

Old Testament

Mission Arlington ◦ Mission Metroplex Curriculum ◦ 2011

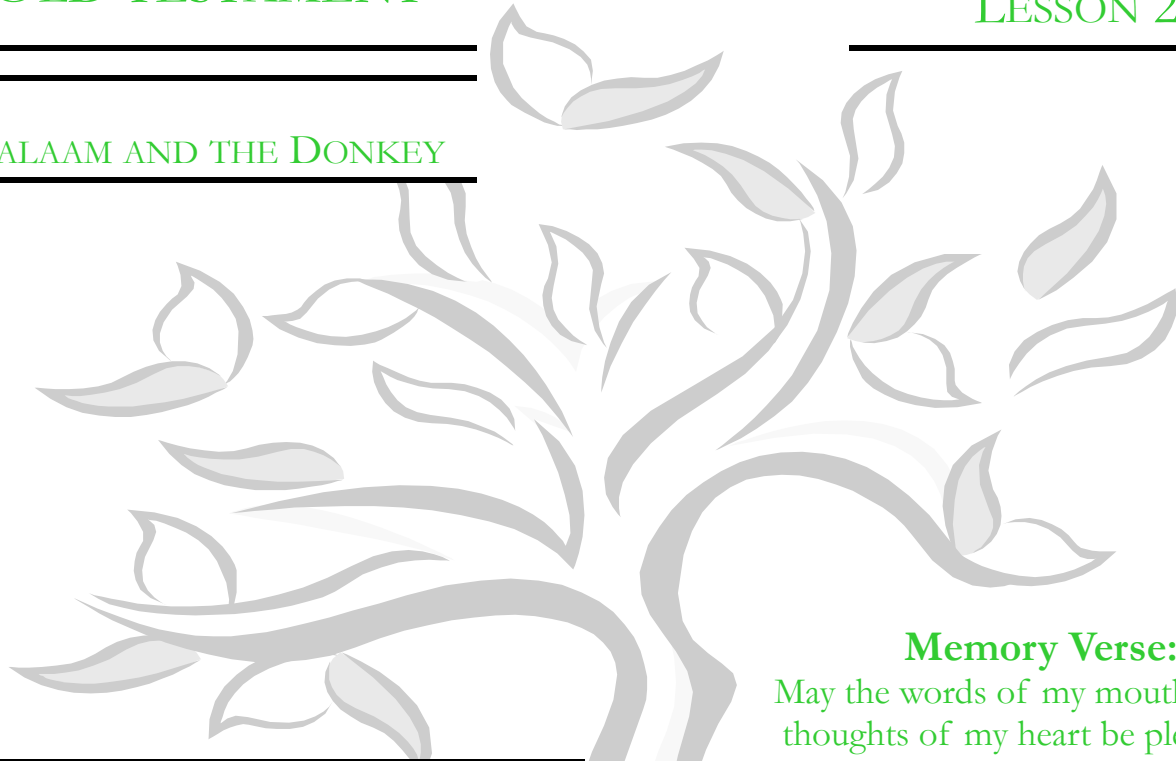
One Year Plan



GOD'S WORD

Created for use with young, unchurched learners Adaptable for all ages.

BALAAM AND THE DONKEY



NUMBERS 22

Memory Verse:

May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.
Psalm 19:14

Lesson Goals

1. Learn that the king of Moab was afraid of the Israelites.
2. Understand that Balaam was known for sending curses on people.
3. Learn that Balaam was not completely honest or obedient to God.
4. Understand that God looks at our hearts and He sees our motives.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to deliver us from sin.
3. Ask God to help you follow Him.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to be delivered from sin.

GOD'S WORD

Read Numbers 22. (Hold your Bible throughout the story.)

Do You Know Jesus?

The Bible says that all people have sinned. But God made a way for us to be forgiven and be made right with Him! That is why Jesus died on the cross. Have you accepted Jesus into your life and received His forgiveness? Once you do that, He can help you to live for Him and make wise choices. And He gives you the free gift of eternal life!

Application

Even though Balaam never cursed God's people, he didn't completely obey God. He could have told the king the first time that he would not curse God's people. But he did not tell the king the whole truth, probably because he wanted to get money from the situation. God was not pleased with Balaam's partial obedience, and He is not pleased when we don't obey Him completely.

Begin With Prayer

Have you ever heard a donkey talk? Well I haven't either—at least not the way humans talk! But today we will learn about a man who heard his donkey talk to him!

The Israelites had traveled to the country of Moab. All the kings in the area were terrified of God's people, because they knew that God's power was with them. Balak, the king of Moab, was especially afraid of God's people. He had heard of a man named Balaam who would send curses upon people. So, Balak sent princes as 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 22:6)

The Moabite princes took money because they knew that Balaam would ask for it. When they arrived, they told Balaam what they wanted. 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 told him not to go with them. However, Balaam did *not* tell them that God had commanded him not to curse Israel. So Balaam was not completely truthful with them. He was probably hoping to get some money from the king.

When the king heard the answer, he sent other, more distinguished princes to Balaam. He told Balaam to not let anything keep him from coming with the men. Again, Balaam had the men spend the night. And again, he asked God what to do. God told him he could go with them, but only to speak what He said. Early the next morning, Balaam saddled his donkey and rode with the princes back to the king's palace.

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.

A second time, the angel stood near a narrow path with walls on each side. When the donkey saw the angel again, she pressed close to the wall and crushed Balaam's foot. Again Balaam beat the donkey. 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.

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?" 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 her. Notice that Balaam was so worried about what the princes thought that he didn't seem to be surprised that his donkey was talking to him!

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, because the angel was ready to kill him! Balaam told the angel of the Lord that he knew he had sinned. He wanted to go to the king to get money from him. Balaam said he would do only what the angel of the Lord told him to do. God forgave Balaam but warned him only to speak what God told him to say. So Balaam went with the men of Moab.

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.

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.)

Next Week: Rahab and the Spies — Joshua 2

Memory Verse

May the words of my mouth
and the thoughts of my heart
be pleasing to you, O Lord, my
Rock and my Redeemer.

Psalm 19:14

Preschool Lesson

Read Numbers 22. (Hold your Bible throughout the story.)

Memory verse for younger children:

May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be pleasing to You, O Lord. Psalm 19:14

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

Begin With Prayer

Hello, boys and girls! Today, I am telling the story of Balaam's donkey. 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 beaten me 3 times. I reminded him that I was a good donkey and tried always to obey him.

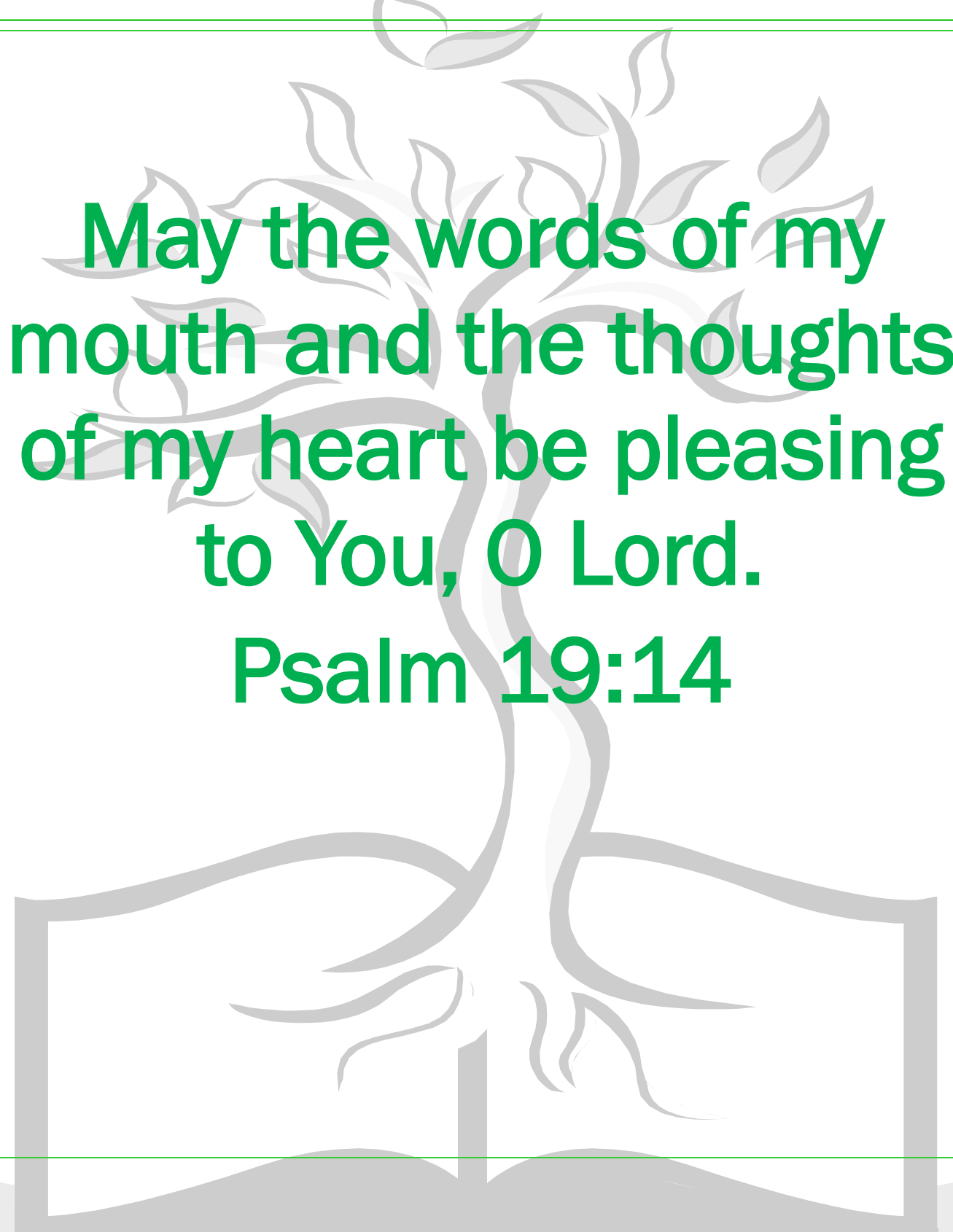
Then, God opened his eyes to see the angel. When he saw how I had protected him, he was so sorry. He also told God he was sorry. You see, God knew that Balaam was traveling to do something wrong. He told Balaam that he must speak only what God said. Balaam listened and obeyed God.

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.

Preschool Memory Verse



May the words of my
mouth and the thoughts
of my heart be pleasing
to You, O Lord.

Psalm 19:14

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 Playdough 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 "Heart of Worship," 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.

Rooted and Grounded



Pray

Thank God for sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins.
Ask God to give us a heart that is clean and pure.
Pray that we will obey God and be truthful with Him and others.

Read the Bible Daily

This week, read Numbers 22–24. Also, read a chapter from the book of John each day.

Think About It

Have you ever pretended to be something, but on the inside you knew it wasn't true? God wants us to be the same person all the time. He wants us to be honest with Him and others.

Tell About It

Share the Bible story with a friend. Talk about being honest with ourselves, others, and with God.

Change it

Have you been “pretending” in some area of your life? Maybe you go to church, but you know that you have not really given your heart to God. It's time to get right with Him—for real! Ask God to come into your life and forgive your sins. Give Him control of your life. He will help you to be honest.

Study it

If you want to read more about Balaam in the Bible, you can look up these Scriptures:
Deuteronomy 23:4-5, Joshua 24:9-10, Nehemiah 13:2, 2 Peter 2:15-16, & Jude 11.

Word Art

Trace the letters.

Balaam's

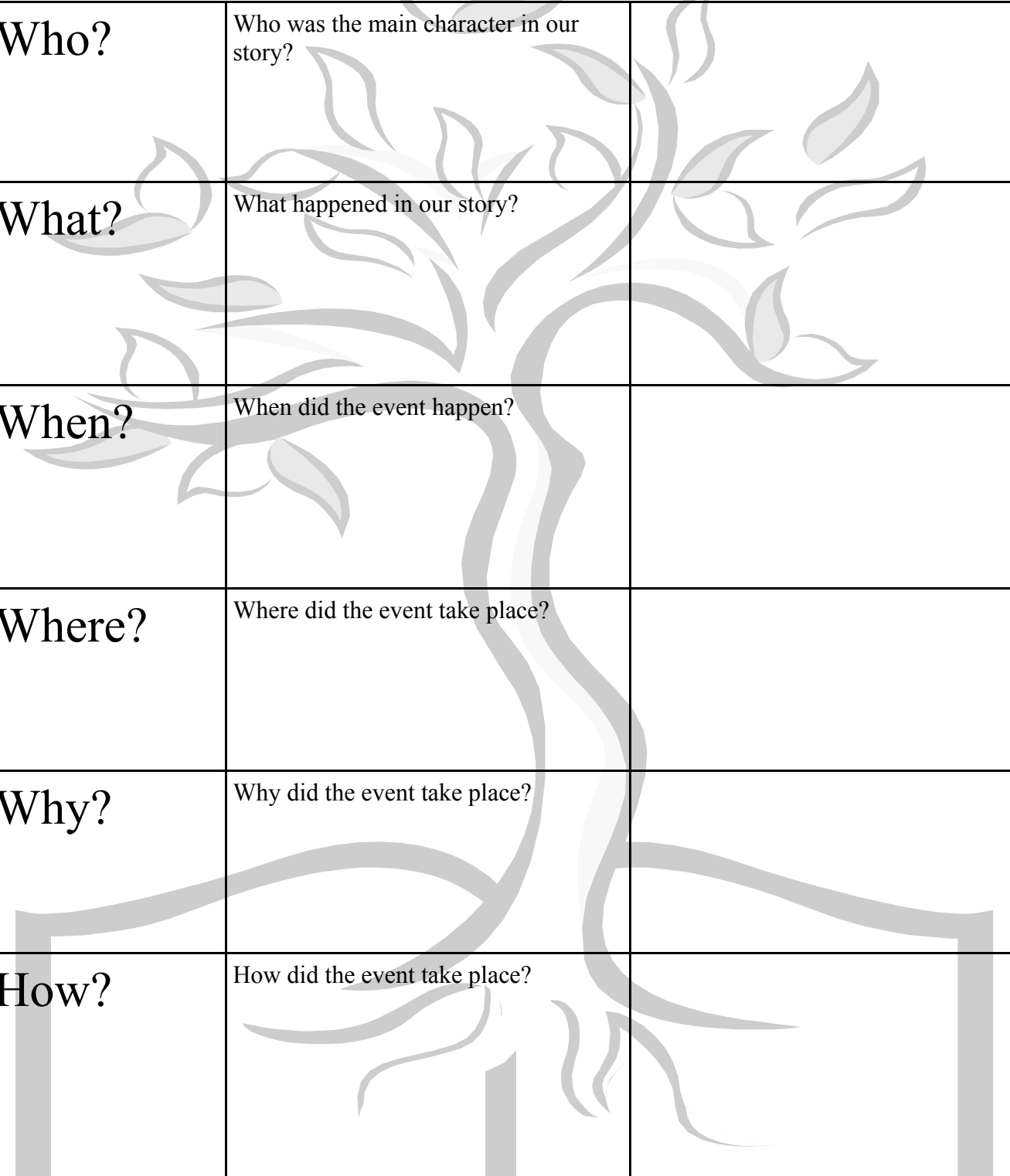
donkey

spoke

to him.

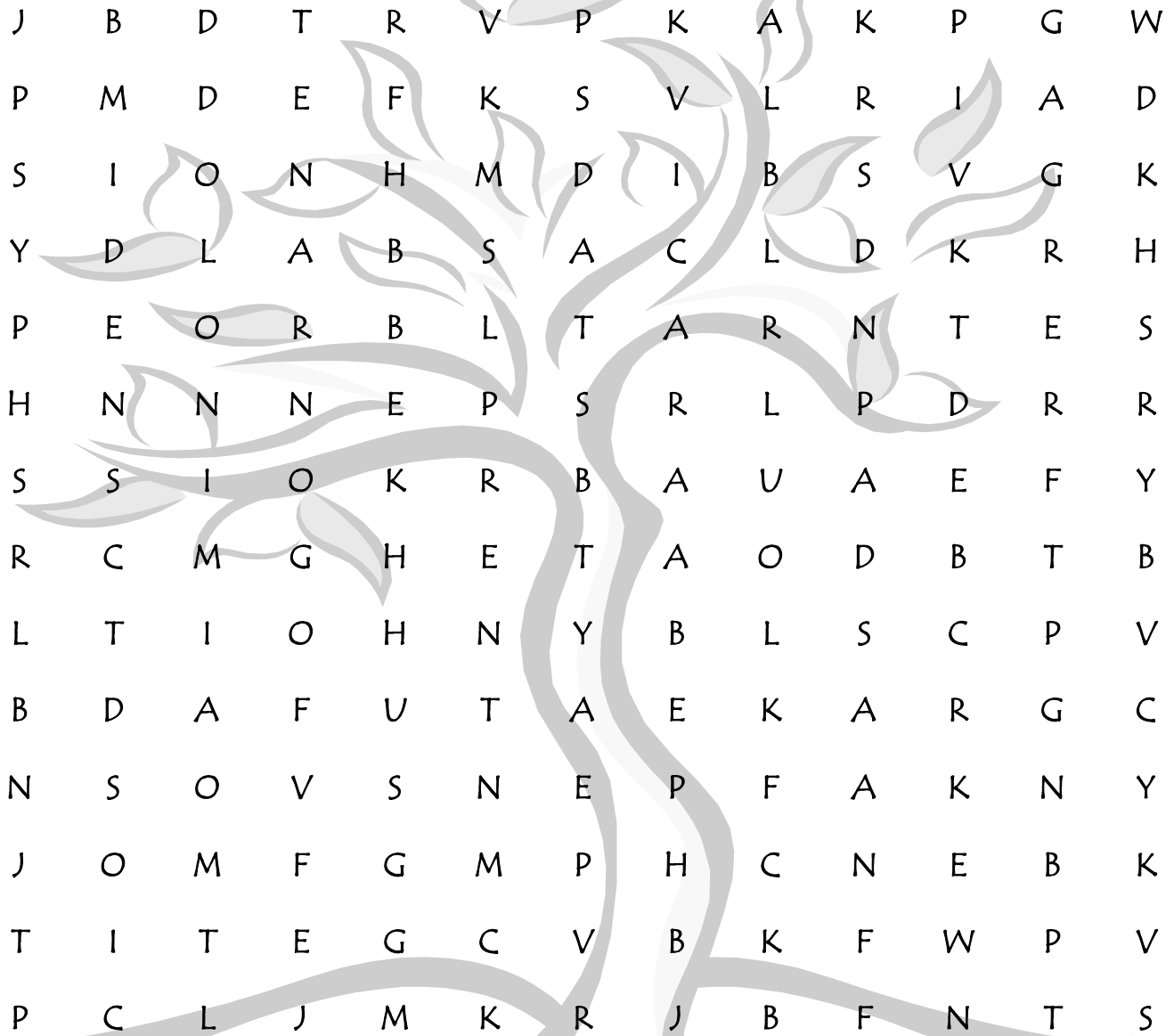
GOD'S WORD

Learning the Facts



| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| Who? | Who was the main character in our story? | |
| What? | What happened in our story? | |
| When? | When did the event happen? | |
| Where? | Where did the event take place? | |
| Why? | Why did the event take place? | |
| How? | How did the event take place? | |

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 Solution

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| 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

Preschool Word Search

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| 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

Preschool Word Search Solution

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

GOD'S WORD

Anagram Solution

DONKEY

CORRECTED

STOP

BALAAM

ANIMAL

VOICE

MOAB

MONEY

BALAK

GOD'S WORD