GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

Balaam Learns to Listen

Numbers 22:21-35



YOUR BIBLE READING

Balaam needed correction, while the donkey had seen danger he missed.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

The Donkey Sees What Balaam Misses

Numbers 22:21-35



Balaam rose in the morning, saddled his donkey, and traveled with the officials of Moab. His two servants were with him. God was angry about his going, and an angel stood in the road to oppose him. The angel held a drawn sword. The donkey could see this danger ahead, but Balaam could not. They were traveling along the same road while seeing very different things in front of them.

The donkey turned away from the road and went into a field. Balaam struck her to make her return to the path. He did not understand why she had turned. The account does not excuse his action; it lets the reader know more than he knows. We have already been told that the animal is responding to an angel in the road, not simply refusing for no reason to carry him farther.

The angel then stood in a narrow path between vineyard walls. The donkey saw him again and pressed against a wall, squeezing Balaam's foot. Balaam struck her a second time. The space around them had become tighter, and avoiding what she saw now brought the rider against the stones. The important difference remained: the donkey could see the obstruction, while Balaam continued acting without understanding what was happening ahead.

The angel moved farther along and stood where there was no room to turn right or left. When the donkey saw him, she lay down under Balaam. There was no open way around the danger. Balaam became angry and struck her again with his staff. Three times she had changed what she was doing because of the angel; three times her rider had answered by hurting the animal beneath him.

Remember: Before reacting in anger, I can stop and pay attention.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Eyes Opened on the Narrow Road

Numbers 22:21-35



Then God enabled the donkey to speak. She asked Balaam what she had done to deserve being struck three times. Balaam answered that she had made a fool of him and spoke angrily about harming her. The donkey reminded him that she was the animal he had ridden throughout his life and asked whether she usually behaved this way. Balaam admitted that she did not. The remarkable conversation interrupted his angry response.

God opened Balaam's eyes. At last he saw the angel standing in the road with a drawn sword. He bowed his head and fell facedown. What the donkey had seen from the beginning was now visible to him. The scene had not been what he first assumed. The animal he had struck had been turning away from a real danger that he had failed to recognize during their journey.

The angel questioned Balaam about striking the donkey and explained that he had come to oppose his way. The donkey had seen the angel and turned aside three times. If she had not, Balaam would have been killed while the animal was spared. Her actions had preserved his life. This explanation made clear that the rider had misunderstood both the road ahead and the faithful creature carrying him along it.

Balaam admitted that he had sinned. He said he had not known the angel stood against him and offered to go back if the journey was displeasing. The angel allowed him to continue with the men, but gave a firm limit: he must speak only the word God gave him. Balaam continued with that instruction. Before going farther, he had needed an interruption, a correction, and the opening of his eyes.

Pause and think: What could help you pause and ask a useful question before reacting angrily to something you do not understand?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Pause Before Deciding You Understand



Think of an ordinary situation in which someone stops unexpectedly: a classmate may pause because a bag is caught, or a person may slow because the floor is wet. What happens if everyone assumes they are being difficult? A question can reveal information you did not have. Practice a simple, respectful question that helps you understand before reacting with anger or pushing someone to hurry.

Animals cannot usually explain themselves in human words. The donkey's speech is a miracle in this story, not a behavior to expect from a pet. A trusted adult or animal-care professional can help you learn signs of discomfort. If an animal behaves unusually, give it space and get help. Hurting it is not a useful way to learn what is wrong.

Being corrected can be uncomfortable, especially after you have acted confidently. You can still stop, listen, and change what you do. Imagine discovering that you blamed someone unfairly. What would a truthful apology include? It could name the mistaken assumption, acknowledge the hurt, and ask how to make a practical repair. Those are examples to explore, not extra words spoken by Balaam.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Balaam learns that the donkey he hurt had been protecting him from a danger he could not see.

What could help you pause and ask a useful question before reacting angrily to something you do not understand?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. Who saw the angel first?

2. What rule did the angel give Balaam before he continued?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Balaam admitted his wrong and received instructions.
- ☐ God enabled the donkey to speak and Balaam to see.
- ☐ The donkey turned away from the angel.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw the donkey stopping on the narrow path, with Balaam looking ahead.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

Before reacting in anger, I can stop and pay attention.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Numbers 22:31-34

A thoughtful conversation

The talking donkey is presented as a miracle, not ordinary animal behavior. The angel rebukes Balaam's beating; never frame hurting an animal as a way to gain obedience.

Activity answers

1. The donkey.
2. Speak only the message God gave him.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 2, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

If you wish: God, help me pause when angry and treat animals with care.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Numbers 22:21-35. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 04_Nu_22_01_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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