

ELEMENTARY Flight Plan

July 5th



Lesson	Balaam and Balak
Bible Passage	Numbers 22-24
Story Point	God is Strong
Key Passage	Psalm 23
Big Picture Q & A	<p>How can we know what God is like?</p> <p>We can learn more about what God is like through the Bible</p>



Clear Communicators

INSTRUCTIONS: Number the pictures to rank the ways to communicate from best to worst. Then compare your thoughts with a friend.



Young Life Activity Pages
Unit 7 - Session 3
Balaam and Balak

OBJECTIVES:

- Rank the way of Balak, find a way to send Balaam to see God, and fly.
- God can do things to help us see Balaam, but only Balaam's choice could see the sign.
- Balaam was angry until God changed the sign to Balaam.
- God commanded Balaam to bless the people.

KEY MESSAGE: Proverbs 3:5-6

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

- What does it mean to be able to see, to think, speak, or believe in any way that you speak God and His commands.

FAITH APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

- What prophets did Balaam persuade to "speak" for him?
- Why does God bless His people?
- What is the best way for God to give?

FAITH ACTIVITY:

- Use a Bible and an Internet search engine to find and compare each new faith story of the prophet from Isaiah and will talk about His vision.



KEY NOTES: RAINFOREST FALLS SUMMER

Discovering God's character is a great adventure! Every story in the Bible shines a light on who God is—His love, power, faithfulness, and grace. Every story we explore this summer will show us amazing truths about God that are revealed to us in the Bible. The more we learn about our Creator, the more we understand who we are and how deeply we are loved. It gives us confidence to trust Him in every moment.

Let's explore the nature of God!

Grace Airways Rainforest Falls Curriculum in Children's Ministry will focus on discovering God's character through Bible stories. Each story chosen highlights a specific attribute of God.

SUMMER PSALM—let's all learn Psalm 23 to give the students consistent excitement and practice each week! We will practice all summer to create a video to share with the rest of Grace Community Church at the Fall-Kick off (Sept 13th) on the big screen.

Key Dates:

July 11th GCC BBQ (baptisms)

Aug 23rd All Sunday Teams Fall Training

Aug 30th Film all classes doing the Summer Psalm

Sept 13th FALL KICKOFF

Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____
- Where is the gospel in this story?

THE BIBLE TEACHES US ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER



JOB



**TOWER
OF BABEL**



TABERNACLE



**BALAM
& BALAK**



**THE ARK
RETURNS**



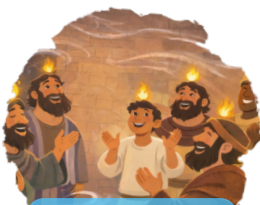
**ELIJAH &
MT CARMEL**



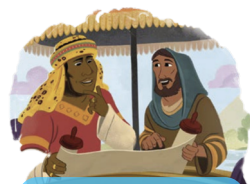
EZEKIEL



FIERY FURNACE



HOLY SPIRIT



**PHILIP & THE
ETHIOPIAN**



**PAUL MET
JESUS**



PRODIGAL SON



**CHILDREN
OF GOD**

Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co -Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co -pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

leader bible study

The Israelites had arrived at the promised land decades earlier, but the people had rebelled—refusing to trust God to give them the land. They believed it would be better to die in the wilderness than follow God (Num. 14:2), so God sent them into the wilderness for 40 years (v. 28-29). In time, all of the adults died except for Joshua, Caleb, and Moses. The children grew up and more children were born. The Israelites disobeyed God time and again, but God still provided for them. He planned to keep His promise to give Israel the promised land.

As the Israelites traveled, God gave them victory over attacking armies like the Canaanites and Amorites. Not surprisingly, when Israel set up camp in the plains of Moab, on the east side of the Jordan River, Balak—the king of Moab—was terrified. The king knew he could not defeat the Israelites on his own, so he called on Balaam, a pagan prophet, to put a curse on them.

Though Balaam did not follow God, he knew of God and God spoke to him. God told Balaam, “You are not to curse this people, for they are blessed.” God’s plan all along was to bless humanity (Gen. 1:28), specifically through the nation of Israel (Gen. 12:3). So each time Balaam spoke over Israel, God did not allow him to curse the Israelites. Instead, Balaam spoke in four clear messages, insisting that God would bless the Israelites.

In the story of Balaam and Balak, God’s strength is displayed. Balak desired to weaken Israel by placing a curse on them, but God showed His unmatched power by preventing Balaam from speaking anything except a blessing. No king, prophet, or nation could stand against what God had already declared. His people were blessed and protected. This same strength points us to Jesus, the fulfillment of Balaam’s prophecy about the coming “star” and “scepter.” Jesus demonstrates God’s ultimate power by defeating sin and death, proving that nothing can stop God’s plan to save and bless His people. Just as God was strong enough to turn curses into blessings for Israel, He is strong enough through Jesus to bring victory and hope to the whole world.

Vision for Grace Airways
We navigate the scriptures,
training up bold disciples,
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPQ and A & Summer Psalm
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

PICK UP:

First Service:
Around 9:45

Second Service:
Around 11:45



10 min Take Off

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

Can you think of something really hard you've done before? Maybe something that took courage, strength, or didn't feel easy at first. Sometimes we feel strong, but a lot of times we realize we need help. God is never like that. He is always strong. In the story we're learning today, people tried to go against God's plan, but God showed that no one is stronger than Him. And the best part is, His strength is used to protect and help His people.

Summer Truth

We can explore the nature of God

Big Picture Question

How can we know what God is like?

We can learn more about what God is like through the Bible

Summer Psalm

Psalm 23 ESV

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

The story of Balaam and Balak takes place near the end of Israel's 40-year wilderness journey. After leaving Egypt and wandering because of their disobedience, a new generation of Israelites was now nearing the Promised Land. As they traveled, God gave them victories over enemies, showing His continued presence and power. The Israelites were finally preparing to enter the land God had promised. Then Balak, king of Moab, became fearful and called Balaam to curse them. Today, we will hear how God showed His strength! Transition to Bible Story: (OPTIONAL) Show the Bible Story Video.



15 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

Open your Bible to Numbers 22-24 Read from the Bible or use your storytelling skills to help you tell the story.

You know, every time I hear this story I am surprised at Balaam's reaction to his talking donkey. Instead of saying, "What?! Donkeys aren't supposed to be able to talk!" Balaam carried on a conversation like it was a normal thing. Balaam did not worship God, but God showed His strength that He can use anything and anyone to accomplish His plan.

Balaam had a special message, or prophecy, about how God was going to bless Israel. Balaam prophesied about Jesus. A *prophecy* is a word from God given to people. In other words, it is when God tells people that something will happen. God's prophecies always come true, sometimes thousands of years later. In fact, we are still waiting for some of God's prophecies to happen.

God shows His strength in the story of Balaam and Balak by having complete control over what happens, even when others try to go against Him. No matter how much Balak wanted to curse Israel, God's power ensured that only blessings were spoken, proving that no one is stronger than Him or able to stop His plans.

Age Appropriate Story

STORY POINT: GOD COMMANDED BALAAM TO BLESS HIS PEOPLE.

The Israelites came to the edge of the promised land. They camped in the plains of Moab. Balak, the king of Moab, saw the Israelites and was afraid. King Balak sent his messengers to a man named Balaam. The king said, "Come and curse the Israelites so that I might be able to defeat them."

When Balaam went with the king's officials, God sent an angel to stop Balaam. Balaam could not see the angel, but his donkey could. Three times the angel stood in the way, and three times the donkey stopped. Balaam didn't understand why the donkey was stopping. He hit the donkey with his stick, so God gave the donkey the ability to speak.

God then allowed Balaam to see the angel, and Balaam said, "I was wrong. I didn't know you were trying to stop me. If you don't think I should go, I'll return home right now."

The angel said, "It's all right for you to go. But you must only say what I tell you."

Balaam told the king that God had blessed the Israelites. So Balaam blessed them too. In fact, he blessed them three times.

Before Balaam went home, he had a special message for the king. Balaam said that one day a powerful king would be born to the people of Israel. After Balaam had said these things, he went home.



Christ Connection: Balaam could not curse God's people. God had blessed the Israelites, so Balaam blessed them too. Fourteen hundred years after Balaam announced God's promise, Jesus was born. God sent Jesus to bless the whole world by rescuing people from sin.

Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them find Job. Lead the group to discuss:

1. **As we explore God's nature in this story, what attribute of God do you see?** God is **STRONG**
2. **Who came to stop Balaam?** (*an angel of the LORD, Num. 22:22*)
3. **Why did Balak want Balaam to curse the Israelites?** (*Balak was afraid the Israelites would move into the land and take over, Num. 22:4-5*)
4. **When might we miss what God is doing around us, like Balaam did?** *Guide kids to see that we often desire sinful things. We often think that our plans will be better than God's plans for us. When we chase after sinful things, we can miss out on being a part of God's good plans.*
5. **How can we use our words for God's glory?** *Lead kids to recognize that they can tell the truth, talk to others about Jesus, and encourage one another. We can all choose to honor God and bless others with our mouths, or we can dishonor Him and hurt others. God wants us to use our mouths to honor Him.*



God's attributes- In today's story we see that God is:

STRONG

15 min Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

Predictions

Provide the kids with paper, pencils, and crayons or markers. Ask the kids to draw pictures of what they think their futures will be like. What jobs might they work? Where will they live? Will they have a family of their own or any pets? What kind of clothing will they wear?

- We can't really predict the future, but when we think about what will happen in our lives, it's natural to hope for good things and many blessings. Today we will hear about a time a king who feared God's people tried to get another man to predict bad things for them. What do you think God thought about that?

Pin the Mouth on the Donkey

Print out the face of a donkey. Print out mouths and cut out. Tape the donkey to a focal wall in your room. Invite the kids to line up. Blindfold the first kid in line. Give the kid the mouth-shaped cutout with a small bit of tape or mounting putty on the back. Instruct her to feel for the wall and try to stick the mouth-shape onto the donkey's face. Remove the cutout and let the next kid try.

- What a fun game! Today we heard about a time God gave a donkey the ability to speak! The donkey told a man something very important from God. Why do you think God would use a donkey to deliver a message?

Follow an Obstacle Course

Create an obstacle course using existing items in the room. At the end of the course, open a Bible, point to the key passage, and read it aloud. Look at the Bible story picture and recall the story.

- Balaam's donkey ran into a serious obstacle—the angel of the LORD! After stopping three times, God let Balaam see the angel too. God would not let Balaam curse His people. God had blessed the Israelites, so **Balaam blessed God's people** too. Long after Balaam announced the coming King, Jesus was born. God sent Jesus to bless the world. Jesus rescues people from sin.

5 min Pilot's Log

Where we prepare to depart.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide***.

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space—a neighbor's house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus' light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

You're
ready
for
Sunday!

