



# The Wilderness: Balaam's Donkey

**Lesson Aim: To know we are to honor God  
with our words and actions.**

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God is:** The God Who Sends

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Numbers 22:21-31, 34-38

**What He has done:** God sent an angel to correct Balaam.

**Key Verse:** Numbers 22:38

## THE WAY

**Christ Connection:** Philippians 4:8-9

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Unit 9: The God Who Sends			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
43	God Sends Manna and Quail, Exodus 16:4-5, 11-16, 31-32	God sent manna and quail so His people would survive in the wilderness.	To know God sends us what we need.
44	The Ten Commandments, Exodus 19:4-6, 8-9, 16-19; 20:3-8, 12-17	God sent the Ten Commandments so the Israelites could be His people.	To learn the Ten Commandments and how God sent them to the Israelites.
45	The Wilderness: Balaam's Donkey, Numbers 22:21-31, 34-38	God sent an angel to correct Balaam.	To know we are to honor God with our words and actions.
46	Promised Land: Rahab and the Spies, Joshua 2:2-15, 17, 21	God sent salvation through Rahab.	To see salvation comes to all who believe.
47	Joshua and Jericho, Joshua 6:1-5, 8, 10, 14-16, 20	God sent Joshua and His people to conquer Jericho.	To learn to trust the plan God sends.

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 27. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for leading the Israelites through the wilderness and for protecting them. Help the children trust You in every situation. Amen."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Meet &amp; Greet</b>	None
		<b>Game:</b> Throw It Away	Paper (ready for recycling or newspaper cut into pieces), two trash cans
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Incense (Be aware that some people are sensitive to strong smells.) <b>Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "For God So Loved the World" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" "I Will Always Obey Your Law" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" <b>Additional Song Collection Suggestions:</b> Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		<b>Worship Scripture Reading:</b> Hebrews 10:10	Bible
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	Lesson 45 High Seas Adventures script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Read the Word:</b> Numbers 22:21-31, 34-38	Map—Plains of Moab in Jordan, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Discussion</b>	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		<b>Christ Connection:</b> Philippians 4:8-9	
		<b>Golden Bowl</b>	
	Final 5	<b>Final Five Minutes</b>	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Snack:</b> Good Words	Cookies
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Replay His Way	None
	Up to 15	<b>Game:</b> Pin the Tail on the Donkey	Pin the Tail on the Donkey game (from a party supply store or create your own by printing or drawing a large picture of a donkey and cutting out strips of paper for tails), blindfolds, tape, list of the Ten Commandments or Bible open to Exodus 20
	Up to 15	<b>Craft:</b> Good Word Posters	Poster board or banner paper, markers
	Up to 10	<b>Discussion:</b> Commandments 5-7	Bible or a list of the Ten Commandments
	Up to 5	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> The Wave	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Musical Chairs	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "For God So Loved the World," CD player, a chair for each child
	Up to 5	<b>Bible Timeline Review</b>	Timeline

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

## THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

**Meet & Greet Question: What is your favorite word?**

### **GAME: THROW IT AWAY**

**Purpose:** Children will throw away the trash littering the room.

**Supplies:** Paper (ready for recycling or newspaper cut into pieces), two trash cans

**Prepare:** Crumple sheets of paper and scatter it across the floor on one end of the room. You may choose to have the children help you do this. Place the two trash cans on the other end of the room.

**Today, we will learn how God wants us to say and do things that honor Him. In this game, the team throwing away the most trash is the winner. Just like we throw away our trash, we can throw away our bad habits of negative comments and actions.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Divide the class in half to form two teams. Assign a trash can to each team.
2. On your signal, players race to pick up the trash and throw it in their team's trash can. Each player can only pick up one piece of paper at a time and may not touch another piece of paper until they throw away the one they have.
3. After all the papers have been thrown away, have teams count the number of papers in their team's trash can. The team with the most papers wins.

**Relay Version:** This version can be played after the above game or on its own. Give teams an equal number of pieces of paper and have them crumple each piece into a pile. Each team forms a line between their paper pile and their trash can. On your signal, teams pass the papers, one at a time, down the line from the pile to the trash can. The first team to get all their papers in the trash can wins.



The God who sends

## THE WORSHIP

**Additional Supplies:** Incense (Be aware that some people are sensitive to strong smells.)

**Teacher Tip:** To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting the offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

### Worship In The Tabernacle:

During each Unit 9 lesson, we will incorporate an element of the tabernacle during worship. This week, it is the golden altar of incense.



**Today, we worship God for sending His people what they needed in the wilderness. Let's honor God with our words of praise and with our actions as we give our offering.** Sing: "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" while the offering is collected.

Sing Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song: "For God So Loved the World."

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on forgiveness and holiness.

**Moses and the Israelites worshiped God in the tabernacle. The tabernacle was a large tent which the Israelites took everywhere as a place to meet with God. In the tabernacle was the golden altar of incense where the high priest burned incense every morning and night.** Teacher or a helper burns incense.



**Once a year, the high priest sprinkled blood on the golden altar of incense to pay for the sins of the Israelites in the wilderness. The altar also reminds us that Jesus' blood paid for our sins so we could have life forever with Him.** Volunteer reads Hebrews 10:10.



Perform High Seas Adventures script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 9, Lesson 45.



God sends His angel to Balaam

## THE WORD

**Teacher Tip:** As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

**Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."**

If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **Last time, we learned God sent the Ten Commandments so the Israelites could be His people. Today, we will discover how God stopped a man named Balaam from speaking words that would hurt God's people. This event happened on the plains of Moab which is now the country of Jordan.** If a map is available, point to the plains of Moab.



**If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others.** Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals Bible Story Scripture reference: Numbers 22:21-31, 34-38.

**Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us?** Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

**King Balak of Moab was afraid God's people were going to take over his country, so he hired Balaam to put a curse on them. Listen to what happened when Balaam planned to say negative things about God's people.** Read Numbers 22:21-31, 34-38.



Honor God with words and actions

## THE WAY

**King Balak wanted Balaam to curse God's people. That means he wanted Balaam to say negative things he hoped would happen to them. But, God did not want Balaam to say any hurtful words about His people.**

**Who did God send to stop Balaam from cursing God's people?** (An angel.) **What did Balaam's donkey do?** (Moved away from the angel and talked to Balaam.) **What do you think Balaam thought when he heard his donkey talk to him?** (Children respond.)

**How did Balaam hurt his donkey?** (Yelled at her and beat her.) **How might his words have hurt God's people?** (Children respond.) **Balaam was not honoring God with his words and actions.**

**What did God tell Balaam to do instead?** (Only say the words God gave him.) **God gave him words of blessing to say about God's people. A blessing is the opposite of a curse. Balaam shared the good things God said would happen to His people.**

**How might your choice of words change if you only spoke the words God gave you?** (Children respond.) **God wants us to say good words about others and to do good things that help others. Our good words and actions please God and help other people see how good He is.**



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

## CHRIST CONNECTION

**Over 1500 years after God told Balaam the good words to say, Paul told the people of Philippi about the good thoughts on which we should focus.**



**Everyone, place your Bible on your lap.** Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Philippians 4:8-9. **Let's find this scripture.** Read Philippians 4:8-9.

**What are some examples of the eight good thoughts described in Philippians 4:8-9?** (Children respond.) **How might thinking about such things help you honor God with your words and actions?** (Children respond.)

If time allows, play the REPLAY HIS WAY game in the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

# THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

## GOLDEN BOWL

**Teacher Tip:** Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

**Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I will lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.**

**Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_. Read names in Golden Bowl.**

**Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## FINAL FIVE MINUTES

**TREASURE TREAT:** Today, your Treasure Treat is a sticker with a picture of a donkey and the words, "Ask Me about Balaam's Donkey." Tell your family about Balaam, his donkey and the angel. Remember that God wants you to use your words and actions to honor Him.

**DAILY WAY CHALLENGE:** Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 45 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

**Teacher Tip:** Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

**OFFERING OF ART:** Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of the angel speaking to Balaam and his donkey. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG:** Play the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song, "For God So Loved the World," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.





If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## GOT TIME?

### **SNACK: GOOD WORDS**

**Purpose:** To enjoy a snack and a conversation that honors God.

**Snack Suggestion:** Cookies

**In today's Bible story, we saw how God wants us to honor Him with our words and actions. Let's honor each other right now as we share our snack together.**

**Directions:**

1. Give each child cookies and a drink.
2. Ask a child to pray and thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **What is something good God is doing in your life?**
4. As the children enjoy their snack, give a special compliment to each child.

### **GAME: REPLAY HIS WAY**

**Purpose:** To learn how to honor God with our words and actions.

**Supplies:** None

**God wants us to honor Him with our words and actions. That means we are to respect Him and others with what we do and say. Let's play a game to help us think of ways we can honor God.**

**Directions:**

1. Choose two children to act out a situation.
2. Read one of the situations below or create your own.
  - **Your parent tells you to put away your game and do your homework. You yell, "No way!" and keep playing.**
  - **Your teacher asks you to help a girl, who was mean to you, with a math problem. You grumble under your breath, "I don't want to help her."**
  - **Your little brother is holding your new soccer ball and asks if he can use it. You grab it from him and walk away angrily.**
3. Allow 30 seconds for the children to act it out.
4. **Now, let's "replay His way" by acting out the example using words and actions that honor God.** Discuss an appropriate way to act out the scene again so the words and actions honor God.
5. Allow 30 seconds for the children to act it out.
6. Repeat steps 1-5 with a new situation. Play as often as you like. The children may want to come up with their own situations to act out and "replay His way."



# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **GAME: PIN THE TAIL ON THE DONKEY**

**Purpose:** To help the children memorize the Ten Commandments.

**Supplies:** Pin the Tail on the Donkey game (from a party supply store or create your own by printing or drawing a large picture of a donkey and cutting out strips of paper for tails), blindfolds, tape, list of the Ten Commandments or Bible open to Exodus 20

**Prepare:** Secure the donkey poster to the wall.

### **Directions:**

1. Give each child a tail. Each child writes his or her name on the tail and then attaches a loop of tape (sticky side out) on the back.
2. Children stand in a line several feet away from the donkey poster.
3. Blindfold the first child.
4. Gently spin the child while the rest of the class reads the Ten Commandments together.
5. Child walks to the donkey poster and attaches his or her donkey tail to it, trying to pin the tail on the end of the donkey.
6. Repeat until each child has a turn.
7. The child who tapes the tail closest to the end of the donkey is the winner.

## **CRAFT: GOOD WORD POSTERS**

**Purpose:** Children will demonstrate good words and actions by creating encouraging posters for others.

**Supplies:** Poster board or banner paper, markers

**Prepare:** Choose a group or individuals in need of encouragement such as a ministry or charity, another class, your church leaders, parents, volunteers, or your church family.

**Today, we learned God wants us to use words and actions that honor Him. Let's create a poster for someone who would appreciate our words of encouragement.**

### **Directions:**

1. If using poster board, have small groups of children work on each poster. If you are using banner paper, unroll it and have the children work together to create one large banner.
2. Help the children determine the appropriate encouraging words and pictures.
3. Children write and draw on the posters or banner. You may need to assist younger children with writing.
4. Have your class help you give or display the posters or banner.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **DISCUSSION: COMMANDMENTS 5-7**

**Purpose:** To help the children gain a deeper understanding of God's commandments.

**Supplies:** Bible or a list of the Ten Commandments

Read Exodus 20:12-14. Use the following descriptions to discuss the meaning of commandments 5-7.

- 1 Honor your father and mother.** Here are some ways you can honor your fathers and mothers with your words and actions. Whether or not your father or mother are living at home with you, you can still honor them in these ways:
  - Obey your parents.
  - Help your parents.
  - Speak respectfully to your parents.
  - Talk respectfully about your parents.
  - Always behave in a way that would please your parents.
- 2 You shall not murder.** Do not kill anyone. Jesus teaches us to never hurt or hate anyone.
- 3 You shall not commit adultery.** Stay pure and faithful to your husband or wife.

## **TEN COMMANDMENTS AND EXPLANATION**

Use this list of the Ten Commandments with explanation for the Treasure Treat or to review the Ten Commandments in class.

- 1 "You shall have no other gods before me."** *(Believe in the one true God.)*
- 2 "You shall not bow down to idols or worship them."** *(Make God the most important one in your life. Put God first before any favorite activity, belonging, friendship, and even before yourself.)*
- 3 "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God."** *(Always speak respectfully and truthfully when you use the names "God" or "Jesus." Do not use His name in swearing or cursing. Only use His name when you are talking to Him in prayer or about Him to others.)*
- 4 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."** *(Always take a day each week to rest and worship God in a special way by attending church, worshiping God with other Christians, etc. In everything you do that day, keep your mind on God. Think about who He is and what He has done for you and your family.)*
- 5 "Honor your father and your mother."** *(Obey your parents. Talk to them and about them respectfully, no matter what.)*
- 6 "You shall not murder."** *(Do not kill anyone. Jesus teaches us to never hurt or hate anyone.)*
- 7 "You shall not commit adultery."** *(Stay pure and faithful to your husband or wife.)*
- 8 "You shall not steal."** *(Do not steal.)*
- 9 "You shall not give false testimony."** *(Do not lie.)*
- 10 "You shall not covet."** *(Do not want something that belongs to someone else.)*

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

### **GAME: THE WAVE**

**Purpose:** To help children memorize the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

**Directions:**

1. Assign one phrase from John 3:16 to each child or group.
2. As the teacher or a helper directs, each child/group quickly stands, says the assigned phrase while raising both hands up to the sky and back down to their thighs, and sits down.
3. Repeat three times, moving faster each time.
4. Challenge children to recite John 3:16 in another language, such as the Spanish version below.

*"Porque tanto amó Dios al mundo, que dio a su Hijo unigénito,  
para que todo el que cree en él no se pierda, sino que tenga vida eternal." Juan 3:16*

### **GAME: MUSICAL CHAIRS**

**Purpose:** This version of Musical Chairs familiarizes children with the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song.

**Supplies:** Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "For God So Loved the World," CD player, a chair for each child

**Prepare:** Set chairs back-to-back in a row.

**Teacher Tip:** In this version of musical chairs, no chair is removed and all the children remain in the game. Encourage quick listening and affirm those who are the first to hear the music stop and are seated.

**To practice our Bible Memory Verse Song, let's play Musical Chairs.**

**Directions:**

1. As the Bible Memory Verse Song plays, children march around the row of chairs and sing.
2. The teacher stops the music at different times during the song.
3. When the music stops, children find the nearest chair and sit immediately.
4. Play several times.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

God of Wonders Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Genesis through Joshua. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

**Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.)** What did Jacob do to Esau? (He tricked him out of his birthright. He took his blessing by tricking their father Isaac into giving it to him.) **What did Jacob dream about when he ran away from Esau?** (Angels on a ladder going to heaven.) **What did Jacob do the whole night before he reunited with Esau?** (He wrestled with a mysterious man until God gave him a blessing.)

**Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.)** What did Jacob give his son Joseph? (A colorful robe.) **What did Joseph's jealous brothers do to him?** (They threw him in an empty well and sold him into slavery.) **What good things happened for Egypt and for Joseph's family as a result of Joseph being sold and taken to Egypt?** (His family and all of Egypt had enough to eat during the famine.)

**Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.)** What did Moses hear and see while he was tending his sheep? (God's voice coming from a burning bush.) **What did God tell Moses to do?** (Tell Pharaoh and the Israelites God would bring the Israelites out of Egypt.) **What did God say His name was?** ("I Am.") **How many plagues did God send to make Pharaoh let God's people go?** (Ten.) **What did Moses tell the people just before God parted the Red Sea?** ("God will fight for you. You only need to be still.") **What did God send from heaven to feed the Israelites in the wilderness?** (Manna and quail.) **What was the covenant God sent to the Israelites?** (The Ten Commandments.)

### How to create a Bible Timeline from Genesis through Joshua:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the two Unit 10 cards for God of Wonders Advent: Lessons 48-52.
4. To review the Bible Timeline, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Genesis through Joshua: Creation > Adam and Eve > Cain and Abel > Noah (Circa 2350 B.C.) > Tower of Babel > Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.) > Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) > Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) > Isaac and Rebekah > Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) > Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.) > Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.) > Joshua (Circa 1450 B.C.)

**Unit 10:** John the Baptist (Circa 7-2 B.C.) > Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)