


**BEAR
HUG 24**

Jesus Calls His Disciples

Memory Seed: Mark 1:17: **“Come, follow me,”** Jesus said, *“and I will make you fishers of men.”* (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Apple: Jesus is the Savior, the Son of God. He called the disciples to follow Him and become fishers of men (or people). We can be fishers of men too, who tell others about the Savior.

SOW THE SEEDS

Read: Luke 5:1-11

Memorize: Mark 1:17

As the club year draws to an end, so does your weekly influence on your precious Cubbies. Make every lesson count. Prepare well.

On the Lake of Gennesaret, also called the Sea of Galilee, Jesus shocks His disciples with a miraculous catch of fish and follows that with an even more shocking statement: ... *“Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men”* (Luke 5:10).

You have to wonder what the disciples were thinking. Did they have any clue what it meant to catch men? If even adults are confused by this, you can be sure your Cubbies will be confused! They are such literal creatures. Telling them to be fishers of men without any kind of explanation will leave them scratching their heads with visions of catching people with their fishing poles. But just because they’re literal doesn’t mean they can’t learn important truths. They need a patient and wise teacher — like you! — who uses examples and age-appropriate words to help them see that fishers of men are people who tell others about the Savior.

It’s appropriate that Peter’s first reaction to Jesus was ... *“I am a sinful man!”* (Luke 5:8). He may not have understood all of Jesus’ identity and mission yet, but His statement perfectly sums up why the Savior came: He came to save us from our sins (Matthew 1:21). And not only that — He wants our help in telling others about Him, so they too can be saved from sin. How beautiful that, even though we were sinners, God saved us and gave us a new identity as fishers of men, women, boys and girls. Thank God for sending Jesus and for the time you have to teach these little ones about Him.

SEE THEM SPROUT!

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

1. Continue to develop a love and interest in what the Bible says about the life of Jesus.
2. Hear details about Jesus helping Peter, Andrew, James and John catch an amazing amount of fish and calling them to be fishers of men.
3. Know about the 12 disciples and all the people who follow Jesus today.
4. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior, who saves people from their sin.
5. Understand that fishers of men are people who tell others about the Savior.
6. Desire to follow Jesus and be a fisher of men.
7. _____

(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)

IDEA 1: Let's Go Fishing

What You Need

- Hula Hoop, blue towel or blue tablecloth
- Magnetic fishing pole
- Paper fish for each Cubbie (resource CD)
- Paper clips
- Colored construction paper or colored foil to tear into fish scales
- Glue sticks
- *Optional* — rocks or potted plants; smooth-edged metal frozen juice lids with fish stickers on them

Before Cubbies arrive, make a “fishing pond” somewhere in your room. Lay a Hula-Hoop®, blue towel or blue tablecloth on the floor to represent water. If desired, surround it with rocks or potted plants for decoration. To make a simple fishing pole, tie a piece of string to the end of a wooden dowel and tie a magnet to the other end of the string. Cut out construction paper fish or any of the fish from the patterns, and attach a paper clip to each one. Scatter the fish in your pond. Let Cubbies use the magnetic fishing pole to catch a fish in the pond (the magnet will attach to the paper clips). Remove paper clips from the fish immediately to prevent a choking hazard for Cubbies. Direct Cubbies to bring their fish to a table. Show Cubbies how to tear sheets of construction paper into small pieces and glue the pieces on the fish to resemble fish scales.

NOTE: To avoid paper clips, use metal frozen juice lids with smooth edges and put fish stickers on some of them. Arrange the lids with the fish stickers face-down. Cubbies will enjoy the thrill of catching a lid and then checking to see whether or not they got a fish.

IDEA 2: Disciple Feet

What You Need

- Poster board or cardboard
- Scissors (adult and child sizes)
- Pipe cleaners or strands of twine
- Tape • Hole punch
- Mark 1:17 verse cards (resource CD)
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks

Make a sandal by tracing around each child's shoe on a piece of poster board or cardboard. Leaders or Cubbies will cut out the sandal. Punch holes where needed. Show Cubbies how to tape pipe cleaners or twine strands to the sandal to make straps. (See finished craft samples on the resource CD.) Cubbies can cut out a Mark 1:17 verse card and paste it on the sandal. As Cubbies decorate the sandals with crayons or markers, recite Mark 1:17 and talk about what it means to follow Jesus and be a fisher of men.

IDEA 3: Fish in the Bin

What You Need

- A plastic tub half-filled with uncooked oatmeal
- Plastic, paper or foam fish in various colors and sizes
- *Optional* — Beforehand, spray paint the oatmeal blue to look more like water and let it dry.

Bury the fish in the oatmeal bin. Let Cubbies dig in the oatmeal to find the fish. They can name the colors they find, count the fish or sort them by color or size. While they work, ask: Do you remember reading about fish in your handbooks this week? What happened when the fishermen obeyed Jesus and put their nets in the water? Would you have been able to count all *those* fish?

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the “Cubbies Song,” Cubbies key verse, Cubbies 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
- Hand towel
- Optional — water bottle or spritzer filled with water, magnetic fishing pole, 12 paper fish (resource CD), paper clips, blue towel or Hula Hoop

(Set up an optional “fishing creek” near your puppet area. Lay the blue towel or Hula-Hoop on the floor to represent the water. Attach a paper clip to each fish and lay the fish on the towel or inside the Hula-Hoop.)

LEADER: Hi, Cubbies! Do you know what time it is? It’s time to see our friend, Cubbie Bear! Let’s call him together. One — two — three! CUBBIE!

(Wrap the hand towel around the Cubbie Bear puppet’s body or head. For extra fun, dribble or mist some water on him so his fur looks slightly wet.)

CUBBIE *(with towel wrapped around him):* Hi, everyone! *(If you misted water on Cubbie, shake his head so Cubbies can see or possibly feel the water droplets.)*

LEADER: Cubbie, it looks like you’re trying to dry off! How did you get so wet?

CUBBIE: The water splashed on me when Timothy and I were in the boat.

LEADER *(surprised):* In the boat? I thought you said Timothy’s boat was too small to ride in.

CUBBIE: It is. We were in a real boat!

LEADER: A real boat? Did Timothy’s dad take you out in his fishing boat?

CUBBIE: Um, not exactly. *(Remove the towel while Cubbie talks.)* We were playing with Timothy’s little toy boat by the creek when I saw his dad’s fishing boat lying on the

shore. I went over to sit in it. I just wanted to see what it felt like to sit in a real boat —

LEADER: Uh, oh. This doesn’t sound good.

CUBBIE: Timothy came over and we started playing a game in the boat. I guess we were moving around too much, because soon the boat slid into the water with Timothy and me in it!

LEADER: I was afraid that would happen! What did you do? Were you scared?

CUBBIE: At first I was a little scared, but then I saw a fish swimming close to the boat. I like fish!

LEADER: Fish are fun to watch. How many fish did you see?

CUBBIE: Let’s see, we saw 1-2-3 — boys and girls, will you help me count? *(Cubbies join Cubbie Bear in counting up to 12.)* We counted 12 fish in all, and we could have counted more! Sometimes I like to catch fish between my paws, like other bears do. Now I’m learning to use a fishing pole.

(Hold the fishing pole next to Cubbie as you use it so it appears Cubbie is fishing in your creek. Children can count each fish as the magnet “catches,” or attaches, to it.)

LEADER: I’m glad you’re becoming a better fisherman, Cubbie, but I want to know how you and Timothy got off that boat! You shouldn’t have gone to the creek by yourselves. It can be a dangerous place.

CUBBIE *(showing slight remorse):* I know! We got into trouble. I’ll tell you what happened next time. I need to share my towel with Timothy because he’s wet too. See you later!

(Children wave goodbye to Cubbie as you put him away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

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

IDEA 1: Fishing Poles**What You Need**

- Goldfish crackers
- Pretzel sticks
- Nutella® or cream cheese spread
- Small paper plates

Place several Goldfish crackers, a few pretzel sticks and a dab of cream cheese on a small paper plate for each Cubbie. Show Cubbies how to dip a pretzel “fishing rod” in the Nutella or cream cheese and use it to try to “catch” the goldfish. (The spread should stick to the fish.)

IDEA 2: Waffle Stick Sail Boats**What You Need**

- Waffle sticks (toasted before club) or hot dog buns cut in half
- Cream cheese
- Triangular crackers

For each sailboat, spread cream cheese on the waffle stick or bun. Top with a triangular cracker “sail.” Ask Cubbies how many boats they heard about in the Bible lesson today. What happened in the two boats? (Jesus sat in one to teach, James and John rode over in one to help, both boats got filled up with fish, etc.)

IDEA 3: Pita Boat on Blueberries**What You Need**

- Paper plates
- Pita bread halves
- Blueberries
- Cheese triangles
- Colored Goldfish crackers

On each paper plate, place half a pita for a boat. Lay the pita flat and surround it with a handful of blueberries to resemble water. Lay a triangular piece of cheese above the boat for a sail. Then place several Goldfish crackers inside or on top of the boat to show how many fish the disciples caught. Cubbies could take the fish out of the boat and count them or sort them by color.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- **“Peter, James and John in a Sailboat”** (traditional Sunday school song) or **“I Will Make You Fishers of Men”** (by Harry D. Clarke). Lyrics and tunes for both songs are easily searchable online. Be sure to include hand motions!
- **“The Twelve Apostles Song”** to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me.” This is a fun way for your Cubbies to learn the names of the 12 disciples. Sing it several times to help Cubbies remember it. Sing it again during Handbook Time and Going Home time. Here are the lyrics:

Jesus called them one by one,
Peter, Andrew, James and John.
He called Phillip, Thomas too,
Matthew and Bartholomew

Chorus:

Yes, Jesus called them. *(Repeat three times.)*
The Bible tells me so.

James the son of Alphaeus,
Simon, also Thaddaeus;
Twelve apostles Judas made;
Jesus called them all by name.
(Repeat chorus)

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

Cubbies, today we will learn how to be fishers of men. What is a fisher of men? *(See if any Cubbies know.)* Fishers of men are people who tell others about the Savior, Jesus Christ. Who could you tell about the Savior? *(Let Cubbies share names of people they know. Write the names on a board or sheet of paper. It's fine if Cubbies share names of those who are already Christians. The point is to get them thinking about telling others about Jesus.)* Pray for all the names on the list to grow in knowing, loving and following the Savior.

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 4, 86-90
- Bible with bookmarks placed at Luke 5:1-11 and Mark 1:17
- *Optional* — Some kind of netting (screen door netting, craft netting, crocheted blanket, etc.), paper or plastic toy fish, fishing pole (toy or real), doll or picture of a person

Cubbie and Timothy saw a lot of fish in the creek today, didn't they? Now we're going to hear about some real fishermen from the Bible. These fishermen were used to seeing lots and lots of fish. But one day, they couldn't find any fish at all. Then they met Jesus and something really big happened!

(Open your Bible to Luke 5:1-11.) In Luke 5, the Bible tells us that Jesus was standing by a lake, teaching God's words to a crowd of people. They were probably very excited to hear what Jesus had to say because they kept getting closer and closer to Him. They got so close to Him that He decided to get in a boat, move out into the lake and teach the people from the boat.

(Display TC86.) That boat belonged to a fisherman named Peter. **(Point to Peter.)** Peter and his fisherman friends had been fishing all night on the lake. Can you imagine staying up all night to fish? That's a long time! I know I would get very sleepy. Well, even though the friends had fished all night, they didn't catch any fish. Not ONE! When daytime came, the fishermen pulled their two boats up to the shore. They washed their nets to put them away.

(Keep displaying TC86.) Jesus finished teaching, and He called to Peter, "Take your boat out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

WHAT? Peter was probably surprised to hear Jesus say *that*! "Master," said Peter. "We fished all night and didn't catch a thing. But I will obey what you say."

Peter and his friends climbed into the boat. They rowed out to deep water and dropped their nets into the sea.

Optional: Set a net beside you on the floor as you sit and teach. When you talk about the disciples casting their nets, pick up the net and throw it so it hangs off to one side of your lap. As soon as you do so, have a leader sitting behind you start placing the toy fish in your net. The leader can tug on the net to show it's getting heavy.

Then they felt a huge tug. They heard a loud RRRIP! The nets were so full of fish that they started to break.

"Come help!" they shouted to their friends in the other boat.

(Display TC87.) James and John rowed over to help. All the fishermen worked together to bring the fish from the nets and into the boats. **(Pretend to pull a net full of fish into a boat and let Cubbies make the motions with you.)** Soon the two boats were so full of fish that they almost sank!

The fishermen were amazed at all the fish. They had just been fishing for hours and hours in this same lake but hadn't caught anything. Now their boats were full of fish!

Peter knew Jesus had to be a special person to help them catch so many fish. Peter fell down before Jesus and said, "I am a sinner." Peter was a sinner, but Jesus was the Savior, the Son of God.

Jesus said to Peter, "Don't be afraid. Now you will catch *people* instead of fish."

(Look at Cubbies with surprise.) Catch people? How do you catch people? Do you use your fishing pole to catch people? Do you use a net like the fishermen did to catch people? Do you have to run really fast to catch people? **(Allow response to each question.)**

Optional: Use the fishing pole and pretend to catch a doll or a picture of a person that is on

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the floor beside or in front of you. Ask, “Is this what Jesus meant when He said Peter would catch people?” Take the net previously used and cast it over another leader when you ask if you have to use a net like the fishermen.

Cubbies, what do you think Jesus meant? **(Allow Cubbies to speculate for a minute or two before guiding them to the answer.)** Jesus meant that Peter would tell people about the Lord Jesus, the Savior. **(Display TC4.)** The Savior is the one who can save them from their sin. **God sent the Savior.**

(Display TC88 and open your Bible to Mark 1:17.) Jesus asked Peter and his brother, Andrew, to help Him tell the people. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men” **(Mark 1:17).**

Cubbies, have you heard Jesus’ words before? They’re our memory verse for the week. Whenever I talk about the people Jesus asked to help Him, repeat the verse with me, OK?

(Keep displaying TC88.) Jesus asked the other fisherman, James and John, to help Him tell the people. **(Recite the verse with Cubbies.)** Peter, Andrew, James and John left their fishing boats and their nets — they left everything to follow Jesus.

(Display TC89. Point to each man on TC89 as you name him.) After Peter, Andrew, James and John, Jesus asked Matthew, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, James, Simon, Thaddaeus and Judas Iscariot to help him tell the people. **(Recite the verse with Cubbies.)** These 12 men were called disciples, or apostles, and they traveled everywhere with Jesus. **(Count the 12 disciples together.)**

Jesus asked many more men and women to help Him too. Those men and women told people about the Savior, and those people told other people. **(Display TC90.)** Now there are many followers of Jesus all over the world — people like you and like me. Jesus says the same words to us. **(Recite the verse**

with Cubbies.) We can follow Jesus and be fishers of men. That means we tell others about the Lord Jesus, our Savior. **(Close in prayer, asking the Lord to help you and the Cubbies become better fishers of men.)**

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of the Bear Hug 24 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Bear Hug 24 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- Copy of the Bear Hug 24 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — squares of craft netting or copies of the Net Pattern (resource CD), glue sticks

Tell Cubbies to count the fish and draw a line from one fish to its match. Cubbies can color the two fish in each pair the same color and then color the rest of the picture. For a fun craft, let Cubbies cut out the fish and glue them to a square of craft netting or to the Net Pattern page. Review the events of the Bible lesson while Cubbies work.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)**IDEA 1: Flying Fish****What You Need**

- Parachute (or large sheet or blanket)
- Several stuffed toy fish, beanbag fish, small sponge balls or pool splash balls

Ask Cubbies to tell you what happened when the fishermen obeyed Jesus and let their nets down into the sea. Pretend the parachute is a fishing net and the Cubbies are fishermen. Place fish on the parachute and let Cubbies gently flop them around. Challenge the Cubbies to try to keep the fish “in the net.” Don’t let them get away!

If you have a larger club, let half the Cubbies hold the parachute and the other half retrieve flying fish. Then switch roles.

IDEA 2: One Fish, Two Fish**What You Need**

- Several construction paper or cardstock fish in a variety of colors (resource CD)

Scatter the fish on the game floor. Direct Cubbies to line up on one side of the room. The game leader says “One fish!” and then calls out a color. Each Cubbie runs to pick up one fish of that color and then freezes. When the leader calls out “Two fish!” and a color, the Cubbies must run to pick up two fish of that color before freezing. You can also write numbers on the fish such as one through five. Call out a number instead of a color. Make sure you have enough fish for each Cubbie in whatever categories you call.

IDEA 3: Happy Fish, Free Fish!**What You Need**

- Jump ropes or masking tape

Lay jump ropes on the floor to form a circular “fish net” or make a circle on the floor with masking tape. Choose two Cubbies to be

fishermen. The rest of the Cubbies are fish. The leader shouts, “Happy fish, happy fish, swim, swim, swim!” and the “fish” scatter around the room while the fishermen chase them. If caught, Cubbies go stand inside the net. After a few rounds, the leader says, “Happy fish, happy fish, swim away free!” Cubbies can all escape the net and play again. Change fishermen often. (If your club is larger, play with more nets and fishermen.)

IDEA 4: Follow the Leader Feet**What You Need**

- *Optional* — several left and right foot patterns cut from construction paper and taped to the floor in a hopping pattern (resource CD)

Explain that in the Bible, Jesus told the disciples to follow Him. They did what He did and they used their feet to follow Him wherever He went. Say, “Cubbies, let’s practice following with our feet. Do exactly what I do!” Lead Cubbies by doing different things with your feet: e.g., hopping with two feet together or feet apart, hopping on one foot and then the other foot. If you are using foot patterns, you and the Cubbies can jump on the paper feet as a guide. (The game will feel similar to Hopscotch.) As you end the game, say, “Now Jesus is up in heaven, so we can’t see Him, but we know He is still with us. We follow Him by obeying what He says in the Bible.”

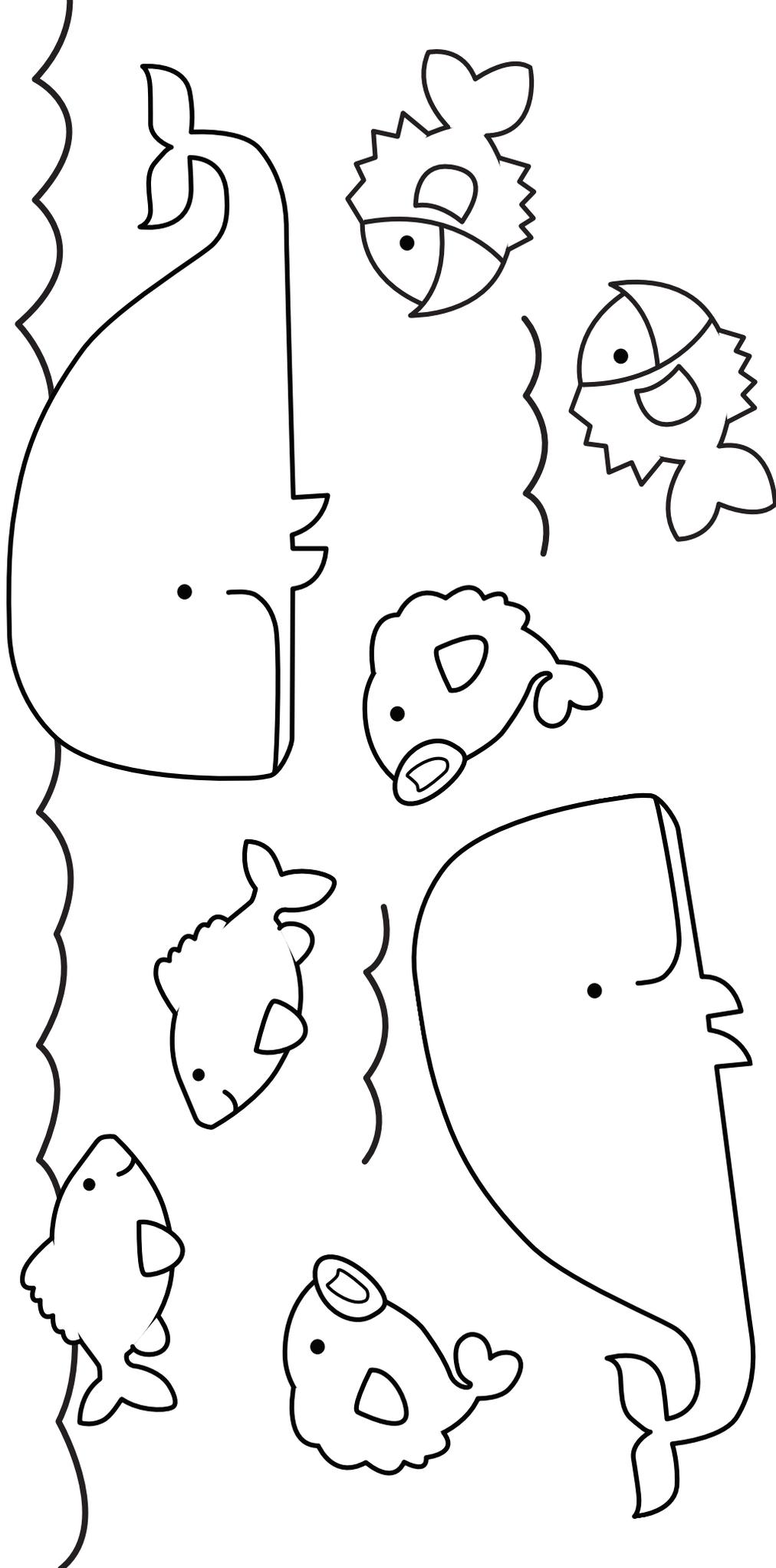
GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

Encourage Cubbies to continue their hard work in their handbooks. The club year is almost over! What kind of incentive can you use to help them finish well?

NAME: _____

**“Come, follow me,” Jesus said,
“and I will make you fishers of men.” (Mark 1:17)**

Fishers of men – people who tell others about the Savior



Basic Instructions: Jesus told the fisherman to let down their nets, and they caught so many fish that their nets almost broke. Can you count the fish on this sheet?
Even More Fun: Draw a line from one fish to its match. Color the two fish in each pair the same color. Color the picture.

Ultimate Fun: Cut out the fish and glue them to a square of craft netting or a picture of a net that your leader provides (resource CD). Tell someone what it means to be fishers of men.