

“Animal Tales” - LESSON 3

“The Donkey”

Main Focus:

As a follower of Jesus, I must obey ALL of His commands



Power Verse:

“If you love me, obey my commandments.”

– John 14:15



Watt’s Up:

“What Does The Donkey Say?
YOU MUST OBEY!”

LEADER’S INFO

Balaam got a clear directive from the Lord, but He decided to take things into his own hands. He disobeyed God, so God got his attention. He used a donkey to do it.

God wants us to obey Him so that we will follow His path for our lives. He will do whatever it takes to get our attention when we are on the wrong path.

In this lesson, the children will learn from the story of Balaam and his donkey. They will learn precisely what it means to truly love God. If we love Him, we will obey His commands.

So, don’t make God pull the Doctor Doolittle card in order to make you obey. Choose to obey His commands every single day of your life.



“The Spark” Intro Video

Emilie talks to a donkey



“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt’s Up?”



Character Skit

“The Actor”



Offering Time



Game On!

“Pin The Tail On The Donkey”



Bible Story

“Balaam’s Donkey”



Power Verse Video

“If you love me, obey my commandments.”

– John 14:15



Call To Action

“Donkey Say WHAT?”



Brain Drain

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

As a follower of Jesus, I must
obey ALL of His commands



Power Verse:

“If you love me, obey my
commandments.”

– John 14:15



Watt’s Up:

“What Does The Donkey Say?
YOU MUST OBEY!”

Lesson 3 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Animal Tales” Video

“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

- “Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video
- “Watt’s Up?” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “The Actor” Theme Graphic/Music
- Large goatee
- Moustache
- Sunglasses
- Gorilla suit
- Banana

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game On!

- “Game On!” Bumper Video
- “Pin The Tail On The Donkey” Graphic
- Pin The Tail On The Donkey Game
- Blindfold

Bible Story

- “Balaam’s Donkey” Graphics
- Bible

Power Verse Video

- “Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “Donkey Say WHAT?” Graphics
- Megaphone
- Bible
- Greeting card

Brain Drain

- “Brain Drain” Bumper Video
- “Brain Drain” Lesson 3 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Bible Story Graphics
- What Did The Donkey Say Print Piece
- Pencils
- Donkey Print Piece
- Scissors
- Brads

“The Spark” Intro Video

Emilie talks to a donkey

“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt’s Up?”

Character Skit

“The Actor”

Offering Time

Game On!

“Pin The Tail On The Donkey”

Bible Story

“Balaam’s Donkey”

Power Verse Vido

“If you love me, obey my commandments.”
– John 14:15

Call To Action

“Donkey Say WHAT?”

Brain Drain

Review Game

Small Group Experience



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “The Actor” *(he is a “method actor” who really gets into his roles which just happen to always be animal roles)*

ACTOR: *(comes onstage wearing a gorilla suit, if possible - otherwise just holding a banana and walking like a gorilla)* Thank you, thank you! Please, no autographs.

Leader: Hey there! It’s um...um...that ACTOR guy! What was your name last time? Kevin Bacon?

ACTOR: *(laughs)* Yes, yes, but that was when I was a pig. But, today it is KONG! KING OF THE JUNGLE! *(pounds his chest and makes gorilla noises)*

Leader: *(confused)* Kong? I was expecting something “donkey” related.

ACTOR: Seriously? I am KONG - as in DONKEY KONG! The greatest gorilla of all time! *(goes wild, running around on all fours and making gorilla noises)* ACTING! THANK YOU! *(takes a bow)* We’re talking about gorillas this time, aren’t we?

Leader: Actually, we’re talking about DONKEYS.

ACTOR: *(laughs)* You’re hilarious. You’re saying it wrong. It’s pronounced “GORILLAS.”

Leader: Nope, sorry. Looks like you were confused. We’re definitely talking about donkeys!

ACTOR: Your eyes are saying “donkeys”, but your mouth is saying “gorillas.”

Leader: No, my mouth is saying *(says slowly)* DONKEYS.

ACTOR: Oh yeah? Then WHY am I acting like a gorilla?

Leader: Because you’re nuts.

ACTOR: Nope! I’m bananas. *(holds up the banana)*

Leader: Where did you get that?

ACTOR: It came with the job. Are we REALLY talking about donkeys, today?

Leader: For the MILLIONTH time, yes! In fact, we’re talking about a really SPECIAL donkey in the bible. A donkey that God TALKED through!

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CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

ACTOR: Well, that's kind of silly. I mean, all a donkey can say is *(barks like a dog)*. **ACTING! THANK YOU!** *(takes a bow)* God wouldn't talk through something like that! That's **CRAZY!**

Leader: First off, that was a **DOG** noise you just made. Secondly, God would **TOTALLY** talk to someone that way - because He **TOTALLY** did! The point is God speaks to us in **MANY** ways! Through the Bible, through prayer -

ACTOR: *(interrupts)* But through a **DONKEY**? Why would we even **LISTEN** to that?

Leader: Well, we should listen to Him no matter **HOW** He talks to us - if we **LOVE** God, we **WILL** obey His word.

ACTOR: So you're saying that if God says it, we just automatically do it? Kinda like a robot? *(does a quick robot dance, makes beeping noises)* **Robo-gorilla! ACTING! THANK YOU!** *(takes a bow)*

Leader: You are so bizarre. No, we're **NOT** like robots. He doesn't just **MAKE** it happen. We have to **CHOOSE** to obey God's word - every single day! It's going to be a great lesson. You should stick around and listen. Maybe change costumes as well.

ACTOR: Why's that?

Leader: We've gone over this. Today, we're talking about **DONKEYS**. You're acting like a gorilla.

ACTOR: That's where you're wrong, my friend! I have **FOOLED** you with my amazing acting skills! I'm **ACTUALLY** preparing for my most difficult role **YET!** It's called "Mule of the Jungle" - and it's about a gorilla that suffers a severe head injury and **THINKS** he's a donkey! *(makes gorilla noises, kicks, then HEE-HAWS)* **ACTING! THANK YOU!!** *(takes a bow)*

Leader: You are unbelievable.

ACTOR: I'm choosing to take that as a compliment. I'll see you later, everyone! **EXIT! STAGE LEFT** - in slow motion. *(exits the stage as slowly as possible as his theme music plays)*



GAME ON!

“Pin The Tail On The Donkey”

Items Needed For Game:

A set of the classic game “Pin The Tail On The Donkey” (*found at your local party store*); a blindfold



Preparation:

Choose the same number of boys/girls to be on each team. Tape the donkey to a nearby wall.



How To Play:

One at a time, blindfold the children and let them try to pin the tail on the donkey. The team that gets the tail closest to the correct location is declared the winner!



Bible Story

“Balaam’s Donkey”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 3; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Numbers 22; have your open Bible as you tell the story

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is found in the book of Numbers, chapter 22. God’s chosen people, the Israelites, had just had a very successful victory against the Amorites. The king of Moab heard what had happened and he was afraid that the Israelites might be coming to defeat his country next. (*show pic*) So, he sent for several messengers and told them, “Go to Balaam, tell him to come curse the Israelites.”



Balaam was a prophet of God. He listened to what these messengers had to say. He spent the night praying and listening to God. God told Balaam NOT to go curse the Israelites, so that is exactly what Balaam told the messengers. (*show pic*) “The Lord says I cannot go curse the Israelites.” After all, the Israelites were God’s chosen people.



The messengers went back to the king of Moab and told him what Balaam had said, but the king would not take “no” for an answer. He sent the messengers back to Balaam with gifts, money, and rewards if only he would come and curse the Israelites. Balaam asked God, but again God said he could not curse the Israelites.



The next morning, Balaam got on his donkey and went with the men anyway. Obviously, at some point Balaam had changed his mind and decided to curse the Israelites because God sent an angel with a sword to block Balaam’s path. (*show pic*) Balaam didn’t see the angel, but the donkey did. The donkey backed up and refused to go forward. Balaam got angry and (*show pic*) hit the donkey. The donkey still refused to move forward.



This happened over and over again until, all of the sudden, Balaam’s donkey turned to him and said, (*show pic*) “Why are you hitting me? Have I ever done anything like this before?” Balaam was shocked that his donkey was talking, but not nearly as shocked as he was when God opened his eyes to see that an angel had been blocking his path the entire time.



Suddenly, Balaam realized he had disobeyed God by deciding to go curse the Israelites. (*show pic*) He confessed to the angel, “I have sinned.” He realized he had disobeyed God and that he had sinned against the Lord. In your lesson today, you are going to learn the importance of obeying God! If you love God, you will obey Him - no matter what!



Call To Action

“Donkey Say WHAT?”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 3; megaphone or bullhorn; a Bible; a greeting card

Preparation:

Begin with the graphic slide titled “Lesson Three,” begin with the slide titled “Donkey Say WHAT?”

The Message: *(title slide)*



I want you to imagine something with me. Imagine that you are taking your dog for a walk. You put on the leash, you lead it out the door, and you begin to walk down the sidewalk. You get to the end of your street, and your dog just stops walking. You can’t figure out what the dog’s problem is. You yank the leash, but the dog just sits there. Next thing you know, your dog looks up at you and says, “Why do you keep yanking this leash? Can’t you see I don’t WANT to walk today!”

How many of you would be slightly freaked out by that? *(allow response)* Of course you would! You don’t expect your pet to start talking to you. After all, animals don’t carry on conversations with humans! But that is EXACTLY what happened to Balaam in our Bible Story. God spoke to Balaam through his donkey.

We don’t expect that, do we? If God were to speak to us today, we would expect Him to speak with a BOOMING voice from Heaven. *(pick up the megaphone/bullhorn and begin speaking loudly)* “This is God. I am calling you to Africa. Pack your bags, buddy!” We certainly would never expect Him to use an animal to speak to us, right? But the truth is...

God Speaks To Us In Many Ways *(slide)*



God took time to speak to people all throughout the Bible. He spoke to Samuel with that booming voice from Heaven. He spoke to Moses through a burning bush. He spoke to Mary through an angel to tell her that she would be the mother of Jesus. He spoke to many people all throughout the Bible.

Much of the time, though, God uses *(hold up the Bible)* this to speak to us. There’s a reason why we call this “God’s Word.” God spoke these words and messages to prophets who wrote them down long ago. They are messages and words for ALL of God’s people. Second Timothy 3:16 says, “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.” Wow!

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Call To Action *(Continued)*

No matter how God chooses to speak to us - whether through His word or through a donkey - one thing is for sure...

If We Love God, We Will Obey His Word *(slide)*



(Hold up the greeting card) You see this card? This is a card you would send to someone to let them know you love them. People buy these cards, write their feelings down, and give them to someone that they really love. They do this so that the person that receives the card will REALLY know they love them.

Want to know the best way to show God you love Him? It's not by sending Him a card. It's not even by singing Him a worship song or telling Him, "I love you." Those things are great, but they are not the BEST way to tell God you love Him. Jesus told us how to tell God we love Him in our PowerVerse today. He said, "If you love me, obey my commandments." That's it! OBEY Him! That's the best way to show God you love Him.

Balaam chose not to obey God. He decided to do things his own way. That's why God put the angel in his way to stop him from disobeying. When that didn't work, God used a donkey to speak to Balaam. Isn't that sad? God had to go through all of that just to make Balaam obey what He had commanded him.

What does God have to do to make YOU obey? Hopefully, God doesn't have to make a donkey talk in order to get your attention and make you obey Him. Hopefully, your love for God will be enough to make you obey Him. Ultimately, it comes down to this: obedience is a choice! So...

CHOOSE To Obey - Every Single Day *(slide)*

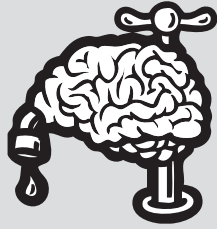


It won't just happen on its own. You have to make the CHOICE to obey God. You have to decide ahead of time that "Whatever happens today, I am going to obey God." If you wait until temptation comes around before making the choice, you may make the wrong one. That would break God's heart. You must CHOOSE ahead of time to obey God.

So, every day you must start the day off saying, "Today, I am going to obey God. I love Him, and I am going to show my love for Him by following His commands." Choose to obey God's commands and demonstrate your love for Him.

Altar Response: *(play soft music)*

Pray for the children to obey God every single day. Allow those who admit they have not been obeying God in EVERY area of their lives to pray a prayer of forgiveness. Then, pray for strength for every child to obey God no matter the circumstances.



BRAIN DRAIN

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 3; “Brain Drain” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “Brain Drain” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “Brain Drain”; there is a slide for each question

1. Watt’s Up today?

Answer: “What Does The Donkey Say? You Must Obey!”

2. What animal did we learn from today?

Answer: Donkey

3. What did the King Of Moab want Balaam to do?

Answer: Curse The Israelites

4. Did God want Balaam to curse the Israelites?

Answer: No

5. What stood in the path that Balaam was traveling on?

Answer: An Angel

6. What did Balaam’s donkey do when he wouldn’t stop beating it?

Answer: Talked Out Loud

7. According to our lesson today, “God _____ To Us In Many Different Ways.”

Answer: Speaks

8. According to our lesson today, “If We Love God, We Will _____ His Word.”

Answer: Obey

9. According to our lesson today, “_____ To Obey - Every Single Day.”

Answer: Choose

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: John 14:15

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