



God Sees Our Heart – Balaam’s Donkey

Numbers 22:21-31

God Statement: God has a Plan

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)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(Until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: God Sees our Heart

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how God forgives!

SAY: Have you ever tried to do something good but someone else thought it wasn’t good? **Let kids respond.** Maybe you tried to help someone else, but they were not happy about it. Has this ever happened to you? **Let a few kids respond** Have you ever been blamed for something that you didn’t do? **Let a few kids respond.** It can be very sad and very discouraging when we try to be helpful and others don’t think we are. Sometimes it can hurt and make us sad when we get blamed for something that isn’t our fault.

Do you know who knows our heart? ***Let kids respond – Jesus/God!*** That's right! God! He always sees our heart. He knows when we are doing good things and bad things. He knows our heart and He knows the truth, always. When we sometimes feel sad about wanting to help others, but they don't think it's helpful, and when we maybe get blamed for something that isn't our fault, God knows the truth and He sees our heart. He has a plan.

MAKE: God Sees our Heart Magnet

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Supplies: one paper heart magnet per child, crayons and markers

Directions: Pass out one paper heart magnet per child. Have them color their paper hearts.

SAY: Today we get to learn about how God sees our hearts! He will always be with us and He always has a plan. He knows our heart. Let's make a craft to get ready for our lesson.



LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**** After Expectations, transition the power point to the "Worship" slide.****

KEY VERSE

Host

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God's Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

****Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.****

**"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)**

**** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship.****

OPENING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it's not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- Good God Almighty
- The One
- Closing: Gratitude

**** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY**Lesson Video**

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God Sees Our Heart – Balaam's Donkey

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE**Host**

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

DO: BE STILL & LISTEN – God SEES OUR HEART

Supplies: none

SAY: God sees our heart. Did Balaam choose to be obedient and listen to God at the beginning? **Let kids respond – no.** No, he wanted to do what he thought was best. God saw Balaam's heart and knew it was sinful. So God used something very odd to speak to Balaam and call him out. What did God use? **Let kids respond – donkey!** He used Balaam's donkey, that's right!

We all make mistakes and sin. None of us are perfect. Sometimes, we try to do things our own way and ignore God's direction. Take a moment and close your eyes. As you close them, think about this past week or month. Is there something you've done that was disobedient to God? **Have kids think for a few moments quietly but don't ask for responses.**

Remember how God used Balaam's donkey to speak to him? And after that Balaam realized who was really talking to him, he listened and followed what God wanted. God

saw Balaam's heart and knew what he needed. God sees our hearts too and wants us to follow Him.

Maybe you thought of a situation earlier where you made a mistake or didn't listen, kind of like Balaam. Let's take some time now to talk to God about that.

DIRECTIONS: Invite kids to spread out in the room (if space permitting). They can lay down, cover their heads, or close their eyes if it will help them be still for a few moments.

****If kids are extra squirmy today, try having them stand up and wiggle for 20 seconds and take a deep breath in to calm their bodies before being still****

SAY: As you lay/sit there, ask God for forgiveness for that sin. Remember that God loves you, and He will forgive you. Then, be as still as you can, like a statue, and just listen. Listen for God to speak. If he doesn't speak clearly, that's okay too. Just be still and make space to hear God!

DIRECTIONS: After a few minutes of quiet, invite kids to sit back up and share what they talked/heard from God in the quiet time. Remind kids it's totally okay if they didn't hear God, but also encourage them to keep listening for God.

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.******

CLOSING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Offering slides.******

OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to explain that every week, we provide an opportunity for our Woodmen Kids to participate in tithing. We believe God is our provider, and it is our privilege to give back to God what He has so graciously given us. Then, remind kids that if anyone brought an offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering.

****After Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.****

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – ACTS Thanksgiving Baskets

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the PowerPoint to display important announcements.

ACTs Thanksgiving Baskets

SAY: How many of you are excited about the Thanksgiving holiday? **Pause.** Did you know that Thanksgiving can be difficult for some people? Some people get very sad around the holidays. Why do you think Thanksgiving makes some people feel sad? **Let kids respond.**

SAY: There are families right here in Colorado Springs who are not able to buy items to have a yummy meal during Thanksgiving. How does that make you feel? **Let kids respond.** How do you think you can help these families in need? **Let kids respond.** That’s right! You can help by shopping for food items that you enjoy on Thanksgiving and bring them to our Feeding Families bin. This is the last weekend we will be collecting items for our ACTs Thanksgiving Baskets!

SAY: Let’s pray that God would provide the food needed to give a Thanksgiving Basket to every person who needs one. Pray that God’s love and compassion will be felt by those who receive a Thanksgiving Basket. Pray that every person in need would enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday just as much as we enjoy it!

Invite a kid to come up and pray for the families who will receive food through ACTs Thanksgiving Baskets.

****After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.****

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

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

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?** (God Sees Our Heart.)
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Numbers 22:21-28**
 - **What animal did Balaam ride on?** (A donkey.)
 - **Who stood in the middle of the path to stop Balaam from going where he was not supposed to?** (The Angel of the Lord.)
 - **What did the Angel of the Lord have the donkey say to Balaam?** ("What have I done to you? Why did you hit me these three times?")
3. **God spoke through the donkey to get to Balaam. His heart was hard and filled with selfishness. And God saw that. He knew and saw that his heart was filled with selfishness. Selfishness is not from God. God gives us gifts and talents to use to bring others to Him.**
 - **How can you keep your heart in check and turned to God?**
 - **I know that this is not always easy. But I want to encourage you guys to listen to each other and apply the ideas in your life.** Spend some time as a group discussing and sharing.

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?** (God Sees Our Heart.)
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Numbers 22:21-28**
 - **What animal did Balaam ride on?** (A donkey.)
 - **Who stood in the middle of the path to stop Balaam from going where he was not supposed to?** (The Angel of the Lord.)
 - **What did the Angel of the Lord have the donkey say to Balaam?** (“What have I done to you? Why did you hit me these three times?”)
3. **As a group read Numbers 22:36-38.**
 - **Did Balaam go to where he was sent and speak his own words?** (No, God saw the jealousy in his heart and changed it so he could only speak the words God is telling him to and not his own words.)
 - **What does it look like to have your heart for God and to obey Him and give Him the glory?** Take a couple of minutes talking and recapping the lesson. Talk about what it look's like to have a heart for spreading God's word and making an impact on His kingdom.
4. **God spoke through the donkey to get to Balaam. His heart was hard and filled with selfishness. And God saw that. He knew and saw that his heart was filled with selfishness. Selfishness is not from God. God gives us gifts and talents to use to bring others to Him.**
 - **How can you keep your heart in check and turned to God?**
 - **I know that this is not always easy. But I want to encourage you guys to listen to each other and apply the ideas in your life.** Spend some time as a group discussing and sharing.

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

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

PLAY: Donkey I-Spy

Supplies: laminated donkey cut out

Directions: Have one child stand in the front of the room and close their eyes. Have another child hide the donkey somewhere in the room. Once hidden have the child who did not see where it was hidden, try to find it. Have the rest of the class give clues by saying “hot” if the child is getting closer and “cold” if they are getting further away. Once found, have another child hide and find the donkey.

SAY: Today we got to learn about how God sees our hearts! Let’s play a game to help us remember our lesson today.

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.