



God Blesses Israel through Balaam

Numbers 22–24



LESSON GOAL

Students will learn that God is sovereign and always keeps His promises.

BIBLE TRUTHS

- Balak wanted Balaam to curse Israel.
- God told Balaam not to curse Israel.
- God allowed Balaam’s donkey to see the Angel of the Lord and Balaam not to be killed.
- Instead of cursing the Israelites, Balaam blessed them.

KEY VERSE

“If Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the LORD, to do good or bad of my own will. What the LORD says, that I must speak” (Numbers 24:13).

APPLICATION

- Serve and obey God in all you do.
- Check your motives to be sure they are for God’s glory.
- Remember that God’s blessing is irrevokable.

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

Teacher Planning Sheet

PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

- _____
- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are

- _____
- _____
- _____

POINT

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____

PRACTICE

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____

Materials Needed

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

God’s faithfulness and Israel’s unfaithfulness are contrasted throughout the book of Numbers. In Numbers 22–24, God shows His faithfulness in blessing His people in a most unusual way. God’s faithfulness is made even more amazing in light of the Israelites’ unfaithfulness that follows in Numbers 25. These events at the end of the wilderness wanderings reveal how God’s sovereignty over false prophets, wicked nations, the future, and even Israel means that He can faithfully keep every promise He makes. God is faithful and cannot be unfaithful.

God’s Faithfulness Demonstrated through Israel’s Victories (Num. 21:21–35)

After God punished Israel’s unfaithfulness with fiery serpents, Israel continued on their detour around Edom (Num. 20:14–21). They ended their journey not far from the plains of Moab (northeast of the Dead Sea), Israel’s last major resting place before crossing the Jordan River. The Amorites, Moabites, and Midianites (the nations in the land east of the Jordan), perceived the presence of the Israelites who were camping among them as a threat. Two Amorite kings, Sihon and Og, launched campaigns against the Israelites (21:21–35). The Lord not only gave Israel victory over these kings but also gave them their land! The land conquered was approximately 100 miles long and varied from 20 to 40 miles in width. (The land bordered the eastern side of the Jordan River, stretching from the middle of the Dead Sea in the south to the Sea of Galilee in the north.) While some of the land was still controlled by the Moabites and Midianites, much was now controlled by Israel. These victories were momentous displays of God’s faithfulness to His promises and to His people. God was giving Israel land even before they entered the Promised Land!

God’s Faithfulness Assaulted by Balak’s Plot (Num. 22)

When Israel first entered Moabite land (Num. 22:1), God warned them to not harass Moab because He would not give the Moabite land to Israel (Deut. 2:9). God already had given the land to the Moabites, who were descendants of Abraham’s nephew, Lot. Although Israel did not threaten Moab, Moab unnecessarily felt threatened by Israel. After Israel defeated the Amorites, the Moabites were “sick with dread because of the children of Israel.” Balak, king of Moab, was worried that the more numerous Israelites would conquer Moab and use up its natural resources (Num. 22:4). In desperation, Balak sent elders of Moab and Midian (a people living among them) to the prophet Balaam, who lived in Pethor, a city on the Euphrates River. Balak wanted Balaam, who had a reputation for cursing, to curse Israel so he could defeat them and drive them out.

When the men reached Balaam, Balaam told them he would need to speak with the Lord before giving them an answer (Num. 22:8). Although Balaam used the special name Yawheh for God, Scripture makes it clear that he did not worship

Additional Reference Materials

*The MacArthur Study
Bible* by John MacArthur

God. Instead, Balaam was the epitome of a false prophet (2 Pet. 2:15–16; Jude 11; Rev. 2:14). He probably was going to the god of the people whom he wanted to curse, believing that specific god would have the most power over his own people. That night, Balaam actually spoke to the true God of Israel. God told Balaam that cursing Israel would be impossible because they were blessed (Num. 22:12). Balaam sent the men away. He could not persuade God to curse His people, Israel.

Intent on defeating Israel, Balak sent higher-ranking princes back to Balaam with the promise of honor and whatever else Balaam wanted. Balaam said that regardless of how much Balak offered, he could not go beyond God's Word (Num. 22:18). That night, God gave permission for Balaam to go, but did not give permission to curse the people. Balaam could speak only what God revealed.

Even though God had told Balaam to go, He became angry with Balaam as he went on his journey (Num. 22:22). When the Angel of the Lord came to confront Balaam for his "perversion" (22:32), only Balaam's donkey was aware that the Angel was there. Balaam beat his donkey three times, not knowing that the donkey was avoiding walking into the Angel (22:23–27). Even after God miraculously allowed the donkey to talk to Balaam, Balaam did not realize that the Angel was there (22:28–32). When Balaam finally saw the Angel, the Angel told him that the donkey had saved his life by turning aside (22:33). The Angel repeated God's command to go to Moab but to speak only what God commanded (22:35). The reason for God's anger is not specified except that Balaam's way was perverse before God (22:32). Since the Angel repeated God's command to say only what God said, it's quite possible that Balaam had already changed his mind and planned to curse Israel, perhaps persuaded by Balak's promise of riches (2 Pet. 2:15–16). The warning of the Angel of the Lord convinced Balaam. When he arrived in Moab, he said to Balak, "Have I any power at all to say anything? The word that God puts in my mouth, that I must speak" (Num. 22:38). God assured Balaam that he would either speak His words or be punished.

God's Faithfulness Upheld in Balaam's Prophecies (Num. 23–24)

First Prophecy (Num. 22:41–23:12)

At the beginning of the next day, Balaam and Balak went to a high place of Baal, a center of worship for a false god. It was located where Balaam could observe all the people (Num. 22:41). Balaam had Balak offer seven bulls and seven rams, one of each on seven altars (Num. 23:1). By pagan standards, this was a perfect sacrifice that would persuade any god to grant the request of the one making the sacrifice. Balaam and Balak were not trying to offer a sacrifice to the true God in faith and repentance. Instead, they thought that the true God could be pleased by wicked men offering sacrifices apart from true devotion.

Balaam went alone to wait for God's word (Num. 23:3). God met Balaam and "put a word in Balaam's mouth." Balaam returned and spoke exactly what God had given. Much to Balak's dismay, Balaam did not curse Israel but blessed them! He said, "How shall I curse whom God has not cursed?" (23:7). He also commented on the great number of Israelites: "Who can count the dust of Jacob, or number one-fourth of Israel?" (23:10). Balaam recognized the privileged place that Israel occupied in God's plan and even said, "Let me die the death of the righteous" (23:10). Balaam was so caught up in the magnificence of God's blessing of Israel that he forgot his wickedness for a moment and even desired to be blessed like Israel!

Second Prophecy (Num. 23:13–26)

Although Balak was already quite angry, he desired Balaam to try again, this time at a different location. Perhaps Balak hoped that if Balaam did “not see them all,” he would be better able to convince the God of Israel to curse His people. Maybe God would listen if Balaam were someplace else. Balak apparently had the idea that God was like a man who could be irrationally placated. Again, Balak offered the sacrifices, and Balaam waited alone (Num. 23:15–16).

Balaam returned after God had told him what to speak and again blessed the people. Although Balak had been trying to persuade God to act like a man and change His blessing of Israel, Balaam said, “God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent” (Num. 23:19). He asked, “Has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” God’s blessing of Israel was irrevocable; Balaam could not reverse it with any sorcery or divination (23:20, 23). Because Israel had been blessed by the faithful God, they were unbeatable. Anyone who opposed Israel would be as helpless as a lion’s prey (23:24).

After Balaam blessed Israel the second time, Balak was infuriated. He answered to Balaam, “Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all.” Balak wanted Balaam to keep his mouth shut if he couldn’t say anything bad!

Third Prophecy (Num. 23:27–24:14)

Balak still stubbornly hoped that God would change His mind, and he tried to find a place where “it will please God that you may curse them for me from there” (Num. 23:27). The sacrifices were again offered, but this time Balaam “did not go as at other times, to seek to use sorcery” (Num. 24:1). After Balaam looked up and saw Israel, the Spirit of God came upon him. Revealing the extent of His power, the Spirit of God actually spoke through the false prophet.

Not surprisingly, Balaam again blessed Israel. He proclaimed the beauty of Israel, that even now, while encamped on the plains of Moab, Israel was like valleys, gardens, and cedars and aloes planted by the Lord (Num. 24:5–6). Balaam also prophesied about Israel’s future king, whose “kingdom shall be exalted.” God had already promised Israel a king in Genesis 17:6–8; 35:11; 49:10. Balaam confirmed those promises, which ultimately are fulfilled in Jesus. In Verse 9, Balaam, through the Spirit, repeats the same promise that God gave Abraham in Genesis 12:3: “Blessed is he who blesses you, and cursed is he who curses you.”

Balak understood that Balaam had just pronounced God’s curse on him since he was one of those who was seeking to curse Israel. Balak’s anger flared up. He warned Balaam to flee since Balaam had “bountifully blessed them these three times” (Num. 24:10). Balaam responded that he had been true to his word. When he arrived, he had told Balak he could not “go beyond the word of the LORD, to do good or bad of my own will” (24:13). God had seriously warned Balaam when he was visited by the Angel of the Lord. Before leaving, Balaam had more prophecies to utter: “Come, I will advise you what this people will do to your people in the latter days” (24:14).

Fourth Prophecy (Num. 24:15–25)

Balaam had prophesied of the coming king in his third prophecy, and he returned to that theme in his last prophecy (Num. 24:17). Although the king was not yet present, Balaam looked to the king’s arrival in the future (24:17a). He referred to the king by two metaphors, the “star” and the “scepter.” God already had promised that “the scepter shall not depart from Judah” (Gen. 49:10). Like the scepter, the star was a symbol of royalty. This is an important, early prophecy of the coming

Messiah. The future king would have dominion over Moab, Edom, and Seir; from “out of Jacob One shall have dominion” (Num. 24:19).

Balaam also prophesied the defeat of surrounding nations (although not particularly at the hands of the coming king; Num. 24:20–25). The Amalekites already had suffered defeat by Israel once, in Exodus 17:8–16. In Numbers 14:44–45, the Amalekites defeated Israel. The animosity between Amalek and Israel would continue until Amalek was destroyed. The second nation was the Kenites, most likely the same people as the Midianites. In Genesis 15:18–19, God promised Abraham that his descendants would own the land of the Kenites. The Kenites ultimately would be defeated by the Asshur, perhaps a reference to Assyria. The last nations mentioned were Asshur and the Eber. (The identity of both is disputed.) They would be defeated by ships coming from Cyprus. While it is difficult to pinpoint when these defeats happened, it is clear that the nations who opposed Israel and Israel’s God ultimately would be defeated by the coming king. The ever-faithful God would not wander from His blessing of Israel; likewise, just as God promised, those who cursed Israel would find themselves cursed.

God’s Faithfulness Spurned by Israel’s Immorality (Num. 25)

Numbers 24:25 ends with Balak and Balaam parting ways and Balaam returning to his home. (Joshua 13:22 says that the Israelites slew Balaam. It is possible that Balaam either returned or had settled near Moab.) Although God had used Balaam to bless Israel, Balaam sought the ruin of Israel when given opportunity. Balaam “taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality” (Rev. 2:14). Moabite and Midianite women invited the people to offer sacrifices and worship the Moabite gods (Num. 25:2). Perhaps Israel had not yet heard about God’s blessing of them through Balaam. Whether they had or not, God already had abundantly shown His faithfulness through 40 years of wilderness wanderings. God also had given Israel victory over a large portion of land east of the Jordan. But Israel responded to God’s faithfulness by worshiping another god. Even Balak appreciated the power of Israel’s God enough to try to persuade Him to curse the people. All Balak had to do was present Israel an opportunity for idolatry, an opportunity to once again show their unfaithfulness.

The Israelites joined themselves to the false god Baal (Num. 25:3) by worshiping him, offering sacrifices, and having sexual relations with the Moabite and Midianite women. God commanded that the offenders be killed, and He sent a plague among the people. Even in the midst of the punishment, an Israelite man blatantly began to have sex with a Midianite woman. The offense was so obvious that Phinehas, the grandson of Aaron, saw them engaged in sin, took a javelin, and killed both the man and woman (25:6–8). God honored Phinehas’s zeal for Him and passion for His glory and stopped the plague from spreading (25:10–13). But 24,000 Israelites already had died for their unfaithfulness (25:9).

Conclusion

God showed His faithfulness to Israel in a way that was shockingly powerful. To emphasize His complete control and gracious choice of Israel, God spoke through a wicked, idolatrous sorcerer. The text repeats again and again that Balaam spoke only what God told him to speak. When he considered doing otherwise, the Angel of the Lord confronted him. There was no amount of riches or honor that could convince Balaam to do otherwise. Eventually, the Spirit of God spoke through Balaam. The unusual human instrument emphasizes that these prophecies of Israel’s present and future blessings irrevocably came from God. From idolatry in Egypt, to the idolatry of the golden calf, to the idolatry on the plains of Moab,

Israel had been unfaithful. Yet God had chosen to bless them and could not change His mind (Num. 23:19). Israel was completely unworthy of being blessed, but God had sovereignly placed His affection on them. Because He loved His people, He would not listen to the desire to curse them (Deut. 23:5). God had an awesome blessing for Israel—a great nation, the Promised Land, dominion over the nations, and a king. Because their hearts were hard, they responded to His faithful blessing with unfaithfulness.

In 1 Corinthians 10, Paul reveals that Israel's sin and their punishment were recorded "for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come" (1 Cor. 10:11). Believers have been blessed to know that the king who was promised to Israel was also the sacrifice for our sins. In view of God's faithfulness and His punishment for unfaithfulness, believers must learn from these examples and be faithful. God's faithfulness demands our faithfulness.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth" (Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

Why were the people of Israel unhappy?

They were unhappy because they had to take the long way around the land of Edom. They also complained about not having enough water and having only manna to eat.

What did God do to Israel because of their grumbling?

God sent snakes into the camp to bite the people.

What happened when the snakes bit them?

The snakebite would kill them.

Did they all die?

No; some of them lived.

How were they saved?

God told Moses to make a bronze snake and put it on a pole. Anyone who was bitten by a snake and looked at the snake on the pole would live.



Talk to the Animals

Materials: pictures or drawings of donkeys

Directions: Show the students the pictures of the donkeys and ask what donkeys sound like. Ask the students whether they have any pets and what they sound like. Ask those who have pets if they have ever heard their pets speaking English. Explain that in today's lesson, they will learn about a donkey that spoke like a person.



Faithfulness

God is faithful even when we are not. Are there times when people you know have not been faithful? For example, your parents said they would do something but didn't. Or a friend said one thing but did another. Can you list any examples of God being unfaithful? No; we can't because God is always faithful. In today's lesson, God demonstrates His faithfulness to Israel when they are blessed rather than cursed by Balaam.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Today we will learn about God's faithfulness to Israel even when Israel was not faithful. God is faithful because He always does what He promises. He had promised Abraham many years ago that He would bless him and his nation, Israel. In today's story, we will continue to see how God is faithful to Israel. We will also hear from a talking donkey and see how Israel is blessed.

God had given the land of the Amorites to the Israelites. When Balak, the king of Moab, heard what the Israelites did to the Amorites and how many Israelites there were, he had great fear. He was afraid that the Israelites would also take over his land. (He should have feared the God of Israel instead of fearing the Israelites.) So he sent his top officials to go to Balaam, the son of Beor, and have him come and put a curse on the Israelites. Balaam did not worship the true God of Israel, but he worshiped many gods and did things that were not pleasing to God. Even though he was not a follower of the true God, God still spoke to Balaam and used him for God's purposes. What an honor it was that God would speak to Balaam! The Moabite king had promised that if Balaam would curse Israel, he would be richly rewarded and given anything he wanted. When the Moabite men came to Balaam's house and asked him to go with them to Moab, Balaam said he had to ask God first. God gave Balaam permission to go to Moab but not to curse Israel. He was only to say what he was told.

In the morning, Balaam, riding his donkey, went with the men. On the journey, however, God became very angry with Balaam and sent the Angel of the Lord to kill him. Balaam probably thought that he could go and do what the Moab king wanted so he could collect his reward and become rich. Balaam did not see the Angel of the Lord on the road, but his donkey did. She turned away from the Angel, who had His sword drawn in His hand. Balaam hit the donkey to make her turn back to the path. This happened two more times. The Lord opened the donkey's mouth, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done that you would hit me three times?" Imagine the surprise of Balaam and everyone else there to hear a donkey speak! It was a miracle! God opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the

Angel of the Lord ready to kill him with the sword. The donkey had saved Balaam's life. If she had not turned away, the Angel would have struck Balaam. The Angel told Balaam to continue to go to Moab but to speak only what God would tell him to say.

When they arrived at Moab, the king came out to meet them. The next morning, the king of Moab took Balaam up to a mountaintop. They built seven altars and sacrificed seven bulls and seven rams on them. Then the Lord put words into Balaam's mouth. Instead of cursing Israel as the king of Moab wanted, Balaam blessed Israel, saying that Israel would have many people, more than anyone can count.

The king of Moab was angry but wanted to try again. He hoped that God would change His mind and let Balaam curse Israel. But we know that God is faithful and always keeps His word. So the king of Moab and Balaam went to another place. Again, they built seven altars and sacrificed animals. Then the Lord again put words into Balaam's mouth. Just as before, Balaam blessed Israel, saying that Israel would be strong like a lion.

The king of Moab took Balaam to another place, still hoping that God would change His mind and let Balaam curse Israel. Again, they built seven altars and sacrificed animals. This time, the Spirit of God actually came on Balaam, and Balaam blessed Israel for a third time, saying that Israel would conquer her enemies. Then Balaam left and returned home.

While God continued His faithfulness toward Israel, the Israelites again were not faithful. They joined the Moabites in worshiping their gods when they went after the Moabite and Midianite women. The Lord was angry and told Moses to destroy all the people who were worshiping other gods. So Moses told the faithful Israelites to destroy those who worshiped other gods. As that was happening, one Israelite man brought a Midianite woman to his family. Then Phinehas, a descendant of Aaron the high priest, went and destroyed the Israelite man and the Midianite woman. At that point, God had mercy and called for the end of the killing. In all, 24,000 Israelites died. God blessed Phinehas for his faithfulness and made a covenant with him for the priesthood to continue through him and his descendants. God blesses His faithful ones.



Lesson Questions

How did the Israelites respond when they had to take a longer route to the Promised Land?

They became impatient and frustrated. This caused them to complain against God and His provision for them.

Had God provided for the Israelites in the past?

Yes. He had provided them with water, manna, and quail throughout their journey in the wilderness.

How should the Israelites have responded when they became frustrated?

They should have trusted God's word and remembered the promises He had made to them in the past. Instead, the Israelites showed their wickedness by being unthankful for what God had so graciously provided.

What was God's response to Israel's sin?

He punished them by sending "fiery snakes." Many of the people who had been bitten died.

Why does God judge sin?

God hates sin. He has to judge sin because He is holy and righteous, and sin deserves punishment.

What did the Israelites do when they saw people dying from the snakebites?

They went to Moses and confessed their sin. They admitted that they were wrong to complain against God and Moses, and asked Moses to pray to God on their behalf.

What did God tell Moses to do?

God told Moses to make a snake out of bronze. Moses was to set this snake up on a pole so the Israelites could see it. God said that those who looked at the snake would live.

What would happen to those who would not look at the bronze serpent?

They would die.

What did the Israelites need to be saved?

They needed to have faith in God. They had to listen to His words and believe that everything He said was true.

Presentation Ideas

A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.

Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.

Praise and Worship

God Is So Good

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord

In My Life Lord, Be Glorified

Oh, Be Careful

Rejoice in the Lord Always

Seek Ye First

Trust and Obey



Blessings, Not Curses

The king of Moab sent for Balaam—come, come, come.

(Make beckoning motion with hand.)

To curse God's chosen people, Israel—dumb, dumb, dumb.

(Rub hands together; point to temple and shake head back and forth.)

God allowed Balaam to go—clop, clop, clop.

(Make riding motion with shoulders and hands.)

But his donkey would not go—stop, stop, stop.

(Hold hands at side of head for ears and shake head back and forth; then hold palm out three times.)

Balaam struck his faithful donkey—mean, mean, mean.

(Clap hands; pretend to strike something in the air.)

The donkey saved him from danger she'd seen, seen, seen.

(Hold hands at side of head for ears; shield eyes with hand and nod three times.)

God opened up the donkey's mouth—talk, talk, talk.

(Point to mouth; make talking motion with hands.)

But Balaam's heart was still hard as a rock, rock, rock.

(Trace heart with fingers in front of chest; make a fist and shake three times.)

No matter how much Balaam would resist, 'sist, 'sist,

(Wag finger from side to side; shake head back and forth three times.)

God's chosen people, Israel, would be blessed, blessed, blessed.

(Point up; then raise both hands overhead and wiggle fingers while slowly lowering arms.)

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



Talking Donkey

Materials: brown paper lunch bags, donkey paper-bag puppet pattern, crayons or markers, glue, scissors

Directions: Have the students color and cut out the donkey pattern at the back of the lesson. Then glue the pieces onto a paper bag.



Balaam's Donkey

Materials: old sock, gift-wrapping tube (or object of the same shape and size), polyester stuffing, two buttons for eyes or a permanent marker, yarn for the mane, scissors, glue, tape, thread

Directions: Create Balaam's donkey by filling an old sock with polyester stuffing. Form the donkey's mouth by finding the toe of the sock and the heel. Pull thread through the toe to the heel, and pucker the toe to create a mouth. Draw or sew on the eyes and nose. Cut the yarn into pieces, and glue the pieces onto the donkey's head. Cut ears from felt or heavy paper, and glue, staple, or sew them onto the head. Finally, tape the head to the tube.



Tag the Donkey

The goal of this game is for Balaam to tag the donkey. It is similar to the game Marco Polo. Choose one student to be the donkey and one student to be Balaam. Balaam must close his eyes and say, “Come here, donkey—I’ll get you!” and the donkey must reply “Stop or you’ll be cut in two!” While Balaam is trying to find the donkey, the rest of the students can make various animal sounds to distract him.

Coloring Sheets

Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. The students can color the pages in class or take it home to color.



MEMORY VERSE

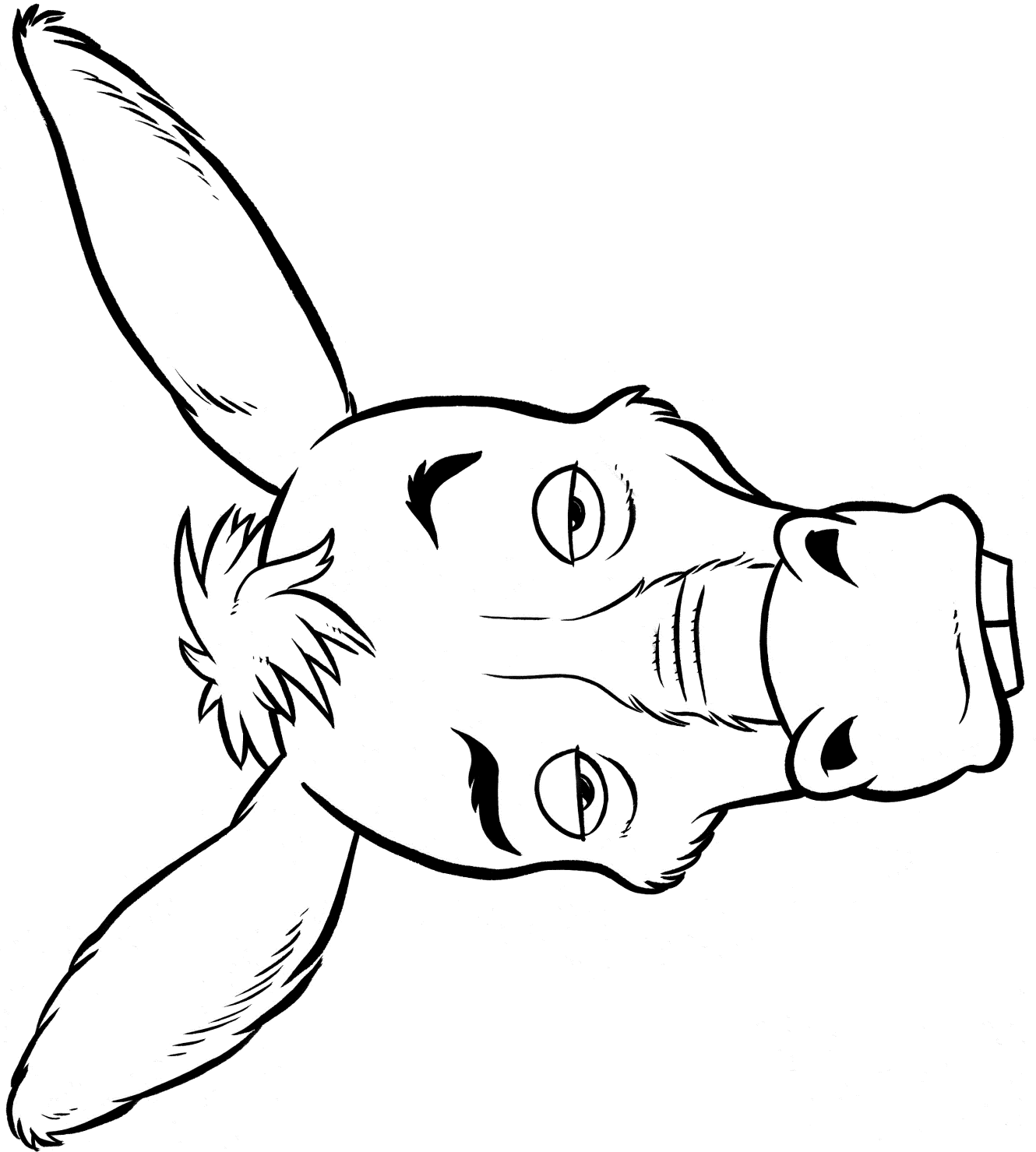
“For His merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!” (Psalm 117:2).



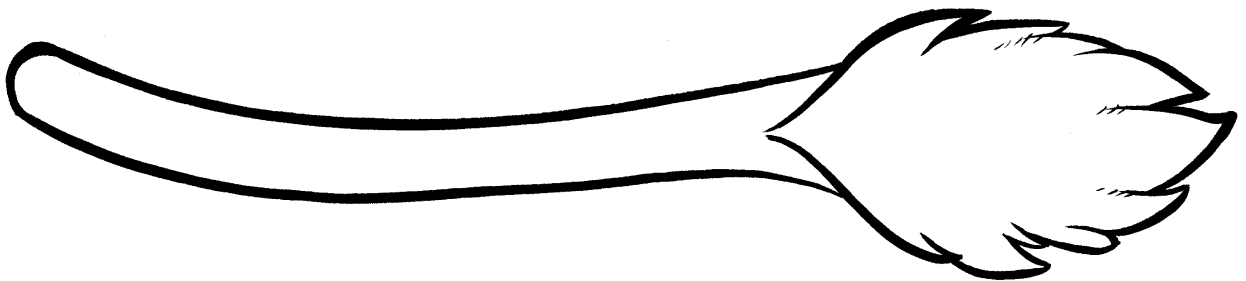
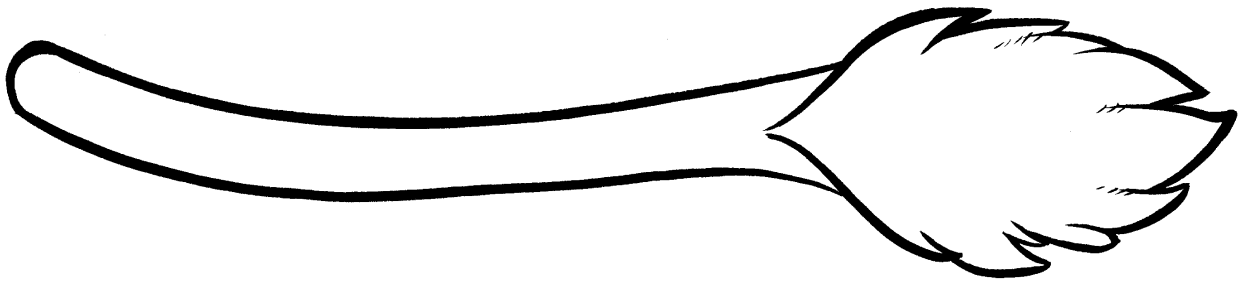
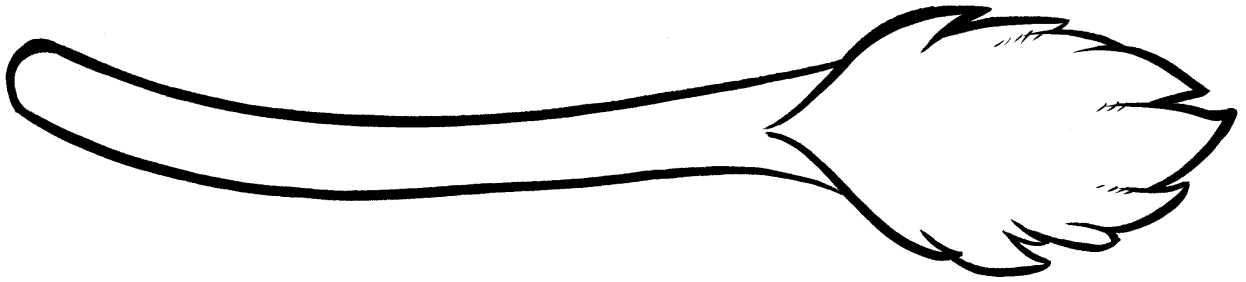
Bible Bounce

After they have learned the verse, have students sit in a circle. Students will take turns bouncing a ball to a person on the opposite side of the circle. Each person who catches the ball will say the next word of the verse. The last person says the reference. It may be helpful to have the verse on a piece of poster board so that the students can check it if they are uncertain of the words. The verse game can lead into a discussion about God’s merciful kindness and how His truth will endure forever.

Donkey Puppet

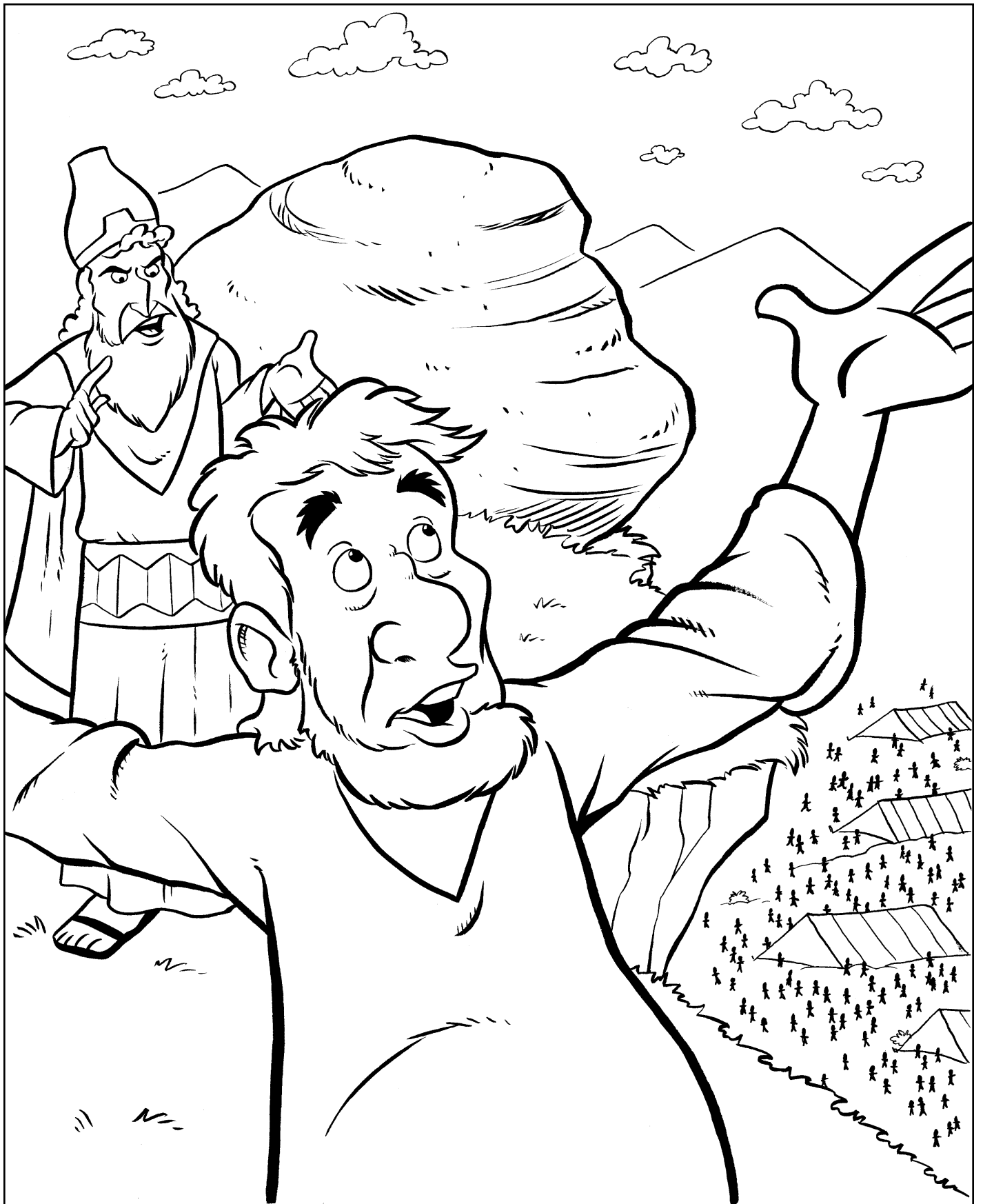


Donkey Puppet





Balaam's donkey warned him of the Angel of the LORD (Numbers 22:22-33).



So Balak took Balaam up to the high places of Baal so that he could look at Israel and curse them. But God put words of blessings into Balaam's mouth so that he would bless the nation of Israel bountifully (Numbers 22:41; 23:5-12).

