Preschool–Grade 6

Balaam's Donkey

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Listen to God.
Bible passage: Numbers 22:21–35. Read it yourself before class.
Memory verse: "only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak" *Numbers 22:35 (KJV)*. That means: say only what God says.
You need: a Bible, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Numbers 22:28.

1. Opening game: Go, Donkeys, Stop! (5 minutes)

Kids are donkeys. When you say "Go, donkeys!" they walk around the room on hands and knees or clip-clop on their feet. When you say "Stop!" they freeze. Try to trick them: say "Go!" softly and "Stop!" loudly, or wait a long time. Say: "Good listening! Today we will hear a true story about a donkey who stopped, and God made her talk!"

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Numbers 22. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you. (The Bible calls the donkey an **ass**, an old word for a donkey.)

Balaam got on his donkey and went on a trip (Numbers 22:21). *(Bounce like you are riding.)*
The angel of the LORD stood in the road. The donkey saw him! (22:23) *(Make big eyes.)*
The donkey went into a field (22:23). *(Lean to the side.)*
The donkey pushed into a wall (22:25). *(Squeeze your arms in.)*
The donkey lay down (22:27). *(Crouch down low.)*
Three times! (22:28) *(Hold up three fingers.)*
God made the donkey talk! (22:28) *(Open and close your hand like a mouth.)*
Say it with me: "God made the donkey talk!"
God opened Balaam's eyes. He saw the angel (22:31). *(Open your eyes wide.)*
Balaam said, "I have sinned." I was wrong (22:34). *(Bow your head.)*
Say it with me: "I will listen to God!"

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What animal did Balaam ride? *(A donkey, Numbers 22:21)*
2. Who made the donkey talk? *(The LORD, 22:28)*
3. What did Balaam say? *("I have sinned," 22:34)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God told Balaam, 'only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak.' That means: say only what God says." Teach the motion: cup a hand by your ear (listen), then touch your lips (speak). Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Numbers 22:35" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Donkey Picture (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a donkey with long ears. Then they color it. While they color, ask: "Who made the donkey talk? What did Balaam say?" Kids who finish early can play Go, Donkeys, Stop! again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Dear God, help me listen to You.
When I do wrong, help me say I'm sorry. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and make the donkey's three stops big and fun. If a child asks why Balaam hit the donkey, say he was angry because he could not see the angel, and the angel of the LORD asked him why he did it (Numbers 22:32). Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post