

Journal Page

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Balaam and Balak

Numbers 22–24

STORY POINT: GOD COMMANDED BALAAM TO BLESS HIS PEOPLE.

The Israelites came to the edge of the promised land. They camped in the plains of Moab. Balak, the king of Moab, saw the Israelites and was afraid. King Balak sent his messengers to a man named Balaam. The king said, “Come and curse the Israelites so that I might be able to defeat them.”

When Balaam went with the king's officials, God sent an angel to stop Balaam. Balaam could not see the angel, but his donkey could. Three times the angel stood in the way, and three times the donkey stopped. Balaam didn't understand why the donkey was stopping. He hit the donkey with his stick, so God gave the donkey the ability to speak.

God then allowed Balaam to see the angel, and Balaam said, “I was wrong. I didn't know you were trying to stop me. If you don't think I should go, I'll return home right now.”

The angel said, “It's all right for you to go. But you must only say what I tell you.”

Balaam told the king that God had blessed the Israelites. So Balaam blessed them too. In fact, he blessed them three times.

Before Balaam went home, he had a special message for the king. Balaam said that one day a powerful king would be born to the people of Israel. After Balaam had said these things, he went home.

Christ Connection: Balaam could not curse God's people. God had blessed the Israelites, so Balaam blessed them too. Fourteen hundred years after Balaam announced God's promise, Jesus was born. God sent Jesus to bless the whole world by rescuing people from sin.

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FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- How can what we say with our mouths affect others?
- Tell about a time someone's words blessed or encouraged you.
- Use your mouth to say something true about God.