

**Bible Lessons for Children**  
Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

**Beginner Lesson Seventy-three: Balaam and the Donkey**

<b>Overview</b>	<p><u>Bible Facts:</u> Review <u>Bible Reading &amp; Discussion:</u> Deuteronomy 2:25; Numbers 22:1-35; II Peter 2:15-16 <u>Memorization &amp; Art Activity:</u> "A Baptist Catechism: A Catechism for Boys &amp; Girls" Question 64</p>
<b>Opening</b>	<p>Get students' attention by using a pre-planned silence signal. Have students sit in rows or a semi-circle facing you. Open in prayer asking God's blessing upon the time.</p>
<b>Bible Songs</b> 5-10 minutes	<p><u>Materials:</u> Song visuals &amp;/or props as needed <u>Strategies:</u> Sing It with Hand &amp;/or Body Motions as appropriate <u>Instructions:</u> Lead students to sing songs about the Bible &amp;/or the Ten Commandments. Spend some time discussing the meaning of new songs. Encourage students to think about what they are singing. Be very careful to choose songs that only speak truth.</p>
<b>Bible Reading</b> 15 minutes	<p><u>Materials:</u> Bibles for students to use <u>Strategies:</u> Character Cues <u>Scripture:</u> Deuteronomy 2:25; Numbers 22:1-35; II Peter 2:15-16 <u>Instructions:</u> Have students sit at tables. Leader reads expressively while students change position depending on who is speaking. The leader should prepare ahead by marking the passage according to who is speaking. To help students to follow who is speaking, leader should say "Name said" instead of reading a pronoun. Leader should pause often to give students time to respond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <i>Balak: Students put hands on their head like a crown.</i></li><li>➤ <i>Balaam: Students hold out their hands like they want money.</i></li><li>➤ <i>The Lord: Students stand.</i></li><li>➤ <i>Princes: Students cup hands around their mouths like they are calling out a message.</i></li><li>➤ <i>Donkey: Students wiggle their hands on their heads like ears.</i></li></ul>
<b>Bible Discussion</b> 10 minutes	<p><u>Materials:</u> Word poster #1 <u>Strategy:</u> Hand Action <u>Instructions:</u> Have students sit in a fellowship circle. Instead of raising their hands to share, they perform another action: Pat your head, etc. <u>Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ How did Moab feel about the people of Israel? (Dread, fear)</li><li>➤ Who put the dread and fear of Israel on the peoples? (God)</li><li>➤ Balak said that Israel would lick up the land like what? (The ox licks up the grass)</li><li>➤ Balak sent princes with money to Balaam. What did he want Balaam to do? (Curse the people of Israel)</li><li>➤ God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them. You shall not curse the people, for they are <u>blank</u>." (Blessed)</li><li>➤ The second time the princes visited Balaam, God said, "Go with them; but only do what <u>blank</u> tell you." (I)</li><li>➤ Balaam went with the princes. What stood in the way blocking Balaam's donkey? (The angel of the Lord)</li><li>➤ Three times the angel of the Lord blocked the way of the donkey. What did Balaam do each time? (Struck the donkey)</li><li>➤ Who opened the mouth of the donkey? (The Lord)</li><li>➤ The donkey asked, "What have I done to you that you have struck me these three times?" Balaam answered, "Because you have made a <u>blank</u> of me." (Fool)</li><li>➤ Who opened Balaam's eyes so that he could see the angel of the Lord? (The Lord)</li></ul>

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- When Balaam saw the angel of the Lord, what did he do? (Bowed down, fell on his face)
- The angel of the Lord said, "I have come out to oppose you because your way is blank before me." (Perverse)
- Perverse means crooked or wicked. Balaam said that he had sinned and offered to turn back. The angel of the Lord said, "Go with the men, but speak only the blank that blank tell you." (Word, I)
- God had already told Balaam this before he went with the men. II Peter describes Balaam as someone who loved blank from blank. (Gain, wrongdoing)
- Does it appear that Balaam was planning to disobey God before the donkey incident? (Yes)

Show students the word poster and have them act out the words: God is...Creator, Omnipotent, Omniscient, Merciful, Righteous, Just, Creator of Nations, God is in control, Long-suffering, Glorious, Deliverer, Savior, All-seeing, Faithful, Judge, Provider, Prayer Answerer, Sovereign, Gracious, Way to Heaven, Protector, Promise Keeper, Success maker, King of kings, Holy, Law maker, Skill instiller, Guide, Victory giver (Raise two fingers in a "v" shape for victory.)

Ask students which of the words on the poster describe God's actions in this lesson. (Answers: Omniscient, All-seeing, In control, etc.)

**Group Prayer** Through prayer, praise God for Who He is.

**Bible Memory** Materials: White board with markers and eraser

10-15 minutes Strategy: Hand Motions

Instructions: Have students sit in a semi-circle or rows facing a white board with the following written on it:

Question: *What does the tenth commandment teach us?*

Answer: *To be content with what we have*

Verse: *"...be content with what you have..." Hebrews 13:5a*

Students read the passage in unison a few times. Simple hand motions are chosen to represent most words in the passage. Students read the passage a few times using words and hand motions. Students then read the passage leaving out the words that have hand motions. Next students repeat the passage using hand motions and words from memory, without looking at the words.

**Bible Craft** Materials: Paper, scissors, markers, glue/tape/stapler, sample

Activity: Thankful Tree

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Have students use one sheet of paper to cut out a tree trunk. On other pieces of paper, have students trace their hands three times, cut out, and attach to the top of the tree trunk to look like branches. (Palms may need to overlap to allow branches to fit onto the tree trunk.) On the tree trunk have students write, "I am thankful." On the branches have students draw or glue pictures of the things for which they are grateful, such as family, house, toys, food, clothes, pet, Bible, etc. Encourage students to color their trees to look like trees.

**Closing** Have students assist with clean-up.

Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.

Close in prayer & dismiss.