



WEEK 2

FAMILY LESSON GUIDE

TAKE THE LEAD

THE BIG IDEA

God gives me courage to lead.

THE BIBLE

Gideon: Judges 7;
(Psalm 20)

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

MUSIC | Lead with Praise

- Hey everyone, welcome to week two of our "Take the Lead" parade! It's time to sing and dance together!
- **PLAY:**
 - ["Brave"](#) by Saddleback Kids
 - ["I Will Not Fear"](#) by Gateway Kids Worship

POLL | What Makes You Afraid?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Line up your family outside in the middle of your yard (or inside if you have a larger room) and tell them to face you. For each question, tell them 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?

- **EXPLAIN:** 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?**
- **EXPLAIN:** 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.

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

SCRIPTURE | Judges 7

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show this [video](#) to introduce your family to the story of Gideon in Judges 7.



THE BIG IDEA | God gives me courage to lead.

- *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!*
- Today's Big Idea: **God gives me courage to lead.**

VIDEO | Take the Lead, Episode 2

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

OBJECT LESSON | Afraid of Shadows

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prepare a bunch of small items – maybe 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 your family how small the toy is in comparison to its shadow.*
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** *Play a few rounds of the game, "[Can you feel it?](#)" by Jimmy Fallon, where kids have to figure out what's in the box by touch only.*
- **EXPLAIN:** *It's okay to be afraid sometimes. Fear is our brain's natural response and often it's what helps us survive.*
- **EXPLAIN:** *But sometimes, our fear prevents us from doing anything besides remaining scared. And that makes a problem look far more terrifying than it actually is.*
- **EXPLAIN:** *God shows us that our fears can lead to courage when we trust God and notice things from God's point of view!*

RESPONSE | Float Away Fears

- *Did you know some of the first parades were held on boats? That might be they're called parade "floats" . . . because there was a time when floats literally floated!*
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Instruct your family to write down some of their fears on the piece of paper. When everyone is done, show them how to fold the paper into a boat (see instructions [here](#)). Then, tell them to place their boat in a bin filled with water, a sink, or your bathtub.*
- *Now, just because we put our fear boats in the water, it doesn't mean our fears automatically disappear. But this is a good way for us to remember that no matter what we are afraid of, God will give us courage to float them away when we ask.*

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 20

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Psalm 20 in an epic announcer voice. Play some marching band or drumline music ([like this](#)) in the background. To keep your family engaged, write a couple*



words from each verse on a piece of paper, and hold it up when it's time for them to say it out loud with you.

- This Bible passage starts off by blessing everyone who is listening to the psalm. By blessing them, the writer is saying, "I pray and hope God takes care of you." But in the second half of Psalm 20, the writer changes their way of talking. Instead of just being hopeful, they are now absolutely certain that God will take care of us.
- From reading Psalm 20, we know what we should do when we are afraid – call on God! The writer of this psalm says when we trust and pray to God, God will hear us and give us victory. We may not be going into battle like Gideon did, but we can conquer our fears with the courage God gives us.
- **THE BIG IDEA: God gives me courage to lead.**

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | Causes for Courage

- **ASK: Why might we need courage to lead?**
- **EXPLAIN:** 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 your family together. 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.**

ACTIVITY | Parade Prep

- **EXPLAIN:** Remember our big parade dance number we worked on last week? One of the lines from that song says, "You lead, I'll follow, Your hands hold my tomorrow."
- **EXPLAIN:** When we follow God, God will not only help us, but give us courage to do even more than we ever imagined! Let's keep that in mind as we practice our song again.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Make sure your family has a way to play this [video](#) and practice only the parts assigned to them previously. They will work on this each week and present it at week four.*



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, 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.

LET'S DISCUSS!

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:** *Make two narrow cones (like cotton candy cones) by rolling up 2 pieces of paper or card stock. Instruct your family 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 people 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.*



TAKE THE LEAD | WEEK 2 FAMILY LESSON

- **EXPLAIN:** 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.**
-