and feel excited about the good news that Jesus died for our sins and came alive again.
2. Hear that Jesus told His disciples to share the good news with everyone.
3. Believe that the Holy Spirit came to help the disciples and all Christians tell the good news.
4. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to live inside us when we trust Christ as Savior.
5. Desire to obey Jesus by telling the good news to others.

6. _____

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



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

Lesson Time Prop 1: Megaphone

What You Need

- Paper or Styrofoam™ cups (one for each Cubbie)
- Pairs of adult-sized scissors for leader's use
- Unit 6 Core Truth labels (resource CD)
- Markers and/or Christian-themed stickers

Beforehand, cut the bottom circle out of each cup so the cup resembles a megaphone. Give each Cubbie a Core Truth label to stick on the outside of his or her megaphone. Cubbies may use stickers or markers to decorate their megaphones. Remind Cubbies that Jesus wants us to share the good news with everyone, everywhere. Let various Cubbies practice telling you the good news, using their megaphones. Review the good news: Jesus died for our sins and came alive again. All people who trust Him as Savior will be saved from sin and will be alive with Jesus forever in heaven someday. Cubbies can use the megaphone to shout, "Good news!" when the teacher directs them during Lesson Time.

Lesson Time Prop 2: Flame Headband

What You Need

- Red, orange and yellow construction paper
- Card stock or thin cardboard flame templates (use cardboard from recycled cereal boxes)
- Pencils for tracing
- Pairs of child-sized scissors
- Glue sticks
- Stapler
- *Optional* — red, orange and yellow tissue paper or cellophane to decorate flames

Beforehand, cut several long construction paper strips for the headbands. Also cut flame templates in three sizes from card stock or cardboard. Cubbies will use pencils and templates to trace flame shapes on

construction paper and then cut them out. (To save time, give Cubbies one precut flame shape from the resource CD,) Cubbies stack three flames of different colors (from largest to smallest) and glue them together as one flame to glue onto a headband. Leaders size the band to each Cubbie's head and staple the band. Ask the Cubbies if they know who the Holy Spirit is and let them share their thoughts and ask questions about Him. Explain that the first time the Holy Spirit came to live inside Jesus' disciples, they saw a flame like fire on each head! That was a very special time. We should not expect to see fire like that, but when we trust Christ as Savior, we know the Holy Spirit lives in us to help us tell others the good news and to help us remember and obey Jesus' words from the Bible. Cubbies can wear headbands during Lesson Time.

IDEA 3: People of the World Memory Game

What You Need

- A set of people cards for each table (resource CD)
- *Optional* — laminate cards for durability

Print the page of people cards from the resource CD. (This page makes a set of 12 cards.) Cut out the cards, mix them up and set them face down on each table in rows. Let three or four Cubbies sit at each table and take turns flipping over two cards at a time. If the cards match, the player removes them and takes another turn. If the cards don't match, the player flips them back over and the next player takes a turn. Remind Cubbies that Jesus wants us to share the good news with all people. Recite Mark 16:15 together and make sure Cubbies understand what each word means in the verse.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse and motto, unit Core Truth 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
- Sign for Katie's neck (resource CD)
- Yarn
- Hole punch
- *Optional* —two honey jars or bottles

(Before the show begins, print the sign for Katie from the resource CD. Punch out the holes and tie yarn through them to make a sign that will hang comfortably on Katie's neck.)

LEADER: I wonder what Cubbie Bear and his friends have been up to today? Let's call him together. Ready? One — two — three. CUBBIE!

(Bring Cubbie bear puppet into view, hopping around.)

LEADER: Cubbie! You seem excited today, as usual. What's going on?

CUBBIE *(still hopping):* Hi, boys and girls! I have been a super helper today!

LEADER: Oh, what have you been doing?

CUBBIE: Katie Collie and I have been helping Timothy at the big honey sale.

(Place the sign on Katie's neck. Then make a barking noise from offstage and bring the Katie Collie puppet into view.)

LEADER: What does your sign say, Katie?

KATIE: It says, "Honey for Sale." We have been helping Timothy spread the good news about the honey. We're telling all the people on the farm: "Honey for sale. Buy one jar, get one jar free!"

LEADER: That sounds like fun! Have you had many customers?

CUBBIE: Not at first, but then someone special bought the first jar of honey.

LEADER: Who was that?

CUBBIE and KATIE *(together):* Luvie Lamb!

LEADER: Luvie?! I didn't know lambs liked honey.

KATIE: She doesn't, but she knows that a certain bear —

CUBBIE *(interrupting):* And his friend Timothy —

KATIE: Love honey.

LEADER: Luvie bought honey for you?!

CUBBIE: Yep! She bought one jar, and got the second jar free. Then she gave a jar to me and one to Timothy.

(Display the two optional honey jars to Cubbies at this time. Cubbie Bear should show excitement to see the honey jars.)

LEADER: Well, I hope that wasn't the only honey sold today.

KATIE: Oh, no! Soon lots of people began buying honey.

CUBBIE: It sure was fun to tell others the good news about the honey!

LEADER: Yes it is, Cubbie.

CUBBIE: Katie, I'm going to go see how the honey sale is going. Wanna come with me?

KATIE: Sure! Goodbye, boys and girls.

(Have children wave goodbye as puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

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

IDEA 1: Blue Skies and White Clouds**What You Need**

- Blue Jell-O (or blueberries)
- Whipped cream topping
- Cups
- Spoons
- *Optional* — Teddy Grahams

Fill a cup with blue Jell-O for each Cubbie. Just before serving, top each Jell-O cup with a spoonful of whipped cream. For extra fun, hide a Teddy Graham in the whipped cream for each Cubbie. Ask Cubbies if the snack reminds them of a blue sky and a white cloud. Talk about the cloud that hid Jesus when He was going up to heaven. Ask questions like these: Before Jesus left, what did Jesus tell His disciples to do? What is the good news we should tell about Jesus? Why should we tell others the good news?

IDEA 2: Cupcake Faces**What You Need**

- Frosted cupcakes
- Decorator gel or mini chocolate chips
- Sliced strawberries or birthday candles and a lighter

Beforehand, use decorator gel or chocolate chips to make a face on the frosted portion of each cupcake. Place a strawberry slice at the top of the head to resemble a flame; or instead, place a birthday candle on each cupcake. Light the candles so Cubbies can see them. Then, blow out the candles before serving the cupcakes. (Be mindful of any fire safety rules at your church before planning this snack.) Review that when the Holy Spirit first came to live inside the disciples, they heard a sound like a mighty wind and saw flames like fire on each person's head. Emphasize that this was a special time; Cubbies should not expect to see fire like that today! Discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)**What You Need**

- Teaching Cards (TC) 5, 63, 69, 72, 76 for the song "J-E-S-U-S"
- Bible

SING:

- **"Do You Know What Jesus Did?"** (sing all verses from Unit 5) or **"J-E-S-U-S"** (sing all verses from Unit 4; display corresponding teaching cards as you review Bible stories in the song)

- **"Go and Tell the Good News"** to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" This is a good unit theme song. For extra fun, turn this into a game. Cubbies sit in a circle. One child is chosen to be the missionary. He or she walks around the circle, carrying a Bible, while everyone else sings the song. When the song is finished, the missionary hands the Bible to the nearest child. They switch places, and the song is repeated.

We will go and tell the good news,
The good news, the good news,
We will go and tell the good news
All over the world.

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

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

Cubbies, God loves you very much. He also loves other people very much. God wants us to tell others the good news that Jesus died for their sins and came alive again. Jesus sent a special Helper, named the Holy Spirit, to help us tell others the good news. When you trust Christ as your Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you. You won't see Him, because He doesn't have a body like you do, but you will know He's there. He will help you remember and obey Jesus' words from the Bible. He will also help you share the good news of Jesus with others. *(Lead Cubbies in a prayer, thanking God for the Holy Spirit. Allow time for Cubbies to ask questions about the Holy Spirit.)*

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 19, 87-88
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Mark 16:14-20 and Acts 2
- Paper cloud cut from white construction paper
- *Optional* — battery-operated candles, wind and crackling fire sound effects (many sound effects can be downloaded free online), flame shapes cut from orange and red cellophane, megaphones and (or) flame headbands from Comin In

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

What was the good news that Timothy and Cubbie were telling people today on the farm? (The good news that the honey was on sale.) “Good news” can be anything we hear that makes us feel excited and happy. Cubbies, what are some things that make you feel excited? **(Let Cubbies share.)**

Optional: Let children pantomime two or three things that excite them, such as a birthday party, eating ice cream or swimming in a pool.

If you heard that someone is taking you out for ice cream **(or insert another exciting thing that Cubbies mentioned)**, you would feel excited, right? That would be good news! You would want to tell everyone about your good news so they could be excited and happy about it too.

The Bible tells us about the BEST good news we can ever hear. And this good news is for EVERYONE! Each time I say “good news” in the Bible story, let’s all cup our hands around our mouth and shout “Good news!” **(Practice this a few times. Cubbies may use megaphones from Comin In.)**

(Open your Bible to Mark 16:14-20 and keep it visible while you teach.) Jesus had been with His friends, the disciples, for a very long time, but now it was time for Him to go back to heaven to be with His Father, God.

(Display TC19.) Before He went up to heaven, He told His disciples to do something for Him.

(Read Mark 16:15 from your Bible.) Jesus was asking them to go *everywhere* and tell *everyone* the gospel, which is the **(cup hands and shout with Cubbies) GOOD NEWS!** The **(cup hands and shout with Cubbies) GOOD NEWS** is that Jesus died for our sins and came alive again. All people who trust Him as Savior are saved from the punishment for sin, and one day they will go to heaven and be alive with Jesus forever. This is the best news of all!

Jesus told the disciples to wait in the city of Jerusalem because He was going to send them a special Helper. This Helper would help them tell the **(cup hands and shout with Cubbies) GOOD NEWS** about Jesus.

(Display TC19 again.) Then, Jesus was lifted up to heaven, and a cloud covered Him so they couldn’t see Him anymore. **(Remove TC19 from view and hold up the white paper cloud instead.)** Cubbies, how do you think the disciples felt when Jesus was gone and all they could see was a big, white cloud? If you were there, how would you feel if you couldn’t see Jesus anymore? **(Allow response.)**

The disciples probably felt so sad. Suddenly, two angels in white robes came and stood by them. The angels said, “Why are you still looking up at the sky? Jesus will come back again someday!”

I’m sure the disciples felt much better after they heard THAT! And they remembered Jesus had promised to send them a special Helper. So they went to Jerusalem to wait for the special Helper. While they waited, they prayed together every day. They kept on praying and praying, and soon the day came for the Helper to arrive.

(Display TC87 and open your Bible to Acts 2.)

On that day, they were all together in a house. Suddenly, they heard a sound from heaven like a mighty, whooshing wind. **(Direct Cubbies to blow as hard as they can to imitate the sound of wind.)** Flames like fire landed on each head — but these flames did not hurt them or burn them. **(Turn on a few battery-operated candles as a visual.)** The flames let them know that the special Helper had arrived. The Helper was the Holy Spirit coming upon each of them.

continued on next page

continued from previous page

Optional: Choose one or more ways to make the scene come alive for Cubbies: 1. Play wind and crackling fire sound effects. 2. Give each Cubbie a flame shape cut from red or orange cellophane. They can hold it over their heads like the disciples in the picture and then crinkle it to make fire sound effects. 3. Let Cubbies wear flame headbands made during Coming In.

Cubbies, the Holy Spirit is not the wind or the fire. The Holy Spirit is a very special person. You cannot see Him in this picture, because He does not have a body like we do. But we know He is real, and He is God. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live inside the disciples to help them tell others the **(cup hands and shout with Cubbies)** GOOD NEWS about Jesus.

(Display TC88.) When the Holy Spirit came, the disciples all started talking at once. Soon a crowd of men gathered outside their house. The men were visiting Jerusalem from many different countries. The men were surprised because they all heard the disciples talking with words they could understand! Usually, people from different countries do not speak with the same words, or language, but the Holy Spirit helped the disciples talk about Jesus so everyone could understand.

(Point to Peter at the front of the disciples in TC88.) Then Peter, one of the disciples, stood up and told everyone the **(cup hands and shout with Cubbies)** GOOD NEWS about Jesus. He said, "Jesus Christ died on the cross and He came alive again." Many, many people believed what Peter said. They trusted Jesus to be their Savior. Their sins were forgiven, and they knew that one day, they would go to heaven and live there with Jesus forever.

(Open your Bible to Mark 16:15 again. Tell Cubbies not to shout when you say "Good news" from now on.) Cubbies, remember in our verse today, Jesus said: ... "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). **(Repeat the verse twice with Cubbies.)** The gospel is the good news about Jesus. Preach means "to tell." Jesus wants us tell the good news to everyone, just like He told the disciples to do.

Cubbies, here is more good news! When you trust Jesus Christ as Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside you too. That doesn't mean you will hear wind or see fire, but you will know the Holy Spirit is in you, because He will help you remember and obey Jesus' words from the Bible and He will help you tell others the good news about Jesus. **(Close in prayer, thanking Jesus for sending the Holy Spirit.)**

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 Bear Hug 23 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie (print on card stock for the optional cloud craft)
- Crayons
- *Optional* — cotton balls, glue sticks, brad fasteners, cloud patterns cut from card stock (resource CD)

As Cubbies color the picture, ask them if they remember what Jesus said to His disciples before He went back up to heaven. Jesus said their Bible verse, Mark 16:15. Make sure Cubbies understand what each word or phrase in the verse means. Talk about ways they can share the good news about Jesus with others. For extra fun, Cubbies can stretch out cotton balls and glue them on the clouds. For the ultimate fun option, help Cubbies attach a cloud shape to their sheet with a brad in the marked location. Cubbies move the cloud to cover and uncover Jesus. Explain that someday Jesus will come back again in a cloud! (Luke 21:27; Acts 1:11)

NOTE: Additional Handbook Time idea is on the Bear Hug 23 Handbook Leader Sheet.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)

Cubbies enjoy and learn from repetition. Repeat any games Cubbies enjoyed from Unit 5.

IDEA 1: Wait, Then Go Relay**What You Need**

- Yellow and red beanbags (or felt flame shapes)

Remind Cubbies that before Jesus went back up to heaven, He said Mark 16:15 to His disciples. Recite the verse together. Explain that Jesus was asking His disciples to go everywhere and tell everyone the good news. See if Cubbies can tell you the good news. (Jesus died for our sins and came alive again. All people who trust Him as Savior will be saved from sin, and one day they will go to heaven and be alive with Jesus forever!)

Divide Cubbies into groups of six. Three Cubbies will stand at one end of the room, and the other three will stand at the opposite end of the room. Give the first Cubbie on one end a beanbag. At your signal, the first Cubbie will run across the room to another Cubbie in his group, gently place the beanbag on her head and say, "Go tell the good news!" That Cubbie will then grab the beanbag in her hand, run to the opposite side of the room and repeat the process with another Cubbie. Constantly encourage Cubbies to wait until the beanbag is placed on their head before they start to run.

At the end of the game, ask Cubbies if it was hard to wait for the beanbag before they could run. Review that before the disciples could share the good news, they had to wait for the promised Helper from Jesus, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us tell the good news too.

IDEA 2: Pass the Light**What You Need**

- Small flashlight or battery operated candle for each person

Cubbies sit in a circle, each holding a flashlight. Darken the room, but not entirely. Begin with one leader standing in the middle. His flashlight

is turned on. He walks up to a Cubbie and says, "Jesus loves you." That Cubbie will turn on his flashlight, stand up and go to another Cubbie to repeat the phrase, while the leader sits in the Cubbie's seat. Continue until all Cubbies' flashlights are on. Comment on how bright the room has become. Talk about why it is important to share the good news of Jesus with others.

IDEA 3: Flame Runners**What You Need**

- Lengths of red, orange and yellow streamers to represent flame

Divide Cubbies into groups of three. Give the first runner in each group a length of each color of streamer. At your signal, the runners with the "flames" will each run one lap around the room or game circle. Before passing off their streamers to the next runner, they must say the short or long version of Mark 16:15 or the Core Truth: Jesus says to tell the good news.

Ask Cubbies if the streamer colors remind them of anything from the Bible story. Talk about the Holy Spirit's first coming and the ways He works in our lives now by helping us to tell the good news to others and by helping us remember and obey Jesus' words in the Bible. Allow Cubbies to ask any questions about the Holy Spirit.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

Sing "Go and Tell the Good News" from the Songs section again and play the game using a Bible. You could also use the Bible to play a whisper game. Cubbies sit in a circle. Pass the Bible as you whisper a short verse or Bible phrase (such as "Tell the good news" or "Jesus died for your sins") to the first Cubbie, who will pass the Bible and whisper the phrase to the Cubbie beside her. After the Bible and message are passed around the circle, the last Cubbie will say what she heard. Emphasize the importance of listening carefully to God's Words from the Bible so we can tell them correctly to others.

... **“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)**

NAME: _____



Basic Instructions: Color the picture of Jesus going back up to heaven. Before Jesus left, He said the words of your verse, Mark 16:15, to His disciples. Jesus wanted them to go everywhere and tell the good news about Jesus to every person.

Even More Fun: Stretch out cotton balls and glue them on the clouds.

Ultimate Fun: Your leader will help you attach a cloud shape (pattern on resource CD) with a brad fastener in the marked spot on your sheet. Move the cloud to cover Jesus. When Jesus was going to heaven, a cloud hid Him from view. Move the cloud to uncover Jesus. Someday Jesus will come back again in a cloud! (Luke 21:27; 1 Thessalonians 4:17).