Lesson
10
1st-4th

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

MISSION FOCUS:

FOCUS: Thanksgiving Donations
woodmenvalley.org/thanksgivingdonations

WHY DOES IT MATTER? Some families in our community need a little extra help putting food on the table this Thanksgiving.

WHAT ARE THANKSGIVING DONATIONS? Every year, Woodmen gets to come alongside these families by providing everything they need to make a special Thanksgiving meal.

PRAYING FOR THANKSGIVING DONATIONS
Over the last couple weeks, we've been collecting Thanksgiving donations to help families in our community. Even though our collecting is done, we can still show God's love by praying for the families who will receive these meals!

Serve the Church | Serve the City | Serve the World

THEME FOR THIS SERIES:
Ruby Robinson's Jungle Adventure

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

CHECK-IN

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

SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, ***(insert child/parent name)***! Look up the Bible passage in your Bible or a classroom Bible and mark it with a sticky note. Then, find a classroom activity to do until we begin Explore time.

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

EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.

DISCUSS: God Sees Our Heart!

Help kids connect relationally by asking them about their week, then discuss the lesson topic for the day and read the Bible passage together.

SAY:

Let's take turns sharing 3 words about our week. I'll go first! *Share your 3 words then invite the next child to share.*

Today, we are learning how **God sees our heart.** This story comes from the Bible in **Numbers 22:32.** Let's open our Bibles so we can read it together. *Read passage.*

CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Introduce the Big 3 questions and answers to give kids a preview of the key ideas they should watch and listen for during the Bible lesson.

SAY:

Listen closely as I share the BIG 3 questions AND answers for today's lesson!
Then, let's all look for those answers in our Bible time!

1. **ASK: Who is our story about today?**
   ANSWER: God, Balaam and us.
2. **ASK: What is the problem?**
   ANSWER: Balaam's heart was selfish and he wanted to follow his own way instead of God's way!
3. **ASK: What will God do?**
   ANSWER: God sent an angel to stop Balaam and show him that he needed to follow God's way.

Encourage kids to listen and watch for the answers to these questions during the Bible lesson!

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 pages (heart and words page), crayons or markers, glue sticks and scissors from classroom supplies, 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 the heart craft page to each kid to color and cut out.
- When kids finish, pass out the second page and help them glue the heart onto the full page paper.
- 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



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 line up and/or transition to Large Group.

6:25-6:50pm
9:25-9:50am
11:25-11:50am

LARGE GROUP OVERVIEW

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow closer to God through participating in worship, a Bible story and Worship Response.

OPENING LARGE GROUP

INTRODUCTION

Welcome the kids in an engaging way and share the daily host content.

- **4 B'S (BEHAVIORS)**
  Share the expectations for how to participate during Large Group time.
- **KEY VERSE**
  Introduce the key verse. Kids can watch the Key Verse video (when it's new for the series) or practice together using the slide.
- **MISSION FOCUS**
  Introduce or share an update about the current mission focus.
- **PRAY FOR MISSION FOCUS & LESSON**

WORSHIP

Invite your Worship Leader to come up and play the worship song videos. Encourage kids to participate and be respectful to others.

LESSON VIDEO

Play the daily Bible lesson video.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Lead the kids through a quiet personal reflection time of responding to what God is teaching them.

CLOSING LARGE GROUP

PRAYER

Transition from Worship Response by praying over the kids.

OFFERING

Highlight the opportunity to give back to God through our offering.

BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids to send them into their week with God's truth in their hearts.

OPENING LARGE GROUP SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

Welcome! We're so glad you're here today! Does anyone know our God statement for today? ***(allow kids to respond)*** **God Sees Our Heart!** I'm so excited to dig into that with you but before we do, let's cover our 4 B's of how we're expected to participate during Large Group!

4 BEHAVIORS OF LARGE GROUP

- ***Be Ready*** – Eyes watching and ears listening.
- ***Be Respectful*** – Listen when others are talking and follow directions.
- ***Be Safe*** – Keep your hands, feet and body in your own space.
- ***Be Involved*** – Sing, answer, move and join in!

KEY VERSE - Deuteronomy 31:8

Let's recite our Key Verse together! When we memorize the Bible, we put God's truth in our hearts and minds to help us remember what is true and who God is. Let's practice together! ***Play the Key Verse video or show the verse slide.***

Serve the City

MISSION FOCUS - Thanksgiving Donations

Over the last couple weeks, we've been collecting Thanksgiving donations to help families in our community enjoy a special Thanksgiving meal! Because of your generosity, we get to show these families God's love in a really special way. But did you know there's still another way we can help? By praying!

Even though we're done collecting food, we're not done showing God's love! Let's take a moment to pray for these families and ask God to bless them this Thanksgiving!

- *Let's thank God for providing food for families in our community this Thanksgiving!*
- *Let's pray that the families receiving meals feel loved and cared for.*
- *Let's ask God to help us continue finding ways to love and serve others!*

PRAY (for the mission focus and upcoming lesson)

Let's bow our heads, close our eyes and show respect to God while we pray!

WORSHIP

Let's move into a time of worship. This is a chance for us to praise God and say "thank you!" for everything He does for us. You can worship in a way that helps you focus on God best. You can stand, sit, kneel, raise your hands or participate in the motions. ***Play worship songs.***

SONGS: Praise, Every Move I Make, Who You Say I Am

LESSON VIDEO

Please take a seat quietly so we can watch our lesson video together. As you watch, see if you can find the answers to our big 3 questions! Who is the story about? What is the problem or what happens? And what does God do? Let's watch together! ***Play lesson video.***

WORSHIP RESPONSE SCRIPT

PREPARE AHEAD

Before Large Group, prepare all Worship Response materials and ask Ministry Partners to help lead and support the activity.

SUPPLIES: heart stickers (give to leaders ahead of large group to pass out when prompted), cross worship response stations, Story of the Cross song

REFLECT: God Sees Our Heart!

Let's get our hearts and bodies ready for Worship Response. Start by taking three deep breaths *(take 3 breaths together)*. Now let's relax our bodies and find a comfortable position to be still and focus on God - one that won't distract others.

REVIEW LESSON & GOD STATEMENT

God sees what's in our hearts - the good and the not so good. Even though Balaam obeyed with his words, God saw that Balaam's heart was selfish, so He used a very unique method to stop Balaam in his tracks and redirect him to do what is right. What did God use? ***Let kids respond - a donkey and an angel.*** Just like Balaam, we can be selfish or unkind, but God sees our hearts and loves us still! He loves us so much that He sent Jesus to save us from our sins!

EXPLAIN WORSHIP RESPONSE ACTIVITY

- Let's take some time to think about our own hearts today. Your leader is going to give you a heart sticker. ***Quietly ask leaders to pass out stickers as you talk.***
- As you sit quietly, look at your heart sticker. God knows who we really are - He knows everything we've done. He knows the words, kind or unkind, that we've said today. And God still loves you!
  - Take a moment and talk to God on your own. You can share something you need forgiveness for, ask for help, or just say thank you for loving me!
  - When you're ready, you can walk to the cross and place your heart sticker on it as a reminder that God sees your heart and loves you so much!
- When you're finished, walk quietly back to your seat.
- You can pray and talk to God, you can listen to the song playing in the background or you can simply sit and be still
- As you participate, please remember to be quiet and participate on your own

DISMISS KIDS TO PARTICIPATE & PLAY SONG

Play the song in the Powerpoint as kids participate. If the song ends before all kids are done participating, play it again.

PRAY OVER THE KIDS

After all kids have had a chance to participate, close Worship Response by simply praying over them. No transition or introduction is needed—just begin the prayer.

CLOSING LARGE GROUP SCRIPT

OFFERING

One more way we can respond to and worship God is by giving offering. Offering is an opportunity every week to give some of our money to God as a way to say "Thank you, God!" for all He has done for us. Remember, you never *have* to give offering. Giving offering is something you *choose* to do with a thankful heart! God gives to us...so we give back to Him! If you have offering today, you can place it in the offering bin before you leave.



God gives to us...



We give back to God!

BLESSING

Before we go, I want to speak a blessing over you so can you please stand up? A blessing sends us into our week with God's truth in our hearts, reminding us of who He is and that He is with us wherever we go. If you'd like, hold out your hands with your palms up as a way of showing that you are ready to receive these words and God's truth. Listen closely as I speak this blessing over you.

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

TRANSITION

After the blessing, dismiss kids to return quietly to their classroom (if applicable) and transition to Respond.

We learned a lot together today! Now we're going to head back to Small Group to unpack what we learned and talk about what it means for our lives. This is a great time to ask questions, share your thoughts and see if you caught the answers to our Big 3 Questions from the lesson!

6:50-7:10pm
9:50-10:10am
11:50am-12:10pm

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 3 & Application

Help kids process what they learned in the lesson by answering the Big 3 questions 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 3** questions we talked about at the beginning of class. Did anyone find the answers?

1. **ASK: Who was our story about today?**
   KIDS RESPOND: God, Balaam and us.

2. **ASK: What was the problem?**
   KIDS RESPOND: Balaam's heart was selfish and he wanted to follow his own way instead of God's way!

3. **ASK: What did God do?**
   KIDS RESPOND: God sent an angel to stop Balaam and show him that he n eeded to follow God's way.

Now let's talk about how this could **APPLY** to our own lives. Depending on what God is teaching us, our answers might be different. But I would love to hear your thoughts!

- **ASK: Why does this matter to me?**
  Example: Just like God saw Balaam's heart, He knows what is in our hearts, too!

- **ASK: How can I apply this to my own life?**
  Example: I can follow God with my whole heart! I can read the Bible to learn what God says, pray and ask God to help me make good choices, and obey Him even when I want to do something different.

PRAY: Connect Relationally

Help kids understand the power of praying together.

SAY:

Does anyone have a prayer request they'd like to share? You can also share with a leader privately, if you don't want to share aloud. It can feel a little scary to pray together, but God loves to hear our prayers! We don't have to say anything fancy - we can just talk to Him!

DO:

Invite kids to pray for each other, then have a leader close in prayer. You can also use your prayer journal to write down and reflect on prayers from your group each week.

If time allows

OPTIONAL RESPOND ACTIVITY

The goal of the OPTIONAL Respond Activity is for kids to engage in a game that helps reinforce the lesson for the day.

ACTIVITY: Who Has the Heart?

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: Heart plush

SAY:

We're going to play "Who Has the Heart?" One person will turn around while I secretly choose someone to hold the heart. Everyone else will know who has it, but you have to keep it a secret! When our guesser turns back around, they'll get three chances to figure out who is hiding the heart. It might be hard to tell just by looking, but God never has to guess what is in our hearts. He knows what we are thinking, feeling and why we do the things we do because God sees our hearts!

DO:

- Choose one child to turn around or step away from the group.
- Secretly give the heart to another child while everyone else watches.
- Have the heart holder hide it behind their back.
- Remind everyone else not to give away who has the heart!
- Bring the guesser back and give them three chances to figure out who has it.
- Choose a new guesser and heart holder and play again.
- Continue for several rounds as time allows.

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 activities or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

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