



Kindergarten-2nd

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 (15 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 (15 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 Or 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

Remind kids to use the donkeys they created to help retell today's story!

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.*

FREEZE DANCE

**This would probably be easier to play as a whole group. Then split into small groups to debrief.*

- When you turn on the **music** (use the KC iTunes playlist), kids dance
- When you pause the music, kids freeze
- Kids who freeze last (the last few; don't single out just one) have to sit
- Continue until you have a winner / group of winners
- Split into small groups and **debrief**:
 - How did you (or other kids) win this game? (Listened and obeyed)
 - What's one time you obeyed someone in charge (parent, babysitter, teacher) and something good happened?

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 can 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. What were the two special things Balaam (BAY-lum) could do? What did they mean? (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? (curse God's family)
4. When Balaam went with Balak, what happened to his donkey? (it went off the road three times because it saw an angel; it spoke to Balaam)
5. When Balaam saw the angel, what did he do? (he obeyed God and did exactly what God told him to do; he blessed God's family)
6. What was the best part of Balaam's blessing? (he said that Jesus was coming!)

REENACT THE STORY

- Give each kid a **donkey template**
- Let them color it with **markers**
- They can use **glue sticks** to add three 6-inch pieces of **black yarn** to the tuft of hair
- Give each kid **two googly eyes** (they may need help getting these to stick)
- See who can retell the story. Let kids work in pairs if they want.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Remind kids that God blesses his family. **On the back, draw/write ways God has blessed them:** food, shelter, friends, the Bible, ability to pray, Jesus, having a church to learn about God, etc. **ASK:** Who will you bless/love this week? How?

*Give kids a **coloring page**. If you still have extra time, you could play Freeze Dance again. Or choose someone to "play" Balak, Balaam, the donkey, the angel and the Israelites. Reenact as a group! (You can help them by reading Numbers 22 out loud.)*

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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 help with 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 about 27 min. from beginning to end, which means Large Group takes about 30 minutes when you include transitions.

script

***Click to play intro music**

WELCOME AND CONNECT IT TO CONNECT TIME (1 min.)

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you here. We just got finished playing an awesome game of Freeze Dance. Raise your hand if you won (let kids respond). How did you win? (Let kids respond.) That's right, you had to listen very carefully and obey right away! We talked about that because today, we're going to hear about a guy who listened to *God* and obeyed. And because he obeyed, God got to give something very special to his family.

BELIEVE IT NOR NOT! INTRO (4 mins)

But there's something in that story that's very hard to believe. Think about it for a second: What if I told you I can walk upside down on my hands? Would you believe me? (Let kids respond.) I'd probably have to show you, wouldn't I? (If you want/can, demonstrate! Or continue.) Well, I can't really do that but some people can!

Can anybody else do something crazy? (Let 2-3 kids share.) Great job! Those things were definitely hard to believe. How about this: What if I told you I have a pet cat who eats with a fork? Would you believe me? (Let kids respond.) Ha! That's pretty silly, isn't it?? But I saw a cat eat with a fork on TV. Let's take a look:

Video: Cat Eating with Fork

What? Now do you guys believe it? (Let kids say: yes). Yeah, me too! Some things are just so silly or crazy that they are hard to believe.

BALAAM INTRO (3 mins.)

In today's Bible story, something crazy happens to a guy named Balaam (BAY-lum). Can you guys say "Balaam"? (Let kids say: Balaam). Great job! Balaam could do 2 things: bless people



script continued

or curse people. Blessing people means wanting good things for them (give a thumbs up)... and cursing means wanting bad things for them (give a thumbs down).

Balaam lived in a place called Moab. Can you guys say “Moab”? (Let kids say: Moab). Good! While Balaam was living there, God’s family was headed there too, on their way to an amazing land God had promised. The king of Moab, called *Balak* (BAY-lek), saw how many people there were in God’s family, coming toward him, 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!”

Now, show me the answer: is a curse good (thumbs up) or bad (thumbs down)? (Let kids give a thumbs down.) That’s right, a curse means you are hoping for bad things to happen to people (thumbs down). Do you guys think God wanted Balaam to curse his family? (Let kids say: no!) No way! God wanted his family to be *blessed*! (Thumbs up)

So God did something CRAZY to remind Balaam to obey God and not King Balak. He caused Balaam’s donkey to do something really silly. Any guesses? (Let kids guess; don’t tell them if they are wrong or right.) Oh, those are great guesses. And you know what? You guys were (wrong/right): the donkey *talked*. Sometimes an animal like a parrot might repeat what we say...but this donkey talked to Balaam just like I’m talking to you right now!

THE STORY OF BALAAM (7 min.)

Now let’s watch a video about Balaam and see what the donkey said and how Balaam obeyed God afterwards. As you watch, see if you can figure out *why* the donkey talked.

Video: Balaam

What an amazing story! So why did Balaam’s donkey talk to him? (Kids may say: Balaam was beating him, an angel was blocking his way, God made him talk, etc.) That’s right, Balaam’s donkey could see an angel that Balaam couldn’t see. So the donkey kept turning around and going the wrong way. So Balaam hit the donkey and God gave it the ability to talk!

And did Balaam listen to the donkey? (Let kids say: yes.) Yes, he sure did! And he realized that he better listen to God. So he went with King Balak, but did he curse (thumbs down) his family, like King Balak asked him to? (Let kids say: no.) Nope, he *blessed* them (double thumbs up)!

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

FOLLOWING GOD VERSE (4 mins.)

We’re going to read today’s verse because it’s one we’re going to learn over the next few weeks. It’s Proverbs 3:5-6:

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.



script continued

Let's read that out loud together (lead kids in reading it). Awesome! One more time: (lead kids in reading it together but louder).

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 mins.)

**This might seem unnatural at first, but we can bless others too by sending them out with a Bible verse or words of encouragement. Try this out today and let us know how it went for you.*

Guess what? God still wants his family to be blessed! Even though we go through hard things, God also wants good things for us, like he wants us to know Jesus and follow him. So 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, if you want, like Balaam in the video. 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. Let them look for ways to follow you all the time, even when it doesn't make sense. And please show them ways to act like you this week. Let them love you more and show your love 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 and we're his. For both songs, see if you can play along with an air guitar (demonstrate) and drum (demonstrate). Let's go!

Song: All Our Hope

Song: I'm Yours

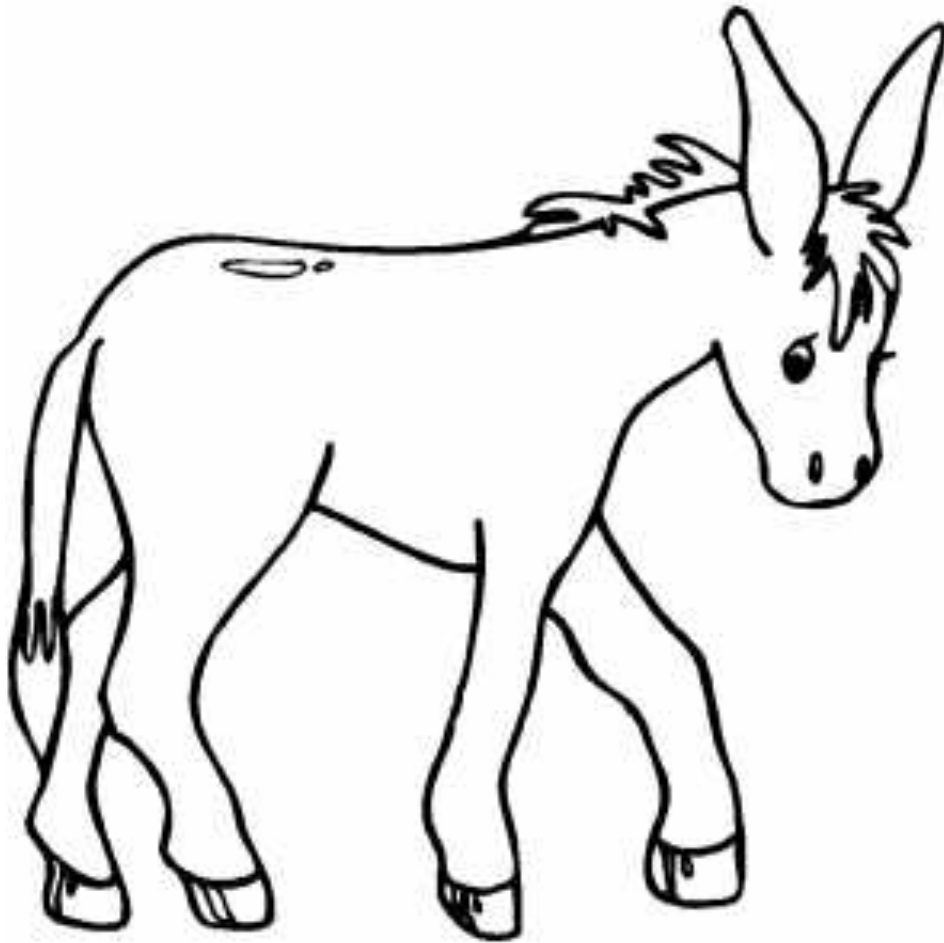
**Dismiss kids to small groups*



script continued

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name



PREP needs



connect time supplies

Per room

iTunes playlist or CD player and KC Love Beats CD

small group supplies

Per kid

coloring page: Donkey

donkey template

2 googly eyes

3 six-inch pieces of black yarn

Per group

Markers

1 Bible

glue sticks

large group supplies

Bible

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. Video: Balaam (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyQOVMF0sBk>)
5. 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 to take.
6. Music Video: All Our Hope (<https://vimeo.com/99668247>)
7. Music Video: I'm Yours (<https://vimeo.com/77168212>)

connect questions

Tell me about Balaam.

How did God bless his family?

parent page

Daily Talk Starts – separate document