

# Lesson 21

## Special People of the Bible Balaam & his Donkey

### Balaam & his Donkey

**2-5 Years:**

**Opening prayer** to start the class. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for giving us this day together to learn more about you and what you have done for us. Amen”

**Bible Story:**

Tell the story of Balaam in a language that this age can understand. Be sure that it is a simplified version. There are several picture versions in children’s Bibles that are appropriate or you may want to use a paraphrased version such as this:

Balaam was a man who didn’t always listen to God. Sometimes he put his trust in things that did not make God happy. When God’s chosen people, the Israelites, were near the land that he lived on, other people wanted Balaam to scare them off. Balaam had a donkey. When he was riding the donkey to go scare off the Israelites, the angel of the Lord stopped the donkey in the road. Balaam got mad at the donkey for stopping. The same thing happened two other times. Balaam was really mad. The donkey knew God wanted him to stop, but Balaam wouldn’t listen. Guess

what happened? The angel opened the donkey's mouth to talk to Balaam and ask why he was so mean and mad! Then God let Balaam see the angel. Balaam said that he was sorry and asked for God's forgiveness. God said He forgives, but only say things that are good and nice. God wanted Balaam to love him and all of God's people.

**Discussion:**

Why did Balaam ignore God, but listen to the donkey? How does God speak to us?

**Song:** Behold, behold,

I stand at the door and knock, knock, knock.

Behold, behold,

I stand at the door and knock, knock, knock.

If anyone hears my voice,

If anyone hears my voice,

And will open, open, open the door.

I will come in.



**Activity:**

Write out several ways that God talks to children on several pieces of paper, bind, and copy them. Have students illustrate a book about ways that God talks to them.

**Closing Prayer:** thanking God for the talking to us. Example:

“Thank you God for bringing us together today to learn about how you spoke to Balaam. Please help us to listen when you tell us something. Thank you for making us. Help us to follow your ways this week. Amen”

**6-8 Years:**

**Opening prayer:** Start the class by praying together. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for giving us this day together to learn more about you and what you have done for us. Amen”

**Bible Story:**

Tell the story of Balaam in a language that this age can understand. Be sure that it is a simplified version. There are several picture versions in children’s Bibles that are appropriate or you may want to use a paraphrased version such as this:

Balaam was a man who didn’t always listen to God. Sometimes he put his trust in things that did not make God happy. When God’s chosen people, the Israelites, were near the land that he lived on, other people wanted Balaam to scare them off. Balaam had a donkey. When he was riding the donkey to go scare off the Israelites, the angel of the Lord stopped the donkey in the road. Balaam got mad at the donkey for stopping. The same thing happened two other times. Balaam was really mad. The donkey knew God wanted him to stop, but Balaam wouldn’t listen. Guess what happened? The angel opened the donkey’s mouth to talk to Balaam and ask why he was so mean and mad! Then God let Balaam see the angel. Balaam said that he was sorry and asked for God’s forgiveness. God said He forgives, but only say things that are good and nice. God wanted Balaam to love him and all of God’s people.

**Discussion:**

Why did Balaam ignore God, but listen to the donkey? How does God speak to us?

**Activity:**

Sometimes God speaks to you in a still small voice, through other Christians, through the Bible, or through prayer. Have students stand in a single file line. Whisper into the first student’s ear “God says speak only what I tell you” have that student whisper what they heard to the next student and so on. Ask the last student to share aloud the message they received. Compare to the actual phrase whispered and discuss how sometimes we have a hard time listening to God. Repeat with other verses from the story if time allows. (Numbers 22: 21-38)

**Activity:**

Make a Venn-diagram (two circles that overlap slightly to allow for a common shared area) and compare how God talked to Balaam, and how he talks to us.

**Closing Prayer:** thanking God for the talking to us. Example:

“Thank you God for bringing us together today to learn about how you spoke to Balaam. Please help us to listen when you tell us something. Thank you for making us. Help us to follow your ways this week. Amen”

**9-11 Years:**

**Opening prayer:** Start the class by praying together. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for giving us this day together to learn more about you and what you have done for us. Amen”

**Bible Story:**

In this lesson, God uses Balaam, who is pulled between pagan beliefs and truly listening to the voice of God. The Moabite people are afraid of the Israelites taking over their land and ask Balaam to put a curse on the Israelites so they will be driven out of their country. Have the students read the following selections.

Numbers 22: 21-27

Numbers 22: 28-31

Numbers 22: 32-38

Numbers

22: 21-27

22: 28-31

22: 32-38

**Discussion:**

God used the angel three times to get Balaam’s attention. It didn’t work. Are we like that sometimes? Why did Balaam ignore God, but listen to the donkey? How does God speak to us?

**Activity:**

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**Activity:**

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**Closing Prayer:** thanking God for the talking to us. Example:

“Thank you God for bringing us together today to learn about how you spoke to Balaam. Please help us to listen when you tell us something. Thank you for making us. Help us to follow your ways this week. Amen”