

# Key Takeaways and Discussion Questions



## Key Takeaways:

1. God can use unlikely people for His purposes.
2. Our perspective can sometimes limit our ability to see God working.
3. Sin from within is more dangerous than attacks from outside.
4. Maintaining a close relationship with God is crucial for spiritual protection.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What surprised you most about Balaam's story? Why?
2. The sermon mentions how God used Balaam, a pagan sorcerer, to bless Israel. How does this challenge your assumptions about who God can use?
3. Reflect on a time when you felt like the Israelites - battling circumstances but unaware of God working behind the scenes. How does Balaam's story encourage you in such situations?
4. Pastor Peter said, "Sometimes our annoyance to something can hinder our ability to see what God is doing in that situation." Share an experience where this was true for you.
5. How do you interpret Balaam's prophecy about the star and scepter? What does this tell us about God's long-term plans?
6. The sermon highlights how Israel was compromised from within through sexual sin and idolatry. In what ways do you see similar dangers for Christians today?

7. What "spiritual firewalls" do you have in place to protect your heart? Are there areas where you need to strengthen these defenses?
8. Pastor Peter emphasizes the importance of closeness to God over religious activities. How can we ensure we're pursuing relationship with God, not just religious routines?

#### Practical Applications:

1. Take time this week to reflect on areas of your life where you may have created "borders" that you haven't allowed God to touch. Pray about surrendering these areas to Him.
2. Implement a daily practice to help you stay close to God (e.g., 10 minutes of silent reflection, journaling your prayers, or reading a Psalm).
3. Identify one "spiritual firewall" you can strengthen this week. Share your plan with a accountability partner.
4. If you feel you've drifted from God, take time to "open the door" to Him through prayer and repentance. Consider sharing this with a trusted friend for support and accountability.