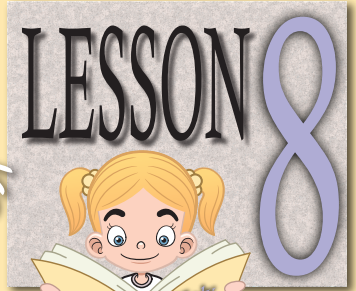


Balaam

Numbers 22:1-25:9



Old Testament 4
Part 2: Joshua Leads God's People

SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Numbers 22:1-25:9; 31:8,16; Deuteronomy 23:4-5; Joshua 13:22; Nehemiah 13:2; Micah 6:5; 2 Peter 2:15-19; Jude 11; Revelation 2:14

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Your word I have hidden in my heart..." (Psalm 119:11a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["Psalm 119:11"](#)
- ["Oh, Be Careful Little Eyes What You See"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [God's People and Joshua Bible fact cards](#) (provided under "O.T. 4 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- [Life of Moses, Journey through the Wilderness A Beka Flash-A-Card Series](#) (DISCLAIMERS: use the cards, *not the lesson book*; Note on cards 6.3 and 6.5 that angels are not said to have wings in Scripture)
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- [Map of the Exodus](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I must study my Bible and learn it well so I will know when friends, or a person on TV, or



someone at school, or anyone else, tries to tell me to believe something that is different from what the Bible says.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Have you ever heard of a talking donkey? Today we are going to learn about a talking donkey and about two men whose names sound alike: Balak and Balaam.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

What are some of the “strange” or amazing things you know God caused to happen in the Bible? (Give children time to answer; you can give a few if they need help at first. Examples: the Red Sea splitting, the 10 plagues, any of Jesus’ miracles, etc.) Did you know there’s a story about a talking donkey? Today we are going to learn from a donkey why it is so very important to know exactly what God says.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. After almost 40 years of moving from one place to another (Deuteronomy 3:14), the Israelites were ready to move into Canaan (i.e., Palestine or the Promised Land) and live there permanently. They had to fight some powerful armies just to get there.
2. When Balak, the king of Moab, heard that a great and powerful nation was coming his way, he became very frightened. Being a superstitious man, he called all of the leaders (the older men or elders) of the people together and told them to find a very powerful fortuneteller (diviner) who could put a powerful curse on the Israelites and stop them from attacking.
3. The elders of the Moabite people traveled a long way [to a place (Pethor) near the Euphrates River] to persuade a man named Balaam to come back with them to Moab and put a curse on the Israelites. Balaam had a reputation of being a man with magical powers who could put curses and spells on people, and even tell the future. They took great amounts of silver and gold to persuade Balaam to help them. But God knew what they were up to, and He worked through Balaam to help the Israelites, not the Moabites.
4. At first, God told Balaam not to go with the messengers from Balak. The messengers went all the way back to Moab to tell their king that Balaam would not come. King Balak sent them back to Balaam, however, with more pleas for help. This time God told Balaam to go, but He told Balaam to say only **His** words, even if they were not what King Balak wanted to hear.



NOTE: According to 2 Peter 2:15-16, even though Balaam said he would speak only the words of God, he apparently had other plans. He was covetous and all-too-eager to lead the Israelites away from God later.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article titled “[Why Was God Mad at Balaam for Going if He Said He Could?](#)” by Jeff Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a more in depth study on this curious question.

5. On the long journey back to Moab with Balak’s messengers, Balaam rode his faithful donkey. God used the donkey and an angel to teach Balaam a valuable lesson. As they traveled, the angel of the Lord stood on the road, but no one could see him except the donkey. The donkey was frightened and turned into a field. Balaam was angry and hit the donkey. Then they went through a vineyard on a narrow path with walls on either side. When the donkey saw the angel in the road a second time, she tried to turn away again but ran into the wall, pressing Balaam’s foot against the wall as well. Again, Balaam beat the donkey.
6. The donkey saw the angel of the Lord a third time; this time the donkey just lay down in the road. This made Balaam so angry that he hit the donkey over and over. And then suddenly God gave the donkey the ability to speak! The donkey talked to Balaam. She wanted to know why she was being beaten so much when she had served Balaam well so many years. Balaam told the donkey that she was embarrassing him. Then God let Balaam see the angel, and he understood why the donkey had acted so strangely. The angel told Balaam that he should continue his journey to Moab but reminded him to be careful to say only the words that God would give him.
7. When Balaam arrived in Moab, he told King Balak that he could only say the things that God told him to say. Three different times, in three different places, Balaam and Balak offered sacrifices to God (they had seven altars built in each place). Balaam waited for God to speak to him. Each time, God told him to speak words of blessing for the Israelites—not the curses that Balak had hoped for. Of course, Balak was very angry. He could see more and more that God was with the Israelites, and he became more and more frightened and worried.
8. We must know what the Bible says; that means we have to study our Bibles. If we don’t know what God’s Word says, we won’t do what it says, we can’t tell other people what it says, and we won’t recognize when those who claim to teach the Truth are not really teaching what the Bible says.

NOTES FOR OLDER CHILDREN:

After Balak sent Balaam away, Balak stayed with the Israelites on the plains of Moab. Revelation 2:14 indicates that Balaam “taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.” Balak apparently encouraged many of the Israelite leaders to become friendly with the women of Moab. This caused tremendous problems because the Moabites influenced some of the Israelites to worship their idols. God had warned the Israelites to stay away from idols and idol worshippers. Because they disobeyed, God punished thousands of people in one day for their sin (Numbers 31:1-8 indicates that Balaam was killed later when Moses led the Israelites in battle against the Midianites). God used Balaam to spread a good message and blessings for His people, but Balaam decided to use his influence for evil afterward. [Balaam is an example of the influence of hypocritical teachers, i.e., those who try to lead God’s people astray. He is condemned in the New Testament for covetousness (Jude 1:11).]

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[Balaam Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “Follow that Donkey” review game: Cut out large stepping-stone shapes from brown construction

paper and laminate them. Tape them to a plastic, solid color tablecloth or shower curtain on which you have drawn the shape of a winding road. Make game markers out of toilet paper tubes cut in half. Spray paint the tubes different colors or cover them in different colors of duct tape. Give each child a game marker, or divide the class into two teams. The children (individually or in teams) advance their game markers on the stepping-stones as they answer questions about the lesson correctly. The first child or team to reach the last “stone” wins.

- Make Donkey Masks: Make a copy of a donkey face/head for each child. Let the children glue them to a craft stick and use them as masks.
- “[Memory Verse Game Heart Cutouts](#)”: Print the memory verse on card stock or index cards, one for each child. Cut out hearts (large enough to cover the memory verse). Help the children glue one side of the heart on the paper so that the heart can be lifted to reveal the memory verse (cutouts provided in activity sheets).

1st-2nd Graders:

- Write the memory verse on the board. Have students repeat it several times. Erase key words, one at a time, while students have their eyes covered. Ask children to fill in the blanks until they can repeat the entire verse on their own. (Can also be used to review previous memory verses.)
- Balaam’s Donkey Review Game: Write review questions on donkey cutouts, and write the answers for the questions on cutouts of men. Put the men (answers) on a magnetic or bulletin board. As you read the question on each donkey, let the children search the answers on the board for the correct answer to each question. ([Click here](#) for provided cutouts)
- Draw a Tic-Tac-Toe grid on the board. Write the following categories in each square: “Moses,” “Places,” “Things,” “Who said...,” “Tabernacle,” “Old or New?” “Animals,” and “Worship.” Use questions like the ones below for each category ([Tic-Tac-Toe board](#) provided in activity sheets).

WHO SAID...(paraphrased)

1. “Be still and know that the Lord will fight for you.” (Moses)
2. “I threw the gold into the fire and out came this calf.” (Aaron)
3. “Why are you beating me?” (Balaam’s donkey)
4. “Put a curse on the Israelites.” (Balak)
5. “We cannot take the land of Canaan because the people are too big and the cities are too strong.” (Ten spies)

MOSES

1. From which of the 12 tribes of Israel did Moses come? (Levi)
2. Who was Moses’ older brother? (Aaron)
3. What books of the Old Testament did Moses write? (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy)

4. What man wanted to take Moses' place as leader but was swallowed by a huge crack in the ground? (Korah)

PLACES

1. On what mountain did God give Moses the Ten Commandments? (Mount Sinai)
2. What is the name for the land God promised to Israel? (Canaan, Palestine, or the Promised Land)
3. When the Israelites complained, to where did they say they wanted to return? (Egypt)

THINGS

1. When the 12 spies went into Canaan, what did they bring back? (Grapes, pomegranates, and figs)
2. What foods did God send to the Israelites? (Manna and quails)
3. What three things were eventually kept in the Ark of the Covenant? (A jar of manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the Ten Commandments)
4. With what did Moses strike the rock when the Israelites were thirsty? (His staff or rod)

TABERNACLE

1. What were the two rooms of the Tabernacle called? (Holy Place and the Most Holy Place)
2. Name two of the three pieces of furniture in the Holy Place. (Altar of incense, lampstand, and the table of shewbread)
3. Describe the lampstand. (Gold with seven branches)
4. Describe the Ark of the Covenant. (A box covered inside and out with gold; had two cherubim on the lid)
5. What was the top of the Ark of the Covenant called? (The mercy seat)

OLD OR NEW?

1. The Old Law was given only for whom? (Israelites)
2. The New Law (New Testament) is for whom? (All people everywhere)
3. Why don't we still offer animal sacrifices today? (Jesus gave Himself as the final and ultimate sacrifice for sins)
4. How many books are in the Old Testament? (39)
5. How many books are in the New Testament? (27)

ANIMALS

1. What was the first animal to speak to a person in the Bible? (Serpent/snake)
2. What idol did Aaron make for the Israelites? (A golden calf)
3. What animal spoke to Balaam? (A donkey)
4. What animal did Moses make of bronze and put on a pole? (A snake)

WORSHIP

1. Why did God punish Nadab and Abihu? (They used the wrong fire to burn incense in the Tabernacle.)
2. What was the main job of the priests at the Tabernacle? (The offered sacrifices and took care of the Tabernacle.)
3. Who was the only person to go into the Most Holy Place? (The High Priest)
4. Why don't we have musical instruments in our worship today? (It's not commanded by God. We don't have permission to use them.)
5. What was the day of worship and rest for the Israelites? (The Sabbath day, Saturday)
6. What is the day of worship for Christians? (Sunday, the first day of the week)

Review Game: Write the above questions on craft sticks and put them in Pringles® cans labeled with the categories given. Have each student choose a category, then let him (or the teacher) take a craft stick/question out of the can to be answered.

3rd-4th Graders:

- Draw a Tic-Tac-Toe grid on the board. Write the following categories in each square: “Moses,” “Places,” “Things,” “Who said...,” “Tabernacle,” “Old or New?” “Animals,” and “Worship.” Use the questions above for the category questions ([Tic-Tac-Toe board](#) provided in activity sheets).
- Play “I Can Name that Memory Verse in ___ Words” game. Use the memory verses from this lesson and previous lessons. Students can play individually or in teams. State the Scripture reference for a memory verse. The team going first decides how many words they need to hear so they can say the entire memory verse. If the first team can't say the entire memory verse, the other team can then decide if they want to try. Example: If a team says they can name the verse in two words, you give the first two consecutive words as a clue, and then they must say the whole verse. If the first team can't say the entire memory verse, the other team can then decide if they want to try—with the same number of clue words.
- Balaam's Donkey Review Game: Write review questions on donkey cutouts, and write the answers for the questions on cutouts of men. Put the men (answers) on a magnetic or bulletin board. As you read the question on each donkey, let the children search the answers on the board for the correct answer to each question. ([Click here](#) for provided cutouts)
- Advanced Bible Reader: Have the children read Numbers 22-25 as well as chapter 21 if they did not do so last week. [This could be assigned Sunday, to be completed by Wednesday.] Print out copies of the Numbers 21-25 quiz from AP's [Advanced Bible Reader](#) (ABR) site. Have each of the children take the quiz if they have yet to do so. If you have not already, outside of class, make ABR accounts for each of the children and put their answers into the ABR quiz for each child. Show them their scores in the next Bible class, and explain what ABR is.

SONGS:

“PSALM 119:11”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Hidden in My Heart](#)” CD)

“OH, BE CAREFUL LITTLE EYES WHAT YOU SEE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “If You’re Happy and You Know It”)

Oh, be careful little eyes what you see.

(REPEAT)

For the Father up above,

Is looking down in love.

So, be careful little eyes what you see.

Oh, be careful little feet where you go.

(REPEAT)

For the Father up above,

Is looking down in love.

So, be careful little feet where you go.

Oh, be careful little ears what you hear.

(REPEAT)

For the Father up above,

Is looking down in love.

So, be careful little ears what you hear.

Oh, be careful little mouth what you say. (REPEAT)

For the Father up above,

Is looking down in love.

So, be careful little mouth what you say.

Oh, be careful little hands what you do.

(REPEAT)

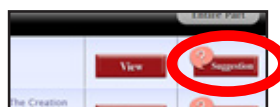
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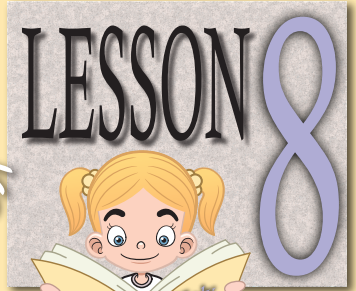
*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



Balaam

Numbers 22:1-25:9



Old Testament 4
Part 2: Joshua Leads God's People

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Old Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

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OLDER CHILDREN: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

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- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- [Map of the Exodus](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)
- Use a donkey puppet to re-tell the story.



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I must study my Bible and learn it well so I will know when friends, or a person on TV, or someone at school, or anyone else, tries to tell me to believe something that is different from what the Bible says.

INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T. 4 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “O.T. 4 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson (see [O.T. 4 Review Questions](#) for example questions)

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning’s lesson
- Use play dough to sculpt a donkey

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