

TAKE THE LEAD

WEEK 2

BIG IDEA

God gives me courage to lead.

BIBLE

Gideon: Judges 7; (Psalm 20)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT?

MUSIC | Lead with Praise

- Hey everyone, welcome to week two of our "Take the Lead" parade! It's time to sing and dance together!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Lead the kids in a time of worship with songs about our God who leads us! Lead the kids in walking through the halls like a parade route. Carry a phone or computer to play songs such as:*
 - "[Brave](#)" by Saddleback Kids
 - "[I Will Not Fear](#)" by Gateway Kids Worship

ACTIVITY | Hit Parade

- In famous parades, you will often see quite a few floats pass by with a character from popular books, games, TV shows, or movies. Let's see if we can name some of them right now!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Split the group into two teams and invite a volunteer from each group to come to the front. Give the players a category and they will need to be the first to spell out an answer on the board using [magnetic letters](#). For pre-writers, ask another teammate to pass them the letters to place on the board. Encourage the teams to help out their teammate by yelling out answers, but they will likely help their opponents, too! Below are some suggested categories, and feel free to add your own.*
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Once the group agrees on a word to spell out, a volunteer can pick out a letter and hand over to your student with special needs to help with participation.*
- A show or movie that has talking animals.
- A book where the main character is a boy.
- A movie where the characters sing.
- Any Star Wars character.
- A female superhero.

- Any book, show, or movie that takes place underwater.
- Any show or movie that has a parade in it.
- Okay, last one: **Who can think of a character from the Bible who was afraid?**

POLL | What Makes You Afraid?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Line up the kids one behind the other in the middle of the room and tell them to face you. For each question, tell the kids to take one step to the left for the answer, "No," or one step to the right for the answer, "Yes." You can stop after you go through the list or when someone reaches the wall. You can also look up some images of these things and make a slideshow as you ask the questions.*
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Some kids with special needs have fear of things that are uncommon. Encourage them to share with the group and show empathy. This will be a great teachable moment for perspective-taking for typical kids and for trust-building for kids with special needs.*
- **What are some things that make you afraid?**
 - Spiders?
 - The dark?
 - Thunderstorms?
 - Monsters under the bed?
 - Going somewhere alone?
 - Tight spaces?
 - Getting lost?
 - Earthquakes?
 - Scary movies?
 - Speaking in front of people?
 - Heights?
 - Getting a shot at the doctor's office?
 - Snakes?
- There are many people who share some of the same fears as you – we call them phobias – and some entirely different ones. For example, did you know that triskaidekaphobia means fear of the number thirteen?

QUESTION | What Do You Do When You're Afraid?

- Most everyone has a way to cope when they come across something that scares them. Sometimes, they close their eyes really tightly and start humming very loudly. Some of us might hold on tightly to a stuffed animal or blanket. Others of us run away as fast as we can.
- **What do you do when you're afraid?**
- **Why does that help you be less afraid?**
- Everyone has fears, even leaders. But they often overcome those fears with God's help, and end up doing something epic! Today, we're going to hear about one such leader.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show this [video](#) to introduce the kids to the story of Gideon in Judges 7. Recruit a volunteer or two to help you out with this skit. Just a heads up – Gideon the Horse is a non-speaking role.
- Today's grand marshal is a man named Gideon! He was a judge in Israel, just like Deborah was. We've got an angel here today to tell us a little more about Gideon's story!
 - **Angel:** Hi, everyone! I'm Angel. I'm one of God's messengers. I pop up every so often when God has an important message for someone, like back when God told me to go talk to Gideon.
 - **Gideon the Horse:** (*Trots in looking upset.*)
 - **Angel:** Gideon, what are you doing here? (*Looks at kids.*) Oh, no. This is not the Gideon you're thinking of. This is Gideon, my horse! Funny story, I named him Gideon because Gideon kinda sounds like giddy-up–
 - **Gideon:** (*Neighs frantically.*)
 - **Angel:** I can't understand you when you get all hysterical like that, Gideon. (*Gideon paces around in the back while Angel talks.*) Speaking of Gideon, I remember when I first met that guy – the person, not the horse. You see, when I first met Gideon, he was not the hero you saw in that video. He was full of fear! I remember when I was sent to talk to him. He was hiding out in a winepress. But God told me to address him as "mighty warrior."
 - **Gideon:** (*Starts nudging Angel's arm with his nose.*)
 - **Angel:** Yeah, I thought it was weird, too! This guy did not look anything like a mighty warrior to me. But God always knows something that we don't. And you know what? God was right! Even though he started out a little scared, Gideon eventually led an amazing attack against the enemy. . . with only 300 men in his army!
 - **Gideon:** (*His eyes dart from side to side, looking like he's trying to block the light.*)
 - **Angel:** Great acting, Giddy! Well anyway, I'm here because I have an important message for all of you, too! All of you will have the opportunity to lead something at some point. And that can be scary. But be like my buddy Gideon who trusted God, even though the odds were against him. Once he realized God was stronger than anything, he became a courageous leader!
 - **Gideon:** (*Hides behind Angel and whimpers.*)
 - **Angel:** (*Sighs.*) Unlike my horse, Gideon, who's kind of scared of everything. (*To Gideon.*) Fine, let's go, Giddy. When are you gonna get over your fear of lightbulbs?

THE BIG IDEA | God gives me courage to lead.

Big Idea: **God gives me courage to lead.**

VIDEO | Take the Lead, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#).

NOW WHAT?

REFLECTION | Causes for Courage

- **Why might we need courage to lead?**
- Being a leader isn't just about getting recognition and being in charge. It can also mean doing what is unpopular because it's the right thing to do. It would take a lot of courage to go against what everyone else is doing because you know God would want you to behave differently. But that's an example of being a great leader – helping others to see how God wants everyone to act.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Gather the kids in groups of two or three and think of a situation where kids their age might need to lead or stand up for something. Ask them to talk about why such a situation might scare them. Then, encourage each group to share what they discussed.*
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** *Provide pre-scripted prompts or scenarios based on ages and have the groups split with with peers in the same age.*
- When it's your turn to lead, you might be scared that no one will agree with you. Or that you might mess up. Or that you're not sure of what you're doing. But that's when you need to remind yourself: **God gives me courage to lead.**

MEMORY VERSE | Mixed-Up Popcorn

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Split the group into two teams, and assign each team with white or yellow popcorn. When it's time to play, empty the garbage bag(s) full of "popcorn" (white and yellow balls/paper/plates/something with the memory verse words on both sets of colors) in the middle of the room and tell each team to collect their team's color balloons only. Once they have collected them all, they need to put the balloons in the correct order. The first team to line up their balloons in the memory verse order wins! You can also do this activity with yellow and white paper crumpled up.*
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** *Instead of writing on the balloons, write on little slips of paper and put them inside the balloons. Kids will have to collect their color balloons, pop them, and put in order the pieces of paper inside the balloons.*

PRAYER

- Dear God, there are many times in our lives when we are afraid, especially when you might be asking us to step up and lead in some way. Teach us not to be afraid in those situations. Help us to trust that you have our back, and that you will give us courage to lead. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What kind of soldiers did God tell Gideon to keep?**
- **Why do you think God wanted Gideon to fight the Midianites with a small army rather than a large one?**
- **Which "weapons" did Gideon and his army use to defeat the enemy?**
- **Read Psalm 20:7-9. Why are we able to "rise up and stand firm?"**
- **What does courage look like to you? How can you tell if someone has it?**
- **In what areas of your life do you think you need more courage?**
- **Can you think of one way God might be nudging you to take the lead?**

ACTIVITY | Instruments of Courage

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid two [cotton candy cones](#). Instruct them to decorate one to be a [trumpet](#) by cutting off a little of the pointy end to create a mouthpiece, then bending the wider end into the shape of a horn. Instruct them to make the other cone into a [torch](#), by first smearing glue along the inside of the wider end, and sticking in different colored gift wrap tissue. You could have them paint both cones brown, then store their finished products in their own [mason jars](#).
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** Allow preteens to decorate their own jars/mugs with things that will remind them of the story of Gideon.
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Break the activity into one step at a time. For students who cannot complete the entire process, have a volunteer and the kid alternate each step. Alternatively, choose a simple step that the kid can do, like one dab of glue, one snip of cutting, one tissue paper to glue, etc.
- Gideon and his army didn't fight the Midianites with the usual weapons – the Bible says they charged with trumpets, torches, and jars. Take these objects home with you to remind you that incredible things can happen when you trust God. Tell yourself this week: **God gives me courage to lead.**