



WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE

TAKE THE LEAD

THE BIG IDEA

Everyone can be a leader.

THE BIBLE

Deborah: Judges 4

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- MUSIC** | Lead with Praise
- ACTIVITY** | Follow the Leader
- ACTIVITY** | Parade Noisemakers

TEACHING TIME

- SCRIPTURE** | Judges 4
- THE BIG IDEA** | Everyone can be a leader.
- VIDEO** | Take the Lead, Episode 1
- ACTIVITY** | Circus Sounds
- PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- SNACK** | Lead the Way!
- ACTIVITY** | One-of-a-Kind Leaders
- ACTIVITY** | Parade Circle
- MEMORY VERSE** | Micah 6:8 (NIV)

PLAY TIME

- ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- ACTIVITY** | Handy Animals
- ACTIVITY** | I Can Be a Leader!



WEEK 1

HACKS FOR TODDLERS

TAKE THE LEAD

BY ABBY BURG

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR TODDLERS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but toddlers tend to get overlooked. But you know your toddlers need more than just babysitting, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your toddlers more engaged.

ACTIVITY | Parade Noisemakers

Consider placing a piece of masking tape over each staple to ensure wandering little fingers are not accidentally poked.

ACTIVITY | Circus Sounds

Simplify this activity by giving each kid a piece of paper with a picture of a different animal on each. They can hold up their picture so everyone can know which animal and sound is coming next.

ACTIVITY | One-of-a-Kind Leaders

Make the pipe cleaner people in advance for each kid. Talk about things they can do to lead themselves to God. Help them shape their pipe cleaner person into different poses, like praying, singing, reading the Bible, etc.

ACTIVITY | I Can Be a Leader!

Provide [alphabet stamps](#) and help kids find the letters in their name and the word "leader," and stamp it on to construction paper strips.



WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

TAKE THE LEAD

THE BIG IDEA

Everyone can be a leader.

THE BIBLE

Deborah: Judges 4

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Lead with Praise

- Hey, friends! Welcome! We are starting a new series today called, "Take the Lead," which is basically a month-long parade!
- **Have you ever seen a parade?** The best thing about a parade is that it's so joyful – everyone is usually smiling, waving, clapping, and having a good time.
- And every parade has a leader! That's the person everyone trusts to follow. And this month, we are going to learn how to follow God as our leader and become great leaders, too! Let's kick off our own parade by celebrating God!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Lead the kids in a time of worship with songs about our God, who leads us! This week, lead the kids in creating a conga line around the room. Consider adding "[Greater Than My Fears](#)" by Kids on the Move to your playlist.*

ACTIVITY | Follow the Leader

- This month, we are going to hear about epic leaders from the Bible and the God who led them. Now, remember a leader is someone people follow. Let's play a game that shows what that means.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Line up the kids behind you, then march around the room. As you march, call out actions one by one that the kids have to mimic as they march (e.g. Scratch your head or pretend like you're walking barefoot in the snow). Feel free to get a little silly! Lets kids take turns leading the march with a silly action of their own.*
- A leader is someone people follow. And anyone can be a leader, including you!

ACTIVITY | Parade Noisemakers

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a paper plate and provide them with crayons, markers, or paint. Instruct the kids to color the back side of the paper plate. Fold each paper plate in half, add in about one-fourth cup of dried beans, then staple the paper plate closed so that the beans don't fall out. Allow the kids to add additional decorations of stickers, if they would like. Be sure to write each kid's name on their noisemaker and keep them in your ministry space throughout the series so the noisemakers can be used during the next several weeks.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Consider placing a piece of masking tape over each staple to ensure wandering little fingers are not accidentally poked.
- We're going to have lots of parades during this series, so these noisemakers will come in handy!

TEACHING TIME**SCRIPTURE | Judges 4**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Open a Bible in front of you to Judges 4. Show [this video](#) to introduce the kids to today's Bible story. Recruit an adult volunteer or two to help you further recap today's story through this short skit. Consider using props and costume pieces to dress the part, too!
- Many parades give someone the title of, "grand marshal," or the leader of the parade. Usually, special leaders are given that honor. Our grand marshal for today is. . . Deborah! And guess what? She's here today! Please welcome Deborah and Barak!
 - **Deborah:** Hi, everyone! I'm Deborah! I am a judge and a prophet for the people of Israel. I lead the people and tell them stories about God.
 - **Barak:** And you can call me Barak! I follow where Deborah leads.
 - **Deborah:** Well, not always!
 - **Barak:** That's true. You told me that I would be able to beat Commander Sisera but I guess I wasn't so sure then.
 - **Deborah:** Yeah I remember. So our friend Jael was the one who beat him.
 - **Barak:** Ooh! She is fierce and strong!
 - **Deborah:** She sure is! Aren't you glad she's on our side?
 - **Barak:** Definitely! And Deborah here is also a person worth admiring, Because we listened to her, we had peace in the land for forty years!
 - **Deborah:** You bet we did!
 - **Barak:** The thing is, back in those days, women just weren't given a fair chance – but boy, did she prove them all wrong!
 - **Deborah:** Well, I can't take all the credit. Sure, being a female judge and prophet wasn't an easy job, but because God was with me, I was able to help our people through some tough times. I hope that's something all of you can remember, too.
 - **Barak:** That's right. It doesn't matter if you think you're too young, too shy, or too different. Any one of you can be a great leader with God's help!
 - **Deborah:** Alright, friends, it's time for us to go now. Thanks for letting us talk with all of you today! Say bye, Barak.
 - **Barak:** See you later, everyone!

THE BIG IDEA | Everyone can be a leader.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the each word of the Big Idea on a balloon without inflating it. When it's time for the Big Idea reveal, blow up each of the balloons manually or with a pump. Have the kids read each balloon aloud with you. After you blow up all the balloons, you can tie them up and tape it to a surface, or you can throw it into the crowd and let kids toss it around as you say the Big Idea.
- Let's all say the Big Idea together: **Everyone can be a leader!**

VIDEO | Take the Lead, Episode 1

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

ACTIVITY | Circus Sounds

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Sit or stand with the kids in a circle. Start by naming an animal followed by a sound the animal makes (e.g. Lion, "roar"). Tell the kids to repeat the animal name and the sound. Then, have the kid next to you choose their own animal and its sound (e.g. Elephant, "trumpet"). The group should then say the first animal and its sound, followed by the next animal (e.g. Lion, "roar." Elephant, "trumpet"). Continue adding animals and sounds from each kid until you've made it all the way around the circle. Add hand motions for each animal to make it more fun!
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Simplify this activity by giving each kid a piece of paper with a picture of a different animal on each. They can hold up their picture so everyone can know which animal and sound is coming next.
- That was a lot of animal sounds! It sounded like a circus in here!
- In our animal circle, everyone got to choose an animal and a sound for the rest of the group to make. We saw that **everyone can be a leader!**

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for showing us that all of us can be leaders. Help us to lead whenever we can by listening to you and doing what is right. We want to be the kind of leaders that leads others to the greatest leader – you! Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME**SNACK | Lead the Way!**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide the kids with a snack that looks like a horn ([Bugles](#) would work well for this). Roll up paper into a cone and put the snacks inside.
- Our snack today looks like a horn that a leader like Deborah might have used to shout out instructions.
- **Who were the main characters in today's Bible story?**
- **How did they beat the other army?**
- **How was Deborah a good leader?**
- Today's story showed us that **everyone can be a leader** when they follow God. That means you can be a leader, too!

ACTIVITY | One-of-a-Kind Leaders

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each kid will need two pipe cleaners of the same color, a straw cut into eight pieces, eight [pony beads](#), and one large [wooden bead](#) to make their own pipe cleaner people (watch this [tutorial](#)). After they are finished, let them play with their new “leaders” while responding to the questions below.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Make the pipe cleaner people in advance for each kid. Talk about things they can do to lead themselves to God. Help them shape their pipe cleaner person into different poses, like praying, singing, reading the Bible, etc.
- **What does a leader do?**
- **Do you think it’s easy or hard to be a leader?**
- **Do you like being a leader? Why or why not?**
- **What are ways you can be a leader?**
- We don’t have to be older or taller to become a leader. We can be leaders right now. Whenever we do what God wants us to do, and we help others do it, too – that’s being a leader!
- **Everyone can be a leader!**

ACTIVITY | Parade Circle

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can play this game with Phase 10, Uno, or regular playing cards, but make sure to use only the number cards. Pass out one card to each kid. Have all the kids sitting. When you call out a number, the kids who have that number card has to get up and start marching around the room. Then call out another number, and the cards with that card gets up and joins the marching. Keep going until all the numbers are called. Do this a few more times, calling out numbers in different orders. During the march, you can say, “Reverse!” which means they need to turn and walk in the opposite direction.
- We were walking around in a circle so by the end, it wasn’t easy to see who was leading. When we don’t have a clear leader, we end up walking in circles and don’t really go anywhere!
- When we lead, we have to lead others toward something, or someone. That someone is God. And we can all do it!
- **Everyone can be a leader!**

MEMORY VERSE | Micah 6:8 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print out the memory verse graphic (in your Programming folder) and cut them up into eight to twelve pieces to create a physical puzzle for kids to solve. Create a few versions with varying levels of difficulty.

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids...

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide this week's coloring page and some crayons or markers. Review today's Bible story and Big Idea as the kids color.

ACTIVITY | Handy Animals

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Reference a chart like [this one](#) to see what kinds of animals you can make using handprints. Lay out a roll of banner paper and finger paints on plates. Let kids dip their hand in paint and put their handprint on the paper. Make sure all the handprints are lined up (like a parade). Once the paint dries a little, help kids turn their handprints into an animal of their choosing.
- All of these animals are different because all of your handprints are different! But that's why God thinks each of you are special.
- Every single one of us, as different as we are, can do something for God. Everyone can be a leader!

ACTIVITY | I Can Be a Leader!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare paper streamers and give one strip to each kid. Instruct the kids to write "[Their name] can be a leader" on the streamers using a washable marker and then hang them around the room! Lay out a piece of newspaper under the streamers when they write because the marker might bleed through.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Provide [alphabet stamps](#) and help kids find the letters in their name and the word "leader," and stamp it on to construction paper strips.

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.