



WEEK 4

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE

TAKE THE LEAD

THE BIG IDEA

God gives me leaders
I can follow.

THE BIBLE

Ruth: Ruth 1:1-18

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- MUSIC** | Lead with Praise
- ACTIVITY** | Parade Patrol
- ACTIVITY** | Freeze Dance

TEACHING TIME

- SCRIPTURE** | Ruth 1:1-18
- THE BIG IDEA** | God gives me leaders I can follow.
- VIDEO** | Take the Lead, Episode 4
- ACTIVITY** | Hometown Map
- PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- SNACK** | Animal Parade
- ACTIVITY** | Follow the Steps
- ACTIVITY** | Picking Up Pom-Poms
- MEMORY VERSE** | Micah 6:8 (NIV)

PLAY TIME

- ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- ACTIVITY** | Shoebox Float
- ACTIVITY** | Leaders to Follow



WEEK 4

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 Patrol

Make sure you explain green means "Go" and red means "Stop." Practice this a few times before playing the game to ensure the kids understand what to do when each color is called.

ACTIVITY | Hometown Map

Help kids draw their families or other things from their town on the paper. Let them color over it with watercolor paint.

ACTIVITY | Follow the Steps

Provide some print-outs of dotted line drawings kids can trace like [this](#).



WEEK 4

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

TAKE THE LEAD

THE BIG IDEA

God gives me leaders
I can follow.

THE BIBLE

Ruth: Ruth 1:1-18

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Lead with Praise

- It's our final week of our series, "Take the Lead!" Let's all jump on this praise float and worship together!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This week, invite all the kids to the front with you and pretend you're all on a parade float together. Then, lead the kids in a time of worship with songs about God, who leads us! Consider adding this song "[We Go Deep](#)" by Grow Kids to your playlist for this week.*

ACTIVITY | Parade Patrol

- Parades often happen on streets where there are lots of things happening! Cars and people need to follow directions from the parade patrol so that no one gets hurt and the parade can run smoothly.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Line the kids up along a wall or starting point. The leader stands on the opposite side holding a red circle and a green circle. When the leader holds up the green circle and says, "Green light," all the kids start walking toward the finish line. When the leader puts down the green circle, puts up the red circle, and calls, "Red light," everyone freezes. Keep playing, varying the amounts of time between "light" changes, until all the kids have crossed the finish line.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Make sure you explain green means "Go" and red means "Stop." Practice this a few times before playing the game to ensure the kids understand what to do when each color is called.*
- Leaders give us directions to follow, just like you followed the directions of this game!

ACTIVITY | Freeze Dance

- We have been learning about leading but did you know following is a big part of leading? Everyone follows someone, and following the right person will make you a better leader!
- Let's brush up on our following skills some more!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play [this video](#) of the "Freeze Dance" song and encourage the kids to follow the directions the leader gives.

TEACHING TIME**SCRIPTURE | Ruth 1:1-18**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Open a Bible in front of you to Ruth 1:1-18. Show [this video](#) to introduce the kids to the Bible story. Ask a volunteer to play Ruth. Play an instrumental soundtrack in the background to add to the vibe.
- Every week so far, we've been talking about how many parades give someone the title of, "grand marshal," or the leader of the parade. Usually, special leaders are given that honor.
- Our final grand marshal in "Take the Lead" is a woman named Ruth! She wasn't one of the judges, but she lived during the time when the judges were in power. Let's get to know her a little, shall we?
 - **Interviewer:** Welcome to *[Name of your kid ministry environment]*, Ruth! We are so glad you can join us.
 - **Ruth:** It's a pleasure! Thanks for having me.
 - **Interviewer:** Now, your story is almost like a fairytale! But I think we would all like to hear your side of the story. *(Look at kids.)* Am I right?
 - **Ruth:** Well, I come from a place called Moab. I had a pretty good life, until my husband, my husband's brother, and my husband's father all died.
 - **Interviewer:** I'm so sorry to hear that. That must have been really difficult. So, how did you end up in Bethlehem?
 - **Ruth:** My husband's mother Naomi, wanted to go back to her hometown. She was like my own mother to me, so I didn't like the idea of her going back to her hometown all alone. I wanted to take care of her.
 - **Interviewer:** That was incredibly brave of you. And you barely even knew God at the time, but you told Naomi that you would follow her and her God forever, is that right?
 - **Ruth:** Yes. That probably sounds a bit extreme to most people, but I somehow knew that I had to follow Naomi.
 - **Interviewer:** And what a good thing that you did! Against all odds, you and Naomi had a wonderful life there! I hear you met a great guy – Boaz, isn't it? – and you're expecting a baby soon, too? Congratulations!
 - **Ruth:** Yes, thank you! My new husband and I are very excited!
 - **Interviewer:** I'll bet! Well, thank you for dropping by today, Ruth. It has been a real treat!

THE BIG IDEA | God gives me leaders I can follow.

- **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 using 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 leaders I can follow.**

VIDEO | Take the Lead, Episode 4

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

ACTIVITY | Hometown Map

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give kids a piece of 11"x17" white paper and white crayon. Have them draw a lot of horizontal and vertical lines at random all the way across their paper. Then have kids color over the entire paper with green and blue colored pencils or watercolor paint. Give kids the Hometown Map printable and help them fill out each billboard. Afterwards, they can cut out each billboard and glue them to their map. For more fun, teach kids how to fold their maps like a [real map](#)!
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Help kids draw their families or other things from their town on the paper. Let them color over it with watercolor paint.
- Look at all the cool places on your map. **Would you miss these places if you ever had to move away?**
- I would, too. In today's story, Naomi wanted to go back to her hometown, so Ruth followed her. But by following her, Ruth would be leaving her hometown, too!
- Ruth was able to say goodbye to all of her favorite things at home because she trusted Naomi and God.
- **God gives us leaders to follow!**

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for giving us leaders we can follow, leaders who are kind, loving and whom we can trust. We know that when we follow the right people, we are actually following you! Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Animal Parade

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a [box of animal crackers](#). Give them a long strip of paper (like receipt paper) on which they can line up all the animals in their box like a parade. Help kids return any uneaten crackers back into the box to take home.
- **Tell me about a time someone followed your lead.**
- Someday, you might have someone following your example, like a little brother or sister, or maybe a younger neighbor or cousin. You might even have someone following your example right now!
- **What kind of things should we do to be a good example for the people following us?**

ACTIVITY | Follow the Steps

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give kids a piece of paper and crayons. Have kids follow you step-by-step as you draw a picture, or have them follow along with a tutorial like any of the videos from [Easy Kids Drawings](#).
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Provide some print-outs of dotted line drawings kids can trace like [this](#).
- **When you follow someone, what happens when you don't pay attention and you miss a step?**
- When we follow God, we have to make sure we are paying attention, too! We can't just listen to some of the things God tells us – we need to listen to all of them!
- That's why **God gives us leaders to follow** . . . so that we can know the things God is telling us to do!

ACTIVITY | Picking Up Pom-Poms

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask a leader to walk slowly across the room scattering pom-poms on the ground. Instruct the kids to follow the leader, picking up the pom-poms as they go (depending on how many pom-poms you use and the size of your group, you may want to give each kid a plastic cup to carry their own pom-poms in). You can assign different kids certain colors to pick up or as a variation during a second round.
- Ruth from our Bible story used to go out into the fields when all the workers were done picking up grain and pick up any grain that was left over.
- That was how she got food for her and Naomi to eat . . . and it was how she met her new husband, Boaz, because it turned out she was picking grain in his field!
- **What are some good things that happened because Ruth followed Naomi?**
- **What are some good things that happen when we follow directions from our leaders?**

MEMORY VERSE | Micah 6:8 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Get a roll of tulle ([pink](#) or [blue](#) to represent cotton candy) and something you can wrap the tulle around (a kids coat rack would work well). Tie one end of the tulle to the stand. Ask for a volunteer to come up and hold the roll of tulle. Tell them to repeat the memory verse after you as they circle around the stand with the tulle. They can pass it off to whoever they'd like. Keep going until everyone has had a chance to go and you have a giant cotton candy cone!

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 | Shoebox Float

- What is a parade without a float! For our last day of, “Take the Lead,” we are going to build our own shoebox floats!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Turn a shoebox upside down and prop up the lid against the shorter side ([like this](#)). Let two or three kids work together on one shoebox. Provide sparkly stickers, foam stickers, action figures, animal toys, Play-Doh, and markers to decorate. You might also want to play some music while they decorate!

ACTIVITY | Leaders to Follow

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Select a few books from the [Ordinary People Change the World](#) and/or [Little Bible Heroes](#) series. Read a few aloud with the kids and talk to them about why each of them were good leaders.
- These leaders show us that leaders can come from anywhere. We can become wonderful leaders like them someday, too.
- I’m so glad **God gives me leaders I can follow.**

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