



# 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

August 1-2, 2015

DATE

Balaam

LESSON TITLE

Numbers 22; Proverbs 3:5-6

WHERE TO FIND IT

God blesses his family.

MAIN POINT

## schedule

**Connect Time (20 minutes):** Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

**Large Group (30 minutes):** Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

**Small Group (10 minutes):** Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

## tips

It's our last series of the summer, called "Believe It Our Not!" We're going to talk about some crazy Bible stories. Hopefully kids will get really interested in God's word and want to find out more!

## check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to tell their parents why they are taking home a donkey tail!

## large group heads up

We're going to hear the story of a donkey who talked! That's what it took to get a guy named Balaam to bless God's family when the king was trying to get him to curse them. This can be a tough story to understand, but we're going to focus on how God wanted to bless his family.



## connect time

**GOAL:** *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

### **TEACHER, MAY I?**

*\*Play this as a large group or split into smaller groups.*

- Kids line up facing you at a predetermined location (a wall) or a table along the perimeter of your group's "area." You stand several feet away.
- One at a time, kids request to move forward a specific number and type of steps (e.g. 3 baby steps, 2 scissor steps, 1 giant step, 6 jumping jack steps, etc.). Before their request, they must say, "Teacher, may....etc."
- You can answer yes or no and they must obey.
- Once somebody reaches you, he/she is "it" if they want to be.
- Split into small groups and **debrief**:
  - How did you (or other kids) win this game? (Listened and obeyed)
  - Have you ever asked God what to do before you did it? Tell us about that.

**Before you go to Large Group, you can ask kids how their week went. You can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.**



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will (1) retell the story of Balaam and (2) understand that God blesses his family

**Why?** God blesses us so that we can bless others. If your kids make that leap, help them get there! But for the young ones, it'll be a great start if they can simply understand and embrace that part of God's character.

**Tip:** Have kids retell the story in a way that's fun! You can have kids say "heehaw" before they answer questions or choose props around the room to add to the paper donkeys.

## small group

### REVIEW THE STORY

1. How were Balaam's (BAY-lum) words powerful? What could he do? (Bless and curse)
2. Why was King Balak of Moab scared of God's family? (they were large)
3. What did Balak ask Balaam to do with his words? (curse God's family)
4. When Balaam went with Balak, what happened? (an angel appeared to his donkey, so it went off the road three times; it spoke to Balaam)
5. Why do you think God sent an angel and caused the donkey to speak?
6. What was the best part of Balaam's blessing? (he said the Jesus was coming!)

### MAKE IT PERSONAL

- Give kids a **donkey tail**.
- ASK: Does God still bless his family today?
- Have kids write/draw one way they've been blessed on their donkey tail. (Try to encourage them to think about things like helping them stand up to a bully, giving them peace when they were afraid, sending a friend who told them about Jesus, etc.)
- Play pin the tail on the donkey.
  - Blindfold each kid, spin them around and let them try to place the tail on the **donkey poster**. (Use glue sticks to make tails sticky.)
- Then step back and look at all the blessings.

***\*Pray, thanking God for all the ways he's blessed his family (refer to specifics).***

### CHALLENGE

Then remind kids that God blesses us so we can bless others. Give each kid another **tail**. Have them write one way they want to bless others and challenge them to do it this week!



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# LARGE group

## special notes

There is an opportunity to give kids a blessing. Really take time to ask God what he wants you to pray over them.

## presenter tips

To give you an idea of pacing, each section has been assigned an approximate time. This will vary slightly per person/room but try to use it to make sure you allow time for all the Large Group components, including worship.

*You should be leading kids for about 30 min. from beginning to end.*

## script

**\*Click to play intro music**

### **WELCOME AND CONNECT IT TO CONNECT TIME (5 min.)**

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you here. We just got finished playing a game of Teacher, May I? Raise your hand if you won (let kids respond). How did you win? (Let kids respond.) That's right, you had to ask permission before you did anything! And if you did, you won.

Today, we're going to talk about a guy who asked *God* what to do, and obeyed. What's amazing is that God wanted him to obey because he wanted to bless his family! But before we get to today's story, I'd like to hear whether you guys have ever asked God what to do and then done it? (Let 2-3 kids share their responses from Connect Time discussion.) That's awesome.

God wants us to ask him what *he* wants obey him. When we choose to obey God – even when it's hard – there's often something good in store later, even if we have to wait a long time for them. God has a bigger plan than we can imagine!

### **BELIEVE IT NOR NOT! INTRO (3 min.)**

This month, we're going to hear Bible stories where crazy things happen! And today, we're talking about a guy named Balaam (BAY-lum). He obeyed God because of something utterly amazing that happened. To get us ready to hear what happened, we're going to watch a clip of something *else* that's pretty remarkable.

Can you guys tell me how animals eat? (Let kids respond.) Yep, pretty much just put their heads into their food and start chowing down. But believe it or not, there's one cat out there who does something a little different. Let's take a look:

**Video: Cat Eating with Fork**



## script continued

What? Some things are just so silly or crazy that they are hard to believe even though they're true.

### **BALAAM INTRO (2 min.)**

In today's Bible story, something crazy happens to a guy named Balaam. But it's 100% true. Balaam was a guy whose words were powerful. That basically means he could bless people or curse people.

What does it mean to bless people? (Let kids respond.) Yep, it means to say you want good things to happen them or to ask God to provide for them and protect them in a special way. And what does it mean to curse people? (Let kids respond.) You got it: it means to hope for bad things to happen to a person or to people.

### **THE STORY OF BALAAM (9 min.)**

**(Show map of Moab.)** Well, God's family had been wandering in the desert on the way to the land God promised them. Here it is (refer to map) next to a modern map that helps us understand where they were. If we follow this red line, we can see they traveled through *Moab*, where Balaam lived.

The king of Moab, called *Balak*, saw how many people there were in God's family, coming toward Moab, and he got scared! Balak went to find Balaam and he said, "A crowd is coming and they are stronger than me! I want you to curse them!"

Do you guys think God wanted Balaam to curse his family? (Let kids say: no!) No way! God wanted his family to be *blessed*! So Balaam had a hard choice: obey God or the king. Why do you think that might be a hard choice? (Let kids respond.) That's right!

So guess what? God did something pretty crazy to make sure that Balaam obeyed him and blessed his family instead of cursed them. We're going to watch a video to see what it was!

### **Video: Balaam**

Wow, so what did God do to get Balaam's obedience? (Let kids say: caused his donkey to talk, sent an angel). That's right, God sent an angel to block Balaam's donkey. Then when Balaam got mad at his donkey, God allowed the donkey to *talk*. Sometimes we might hear a animal talk, like a bird who repeats what we say, but this donkey had a conversation with Balaam, just like I'm talking to you right now!

After that, did Balaam listen to the donkey? (Let kids say: yes.) Yes, he sure did! He went with King Balak, but he didn't curse God's family. He *blessed* them, which means he listened to God and spoke good things over them: he said God would protect them and take care of them.

And can anybody guess what the BEST part of the blessing was? Here's a hint: think about the BEST gift God gave *us*. (Let kids say: Jesus.) That's right, 1400 years before Jesus was even born, Balaam said that God's son Jesus, the Lord, would be born into this family. The Lord is



## script continued

what we call Jesus when we want him to be our king and choose to follow him.

### **FOLLOWING GOD VERSE (3 min.)**

We're going to learn another Bible verse over the next few weeks. It's going to remind us to talk to God all the time and let him tell us what to do. It's in Proverbs 3:5-6 and it says this:

**Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.**

Let's read that out loud together (lead kids in reading it). Awesome!

Did God show Balaam what to do in today's story? (Let kids say: yes!) Yes, and it was probably hard for Balaam to disobey King Balak over and over again. But he trusted God, obeyed God and God showed him which path to take, which means God showed him what to do. And because Balaam obeyed, what happened to God's family? (Let kids respond.) That's right, they were blessed!

### **BLESSING AND RESPONSE (2 min.)**

*\*God blesses us so that we can bless others. We can bless others by speaking a Bible verse or encouragement over them. Try this out today by praying a blessing over the kids!*

Guess what? God still wants his family to be blessed. I'm going to bless YOU guys, today, just like Balaam blessed God's family. Can you guys open your hands, like this (palms up), to receive the blessing? (Let kids open palms) Great.

(Spread your hands out, like Balaam in the video, if you want. Or just continue): I bless you with God's words from this Bible verse (point to screen; then pray something like this):

**Jesus, in your name, I bless these kids with hearts that trust you and look for you. Let them hear your voice and follow you this week, even when it doesn't make sense. Let them feel your love--and love you more—every day.**

Now, take a minute and ask God who he wants you to bless this week by sharing a verse or showing them love. When you think of someone, stand up!

### **WORSHIP (6 min.)**

Now let's tell God we love him, which is called worship. One way to worship God is by singing and dancing. Now that we're all standing, let's sing and dance for Jesus! Let's tell him he's everything to us

**Song: Take It All**

**Song: All Our Hope**

*\*Dismiss kids to small groups*





**script continued**

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# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

Teacher May I? game – no supplies needed

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## small group supplies

Per kid

2 donkey tails

Per group

Markers  
1 Bible  
glue sticks  
donkey poster (new for each service)

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## large group supplies

Bible

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## a/v needs

1. Slide: Believe It or Not! loop
2. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
3. Video: Cat Eating with Fork (<https://vimeo.com/28026990>)
4. Images: map of Moab / map of modern Moab (side by side, make same size)
5. Video: Balaam (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyQOVMF0sBk>)
6. SLIDE: Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path
7. Music Video: Take It All (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ylxxk-vn820>)
8. Music Video: All Our Hope (<https://vimeo.com/99668247>)

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## connect questions

Tell me about Balaam.  
How did God bless his family?

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## parent page

Daily Talk Starts – separate document