

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Beginner Lesson Seventy-four: Balaam's Oracles

- Overview** Bible Facts: Review
Bible Reading & Discussion: Numbers 22:36–23:26; 24:10-13; Genesis 12:1-3
Memorization & Art Activity: Review catechism from lessons 68-73
- Opening** 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.
- Bible Songs** Materials: Song visuals &/or props as needed
5-10 minutes Strategies: Sing It with Hand &/or Body Motions as appropriate
Instructions: Lead students to sing songs about the Bible &/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.
- Bible Reading** Materials: Bibles for students to use
15 minutes Strategies: Character Cues
Scripture: Numbers 22:36–23:26; 24:10-13; Genesis 12:1-3
Instructions: 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.
Balak: Students put hands on their head like a crown.
Balaam: Students hold out their hands like they want money.
The Lord & the Lord through Balaam (the oracles): Students stand.
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Word poster #1 add: "Truth = cannot lie"
10 minutes Strategy: Stand Up/Sit Down
Instructions: Have students stand in a fellowship circle. After sharing correctly, student sits, until all students are sitting. Repeat until all questions have been answered.
Questions:
- Balaam told Balak that he could only speak the words put into his mouth by whom? (God)
 - Before each prophecy, what was built? (Seven altars)
 - What was sacrificed on the altars? (Seven bulls and seven rams)
 - In Balaam's second oracle the Lord put the following words into his mouth: "God is not man that he should blank..." (Lie)
 - The Lord had Balaam say, "God is not...a son of man, that he should blank his mind." (Change)
 - To whom did God first promise "I will bless you...I will bless those who bless you..."? (Abram)
 - Since God had already blessed Israel, could Balaam take away that blessing and curse Israel? (No)
 - How many times did Balaam bless Israel? (Three)
 - When Balak became angry with Balaam for blessing the Israelites instead of cursing them, what did Balak do with his hands? (Struck them together)
 - Balaam said, "What the blank speaks, that will I speak." (Lord)
- 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, Truth = cannot lie (Nod head and point to mouth)

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

Group Prayer Through prayer, praise God for Who He is. Thank Him for keeping His promises. Thank God that He does not lie nor change His mind.

Bible Memory 10-15 minutes Materials: Bean Bag
Strategy: Bean Bag Review
Instructions: Have students stand in a circle. Ask a catechism question then toss the bean bag to someone to share the answer &/or verse.

Question: What is the eighth commandment?

Answer & Verse: "You shall not steal." Exodus 20:15

Question: What does the eighth commandment teach us?

Answer: To be honest and not to take the things of others

Verse: "The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is...a snare of death." Proverbs 21:6

Question: What is the ninth commandment?

Answer & Verse: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." Exodus 20:16

Question: What does the ninth commandment teach us?

Answer: To tell the truth and not to speak evil of others

Verse: "Do not speak evil against one another..." James 4:11a

Question: What is the tenth commandment?

Answer & Verse: "You shall not covet..." Exodus 20:17

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

Bible Craft Materials: Paper, markers, sample project
Activity: 10 Commandments Bookmark
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Give each student a piece of paper cut to the size of a large bookmark. On one side have students write numbers 1-5 and draw pictures representing the first five commandments. On the other side have students write numbers 6-10 and draw pictures representing the last five commandments. Prior to starting the project, brainstorm with students what pictures they might use for the different commandments and draw the pictures on a white board for students to copy.

Closing Have students assist with clean-up.
Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.
Close in prayer & dismiss.