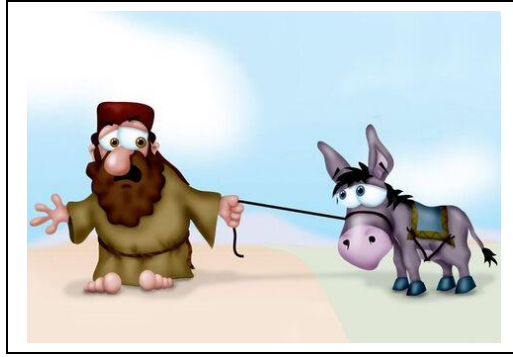


God Speaks Through **Nature!**

God speaks to His people in When He needs to get a may use surprising ways to covered some of these communicates to people, but truly extraordinary example. someone to do something, person does what God has



many different ways! person's attention, God reach them. We have unexpected ways God once in a while there is a In the Bible, when God tells we usually read that the asked. In our lesson for

today, however, we meet a person named Balaam who doesn't want to do what God asks, and God ends up having to stop him from doing the wrong thing. God's method for changing Balaam's course would startle ANYONE!! We know that God created the earth and all that is in it. Everything in all of creation is under God's control as well. **NATURE** itself reveals God's glory and truth—plants die and the seeds bring new life, snow melts to reveal flowers, rain washes away dirt to uncover fresh beauty. Let's see how God gets Balaam's attention through **NATURE** in our story!

Memory verse:

Psalm 19:1

**"The heavens declare the glory of God,
the skies proclaim the work of his hands."**

Scripture lesson:

Numbers 22: 21-39

Thinking about it:

Balaam, a wicked Moabite prophet, was asked by the king of Moab to place a curse on the Israelite people. The Moabites were afraid of this giant group of people who were coming across the Jordan from Jericho. Balaam told the king that he would rest on it and give him an answer in the morning. While Balaam was resting God came to him and told him NOT to go with the Moabites and NOT to put a curse upon the Israelites. The next morning Balaam told the king he would not fulfill the king's wishes and. So the king put more pressure onto Balaam to do as he asked, and eventually Balaam agreed to do as the king requested. With that, Balaam set off toward the Israelites riding on his donkey. God was angry with Balaam for going against Him, and so He sent the angel of the Lord to stand in the road to oppose him. Balaam couldn't see the angel, but the donkey could! The donkey stopped in her tracks and then turned off the road into a field. Balaam didn't understand what she was doing, so he beat the donkey to get her back on the road. The angel of the Lord went in front of them again, and again the donkey refused to go in the direction Balaam was directing her. This happened a one more time, and then the donkey laid down onto the ground. Now Balaam was mightily angry with her and beat her a third time. With that, God opened up the mouth of the donkey and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three

times? Am I not your own donkey which you have always ridden? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?" "No!" Balaam answered. Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes and he was finally able to see the angel of the Lord standing before them in the road. The angel then explained to Balaam that he was to continue on with the men but say only what the angel told him. Balaam agreed to do as God asked and delivered five "oracles", or prophecies, to the people of Israel, including one about the coming Messiah (who would not arrive for thousands of years!).

Video suggestion: **Balaam**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyQOVMF0sBk>

Craft suggestion:

We will be making donkeys in our craft time today. Using the template of a donkey, we will cut out the body and draw features on the face. Using googly eyes, we will fix eyes to the donkey. With a paper punch, we will make a hole to put a tail onto the donkey's backside. The "tail" will be brown string, in several layers, tied through the hole. Then we will attach "legs" to the donkey with clothespins. An example of the craft can be found here:

<http://thefantasticfive-hockmana.blogspot.com/2013/04/jesus-is-king-palm-sunday-donkey-craft.html?m=1>

Questions to ponder:

- Why did the king of Moab send for Balaam?
- Who warned Balaam in the night not to help the king?
- Why did Balaam want to go with the second messengers the king sent?
- How did the donkey save Balaam's life?
- What warning did the angel give Balaam?
- Why do you think it was hard for Balaam to follow God's directions at first?
- How did God communicate with Balaam in this story? *(Surprise! God communicated to Balaam in several ways! Through speaking to him directly, getting the donkey to speak, and using an angel!)*
- How do we see God communicating to us through nature? *(He shows us His promise of new life in plants, seasons, His beautiful creations, etc.)*



Prayer:

Dear Amazing God, You are so incredible to show us your love and mercy through Your beautiful creation! Thank You for loving us enough that You give us new chances to do what You want us to do. We are so grateful for Your mercy and grace! Help us to do our best to follow You so that we might bring you glory. In Jesus name, AMEN.

Kidz

Club, The Federated Church, April 14, 2021

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