

TAKE THE LEAD

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Leaders take the lead. Like a drum major leading a marching band or the grand marshal at a parade, leaders are out in front showing others the way.

Legendary leaders of the Bible like Deborah, Gideon, Samson, and Ruth will help kids see what leadership looks like and how they can become great leaders too.

Young leaders will grow this month learning that God gives me courage to lead, helps me learn from mistakes, and gives me leaders I can follow. Everyone can be a leader, let's take the lead together.



READ
Judges 4:1-24

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?

Makings of a Leader

Give each family member the Makings of a Leader printable.

In the circles around the outside of the paper, them to write positive words that describe themselves.

Then, ask them to swap papers with someone else.

Once finished, tell them to cut out their "banner" and tape it on to a dowel rod.

WORSHIP

Listen to the song
"Greater Than My Fears"
by Kids on the Move

Listen to the song
"ECHO"
by Elevation Worship (Covenant Kids)

**TAKE
THE
LEAD** 1

MEMORY
VERSE

Practice this month's memory verse with the signs a combination of SEE and ASL

START MEMORIZING!

**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

[growcurriculum.org/
Micah6-8](http://growcurriculum.org/Micah6-8)

**Everyone
can be a
leader.**

DEBORAH LEADS ISRAEL

Judges 4:1-24

Judges 4

¹After Ehud died, the Israelites once again did evil in the eyes of the LORD. ²So the LORD sold them into the hands of Jabin, a king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth Haggoyim. ³Because he had nine hundred iron chariots and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the LORD for help.

⁴Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. ⁵She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came to her to have their disputes decided. ⁶She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, “The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you: ‘Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead the way to Mount Tabor. ⁷I will lure Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.’”

⁸Barak said to her, “If you go with me, I will go; but if you don’t go with me, I won’t go.”

⁹“Very well,” Deborah said, “I will go with you. But because of the way you are going about this, the honor will not be yours, for the LORD will hand Sisera over to a woman.” So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh, ¹⁰where he summoned Zebulun and Naphtali. Ten thousand men followed him, and Deborah also went with him.

¹¹Now Heber the Kenite had left the other Kenites, the descendants of Hobab, Moses’ brother-in-law, and pitched his tent by the great tree in Zaanannim near Kedesh.

¹²When they told Sisera that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, ¹³Sisera gathered together his nine hundred iron chariots and all the men with him, from Harosheth Haggoyim to the Kishon River.

¹⁴Then Deborah said to Barak, “Go! This is the day the LORD has given Sisera into your hands. Has not the LORD gone ahead of you?” So Barak went down Mount Tabor, followed by ten thousand men. ¹⁵At Barak’s advance, the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera abandoned his chariot and fled on foot. ¹⁶But Barak pursued the chariots and army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim. All the troops of Sisera fell by the sword; not a man was left.

¹⁷Sisera, however, fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because there were friendly relations between Jabin king of Hazor and the clan of Heber the Kenite.

¹⁸Jael went out to meet Sisera and said to him, “Come, my lord, come right in. Don’t be afraid.” So he entered her tent, and she put a covering over him.

¹⁹“I’m thirsty,” he said. “Please give me some water.” She opened a skin of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him up.

²⁰“Stand in the doorway of the tent,” he told her. “If someone comes by and asks you, ‘Is anyone here?’ say ‘No.’”

²¹But Jael, Heber’s wife, picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died.

²²Barak came by in pursuit of Sisera, and Jael went out to meet him. “Come,” she said, “I will show you the man you’re looking for.” So he went in with her, and there lay Sisera with the tent peg through his temple—dead.

²³On that day God subdued Jabin, the Canaanite king, before the Israelites. ²⁴And the hand of the Israelites grew stronger and stronger against Jabin, the Canaanite king, until they destroyed him.

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?

MIXED UP POPCORN

Purchase a pack of balloons and print out the memory verse and tape one word to each balloon.

Mix the Balloons up and have a family challenge of putting the memory verse back into order!

WORSHIP AS A FAMILY

Listen to the song
"BRAVE"
by Saddleback Kids

Listen to the song
"I WILL NOT FEAR"
by Gateway Kids

TAKE THE LEAD 2

MEMORY VERSE

Practice this month's memory
verse with the signs a
combination of
SEE and ASL

START MEMORIZING!

**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

[growcurriculum.org/
Micah6-8](http://growcurriculum.org/Micah6-8)

**God gives
me courage
to lead.**

GIDEON ATTACKS THE MIDIANITES

Judges 7:1-22

Judges 7

¹Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. ²The LORD said to Gideon, “You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her, ³announce now to the people, ‘Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’” So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

⁴But the LORD said to Gideon, “There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will sift them for you there. If I say, ‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go; but if I say, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.”

⁵So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, “Separate those who lap the water with their tongues like a dog from those who kneel down to drink.” ⁶Three hundred men lapped with their hands to their mouths. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.

⁷The LORD said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the other men go, each to his own place.” ⁸So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites to their tents but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.

Now the camp of Midian lay below him in the valley. ⁹During that night the LORD said to Gideon, “Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands. ¹⁰If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah ¹¹and listen to what they are saying. Afterward, you will be encouraged to attack the camp.” So he and Purah his servant went down to the outposts of the camp. ¹²The Midianites, the Amalekites and all the other eastern peoples had settled in the valley, thick as locusts. Their camels could no more be counted than the sand on the seashore.

¹³Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. “I had a dream,” he was saying. “A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed.”

¹⁴His friend responded, “This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands.”

¹⁵When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped God. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, “Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands.”

¹⁶Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside.

¹⁷“Watch me,” he told them. “Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do. ¹⁸When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, ‘For the LORD and for Gideon.’”

¹⁹Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands. ²⁰The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, “A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!” ²¹While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled.

²²When the three hundred trumpets sounded, the LORD caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords. The army fled to Beth Shittah toward Zererah as far as the border of Abel Meholah near Tabbath.

DISCUSSION

- What question did Delilah keep asking Samson?
- Why was giving Delilah the right answer a mistake?
- How did God help Samson one last time?
- Read Judges 16:24 and Psalm 9:3-5. In what ways are those prayers similar?
- Which prayer is the one made to the one true God who helps us?
- Are mistakes a good thing or a bad thing? Why do you say that?
- What is one mistake you made recently?
- What has God helped you learn from making that mistake?

BEAUTIFUL OOPS

Find "Beautiful Oops!"
by Barney Saltzberg on Youtube.

Spend time transforming some of these
"mistakes" into something new.

Mistakes happen. But instead of wallowing in our failures and missteps, it's important we remember what caused the mistake, and avoid it in the future.

And instead of letting our mistakes get us down, we can find ways to repurpose them and turn them into good things!

WORSHIP

Listen to the song
"Take Heart"
by Jumpstart 3

Listen to the song
"WON'T LET GO"
by Gateway Kids Worship

TAKE THE LEAD 3

MEMORY VERSE

Practice this month's memory
verse with the signs a
combination of
SEE and ASL

START MEMORIZING!

**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

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Micah6-8](http://growcurriculum.org/Micah6-8)

**God helps me
learn from
my mistakes.**

SAMSON DIES

Judges 16:21-31

Judges 16

²¹Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding in the prison. ²²But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

²³Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, “Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands.”

²⁴When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying,

“Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands,
the one who laid waste our land
and multiplied our slain.”

²⁵While they were in high spirits, they shouted, “Bring out Samson to entertain us.” So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them.

When they stood him among the pillars, ²⁶Samson said to the servant who held his hand, “Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them.” ²⁷Now the temple was

crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform. ²⁸Then Samson prayed to the LORD, “O Sovereign LORD, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.” ²⁹Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, ³⁰Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

³¹Then his brothers and his father’s whole family went down to get him. They brought him back and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had led Israel twenty years.

DISCUSSION

- How was Ruth related to Naomi?
- Why did Naomi decide to return to her hometown?
- What did Ruth say when Naomi told her to go back to Moab?
- Read Lamentations 3:22-24. How does this verse remind you of Naomi's actions? Of Ruth's actions?
- Who are some of the people you trust the most when it comes to picking what to wear, eat, buy, watch, or listen to?
- How do you decide whose opinion matters most in your life?
- What are some things you do when you follow someone?

Leaders IRL (In Real Life)

Print a Leaders IRL printable and tell them to fill it out with facts about a "real leader" in their life.

Then, draw a stick figure drawing of the person they chose.

Now, let's get real for a little bit. It's great to have leaders from all sorts of places to look up to, but the most influential ones are going to be the ones who know us and care about us.

Can you think of a leader you know in real life who follows God and can help you follow God, too?

WORSHIP

Listen to the song
"WE GO DEEP"
by GROW KIDS

Listen to the song
"I WILL FOLLOW"
by Chris Tomlin (motions by Calvary Kids)

TAKE THE LEAD 4

MEMORY VERSE

Practice this month's memory verse with the signs a combination of SEE and ASL

START MEMORIZING!

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

growcurriculum.org/Micah6-8

**God gives me
leaders
I can follow.**

NAOMI AND RUTH

Ruth 1:1-18

Ruth 1

¹In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. ²The man's name was Elimelech, his wife's name Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

³Now Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, ⁵both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶When she heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, Naomi and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. ⁷With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

⁸Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show kindness to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me. ⁹May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband."

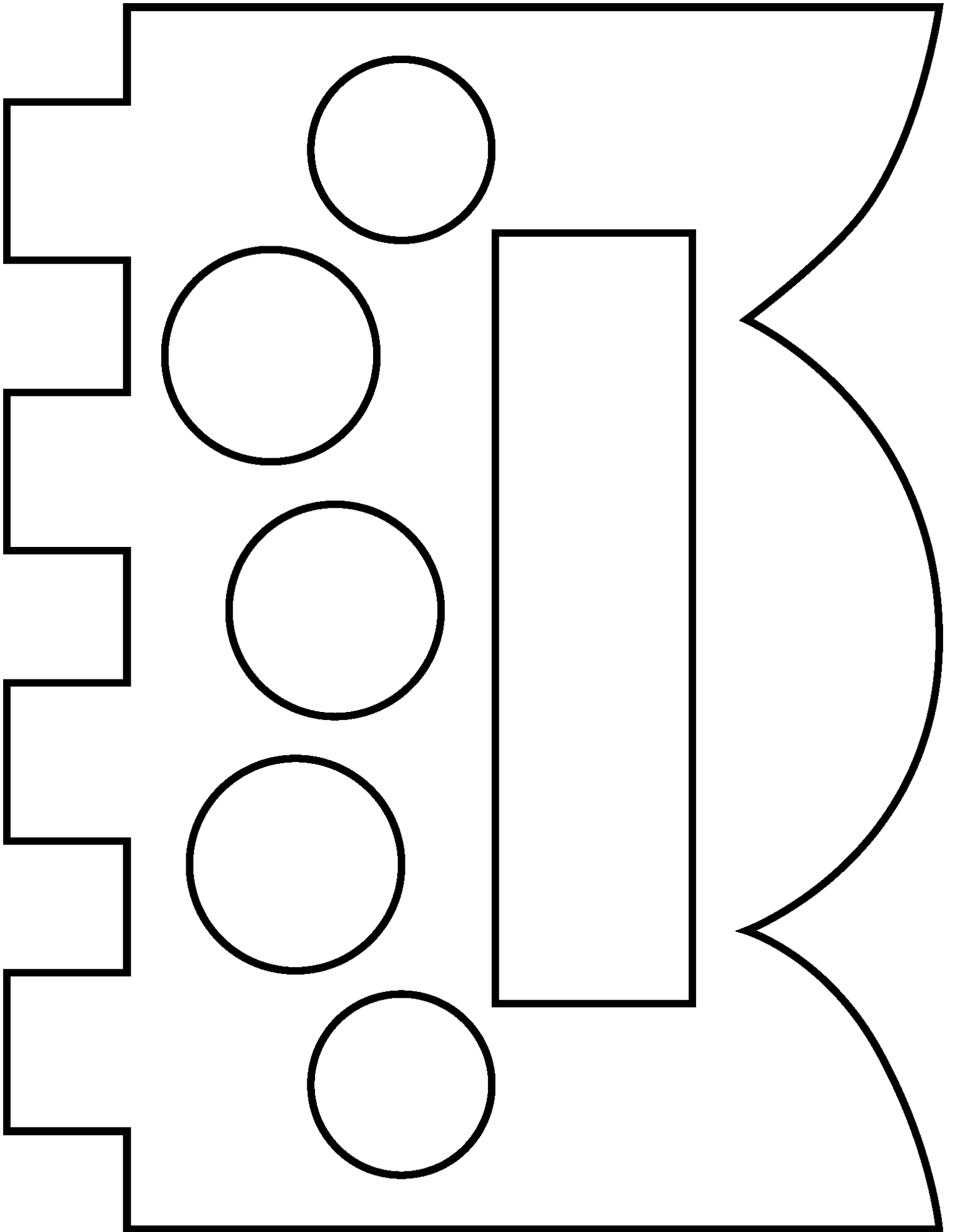
Then she kissed them and they wept aloud ¹⁰and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people."

¹¹But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? ¹²Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons—¹³would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD'S hand has gone out against me!"

¹⁴At this they wept again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵"Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her."

¹⁶But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me." ¹⁸When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.





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This is _____
[name of leader]

_____ **is good at** _____
[name]

[something they are good at]

_____ **doesn't** _____
[name]

[something mean or hurtful they don't do]

_____ **likes** _____
[name]

[something they like]

_____ **is** _____
[name] [word that describes them]

Be like _____
[name]

