

Lesson 12: Balaam's Donkey

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Numbers 22 – Meet two new people – Balak the King and Balaam the Prophet
- 2) See that God can be angry with us and why
- 3) Recognize the need to pay attention when others are trying to help us

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Balaam and the Donkey Color the Dots Sheet – one per student
- Donkey Maze – one per student

Optional:

Talking Donkey Craft

- Donkey Template – one per student printed on white cardstock or construction paper
- Popsicle Stick – one per student
- Tape – to share
- Scissors – to share
- Brass fastener or Brad – one per student
- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Snack:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| - Pretzel Sticks | handful for each child |
| - Napkins for snack | one per child |
| - Juice or water and cup | one per child |

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied).

Say to students: **Can anyone remember what we studied last week?** The Israelites travelled towards the Promised Land and on the way, tried to go through two king's lands. The kings refuse and attack the Israelites but with God's help – the Israelites defeat the kings and continue to move towards the Promised Land. They also complained and so God sent fiery serpents as punishment. After they repented, God had Moses make a bronze snake that when looked at would save them from the bite of the serpents.

If you have your Bibles let's find Numbers and turn there now. Help as needed.

Today we are studying Numbers Chapter 22. We will meet two new people – Balak the King and Balaam the Prophet. A way to remember who was the king is that Balak is the king because his name ends in "K" and King starts with "K".

Optional: Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Say, **Can I get a volunteer to read Numbers 22:1-7?** Read **Numbers 21:1-7.**

Who is Balak? The king of the Moabites.

Why was he scared? Because Israel was heading towards him and because they were so numerous and large and had defeated the Amorites and those in Bashan.

Say, **“When the Israelites left Egypt there was over 600,000. In the beginning of the book of Numbers we saw that God told Moses to take a census of the people (count the people). And, there were over 600,000 men who were 20 years and older that could go into battle. This is a BIG army! Add all the wives, children, and elderly and that would mean a huge number of tents, herds of animals, servants, and more, coming towards the Moabites. No wonder Balak the king is afraid!”**

What did King Balak want Balaam the Prophet for? Because he knew that whoever Balaam blesses will be blessed and whoever he curses will be cursed, so Balak wants him to curse the Israelites so that Balak can retain his power in Moab.

Let’s read Numbers 22:8-12

When Balaam explained the situation to God, God said 3 things in verse 12 what were they?

- 1) You shall not go with them
- 2) You shall not curse the Israelites
- 3) Because they are blessed by God

Should Balaam go with them? No!

Why? Because God just said not to.

Should Balaam curse the Israelites? No

Why? Because God just said not to.

Let’s read Numbers 22:13-19

Did Balaam listen to God? Yes.

Did King Balak send people again? Yes

What did they promise to Balaam if he came this time? Balak would honor him and give him whatever Balaam asked the king!

What did God say he should do from verse 12? Not go!

What does Balaam say and do? Says he will ask the Lord if there is more to learn....

Do you think God is going to be happy if He tells us something in the Bible and we go to Him again and again and say “Are you sure you want me to do that”? No!

If God says it - we do it - no questioning, no debating, and no going back again and again. No means no!

Now, let’s read Numbers 22:20-34

What does God tell Balaam to do now? Go, but only speak what I say.

Do you think God wanted Balaam to go? No, because in verse 12 God said don’t! But, because Balaam wouldn’t listen, God says go – and then because Balaam goes (most likely because he really

wanted the honor and riches that the king would give him) God gets angry! How do we know this.

Have students turn to

2 Peter 2:15

They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness.

What is said about Balaam in the New Testament? He loved the wages of wickedness. He was willing to do evil to make money.

How many times did Balaam hit the donkey? 3 times

What did the donkey say to Balaam about hitting her? Why did you hit me, have I ever led you wrong before?

What can we learn about trusting others? Balaam should have trusted his donkey and realized something was wrong - instead he just beat and hit the donkey to get what he wanted - which would have been death if the donkey went in the way of the angel! The donkey saved Balaam.

Maybe we should trust those in the church who help us and guide us when we might be about to do something wrong?

Keep your fingers in chapter 22 but turn to Proverbs 12:15. Let's read it out loud.

Proverbs 12:15

The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.

Who is wise according to the Bible? Those who listen to advice!

Should we listen to just any advice? No, only good advice that is based on the Word of God.

Can God get angry with us? Yes! If we don't obey Him and question His Word - He has the right to be angry with us for not obeying.

How can we apply this story for us today? Listen to God! Listen to those who are trying to help us and not hurt them when they try and stop us from doing something wrong. Know what God wants and do it! Recognize that God is very angry when we sin, so we need to be so grateful to Jesus who saves us from sin through baptism and thank God and Jesus every day for allowing us to keep trying to live better and purer lives for God!

3) Balaam and the Donkey Color the Dots Sheet

10-15 minutes

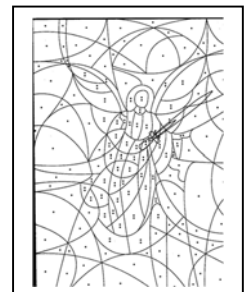
Hand out one sheet to each student along with pencil crayons.

Read the instructions aloud and help any student who may have trouble coloring in the right dots.

Remind them, "**We don't want God to be so angry with us that He sends an angel to straighten us out! Let's listen to God and not be tempted by power, money, and honor as Balaam was.**

What did Balaam do wrong?

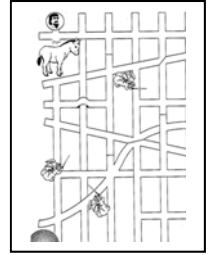
How can we avoid doing wrong like Balaam today?



4) Donkey Maze

5 minutes

Hand out one maze to each student with pencils. Read the instructions aloud and help any child who needs it to help the donkey find its way to where Balaam can see the Angel.



5) Numbers 22 – Balaam meets Balak

5 minutes

Finish reading **Numbers 22:35-41**

Why was God angry with Balaam? Because Balaam ignored God’s command because he wanted to talk to the king and see if he could get the honor and power Balak had offered him.

What did Balak the king give Balaam the prophet after he arrived in verse 40? Some animals. Balaam was hoping to receive something for coming and sure enough Balak gives him some animals.

We will continue to study Balak and Balaam next week, but now we are going to do an activity sheet to help us remember to watch out for God and to listen to Him! Don’t let a donkey have to speak with you in order to see what God wants from you! Today we know exactly what God wants because He has given us His complete Word in the Bible.

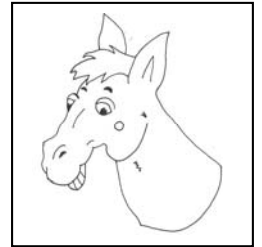
6) Optional: Talking Donkey Craft

10-15 minutes

*Before class ensure template is printed on cardstock or construction paper.

Hand out one template sheet to each student along with scissors and have them cut out the donkey and its bottom mouth piece. Then have them color the donkey if time. Push a brad or paper fastener through the circles on the donkey’s face and attach the mouth with the brad. Finally, tape the Popsicle stick to the back of the donkey’s bottom mouthpiece.

Students can move the stick up and down and make the donkey “talk” just like Balaam’s donkey did.



7) Optional – Snack: Pretzel Sticks

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water. Explain that: **As we studied today, Balaam’s donkey was beat by Balaam because Balaam didn’t trust the donkey and take caution when she tried to prevent him from being killed. We are going to eat pretzel sticks to remind us not to hit or hurt those who are trying to help us. We need to remember to listen to good Godly advice and be respectful and careful. Don’t use a stick, but instead use your ears to listen!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking.

8) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you. An example:

My God is So Big

My God is so big! So strong and so mighty.
There's nothing my God cannot do.

My God is so big! So strong and so mighty.
There's nothing my God cannot do.

The mountains are his and the valleys are his
and the trees are his handiwork too.

My God is so big! So strong and so mighty.
There's nothing my God cannot do for you.

Read Your Bible and Pray Everyday

(Sung to tune: Love is something if you give it
away)

Read your Bible.

Pray every day (repeat 3 times).

Read your Bible.

Pray every day.

And you'll grow, grow, grow (repeat 3 times).

Read your Bible.

Pray every day.

And you'll grow, grow, grow.

Don't read your Bible.

Forget to pray (repeat 3 times).

Don't read your Bible.

Forget to pray.

And you'll shrink, shrink, shrink (repeat 3
times).

Don't read your Bible.

Forget to pray.

And you'll shrink, shrink, shrink.

Repeat 1st verse.

9) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Dear God, thank you for the events in the Bible that help us learn how we should be. Thank you for giving us the Old Testament so we can learn from the Israelites and see what You do and do not want us to do. Help us to trust You, obey You and speak only the Words You want us to. Help us to believe in Jesus Christ, knowing it is through Him that we can be saved through baptism. We pray that we will listen to the advice of Godly people who are trying to help us and be open to their wisdom. We pray that we will remember to do what is right and to remember to thank you for all the blessings you give us. We ask for forgiveness Father for our sins and we pray that you will help us to forgive those who sin against us. We thank You for Jesus, who came and died for our sins and who teaches us how to live in accordance with Your good will. Help us this week as we go to school and home. Help us to remember to pray and to study Your Word daily. Help us to remember to pray for those in need. We pray for the leaders of our church and our country. We pray for those who are sick or traveling that they will return to us soon. Comfort and guide those in need. And it is in Jesus' name we pray, Amen!