



3rd - 5th

August 19-20, 2017

DATE

Balaam

LESSON TITLE

Numbers 22

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

Today we're talking about a really crazy story from the Bible. As you're getting to know kids and having conversation, ask them to tell their own "crazy stories"!

What's happened to them that was cool or strange?

check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to tell their parents why they have 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.

- Mark two locations: one side of the room is the starting line, and one side of the room is the finish line. Make sure there's nothing blocking the space between.
- Tell kids to line up at the starting line.
- 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 I...etc."
- You can answer yes or no and they *must* obey.
- Once somebody reaches the opposite wall (the starting line), he/she is "it" if they want to be. Continue playing!
- To change up the game, try these twists:
 - Have kids go backwards instead of forward.
 - Instead of just walking, have kids ask to do other things, like skipping, walking sideways, crawling, etc.

TALK ABOUT IT

- How did you (or other kids) win this game
- 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) understand the story of Balaam and (2) understand that God blesses his family, including us!

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: If you have an extra large group and need to save time, blindfold two kids at a time and let them stick tails on the donkey.

small group

REVIEW THE STORY

1. How were Balaam's (BAY-lum) words powerful? What could he do? (Bless and curse)
2. What did King Balak ask Balaam to do with his words? (Curse God's family)
3. When Balaam went with King Balak, what happened? (An angel appeared to his donkey, so it went off the road three times; it spoke to Balaam.)
4. What do you think went through Balaam's mind when the donkey talked? What would you have done if you saw a donkey talking?
5. Why do you think God sent an angel and caused the donkey to speak? (To show Balaam that he should obey, and bless the Israelites.)
6. What was the best part of Balaam's blessing? (He said that Jesus was coming!)

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- **Discuss:** What does it mean to bless someone? (It means you want good things to happen them, you want God to provide for them and help them, you want to serve them, do something kind for them, etc.)
 - What are specific ways you can do this for people you know?
- Next, play pin the tail on the donkey! You'll need a **donkey poster**, **donkey tails** and a **blindfold**:
 - Give each kid a **donkey tail**. Hang up the **donkey poster** with **tape** (there are three **11x17 pieces of paper** that you'll have to tape up next to each other to make the full donkey poster). Give each kid a **donkey tail**.
 - Have kids write the person they want to bless on their donkey tail, along with an idea of how they want to "bless" them.
 - Roll up a piece of tape and stick it to each kid's paper tail. **Blindfold** each kid, spin them around and let them try to place their tail on the donkey poster. Let kids get their tail from the wall when the game is done.

(Continued on next page.)

- Remind kids that God blesses us so we can bless others. Then wrap up in **prayer** (ask kids if they have any prayer requests to add first!)

Extra time? Play "Teacher May I?" again.

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

Look up the story of Balaam ahead of time in Numbers 22.

script

WELCOME AND WORSHIP

Main Goal: Review Connect Time and actively worship.

Notes:

***Click to play intro music.**

- **Say:** Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you here. Raise your hand if you won the game of "Teacher May I." How did you win? (Let kids respond.)
- **Say:** 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*. And because of that God blessed him!
- **Say:** 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 a few kids share.) When we ask God what he wants, and then choose to obey him – 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!
- **Say:** Today, we're talking about a guy named Balaam (BAY-lum). He obeyed God because of something utterly AMAZING that happened. In fact, it's one of the craziest stories from the Bible there is! To get us ready to hear what happened, we're going to watch a clip of something else pretty crazy...
- **Video: Elephant Painting**
- **Say:** Woah!! How do you think he did that stuff?! Pretty amazing, right?

BLESSINGS AND CURSES

Main Goal: Understand what it means when people would “bless” or “curse” someone in the Bible.

- **Say:** In today’s Bible story, something else pretty crazy happens to a guy named Balaam, and it’s 100% true! Balaam was a guy whose words were very powerful. That basically means he could bless people or curse people.
- **Ask:** What do you think it means to bless people? (Let kids respond.) Basically, 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.
- **Ask:** 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 lots people.

THE STORY OF BALAAM

Main Goal: Introduce Balaam, and understand the hard place was in: obey the king, or obey God?

- **(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.
- **Say:** 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!”
- **Ask:** 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.
Ask: 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**
- **Ask:** 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! Raise your hand if you think that’s a little strange? (Let kids respond.)

BALAAM OBEYED

Main Goal: Understand how Balaam obeyed God, and blessed God's family.

- **Ask:** 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.
- **Ask:** 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.)
- **Say:** 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

Main Goal: Understand that when we trust God and obey what he says, he'll show us what to do!

- **Say:** Let's read a Bible verse that shows us how we can trust God, and obey him when he shows us what to do.
- **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.**
- **Ask:** 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.
- **Say:** But because he trusted and obeyed God, 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

Main Goal: Actively pray a special blessing over the kids in your room.

- ****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!***
- **Say:** Guess what? God still wants his family to be blessed. So I'm going to bless YOU guys, today, just like Balaam blessed God's family.
- **Ask:** Can you guys open your hands, like this (palms up), to receive the blessing? (Let kids with open palms) Great. (*Spread your hands out, like Balaam in the video, if you want. Or just continue:*)

RESPONSE TIME

Main Goal: Actively respond to the Holy Spirit!

- **Say:** “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.”
- **Say:** Now, take a minute and ask God who he wants YOU to bless this week! Remember, blessing someone is when we ask for good things to happen to that person, or to ask God to provide for them and protect them in a special way. So right now, think of who you want to do that for. (Give kids a few seconds to think.)

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Main Goal: Close the lesson with worship and prayer.

- **Say:** Now let’s pray for the people you’re thinking of right now!
- **Pray:** God, we want to bless people, just like Balaam blessed God’s family. We pray that you protect them, and have good things in store for them. Help us to listen to what you say, and then obey it!
- **Say:** Let’s spend some time with God by singing and dancing. It’s a way of focusing on Him and giving him our time and attention. So let’s all stand up and sing!
- **Music Video: Where You Are**
- **Music Video: I’m Yours**

Dismiss kids to small groups.



connect questions

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

lesson supplies

Connect Time			
Item	Usage	Details	Provided by
No Supplies Needed.			

Small Group			
Item	Usage	Details	Provided by
Markers	1 set per small group, reused	In room	site
Large sheet of tear-off paper	1 per small group		site
Masking tape	1 roll per small group (1 piece per kid)	Staples. Item: UNV51301	site
Donkey Poster Set	1 set of 3 pages per small group	Donkey Poster asset	site
Donkey tail	1 per kid	8.5x11, color, Page 11, cut into strips (cut as close to tail as possible)	site
Blindfold	1 per small group, reused		KC Central

Large Group			
Item	Usage	Details	Provided by
Adventure Bible	1 per room		site



A/V needs

3rd-5th



1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Video: Elephant Painting (KC/Sm media videos songs>videos>misc)
3. Image: Donkey
4. Image: Map of Moab
5. Video: Balaam (Kids' Club and Student Ministry Media_videos songs>videos>misc)
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 to take.
7. Music Video: Where You Are (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6KKhgL1fO4>)
8. Music Video: I'm Yours (<https://vimeo.com/77168212>)