

POINT ➡ WE GET TO KNOW GOD.

Open your Bible to John 6. Show children the words, and SAY: **God's special book, the Bible, tells us about a Mighty Mini who helped Jesus.** ➡ **WE GET TO KNOW GOD** when we read the Bible.

One day, Jesus was talking with his friends and looked up to see a big crowd of about 5,000 people coming to hear him teach. It was lunch time. Jesus asked, "How will we feed all these people?"

ASK: **What ideas can you think of for feeding a lot of people?**

SAY: **Let's see if we have enough money to buy lunch for everyone in this room. Could we do it?** Have children pull out any money they have. Count their money and add it all together. Then tell them how many Happy Meals they could buy, and ask if that would feed everyone.

SAY: **Jesus' friend said there was a little boy with five loaves of bread and two small fish. The boy was willing to share his food, but Jesus'**

friends didn't think it was enough.

Set out five *Mini Bears*, and help kids count them. SAY: **That's how many loaves of bread there were. That's not enough for 5,000 people!** Set out two *Mini Bears* and help kids count them. SAY: **That's how many small fish there were. That's not enough for 5,000 people!**

Jesus took that little bit of bread and fish and thanked God. He started handing out food, and everyone had enough to eat!

Hand out the seven *Mini Bears* to the children, and then hand out the rest of the bears. SAY: **Because one boy shared, he got to see Jesus do something really amazing.** Help kids each count their bears.

ASK: **Tell about a time someone showed you God's love by sharing with you.**

What did you learn about God today?

SAY: **When the little boy offered his food, he probably didn't know what Jesus would do with it. But he saw something amazing because he shared. When we share or do other things to show God's love, ➡ WE GET TO KNOW GOD because we can see what he does with our actions!**



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Form two groups. Have each group form a single-file line, with the line leaders facing each other. The lines should be 8 to 9 feet away from each other. Take out the *Super-Stretch String*.

SAY: **This *Super-Stretch String* isn't long enough right now for both groups to hold it. It's only long enough for one person to hold it. So I'm just going to give it to** [name one of the line leaders]. Hand the *Super-Stretch String* to the child, and ask that child to think of a way to share it with his or her group. Help the group stretch the *Super-Stretch String* so everyone in the line is holding it.

SAY: **Wow! You made the *Super-Stretch String* long enough for your whole group! It's too bad we don't have another one to share with the other group, though. I wonder if someone can help us share with everyone.**

Have the child who first held the *Super-Stretch String* walk it over to the other group while the first group holds on to it. Help children reposition their hands so that it stretches long enough for everyone to hold. When everyone is holding the *Super-Stretch String*, have them lift it up together and shout, "That's amazing! Let's get to know God!"


ASK: **What was it like to come up with ways to share the *Super-Stretch String*?**

What ideas have you had to share things fairly with your friends?

SAY: **When we share with others, we help them see God's love. Then everyone can remember ➡ WE GET TO KNOW GOD.**

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SAY: Let's sing a song that reminds us that Jesus is our caring friend. There are some hard words in this song, so let's learn them first.

"All our sins and griefs to bear" means Jesus took all the bad stuff in our lives away. **"Privilege"** is something special you're allowed to do. **"Carry everything to God in prayer"** just means praying. **"Forfeit"** means give up. Lead kids in singing  **"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"** (track 13) on the **CD**.

SING:

What a friend, what a friend we have; *(put arms around each other)*

What a friend, what a friend we have! *(put arms around each other)*

What a friend we have in Jesus, *(hug yourself)*

All our sins and griefs to bear. *(walk with shoulders slumped)*

What a privilege to carry

Everything to God in prayer. *(pray)*

O what peace we often forfeit; *(wave goodbye)*

O what needless pain we bear. *(walk with shoulders slumped)*

All because we do not carry

Everything to God in prayer. *(pray)*

What a friend, what a friend we have; *(put arms around each other)*

What a friend, what a friend we have! *(put arms around each other)*

Have we trials and temptations? *(frown)*

Is there trouble anywhere? *(look around)*

We should never be discouraged;
Take it to the Lord in prayer. *(pray)*

Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share? *(spread arms wide)*

Jesus knows our every weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer. *(pray)*


What a friend, what a friend we have! *(put arms around each other)*
(Repeat 3x.)

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus" by Joseph Scriven and Charles C. Converse.

ASK: Tell about your best friend.

What are some things that make Jesus a good friend?

What things do you like to share with your friends?

SAY: We can be good friends when we share like the little boy who shared his lunch. But Jesus is the best friend! He shared his whole life. Because we're friends with Jesus,  **WE GET TO KNOW GOD.**

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SAY: ➡ **WE GET TO KNOW GOD.**
The boy who shared his lunch got to know Jesus in an amazing way. Let's play a clapping game. We're going to clap and rap about the boy who shared his lunch.

Have children sit cross-legged on the floor in a circle. Practice the clapping pattern together: Slap knees twice with both hands and then clap hands together twice; slap knees twice with both hands and then clap hands together twice. (If you know "Who Stole the Cookie from the Cookie Jar?" you can use that rhythm.) Continue the rhythm as you chant with kids:

Who can share a lunch with everyone?

[Name of any child] **can share** [his/her] **lunch with everyone.**

(Named child answers) **Who me?**

Yes you! (nod)

(Named child answers) **Could be me.**

Anyone else?

(Named child begins again with another child's name)

(Repeat.)

Continue until all children are named.

ASK: **What's one thing you can share with someone this week?**

What's good about sharing?

SAY: It was so great that a boy shared his lunch with Jesus, because he got to see Jesus' power. Jesus was able to spread what the boy shared to a lot of people! When we share, ➡ **WE GET TO KNOW GOD** because we're doing what God wants us to do.

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Have paper and a pencil handy.

SAY: ➡ **WE GET TO KNOW GOD.**

The boy in the Bible got to know God in an amazing way when he saw how Jesus used his bread and fish to make enough food for everyone.

ASK: **What food does God give your family?**

SAY: **When the boy shared his lunch with Jesus, Jesus made a lot of food! Let's make a list of a lot of kinds of food. First, tell me your favorite foods.** Make a list of what foods the children name. **Now tell me what foods you've eaten today.**

Allow time, and add to your list. **Tell me what food your parents make the most often.** Allow time, and add to your list. Read through the list, and take a vote to see which food is the group's favorite.

ASK: **Tell about some food people have shared with you.**

Why are you thankful for the foods we talked about?

SAY: **God has given us a lot of good food to eat. And we can share what God has given us with other people. One way ➡ WE GET TO KNOW GOD is by seeing how he helps us have all we need—and by sharing it with other people who need things.**