

# Old Testament

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# Through the Old Testament in Two Years

## Part One



Created for use with young, unchurched learners  
Adaptable for all ages including adults

# Old Testament

<p><b>Balaam and the Donkey</b></p>	<p>Last week we learned that Israel had arrived at the border of the Promised Land. Moses sent out 12 spies. They saw the Promised Land and its fruit but they were afraid to fight the people of the land. Israel did not want to obey God. God punished Israel and caused them to wander in the desert for 40 years.</p>
<p><b>Numbers 22</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Read the Bible</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>READ: Numbers 22 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)</b></p>
<p><b>Memory Verse:</b></p> <p>But a donkey corrected [Balaam] for the wrong he did. Animals don't speak. But the donkey spoke with a human voice. It tried to stop the prophet from doing a very dumb thing. (II Peter 2:16 NIV)</p>	<p><b>Begin With Prayer</b></p> <p>Israel traveled to Moab. All the kingdoms in the area were terrified of God's people. The Bible says that, "Moab was filled with panic because of the people of Israel." They saw how the people could destroy them and they were scared. (Numbers 22:1-4)</p> <p>Balak, the king of Moab, sent messengers to Balaam. The king wanted Balaam to curse the Israelites. He said, "Now come and put a curse on these people, because they are too powerful for me. Perhaps then I will be able to defeat them and drive them out of the country. For I know that those you bless are blessed, and those you curse are cursed." (Numbers 22:5-6)</p>
<p><b>Lesson Goals:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understand that Balak believed Balaam could help him defeat Israel.</li> <li>2. Learn that Balaam was greedy but he was obedient to God.</li> <li>3. Understand that Balaam angered God.</li> <li>4. Recognize that God allowed Balaam's donkey to speak.</li> </ol>	<p>The Moabite elders took money because they knew that Balaam would ask for it. When they arrived, they told Balaam what they wanted. (Numbers 22:7)</p> <p>Balaam told the men to spend the night. Balaam asked God what to do and God told him not to curse Israel. Balaam told the men to go back home because God had instructed him not to go with them. (Numbers 22:7-13)</p> <p>When the king heard the answer, he sent other, more distinguished, princes to ask Balaam to help them. (Numbers 22:14-18)</p> <p>Balaam had the men spend the night. Then he asked God what to do. God told him to go with them, but only to speak what He said. (Numbers 22:19-20) Early the next morning, Balaam saddled his donkey and rode with the princes back to the king's palace. (Numbers 22:21)</p> <p>An angel of the Lord stood in the road with a sword. Balaam could not see the angel, but the donkey could. When the donkey saw the angel, she turned off the road into a field. Balaam could not believe what his donkey was doing. He beat the donkey for going off the path. (Numbers 22:22-23)</p> <p>Again the angel stood near a narrow path with walls on each side. When the</p>

### Balaam and the Donkey — Bible Facts

1. Balak offered money to Balaam to curse Israel.
2. Balaam was greedy.
2. Balaam asked God for guidance.
4. The angel of the Lord appeared to Balaam.

donkey saw the angel again, she pressed close to the wall and crushed Balaam's foot. Again Balaam beat the donkey. (Numbers 22:24-25)

For a third time, the angel stood near a narrow place with no room to go around. This time the donkey sat down. Balaam was furious with the donkey and beat her again. (Numbers 22:26-27)

Suddenly, God made the donkey talk. That's right! The donkey started talking. She asked, "What have I done to you? Why did you hit me those three times?" (Numbers 22:28 NIRV)

Balaam answered that the donkey had made a fool out of him in front of the special princes. He told the donkey if he had a sword he would kill him. (Numbers 22:29-30)

Then, God opened Balaam's eyes to see the angel with the sword ready for battle. Balaam bowed before the angel of the Lord. The angel explained that the donkey had saved his life three times. (Numbers 22:31-33)

God was angry because He knew Balaam was greedy and wanted the money. Balaam told the angel of the Lord that he knew he had sinned. Balaam said he would do only what the angel of the Lord told him to do. (Numbers 22:34) God forgave Balaam but warned him only to speak what God told him to say. So Balaam went with men of Moab. (Numbers 22:35)

Balaam kept his promise and said only what God wanted. Four times he spoke to the king and told him that God's people would be blessed and eventually would rule the kingdom. (Numbers 23-24) Balaam listened and obeyed God when it profited him. He knew that the king would pay him no matter what he said. He thought more about the money than about the people.

### Review

1. Why did Balak offer Balaam money? (Balak wanted Balaam to curse Israel.)
2. What did Balaam do? (Balaam asked God for guidance.)
3. How did Balaam feel about receiving the money? (Balaam was greedy.)
4. What did God do? (The angel of the Lord appeared to Balaam.)

### Do you know Jesus?

Do you know God in your heart or do you just know Him in your head. Have you been playing a game pretending to be a Christian, when you really are not? God wants us to trust in Him and believe in Him with all our hearts. We must believe in Him because we love Him and know that He loves us and sent His only Son, Jesus, to make a way for us to get to Heaven. If you want to know more about loving God and believing in Him, talk to your teacher.

### Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to forgive us our sins.
3. Ask God to open your eyes to the sin in your life.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need God's forgiveness.

### Application

Balaam was greedy but he was obedient to God. God was angry and sent His angel to Balaam. At first, Balaam could not see the angel but his donkey could. His donkey spoke to him. The donkey saved Balaam's life three times. God opened Balaam's eyes and he could see what the donkey saw. God forgave Balaam. God opens our eyes to our sin and forgives us when we ask for forgiveness.

### Planning for the next week:

Rahab and the Spies — Joshua 2

# Preschool Lesson

## Read the Bible

**READ: Numbers 22 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

Teachers: Use a donkey sack puppet to tell the story today.

Hello boys and girls. My name is Dorothy. I want to tell you an amazing story. So listen very closely.

Many, many years ago, I had a master named Balaam. I worked hard for him and he was good to me. He gave me a nice place to sleep and delicious corn and hay to eat. Balaam rode on my back to travel to different places.

One day, some important people came to our house. After spending two nights with us, Balaam saddled me and we rode out of town with them.

Suddenly as we were clippity clopping along, I couldn't believe my eyes. There was a beautiful angel in the middle of the road. The angel was mad. He had a big sword in his hands and I knew that he was going to hurt my master, Balaam.

So, I got off the road and went into the field. My master did not see the angel and became very upset with me. He beat me. It hurt and I was sad, but I knew that I had helped Balaam.

A second time as we were traveling, the angel stood close to a wall. To get around the angel, I traveled near the wall and accidentally crushed Balaam's foot. It hurt and he cried out in pain. Then, he beat me again. In my heart, I wished that I could talk to tell him what I was doing.

Then a third time, an angel stood ready to hurt Balaam. There was no way around the angel, so I just sat down in the road. Balaam was so angry. He beat me again.

That is when something amazing happened. God allowed me to talk. That's right. I could talk!! Donkeys do not normally talk, but I could! I asked Balaam why he had beat me 3 times. I reminded him that I was a good donkey and tried always to obey him.

Then, God opened his eyes to see the angel. When he saw how I had protected him, he was so sorry. He also told God he was sorry. You see, God knew that Balaam was traveling to do something wrong. He told Balaam that he must speak only what God said. Balaam listened and obeyed God.

When the people asked him to do a mean thing, Balaam told the people that he could only do what God wanted. We must listen and obey God. He wants us to love each other and do things that are right.

### Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to forgive us.
3. Ask God to open your eyes.

**Memory verse for younger children:**

## Learning Activities

- Memory verse activity** — Make gold and silver coins out of aluminum foil. Print the verse on strips of paper. Attach the strips to the coins. Have the children put the verse in order.
- Test your memory** — Bring clothes the kids can use to act out the story. Have someone dress like the kings, elders, Balaam, donkey, etc.
- Taste activity** — Donkeys eat corn. Bring corn nuts to munch on as you act out the story!

Bring candy or gum wrapped to look like coins.

- Think about it** — Balaam loved money. God knew that his heart was not right. He was thinking of ways to get more money and be greedy instead of helping the people know God. The Bible tells us that we cannot love money and God. Share how God will provide for all our needs if we trust in Him.

In today's lesson, the donkey had to speak and tell the truth. Talk about the importance of speaking the truth.

- Touch activity** — Make a cartoon strip of the story today.

Use Play dough to sculpt a donkey.

Make a donkey puppet using paper bags.

- Run and play** — Balaam rode a donkey. Let the children ride on each other's backs. Let them run races against each other.

- Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants our attitude to be good and our actions to be right.

- Sing** — Sing "Obedience," or another song related to the story.

- Reach out** — During class, pray for kids that did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the handouts to those who were absent. Take the gold coins with the memory verse so the children can say it.

## Memory Verse

But a donkey  
corrected [Balaam]  
for the wrong he did.  
Animals don't speak.  
But the donkey spoke  
with a human voice.

It tried to stop  
the prophet from doing  
a very dumb thing.

II Peter 2:16

## Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

Balaam's

donkey

spoke

to him

## Word Search

J B D T R V P K A K P G W  
P M D E F K S V L R I A D  
S I O N H M D I B S V G K  
Y D L A B S A C L D K R H  
P E O R B L T A R N T E S  
H N N N E P S R L P D R R  
S S I O K R B A U A E F Y  
R C M G H E T A O D B T B  
L T I O H N Y B L S C P V  
B D A F U T A E K A R G C  
N S O V S N E P F A K N Y  
J O M F G M P H C N E B K  
T I T E G C V B K F W P V  
P C L J M K R J B F N T S

BALAK

MOAB

ELDERS

BALAAM

NIGHT

SPEAK

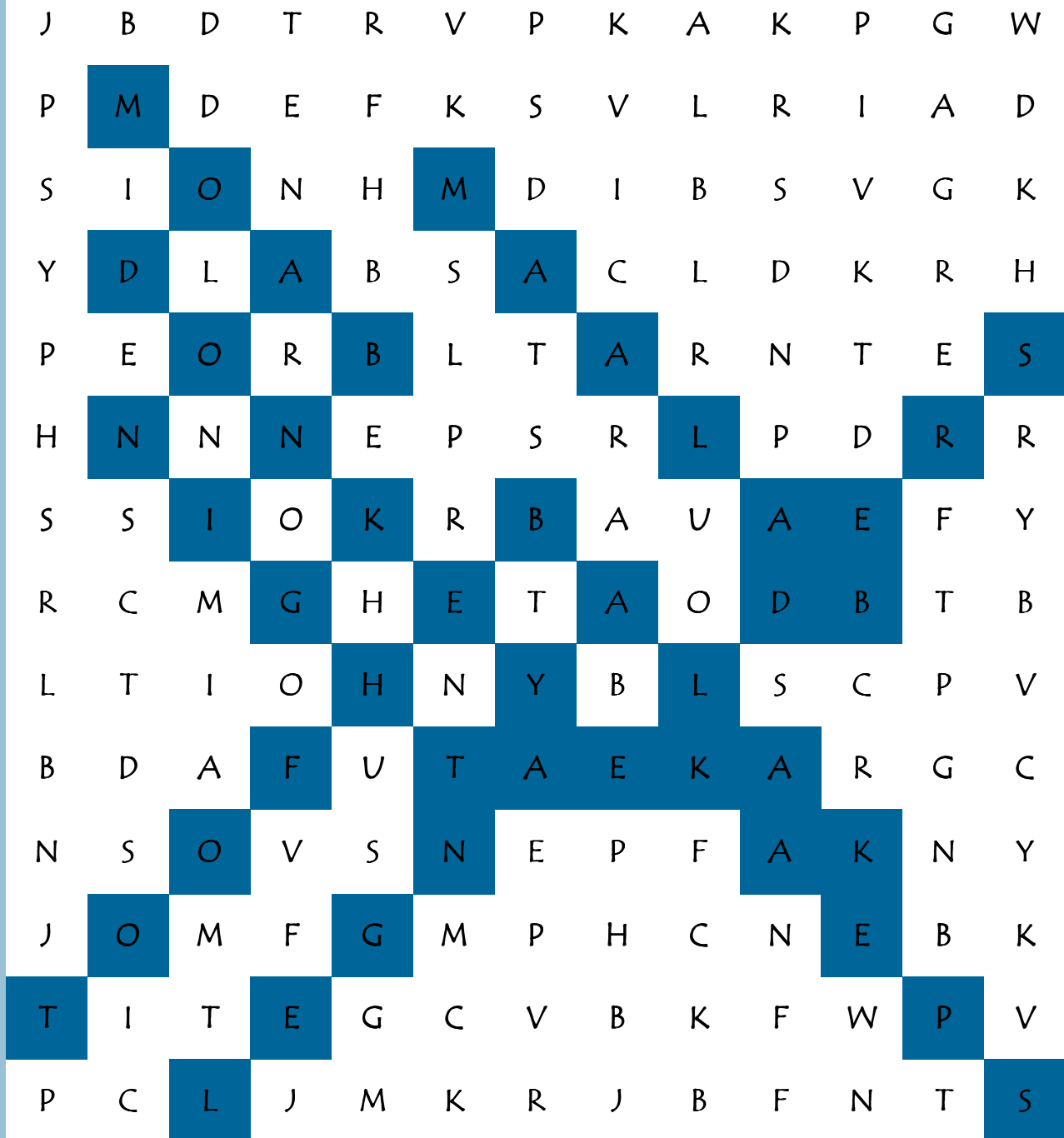
DONKEY

FOOT

ANGEL



## Word Search



BALAK

MOAB

ELDER

BALAAM

NIGHT

SPEAK

DONKEY

FOOT

ANGEL

## Word Search

S F G B P V L S K S E A  
P R C O F J D O N K E Y  
S P I F O O T G K B C V  
B F R G V R F D C D K F  
B A L A K S P B G B V D  
M I L K B A L A A M P T  
R C P M R T F G B V N D  
J R S A F M O A B N E D  
T E L D E R S B K Y L D  
H K N J N B P C V N R P  
B F D R C V N B P H F D

DONKEY

BALAAM

FOOT

BALAK

MOAB

ELDERS

## Word Search

S F G B P V L S K S E A

P R C O F J D O N K E Y

S P I F O O T G K B C V

B F R G V R F D C D K F

B A L A K S P B G B V D

M I L K B A L A A M P T

R C P M R T F G B V N D

J R S A F M O A B N E D

T E L D E R S B K Y L D

H K N J N B P C V N R P

B F D R C V N B P H F D

DONKEY

BALAAM

FOOT

BALAK

MOAB

ELDERS

## Anagram

KODENY

DRRCCTEEO

POST

LAAAMB

AAILMN

CEIOV

ABOM

EMNOY

AABKL



## Anagram

DONKEY

CORRECTED

STOP

BALAAM

ANIMAL

VOICE

MOAB

MONEY

BALAK