Lesson
10
2s & 3s

BALAAM'S DONKEY

November 7 & 8

GOD SEES OUR HEART



KEY VERSE:

"The Lord himself will go ahead of you. He will be with you. He will never leave you. He'll never desert you. So don't be afraid. Don't lose hope."

Deuteronomy 31:8, NIRV



LESSON GOAL:

Background: Balaam was asked by the king of Moab to curse the Israelites, but God told him to only speak the words He gave him. Even though Balaam obeyed with his words, God saw that his heart was selfish and rebellious, so He sent an angel to stop him. Through Balaam's donkey, God opened Balaam's eyes to his sin, and Balaam learned to follow God's will.

Lesson Goal: For kids to understand that God sees our heart. He knows who we really are and wants us to follow Him with a heart that loves and trusts Him.

Full Story: Numbers 22

Key Passage: Numbers 22:32



BIG QUESTION:

WHO SEES OUR HEART?

(God Sees Our Heart!)

TIPS & TRICKS

KEEP IT SIMPLE

- Use short, simple sentences. One instruction at a time.
- Repeat the same words and phrases often.
- Don't worry if they don't seem to "get" the lesson. Repetition matters!
- Focus on one big truth rather than trying to explain everything.

TODDLERS CURRICULUM VIDEOS:
Plex > Videos > Early Childhood > 2s/3s folder

5:45-6:10pm
8:45-9:10am
10:45-11:10am

CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in time is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome by creating a welcoming environment.

WELCOME FAMILIES

As kids arrive to check-in, greet them and help them feel safe, seen and secure.

SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, ***(insert child/parent name)***! You can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

(Insert parent name), do you have a diaper bag or any other specific instructions for today? *(Respond accordingly)* Enjoy service!

DO:

Help kids feel **SAFE** (physically & emotionally), **SEEN** (known & understood) and **SOOTHED** (calmed & supported) so they can become **SECURE** in your classroom.

FREE PLAY

The goal of free play is to create space for toddlers to get adapted to the classroom so they can connect with the Ministry Partners and other kids.

DO:

As kids play with the classroom toys and games, take time to connect on their level. Initiate conversation by relating to something the child is doing, something you notice about him/her or an overview of what they can expect during class. The goal is to help them feel safe and connected.

Examples:

- That's a nice red shirt you're wearing! Is red your favorite color?
- I see you're holding a yellow lego. What are you building?
- I see that you're sad. Your grown ups went to church but they'll be back soon.
- We're going to learn about Jesus here. When we clean up our toys, we're going to do a craft.

6:10-6:25pm
9:10-9:25am
11:10-11:25am

EXPLORE

The goal of check-in time is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome by creating a welcoming environment.

MAKE: God Sees Our Heart Craft

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

Supplies: "God Sees Our Heart" craft page, crayons or markers, flashlight

SAY:

God sees our heart! God saw Balaam's heart and sent an angel to stop him, then opened Balaam's eyes so he could see the angel and choose to follow God.

DO:

- Pass out a craft page to each kid to color
- When kids finish, shine the flashlight through the page to reveal image of the angel
- Talk about the Bible story and how God opened Balaam's eyes so he could see the angel standing in the road

ASK: Big Question

Give kids a simple, repeatable way to remember the daily God Statement

SAY:

➤ **ASK: Who Sees Our Heart?**
RESPOND TOGETHER: God sees our heart!

Invite kids to repeat - say it together using a fun voice, simple motions or repetition to help them remember.

CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask kids to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to transition to Large Group by sitting quietly in the designated story area.

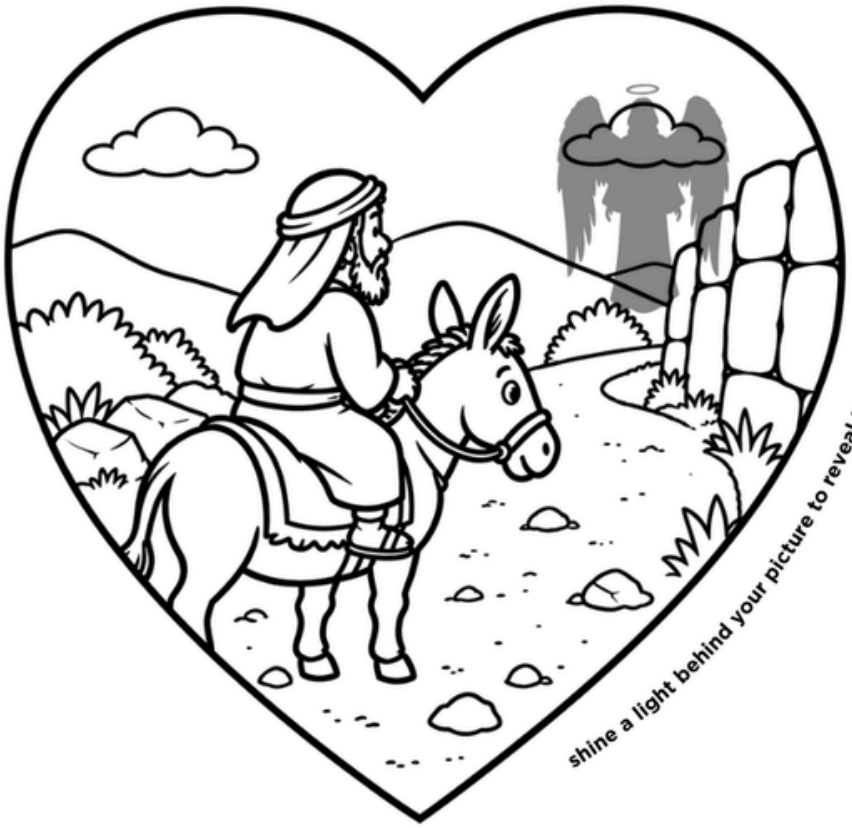
SAY:

Let's all work together to clean up so we can hear our Bible story for the day. We can sing a song as we clean!

Sing: *"Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."*



GOD SEES OUR HEART



God saw Balaam's heart and sent an angel to stop him, then opened Balaam's eyes so he could see the angel and choose to follow God.

Numbers 22

6:25-6:40pm
9:25-9:40am
11:25-11:40am

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God through Worship, an engaging Bible story and a time of response.

EXPECTATIONS

As you begin Large Group, play the Church Today Expectations video
(Plex > Videos > Early Childhood > 2s & 3s)

SAY:

We're glad to be at church today.
We will listen, we will pray.
We'll sit quietly in our spot.
We'll tell Jesus we love Him a lot!

DO:

PRAY before transitioning to worship.

WORSHIP

Use the little kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to Plex > Videos > Early Childhood > 2s/3s folder.

SONG 1: Every Move I Make

SONG 2: Jesus Loves Me

BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story (see script on page 5). Use the flipbook provided.

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

Supplies: heart stickers, Jesus Loves Me (remix)

God sees your heart! Even though we sometimes do things that make God sad, He loves us so much still! This heart sticker can remind us of that. ***Pass out heart stickers and say "God loves you!" to each kid.*** Let's all say "God sees my heart" together. "God sees my heart!" ***After every kid has had a turn, invite kids to stand and sing "Jesus Loves Me!"***

BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

May God see your heart and speak to you this week! May you hear God's voice and follow His plan! He loves you!

BIBLE STORY

Hamilton's Prop: donkey



INTRODUCTION - HAMILTON

Use the Hamilton puppet to introduce the lesson topic and get the kids engaged.

SAY:

Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? ***Hamilton shows you.*** A donkey! Does anyone know what a donkey says? ***Wait for response.*** Hee-haw! That's right! What's that Hamilton? ***Hamilton whispers in your ear.*** There's a donkey in our story today? ***Hamilton nods and whispers in your ear again.*** The donkey doesn't say hee-haw, it says something else? Oh my! Friends, if you're ready to hear our Bible story today, can you wiggle your ears with me? ***Wiggle ears together.*** Let's dive in!



BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story. Use the story cards in your curriculum folder as you read the story.

SAY:

There was a king who was angry with God's special family, the Israelites. Can you show me your angry face? ***Let kids show an angry face.*** He asked a man named Balaam to say mean things about them, and he even offered Balaam lots of money! But God told Balaam to listen to Him and only say what God told him to say. So Balaam got on his donkey and started to go.

On the road, God sent an angel to stop Balaam. Balaam's donkey could see the angel, but Balaam couldn't! The donkey moved out of the way three times, but Balaam got very angry at the donkey. Finally, God made the donkey talk! What does a donkey say? ***Hee-haw!*** But this donkey talked with words, like the way we talk! She asked Balaam why he was hurting her. Can you make a surprised face? ***Allow kids to show surprised face.***

Then God helped Balaam see the angel. Balaam knew he had not listened to God. God told Balaam to keep going, but to listen and only say what God told him to say. Balaam obeyed.

God sees our hearts! He knows everything about us. He knows when we are happy, sad or angry. God wants us to listen to Him and do what He says!

6:40-6:55pm
9:40-9:55am
11:40-11:55am

RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.

REFLECT: Big Question & Application

Help students process what they learned in the lesson by answering the Big question you asked at the beginning of class.

SAY:

Let's talk about what we learned today! Find a spot to sit quietly and get in a comfortable position that's not distracting to others. Let's start by looking at the **BIG QUESTION** we talked about at the beginning of class.

- **ASK: Who Sees Our Heart?**

  RESPOND TOGETHER: God sees our heart!

  Invite kids to repeat - say it together using a fun voice, simple motions or repetition to help them remember.

Now let's think about how this might apply to each of us!

- **ASK: What does this mean to you?**

  EXAMPLES: God knows what we think and how we feel! He knows when we're happy, sad, or angry. God wants us to have kind hearts that love Him and others!

ACTIVITY- Heart Hunt Activity

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the students can participate in this activity that reinforces the daily lesson.

Supplies: Hearts (hidden around the room ahead of time)

SAY:

There are hearts hiding all around our room! We have to look carefully to find them. When you find a heart, bring it back to me. We have to search to find these hearts, but God never has to search for our hearts. He always knows what we are thinking and feeling because He sees our hearts!

DO:

Hide small hearts around the room before the activity begins. Invite kids to search around the room for the hearts and bring each one back to the leader or place it in a basket as they say, "God sees my heart!" Continue until all of the hearts have been found.

6:55-7:10pm
9:55-10:10am
11:55am-12:10pm

EAT & PLAY

The goal of this time is to provide a snack, introduce kids to structured classroom games, have free play and to encourage interaction and participation with others.

SNACK

Check your classroom roster to ensure none of your kids have allergies, then offer each child a snack and water (provided in your classroom).



GAME IDEAS

Free play is a great way to spend the remaining classroom time and is an important part of healthy development! When you can, we also encourage you to lead at least one structured activity to help kids practice new skills, engage with others and learn together.

DO:

- **Follow the Leader** – Walk, stomp, tiptoe, jump, clap, crawl or march around the room
- **I Spy** – "I spy something BLUE!" Everyone points to or walks over to something blue
- **Creation Actions** – Call out something God created and act it out: shine like a star, sway like a tree, swim like a fish, fly like a bird
- **Praise Parade** – March around together while calling out things you can thank God for

As parents arrive after service

CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.

DO:

Encourage kids to finish their Explore craft or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any upcoming events or announcements while handing their parent the announcement card or flyer.