

Grades 4-5 • Lesson 63

God Prepares the Way

Deuteronomy 3:1-5; Numbers 22:26-35, 23:8-12

Complete the maze to lead Balaam and his donkey to King Balak.
Watch out for the angel of the Lord!



Name _____

Memory Verse

Learn the Word

Fill in the missing words to complete the verse.

Know therefore that
the LORD your God is
God, the _____
God who keeps
_____ and
steadfast _____
with those who love
him and keep his
commandments, to a
_____ generations.

Deuteronomy 7:9

What You Heard *In the Word*

- God gave the Israelites victories over two powerful Amorite kings, Sihon and Og, and the Israelites took over their lands and cities.
- King Balak called Balaam (a false prophet) to curse the Israelites, but God caused him to bless them instead.

OutWord *For Family Discussion*

Suppose a friend hears the account of Balaam and his donkey at church. He says to you after, “Do you believe that story? Animals can’t talk!”

What will you say?

The Bible isn’t a collection of stories; it is the true historical Word of God. It records real things that happened to real people. When we understand who God is, it isn’t surprising at all that he could make an animal talk. God is our Creator, and he made animals, too! God did many miracles for the Israelites during their journey from Egypt to the promised land. He sent ten plagues on Egypt, including controlling large numbers of frogs and insects to invade the land. He parted the Red Sea so his people could pass through on dry ground. He provided manna and quail so the people could eat. Compared to these miracles, opening the mouth of a donkey so she could talk to Balaam was a small thing for God.



HomeWord *For Parents*

God gave the Israelites victories over King Sihon and the giant King Og. They captured their lands and settled in their cities (Numbers 21:21–26, 21:33–35). They did not need to fear giants or fortified cities. This land became the inheritance of the Reubenites, Gadites, and half-tribe of Manasseh (Deuteronomy 3:12–17).

Balak, the king of Moab, was afraid of the Israelites and called Balaam, a false prophet, to curse the Israelites. Balaam saddled his donkey and traveled to Balak (Numbers 22:21). But God knew Balaam’s motives were not good, so he sent an angel to block his way. Three times the angel of the Lord appeared, and Balaam’s donkey saw it and saved Balaam’s life by refusing to go forward. Angry at his seemingly disobedient donkey, Balaam struck her each time she saved his life. Then the Lord miraculously enabled the donkey to speak and ask why Balaam was mistreating her. God opened Balaam’s eyes to see the angel and warned him to speak only what he wanted him to (Numbers 22:22–35). Balak took Balaam to three locations overlooking the Israelites, and each time Balaam pronounced a blessing on them (Numbers 23–24).

The miracle of Balaam’s donkey speaking is an area skeptics like to mock. However, it was the Lord who opened the donkey’s mouth (Numbers 22:28) to rebuke the false prophet and stop his mad course for material gain (2 Peter 2:15–16). The dialogue between a “stubborn” donkey and her angry master also accentuates the stubbornness of Balaam to pursue his own course.

