



WEEK 2

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE

TAKE THE LEAD

THE BIG IDEA

God gives me
courage to lead.

THE BIBLE

Gideon: Judges 7

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- MUSIC** | Lead with Praise
- ACTIVITY** | Hit Parade
- ACTIVITY** | What Makes You Afraid?

TEACHING TIME

- SCRIPTURE** | Judges 7
- THE BIG IDEA** | God gives me courage to lead.
- VIDEO** | Take the Lead, Episode 2
- OBJECT LESSON** | Afraid of Shadows
- PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- SNACK** | Light It Up!
- ACTIVITY** | Torches of Courage
- ACTIVITY** | Get That Fear Outta Here!
- MEMORY VERSE** | Micah 6:8 (NIV)

PLAY TIME

- ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- ACTIVITY** | Gideon's Army
- ACTIVITY** | Making Shadow Friends



WEEK 2

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 | What Makes You Afraid?

Lean more toward the funny than the scary for the younger kids. Along with a few pictures of things the kids might find scary, show pictures of things that are not scary that will allow the kids to easily respond, "No!" (e.g. A smiling sun, a rainbow, or a flower).

OBJECT LESSON | Afraid of Shadows

Start this activity by putting things that are not scary in front of the lamp first (e.g. A teddy bear, a toy from your classroom, etc.), showing that their shadows can look bigger than they really are. Then, introduce a rubber creepy crawler toy.

ACTIVITY | Toss That Fear Right Outta Here!

Demonstrate for the kids how and where they should toss the ball when the music pauses to avoid accidents.



WEEK 2

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

TAKE THE LEAD

THE BIG IDEA

God gives me courage to lead.

THE BIBLE

Gideon: Judges 7

WELCOME TIME

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 the song, "[Brave](#)" by Saddleback Kids as you lead the parade.

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 you can name some of them right now!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a slideshow or print out [pictures of parade floats](#) with characters they might recognize (e.g. The Grinch, Chase from Paw Patrol, Blue from Blue's Clues, Mr. Potato Head, etc.). As you show each picture, ask the kids if they recognize the characters depicted in the floats.
- You knew a lot of the characters from the pictures I just showed you. They were huge, but you all didn't seem afraid of them at all!

ACTIVITY | What Makes You Afraid?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Display images of things the kids might be afraid of. Make sure you choose images that are not too scary (cartoon-like would work well). After each image is revealed, have the kids stand to the left side of the room if they think it is scary or to the right side of the room if they do not. Point to each side of the room when you give them the directions (e.g., "If you

think this is scary, go to this side of the room,” pointing to the left side). Examples of the types of images to include are spiders, the dark, thunderstorms, lost in a crowd, heights, getting a shot at the doctor’s office, or snakes.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Lean more toward the funny than the scary for the younger kids. Along with a few pictures of things the kids might find scary, show pictures of things that are not scary that will allow the kids to easily respond, “No!” (e.g. A smiling sun, a rainbow, or a flower).

- **What are some things that scare you?**
- **What do you do to not be scared anymore?**
- Everyone has fears, even leaders. But God helps them to be brave and they often end up doing something amazing! Today, we’re going to hear about a leader who did just that!

TEACHING TIME

SCRIPTURE | Judges 7

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Open a Bible in front of you to Judges 7. Show [this video](#) to introduce the kids to the story of Gideon. Recruit a volunteer or two to help you with this skit (Gideon the Horse is a non-speaking role).
- Last week, I told you that many parades give someone the title of, “grand marshal,” or the leader of the parade. Usually, special leaders are given that honor.
- Today’s grand marshal is a man named Gideon! Gideon was a judge in Israel, just like Deborah was. We can read his story in chapter seven of the book of Judges in the Bible. Here to tell us a little more about Gideon’s story is an angel!
 - **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 in a field of wheat. But God told me to call him, “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. But God always knows something 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:** (*Gets dart-eyed and looks 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 be a leader at some point in your lives. 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. (*To kids.*) Would you believe that Gideon is afraid of lightbulbs?!

THE BIG IDEA | God gives me courage to lead.

- **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: **God gives me courage to lead!**
- **Do you know what "courage" is?** We can describe "courage" as being brave. When God gives us courage, it means God is helping us to be brave and do things that we might think are scary.

VIDEO | Take the Lead, Episode 2

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

OBJECT LESSON | Afraid of Shadows

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a bunch of small items – such as rubber creepy crawler toys [like these](#) – and place them one at a time in front of a lamp so that it casts a large shadow on the wall or a white poster board. Show the kids how small the toy is in comparison to its shadow.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Start this activity by putting things that are not scary in front of the lamp first (e.g. A teddy bear, a toy from your classroom, etc.), showing that their shadows can look bigger than they really are. Then, introduce a rubber creepy crawler toy.
- It's okay to be afraid sometimes. But sometimes, we make our problems look bigger than they really are.
- God wants to show us that sometimes our problems aren't as big or as scary as we think. We can trust God to show us things from God's point of view!
- Remember our Big Idea for the day: **God gives me courage to lead.**

PRAYER

- Dear God, there are many times when we are afraid, especially when we need to be leaders. Help us not to be scared during those times. Help us to trust that you will keep us safe, and that you will give us courage to lead. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Light It Up!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, place an orange snack ([Cheetos](#) would work well) in an ice cream cone to look like a torch. Your finished product should look something like [this](#).
- Our snack today looks like the torches Gideon and his army used in battle!
- **Would you have been scared if you were Gideon going into battle without very many soldiers?**
- **How do you act when you are scared? Do you scream, run away, freeze, or something else?**

ACTIVITY | Torches of Courage

- **What did Gideon and his army use to defeat the enemy?**
- Let's make torches so we can pretend we're part of Gideon's army!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a [cotton candy cone](#) and encourage them to decorate the cone with stickers. Lay on top of each other three pieces of tissue paper – one red, one yellow, and one orange – at varying angles. Gather the tissue paper at the center and stuff them into a cone to "light" the torch. Repeat this for each kid's decorated cone.
- Take these torches 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.**

ACTIVITY | Get That Fear Outta Here!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Seat the kids in a circle. Pass a light, foam ball to one of the kids. Explain that the ball is going to represent our fears during this game. While music plays, the kids will pass the ball around the circle. Pause the music at random intervals and, each time you do so, shout, "Get that fear outta here!" Tell the kid who was holding the ball when the music stopped to toss the ball out of the circle. Remind the kids to be careful not to hit anyone intentionally with the ball.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Demonstrate for the kids how and where they should toss the ball when the music pauses to avoid accidents.
- **When we feel afraid, who can we talk to?**
- **How can you be brave this week?**
- Remember, just like God gave Gideon courage, **God gives me courage to lead.**

MEMORY VERSE | Micah 6:8 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach kids this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.

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 | Gideon's Army

- When Gideon's army stormed the enemy camp, they all shouted, "For God and Gideon!" Let's all pretend we are all members of Gideon's army today. When I say make a trumpet noise, everyone yell, "For God and Gideon!" and make as much noise as you can!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give kids the noisemakers they made last week, in addition to a variety of other [noisemakers](#). Signal them by making a trumpet noise (or use a trumpet toy) and let them make noise! Do this as many times as you'd like. Change it up if you want by telling only certain kids to make noise each time, (e.g., only people wearing blue).

ACTIVITY | Making Shadow Friends

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Make hand shadow puppets ([here](#) are some of many examples you can find online) in front of the lamp and ask the kids to guess which animal or object you are making. Choose one or two easy hand shadow puppets that you can teach the kids and let them try making them as well.

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