



Kindergarten-2nd

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 conversations, ask them to tell their own "crazy stories"! What's happened to them that was cool or strange?

check-in/out

Ask kids 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.*

I SEE!

- Begin the activity by saying "I see!" The class responds, "What do you see?" You then describe something, such as "I see...bubbles floating in the air."
- The students act out that idea until you again say "I see." All the students stop again and respond, "What do you see?"
- The activity continues with you or another leader suggesting other ideas, and kids responding by doing the action.
- Here's some ideas: "I See..."
 - Bubble floating in the air
 - Bees buzzing around
 - Snakes slithering on the ground
 - Rockstars playing guitar (or drums, etc.)
 - Birds flying in the sky
 - Basketball players shooting hoops
 - Ice skaters skating on a rink
 - A perfectly still tree (no moving!)
 - A shooting star
 - Dogs walking on four legs (and barking!)
 - Come up with your own!
- Once you've had kids follow what you "see," now have them do the OPPOSITE of what you "see"!
- Repeat some of the following actions, and have kids do the opposite (This may work best for older kids. If kindergarteners can't grasp "opposites" have them stick to the regular game.) "I See..."
 - Perfectly still, not moving kids
 - Kids who are moving all over the place
 - Kids walking slow
 - Kids walking fast
 - Kids hopping on their left leg/kids hopping on their right leg

TALK ABOUT IT

- What was your favorite thing to act out?
- What were the best/worst parts of your week?

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 (Buh-LOCK) 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. 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!)

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- **Say:** When you bless someone, it means you want good things to happen them, you want God to provide for them/help them, you want to serve them, do something kind for them, etc. Can WE do that for people? (Yes!)
- Next, play pin the tail on the donkey! You'll need a **donkey poster**, **donkey tails** and a **blindfold**:
 - 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**.
 - As kids steps up to take their turn, have them tell you who they want to bless. Then roll up a piece of tape and stick it to each kid's paper tail. **Blindfold** them, spin them around and let them try to put their tail on the donkey poster. Let kids get their tail from the wall when the game is done.

(Continued on next page.)

- If there's time, have kids retrieve their tail from the donkey and write (or draw) the person they want to bless on their donkey tail. If kids are old enough, they could draw/write a WAY they want to bless that person!
- 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.

*Extra time? Have kids do a **coloring sheet**.*

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 INTRO

Main Goal: Review Connect Time and introduce the lesson.

***Click to play intro music.**

- **Welcome:** Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. We're so glad to have you here! We just finished playing a pretty fun game...what did you have to do to play? (Let kids respond.) Yep, you all had to act out whatever the leader pretended to "see"! You had to listen very carefully and obey right away.
- **Say:** We played that game because today, we're going to hear about a guy who listened to God and obeyed. That means he did what God asked him to do. And because he obeyed, God got to give something very special to his family.
- **Say:** But there's something in the story that's very hard to believe. In fact, it's downright crazy! 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.)
- **Say:** 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!
- **Say:** Can anybody else do something crazy? (Let 2-3 kids share.) Great job! Those things were pretty hard to believe. How about this: What if I told you that elephants can paint! Would you believe me? (Let kids respond.) Let's see!
- **Video: Elephant Painting**

**INTRO: BALAAM
(BAY-lum)**

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

- **Say:** 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!
- **Say:** Balaam could do two pretty interesting things: bless people, or curse people. Blessing people means wanting good things for them. Can you give me a thumbs up? (Let kids respond.) And cursing means wanting bad things for them. Give me a thumbs down. (Let kids respond.)
- **Say:** 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.

BALAAM OBEYED

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

- **Say:** 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!"
- **Say:** 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).
- **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! (Thumbs up)
- **(Image: Donkey)** 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.
- **Say:** 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!
- **Say:** 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**
- **Ask:** 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.)

BALAAM OBEYED

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

- **Say:** 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!
- **Ask:** 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 instead of cursing God's family, like King Balak asked him to, he blessed them instead (double thumbs up)!
- **Ask:** Can anybody guess what the BEST part of the blessing was? Here's a hint: think about the BEST gift God gave us. A rescuer, who saved us from all the wrong things in the world. (Let kids say: Jesus.)
- **Say:** That's right, 1,400 years before Jesus was even born, Balaam said that God's son Jesus would be born into this family!

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. (Read the verse together as a group.)
- **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.**
- **Say:** This verse says that when we trust in God, and we obey him...he'll show us what to do when we're scared, or we don't know how to follow him!
- **Ask:** Do you think Balaam trusted God with all his heart by the end of the story? (Let kids respond.) Yep, he sure did. And because of that, God's family was 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!**
- **Ask:** Guess what? God STILL wants to bless all of YOU, because he wants good things for you. 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):*

RESPONSE TIME AND PRAYER

Main Goal: Let kids actively respond to the Holy Spirit and close the lesson with prayer.

- **Say:** “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.”
- **Say:** Remember, blessing someone is when we ask for good things to happen 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.)
- **Say:** Okay, now say their name out loud! (Let kids respond.) Great job everybody! Now let’s pray together, and tell God how glad we are that he wants good things for us.
- **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!

WORSHIP

- **Say:** 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.
- **Music Video: You Are**
- **Music Video: Do Like You Do**

Dismiss kids to small groups.



connect questions

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

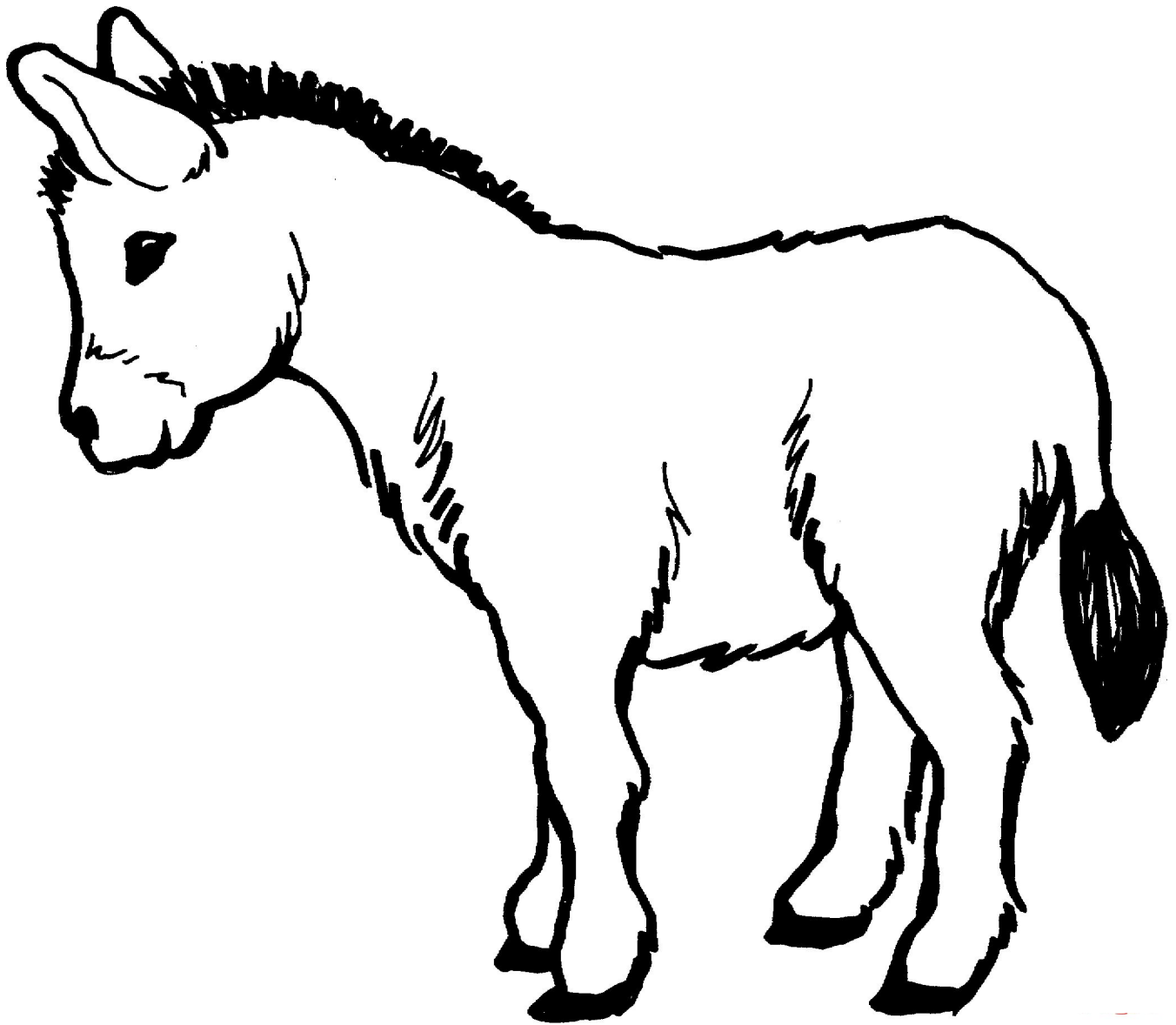
lesson supplies

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
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
Coloring page - Balaam	1 per kid	Black and white, Page 10	site
Blindfold	1/sg, reused		KC Central

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

name



Tell me about Balaam.
How did God bless his family?
You can read more about this story in Numbers 22.



A/V needs

Kindergarten-2nd



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 (in progress)
3. Video: Balaam (KC/SM media videos songs>videos>misc)
4. 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.
5. Music Video: You Are (<https://vimeo.com/154219686>)
6. Music Video: Do Like You Do (<https://vimeo.com/168067671>)