



WEEK 1

FAMILY LESSON GUIDE

TAKE THE LEAD

THE BIG IDEA

Everyone can be a leader.

THE BIBLE

Deborah: Judges 4;
(Psalm 130)

INTRO! *These activities introduce the ideas in this week.*

MUSIC | Lead with Praise

- "[Greater Than My Fears](#)" by Kids on the Move
- "[Echo](#)" by Elevation Worship (motions by Covenant Kids)

ACTIVITY | Build-a-Parade

- **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 family member and tell them not to reveal it to anyone. Tell them to pick a partner and show each other their cards. The person with the lower number has to go stand behind the higher card holder, making a train. Then, they go off to challenge another person, and if the person in the front wins again, the challenger joins their train. If they lose, everyone has to line up behind them. In the event of a tie, have the person in front go to the back of their line, and have the next players compete. Play until you're left with one train!*
- Even though there were many leaders near the beginning and we were all over the room, we ended up with only one leader left to follow!



QUESTION | What Makes a Leader?

- **In your opinion, what are some things that every leader says, does, or has that makes them a great leader?**
- **EXPLAIN:** These are some great descriptions of leaders. But we are going to find out today that not all leaders have the same traits, and sometimes, the greatest leaders are not who you'd expect!

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

SCRIPTURE | Judges 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show this [video](#) to introduce the kids to today's Bible story in Judges 4.

THE BIG IDEA | Everyone can be a leader.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a game of Hangman (your family has to guess the big idea one letter at a time. Draw a number of dashes equivalent to the number of letters in each word). If you have balloons, blow up ten. If you don't, find ten objects around the house. Have the kids guess the letters, and if they choose a letter that is not in the Big Idea, pop a balloon or get rid of an item. See if they can guess it before they run out!
- You saved the parade by figuring out today's Big Idea: **Everyone can be a leader.**

VIDEO | Take the Lead, Episode 1

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

STORY | Leader, Me?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Share a story about a time when you were selected to lead something when you didn't think you were the right choice. Or share a story about a time in your life when you wanted to be selected to lead something and you weren't. Why did you want to be picked? How did it make you feel when you were passed over?
- **EXPLAIN:** Deborah was a fierce and brave leader even though she was not what a typical leader looked like in her day. Barak also showed that he could be a great leader when he led the Israelite army to go up against Sisera and his 900 chariots, even though he seemed a little hesitant at first.
- **EXPLAIN:** We don't have to look or act like what we think leaders look like in order to lead in great ways – we just have to follow God's lead and do as God does! **Everyone can be a leader.**



ACTIVITY | Lead By Example

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Line up your family and tell them to stand in order, based on categories you give them. The challenge is to do it without saying a word or touching each other, and finding creative ways to communicate instead. Also, they can't just let one person do all the sorting. Some of the categories can be: birthday, age, grade, height, alphabetical order of first name, etc.*
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** *Have the entire group blindfolded except for one kid. Let that kid direct the group to line up in the correct order by the assigned category. Select different kids to lead each round.*
- **What did each of you do to lead yourselves through this activity?**

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 130

- **EXPLAIN:** We have prepared a special Bible reading parade for you today that relates to today's story about Deborah.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Get a wagon, scooter, or something else your family can sit on and be transported across the room. Pick someone who can pull the scooter with your family members on it one at a time. Instruct a family member to read a verse while being wheeled across the front of the room by the person pulling. Once they reach the end of the verse, they hop off, and the next reader hops on and reads the verses that follow, while the leader wheels them to the other side. And so on. Tell all the rest of your family to wave to each reader. Try and narrate the 'parade' like a commentator – use the suggestions below for fun things to say, or make up your own!*
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *When kids with reading difficulties show interest in participating in reading aloud activities, be creative and encourage their participation (e.g., Have them echo your reading, say verses with sign language, use gestures and hand movements, draw a picture, etc.).*
- Now that was Psalm 130 verses one and two, read by [Name of kid]. Remember in today's Bible story how the Israelites were suffering under the king of Canaan? I'm sure they prayed a similar prayer to God to rescue them.
- What a wonderful reading of verses three and four by [Name of kid]. These verses say that God doesn't keep track of things people do wrong. The people of Israel in today's story had turned away from God many times, but when they prayed, God forgave them and heard their prayers!
- [Name of kid], you made verses five and six come alive! When we pray to God, sometimes God doesn't answer right away, but that doesn't mean God didn't hear us . . . we just need to wait.
- And closing out this Psalm parade is [Name of kid]'s reading of verses seven and eight. Once the people of Israel won against Canaan, they put their trust in God once more, and they had peace in the land!



GO DEEPER. This part helps your kid understand why it's important.

REFLECTION | Makings of a Leader

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each family member a Makings of a Leader printable, found at the end of this document. In the circles around the outside of the paper, tell them to write positive words that describe themselves. Then, ask them to swap papers with another kid. Make sure to have leaders walk around and help the kids come up with ideas so that no one's paper is blank. Once finished, tell them to cut out their "banner" and tape it on to a dowel rod.
- **EXPLAIN:** Remember today's Big Idea is that **everyone can be a leader**. That means everyone here can lead in some way.
- **EXPLAIN:** Look at your friend's paper. Using the words they wrote to describe themselves, **what are some ways you think they can lead?** Write your idea in the blank space in the middle and return the paper to them.
- **EXPLAIN:** Not everyone is meant to lead in the same way, but God made us all to be leaders in some way. Take your paper and put it up somewhere in your home to remind you that you can be a leader, too!

ACTIVITY | Parade Prep

- Every parade has fun dances! Let's see if we can make one of our very own.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Watch this [video](#) (choreography for "You Lead" by Jamie Grace) with your family. Try to create a parade set to the video – you'll practice each week, and hopefully have it nailed down by the end of the month!

MEMORY VERSE

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Get your family to practice doing the memory verse with you!
- **"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." MICAH 6:8**

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for showing us that being a leader doesn't mean we have to fit into any box or category. Help us to lead in places that we can by listening to you and doing what is right. Give us opportunities to be the kind of leader that leads others to the ultimate leader – you! Amen.



LET'S DISCUSS!

DISCUSSION

- Why did Israel have judges?
- What message from God did Deborah tell Barak?
- How was the commander from Canaan defeated?
- Read Psalm 130:3-4. How can you tell from today's Bible story that God forgives?
- In your own words, what is a leader?
- Do you like being a leader? Why or why not?
- Can you think of some ways God might want you to be a leader?

ACTIVITY | Sash of Honor

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each family member a three-inch-wide piece of ribbon, or a sheet or a towel – something long enough to be worn as a sash. Cut as many pieces of paper as you need into quarters, and write out the letters in the word 'LEADER', one to each quarter, so that each family member can spell the whole word.
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** Encourage students to also include words from the Makings of a Leader activity earlier that share about what makes them a unique leader!
- **EXPLAIN:** Sashes are usually worn by pretty important people in a parade. Today, that important person is you! There's no telling all the amazing ways you can lead with God on your side. After all, **everyone can be a leader!**

