

### 12.35a Balak and Balaam (Numbers 33:48, 49; 22–24)

(The teacher might combine this story with “12.35b Balak and Balaam.”)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

#### Visuals and Tools:

- “Life of Moses” Series 3 Flash-a-Cards from A Beka Book and/or pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional needed materials.
- Donkey puppet
- Nancy Ganz’s treatment of this story is excellent in *Numbers: A Commentary for Children*, published by Shepherd Press, 2006. Ideas or quotes from this source will be noted by (Ganz).

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Tips and terms are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *Moabites*: descendants of Lot’s grandson who lived in Moab
- *Midianites*: probably descendants of Abraham through Keturah who lived in northwest Arabia near the Gulf of Aqaba but ✓apparently migrated to Moab Or it could be that Moab lived in Midian (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/numbers-25-15.html>)
- *angel of the Lord*: a designation for the pre-incarnate (before earthly birth of) Jesus

#### Scripture: (ESV)

Numbers 33:48 And they set out from the mountains of Abarim and camped in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho; 49 they camped by the Jordan from Beth-jeshimoth as far as Abel-shittim in the plains of Moab.

22:1 Then the people of Israel set out and camped in the plains of Moab beyond the Jordan at Jericho. 2 And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. 3 And Moab was in great dread of the people, because they were many. Moab was overcome with fear of the people of Israel. 4 And Moab said to the elders of Midian, “This horde will now lick up all that is around us, as the ox licks up the grass of the field.” So Balak the son of Zippor, who was king of Moab at that time, 5 sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the people of Amaw [near the Euphrates River], to call him, saying, “Behold, a people has come out of Egypt. They cover the face of the earth, and they are dwelling opposite me. 6 Come now, curse this people for me, since they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them from the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.”

7 So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the fees for divination in their hand. And they came to Balaam and gave him Balak’s message. 8 And he said to them, “Lodge here tonight, and I will bring back word to you, as the Lord speaks to me.” So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam. 9 And God came to Balaam and said, “Who are these men with you?” 10 And Balaam said to God, “Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent to me, saying, 11 ‘Behold, a people has come out of Egypt, and it covers the face of the earth. Now come, curse them for me. Perhaps I shall be able to fight against them and drive them out.’”

12 God said to Balaam, “You shall not go with them. You shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.” 13 So Balaam rose in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, “Go to your own land, for the Lord has refused to let me go with you.” 14 So the princes of Moab rose and went to Balak and said, “Balaam refuses to come with us.”

15 Once again Balak sent princes, more in number and more honorable than these. 16 And they came to

Balaam and said to him, "Thus says Balak the son of Zippor: 'Let nothing hinder you from coming to me, 17 for I will surely do you great honor, and whatever you say to me I will do. Come, curse this people for me.'" 18 But Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, "Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the command of the Lord my God to do less or more. 19 So you, too, please stay here tonight, that I may know what more the Lord will say to me." 20 And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, "If the men have come to call you, rise, go with them; but only do what I tell you." 21 So Balaam rose in the morning and saddled his donkey and went with the princes of Moab.

22 But God's anger was kindled because he went, and the angel of the Lord took his stand in the way as his adversary. Now he was riding on the donkey, and his two servants were with him. 23 And the donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand. And the donkey turned aside out of the road and went into the field. And Balaam struck the donkey, to turn her into the road. 24 Then the angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on either side. 25 And when the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, she pushed against the wall and pressed Balaam's foot against the wall. So he struck her again. 26 Then the angel of the Lord went ahead and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left. 27 When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam. And Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff. 28 Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" 29 And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have made a fool of me. I wish I had a sword in my hand, for then I would kill you." 30 And the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey, on which you have ridden all your life long to this day? Is it my habit to treat you this way?" And he said, "No."

31 Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand. And he bowed down and fell on his face. 32 And the angel of the Lord said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to oppose you because your way is perverse before me. 33 The donkey saw me and turned aside before me these three times. If she had not turned aside from me, surely just now I would have killed you and let her live." 34 Then Balaam said to the angel of the Lord, "I have sinned, for I did not know that you stood in the road against me. Now therefore, if it is evil in your sight, I will turn back." 35 And the angel of the Lord said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but speak only the word that I tell you." So Balaam went on with the princes of Balak.

36 When Balak heard that Balaam had come, he went out to meet him at the city of Moab, on the border formed by the Arnon, at the extremity of the border. 37 And Balak said to Balaam, "Did I not send to you to call you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to honor you?" 38 Balaam said to Balak, "Behold, I have come to you! Have I now any power of my own to speak anything? The word that God puts in my mouth, that must I speak." 39 Then Balaam went with Balak, and they came to Kiriath-huzoth. 40 And Balak sacrificed oxen and sheep, and sent for Balaam and for the princes who were with him.

41 And in the morning Balak took Balaam and brought him up to Bamoth-baal, and from there he saw a fraction of the people.

23:1 And Balaam said to Balak, "Build for me here seven altars, and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams." 2 Balak did as Balaam had said. And Balak and Balaam offered on each altar a bull and a ram. 3 And Balaam said to Balak, "Stand beside your burnt offering, and I will go. Perhaps the Lord will come to meet me, and whatever he shows me I will tell you." And he went to a bare height, 4 and God met Balaam. And Balaam said to him, "I have arranged the seven altars and I have offered on each altar a bull and a ram." 5 And the Lord put a word in Balaam's mouth and said, "Return to Balak, and thus you shall speak." 6 And he returned to him, and behold, he and all the princes of Moab were standing beside his burnt offering. 7 And Balaam took up his discourse and said,

"From Aram Balak has brought me, the king of Moab from the eastern mountains: 'Come, curse Jacob for me, and come, denounce Israel!' 8 How can I curse whom God has not cursed? How can I denounce whom the Lord has not denounced? 9 For from the top of the crags I see him, from the hills I behold him; behold, a people dwelling alone, and not counting itself among the nations! 10 Who can count the dust of Jacob or number the fourth part of Israel? Let me die the death of the upright, and let my end be like his!"

11 And Balak said to Balaam, "What have you done to me? I took you to curse my enemies, and behold, you have done nothing but bless them." 12 And he answered and said, "Must I not take care to speak what the Lord puts in my mouth?"

13 And Balak said to him, "Please come with me to another place, from which you may see them. You shall see only a fraction of them and shall not see them all. Then curse them for me from there." 14 And he took him to the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, and built seven altars and offered a bull and a ram on each altar. 15 Balaam said to Balak, "Stand here beside your burnt offering, while I meet the Lord over there." 16 And the Lord met Balaam and put a word in his mouth and said, "Return to Balak, and thus shall you speak." 17 And he came to him, and behold, he was standing beside his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab with him. And Balak said to him, "What has the Lord spoken?" 18 And Balaam took up his discourse and said,

"Rise, Balak, and hear; give ear to me, O son of Zippor: 19 God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? 20 Behold, I received a command to bless: he has blessed, and I cannot revoke it. 21 He has not beheld misfortune in Jacob, nor has he seen trouble in Israel. The Lord their God is with them, and the shout of a king is among them. 22 God brings them out of Egypt and is for them like the horns of the wild ox. 23 For there is no enchantment against Jacob, no divination against Israel; now it shall be said of Jacob and Israel, 'What has God wrought!' 24 Behold, a people! As a lioness it rises up and as a lion it lifts itself; it does not lie down until it has devoured the prey and drunk the blood of the slain."

25 And Balak said to Balaam, "Do not curse them at all, and do not bless them at all." 26 But Balaam answered Balak, "Did I not tell you, 'All that the Lord says, that I must do'?" 27 And Balak said to Balaam, "Come now, I will take you to another place. Perhaps it will please God that you may curse them for me from there." 28 So Balak took Balaam to the top of Peor, which overlooks the desert. 29 And Balaam said to Balak, "Build for me here seven altars and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams." 30 And Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

24:1 When Balaam saw that it pleased the Lord to bless Israel, he did not go, as at other times, to look for omens, but set his face toward the wilderness. 2 And Balaam lifted up his eyes and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe. And the Spirit of God came upon him, 3 and he took up his discourse and said,

"The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is opened, 4 the oracle of him who hears the words of God, who sees the vision of the Almighty, falling down with his eyes uncovered: 5 How lovely are your tents, O Jacob, your encampments, O Israel! 6 Like palm groves that stretch afar, like gardens beside a river, like aloes that the Lord has planted, like cedar trees beside the waters. 7 Water shall flow from his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters; his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted. 8 God brings him out of Egypt and is for him like the horns of the wild ox; he shall eat up the nations, his adversaries, and shall break their bones in pieces and pierce them through with his arrows. 9 He crouched, he lay down like a lion and like a lioness; who will rouse him up? Blessed are those who bless you, and cursed are those who curse you."

10 And Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam, and he struck his hands together. And Balak said to Balaam, "I called you to curse my enemies, and behold, you have blessed them these three times. 11 Therefore now flee to your own place. I said, 'I will certainly honor you,' but the Lord has held you back from honor." 12 And Balaam said to Balak, "Did I not tell your messengers whom you sent to me, 13 'If Balak should give me his house full of silver and gold, I would not be able to go beyond the word of the Lord, to do either good or bad of my own will. What the Lord speaks, that will I speak'?" 14 And now, behold, I am going to my people. Come, I will let you know what this people will do to your people in the latter days."

15 And he took up his discourse and said, "The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is opened, 16 the oracle of him who hears the words of God, and knows the knowledge of the Most High, who sees the vision of the Almighty, falling down with his eyes uncovered: 17 I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth. 18 Edom shall be dispossessed; Seir also, his enemies,

shall be dispossessed. Israel is doing valiantly. 19 And one from Jacob shall exercise dominion and destroy the survivors of cities!”

20 Then he looked on Amalek. . . 21 And he looked on the Kenite, and took up his discourse. . . .

25 Then Balaam rose and went back to his place. And Balak also went his way.

### **Introduction/Review:**

Israel was forging ahead toward their promised land. Three kings—Arad, Sihon, Og—had not been able to stand before them. A good portion of land was already theirs on the east side of the Jordan River. God was fulfilling His promises.

### **Story:**

One king who lived east of Jordan was worried. He saw the hordes of Israelites and wondered if his poor country had a chance of survival if these people lived near him. ✓Perhaps he did not know God had said his country would not be harassed because his ancestor was Lot.

#### ***Balak’s first request***

The king was Balak; the nation was Moab [locate]. Balak had heard about the conquest of Arad, Sihon, and Og; so he was in great dread of the people because they were many. In fact, his country, Moab, was overcome with fear of Israel and for good reason, for the Israelites spread out from Beth-jeshimoth as far as Abel-shittim in the plains of Moab. [Locate #G12 to G11 from the northeastern tip of the Salt Sea to north about an inch on the map found below.] They were spread out for ten miles right next to Moab! Moab said to the elders of Midian,\* “This horde will now lick up all that is around us, as the ox licks up the grass of the field.”

Balak sent messengers to a man he had heard could bless and curse and whatever he said happened. That man was Balaam. We are not sure where Balaam lived; ✓our best guess is that it was near the Euphrates River in Syria (then called Aram). This was Balak’s message to Balaam: “A people has come out of Egypt that cover the face of the earth. They are dwelling right by me. So come. Curse this people for me since they are too mighty for me. If you curse them, perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them from the land.”

Both Moabite and Midianite elders journeyed to Balaam’s house with money to pay for the soothsayer’s cursing of Israel. They gave Balaam Balak’s message.

#### ***Balaam’s refusal***

Balaam said to them, “Stay here overnight, and I will bring back word to you according to what the Lord tells me.” So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam overnight.

Meanwhile, God came to Balaam and asked, “Who are these men with you?”

Balaam answered, “Balak, king of Moab, asked me to curse a people that has come out of Egypt.”

God said to Balaam, “You shall not go with them. You shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.”

So Balaam told the princes of Balak in the morning, “Go on back home, for the Lord has refused to let me go with you.”

The princes of Moab journeyed home and reported to Balak, “Balaam refuses to come with us.”

#### ***Balak’s second request***

Balak would not accept this answer. After all, he was desperate. So he sent more princes who were even more honorable than the first messengers. Balak’s message was this: “Don’t let anything hinder you from coming to me, for I will surely give you great honor. Whatever you say to me I will do. Come, curse this people for me.”

### ***Balaam's second answer***

When the princes from Moab arrived this time, Balaam said, "Even if Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the command of the Lord my God to do less or more. But go ahead and stay here tonight, so that I may know if the Lord will say more to me."

Again, God came to Balaam that night and said to him, "If the men have come to call you, go with them; but do only what I tell you." So Balaam got up the next morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab.

Did God want Balaam to go curse God's people, Israel? Of course not. ✓Balaam certainly must have known better, but ✓the potential of honor and riches dominated his thinking.

### ***Balaam's donkey***

God was angry that Balaam acted against ✓what he knew God wanted. As Balaam was riding on his donkey, something was in the path—someone whom the donkey but not Balaam saw. It was the angel of the Lord, who had a sword drawn as if to harm Balaam. Rather than continue to trot up to the angel, the donkey turned aside out of the road and went into the field. Balaam struck the donkey so that she would get back on the road.

As they continued further, the angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between two vineyards with walls on both sides. Again, the donkey saw the angel of the Lord and pushed against the wall, pressing Balaam's foot against a wall. Ouch! Again, Balaam struck his donkey.

The angel of the Lord went ahead and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left. This time, when the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam.

Balaam had had it. His anger aroused, he struck his poor donkey a third time. Then something happened that has never happened again: the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she spoke to Balaam. [Teacher, have a donkey puppet "speak" the donkey's words.] She said, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"

Balaam, seeming not to realize he was listening to and talking to a donkey, answered, "Because you have made a fool of me. I wish I had a sword in my hand, for then I would kill you."

The donkey replied, "Am I not your donkey, on which you have ridden all your life to this day? Is it my habit to treat you this way?"

Balaam answered, "No."

### ***The angel of the Lord***

Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way with a drawn sword in his hand. Balaam got off that donkey, bowed down, and fell on his face in reverence.

The angel of the Lord said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? I have come out to oppose you because your way is perverse before me. The donkey saw me and turned aside before me these three times. If she had not turned aside from me, surely just now I would have killed you and let her live."

Then Balaam said to the angel of the Lord, "I have sinned, for I did not know that you stood in the road against me. Now therefore, if you want me to, I will turn back."

But the angel of the Lord said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but speak only the words that I tell you."

### ***Balak's welcome of Balaam***

So Balaam went on with the princes to Balak, who was so eager to see Balaam that he met him at the border of Moab [locate the City of Moab at #H-13]. "Why didn't you come when I asked before?" asked Balak. I would have given you great honor."

“Well, here I am,” answered Balaam. “I don’t have power to speak anything except the words God puts in my mouth. That’s all I can and must speak.”

“Well, let’s get started. We will go to a ✓populous place where I will sacrifice oxen and sheep,” said Balak.

### ***Balaam’s first blessing***

The next morning they went to a high place [locate Kiriath-huzoth at #H-13]. From there they could see only a fraction of the people. Balaam ordered Balak, “Build here seven altars, and put one bull and one lamb on each altar.” Balak did as Balaam had said.

Balaam said to Balak, “Stand beside your burnt offering, and I will go. Perhaps the Lord will come to meet me, and whatever he shows me I will tell you.”

So Balaam went up the mountain. God met him there and said to him, “Return to Balak, and this is what you shall speak: ‘How can I curse whom God has not cursed? . . . Who can count the dust of Jacob or number the fourth part of Israel? Let me die the death of the upright, and let my end be like his!’”

✓I don’t suppose Balak could believe his ears. “What have you done to me?” he asked. “I took you to curse my enemies, and you have done nothing but bless them.”

Balaam answered, “Must I not be careful to speak what the Lord puts in my mouth?”

### ***Balaam’s second blessing***

“Let’s go somewhere else,” said Balak. “You will still see only a fraction of the people, but you can curse them.” He took Balaam to the top of Mount Pisgah [locate #H-12]. Again they built seven altars and offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

Balaam said to Balak, “Stand here with your princes beside your burnt offering, while I meet the Lord over there.”

The Lord met Balaam and put a word in his mouth and said, “Return to Balak, and say, ‘Rise, Balak, and listen to me. God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? . . . The Lord their God is with Israel. . . . God brings them out of Egypt and is for them like the horns of the wild ox. No one can prophesy against Israel. . . .’”

✓Balak was beside himself. “Oh, just don’t curse them at all, and do not bless them at all!”

But Balaam answered Balak, “Didn’t I tell you, ‘All that the Lord says, that I must do’?”

### ***Balaam’s third blessing***

“All right,” said Balak, “Come now and I will take you to a third place. Maybe God will let you curse them for me from there.” So Balak took Balaam to the top of Peor [locate at #H-11.5]. Balaam said to Balak—you tell us what he said: [“Build seven altars and prepare seven bulls and seven rams.”] And Balak did as Balaam had said.

This time Balaam didn’t even bother to go seek the Lord’s word since he knew God would bless and not curse. As he saw Israel camped out in the wilderness tribe by tribe, he spoke, and when he did so, the Spirit of God directed his words. It was a long speech of blessing, telling of how Israel would crush their enemies (Numbers 24:3–9).

Balak was really angry now. He clapped his hands [Teacher, do so with an angry face] and said to Balaam, “I called you to curse my enemies, and you have blessed them these three times. Now beat it out of here to your own place. I said, ‘I will certainly honor you,’ but the Lord has held you back from honor.”

Balaam said to Balak, “Didn’t I tell your messengers, ‘If Balak should give me his house full of silver and gold, I would not be able to go beyond the word of the Lord. What the Lord speaks, that will I speak’? I will go back home. But let me tell you what Israel will do to your people Moab in the latter days.” Then Balaam

gave a long speech about Moab and other nations.

### *Balaam's prophecy of Jesus*

The significant part of this speech is a prophecy about Jesus Christ. Listen: "A star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel. . . . One from Jacob shall exercise dominion and destroy the survivors of cities!"

The "star" and "scepter" are words related to Jesus the Messiah: He is called the "morning star" in Revelation 22:16. The star of Jacob reminds us of the star that appeared to the wise men at His birth. The scepter tells us of His being King of kings and Lord of lords, especially when He comes again.

#### **Lessons from this lesson:**

- We see Jesus:  
In the Old Testament when we read of the angel of the Lord, that is the Lord Jesus Christ.  
His first and second comings are prophesied in Numbers 24:17. (See end of story.)
- Avoid compromise with God's enemies.

#### **Activities:**

- Play dough: donkey, angel, sword
- Snack: Sugar cookies in the shape of donkeys.  
Or horse crackers. <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/e0/b1/57/e0b157d3340fbeece324391b523944b.jpg> has pictures and instructions.
- Present a "creature feature" puppet skit about a donkey. One is found below and on the "Extras" page at [teachingthebibletochildren.org](http://teachingthebibletochildren.org).
- Play "Pin the Tail on the Donkey." A donkey to print is at [http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-li0-fclzyqk/Tj1NUjsDgRI/AAAAAAAAAFs/pSBT5lv8cD8/s1600/pin\\_the\\_tail\\_color.gif](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-li0-fclzyqk/Tj1NUjsDgRI/AAAAAAAAAFs/pSBT5lv8cD8/s1600/pin_the_tail_color.gif). Its tails are at [https://www.family-games-treasurehouse.com/images/donkey\\_tails\\_color.gif](https://www.family-games-treasurehouse.com/images/donkey_tails_color.gif). More in keeping with this story is "Pin the Mouth on the Donkey."
- Sing the Hornet Song found below. Sheet music seems to be unavailable online, but the tune is "That Is What Heaven's to Me." A video site with visuals but without the stanza about Balaam is <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=%22the+hornet+song%22&&view=detail&mid=2106DEB32DEB3DC0E1272106DEB32DEB3DC0E127&&FORM=VRDGAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3D%2522the%2520hornet%2520song%2522%26qs%3Dn%26form%3DQBV%26sp%3D-1%26pq%3D%2522the%2520hornet%2520song%2522%26sc%3D5-17%26sk%3D%26cvid%3DD48E86C5FF804843985C3C47683DAAA7>
- Review questions: (Game: Print, back with paper towel, and cut out the altars found below. Keeping the sticks and fire in one piece, cut them apart from the altar. For each correct answer, students place either an altar or sticks with fire on a flannel board. An enjoyable alternative is to have students make a donkey puppet say, "Why did you hit me these three times?" or another donkey quote.)
  1. Tell the name of the king of Moab who was in great dread and fear of Israel. [Balak.]
  2. For what prophet did Balak send? [Balaam.]
  3. What message did Balak send to Balaam? ["Come curse Israel for me."]
  4. What was Balaam's answer? [I'll check with God to see if I can go.]
  5. What did God do when He was angry with Balaam for going to Balak? [He sent the angel of the Lord to kill him.]
  6. Who saw the angel of the Lord with a drawn sword, and what did she do that was unusual?

[Balaam's donkey; she spoke to Balaam.]

7. What did the donkey say to Balaam? ["Why have you hit me these three times? Have I ever acted like this?"]
8. How many times did Balaam "try" to curse Israel? [Three times.]
9. How many sheep and bulls did Balak offer each of these three times? [Seven sheep and seven bulls.]
10. Besides the nation of Israel, about whom did Balaam prophesy? [Jesus Christ.]

### **Memory Verse[s]:**

- Exodus 20:1–17. An enlarged copy of the words, the "Exodus 20:1–17" song sheet, and motions are in Lesson 12.15 or on the "Lessons" and "Songs" pages at [teachingthebibletochildren.org](http://teachingthebibletochildren.org). "Stop! It's the Law," a song that teaches only the basic Ten Commandments, is found on the same "Songs" page.

### **Handwork:**

- Make a card stock or paper donkey with moveable legs. This site has a template that can be enlarged: [http://1.bp.blogspot.com/\\_T58GzQ-O3V4/TLt8gqAAUxI/AAAAAAAAAEI/5ZXmny0Wx58/s200/Donkey+template+%282%29.jpg](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_T58GzQ-O3V4/TLt8gqAAUxI/AAAAAAAAAEI/5ZXmny0Wx58/s200/Donkey+template+%282%29.jpg). Use sewing snaps instead of brads to attach legs. Add a moveable mouth by cutting out a small rectangle and attaching it to the head with a sewing snap. Glue on small googly eyes.



**Moabites**

**Midianites**

**angel of the Lord**



St-Takla.org



St-Takla.org





St-Takla.org



St-Takla.org





St-Takla.org







St-Takla.org



## The Hornet Song

1. When the Canaanites hardened their heart against God  
And grieved Him because of their sin,  
God sent along hornets to bring them to time  
And to help His own people to win.  
The hornets persuaded them that it was best  
To go quickly and not to go slow;  
God did not compel them to go 'gainst their will,  
But He just made them willing to go.

Chorus:

He does not compel us to go (no, no),  
He does not compel us to go;  
He does not compel us to go 'gainst our will,  
But He just makes us willing to go.

2. If a nest of live hornets were brought to this room  
And the creatures allowed to go free,  
You would not need urging to make yourself scarce;  
You'd want to get out, don't you see?  
They would not lay hold and by force of their strength  
Throw you out of the window, Oh, no!  
They would not compel you to go 'gainst your will,  
But just make you so willing to go. . . .

4. When Balaam was sent to the Moabite king  
And wanted things run his own way,  
His mule, ever faithful, spoke at the right time,  
Made him willing God's voice to obey.  
God can use any man, since He used Balaam's mule,  
For He is Almighty, you know;  
He does not compel us to go 'gainst our will,  
But He just makes us willing to go.

5. There's so much in man that resembles a mule,  
He is contrary, you know.  
When you say, "Come here," he is sure to go there,  
And say, "Whoa," he will then start to go.  
My song may seem funny, but I know it's true,  
And I don't want a sting from a hornet, do you?  
You'd better not fight, for you might not be right,  
But just be made willing to go.

(Thora Harris)

**Donkey**  
by Marilyn Alexander

**Donkey:** Hee haw! Hee haw!

**Interviewer:** My, aren't you noisy!

**Donkey:** Yes, I am. It's my nature to say, "Hee haw." I'm a male donkey. I am called a jack.

**Interviewer:** Does that mean female donkeys say, "Her haw"?

**Donkey:** Hee naw. The ladies are called jennies. A jenny says "hee haw" just like the jacks.

**Interviewer:** You kind of look like a horse.

**Donkey:** Hee flaw! You think so? Well, I think I'm better than a horse in some ways. For example, I'm calmer. I can carry more weight than a horse my size, and I am much more of an all-terrain animal.

**Interviewer:** We have learned about God's great design for camels. How do you compare to them?

**Donkey:** Hee ahhh! We compare very favorably. We are excellent at carrying heavy loads for long distances. In fact, in the Bible when Joseph's brothers went to Egypt, their donkeys carried home about six bushels of wheat that weighed about 350 pounds. See how strong I am?

**Interviewer:** Yes, sir, Jack. How do your feet help you?

**Donkey:** Hee paw! Oh, I don't have paws; I have hooves. But I am very sure-footed on all kinds of ground—hilly, mountainous, level—you name it. I can use my hooves for stomping on or kicking wild dogs or coyotes, who are my enemies. I can even be a guard animal. Say, how do you like my ears?

**Interviewer:** Well, I hate to insult you, but your ears are very long and kind of floppy!

**Donkey:** Hee call! My ears are big for a reason: In the desert I can hear another donkey call from miles away. My ears also help me keep cool.

**Interviewer:** I have heard that you have a pretty good digestive system.

**Donkey:** Hee straw! You're right. I love to eat grass, but I can eat even inedible plants and get nourishment and moisture from them. In fact, my body uses 95 percent of what I eat. That's pretty good compared to humans, who average about 40 to 60 percent. Christ, my Creator, prepared my body to conserve food efficiently.

**Interviewer:** May I ask you a personal question?

**Donkey:** Hee yah! Go ahead.

**Interviewer:** Why are you stubborn?

**Donkey:** Hee stall! Well, it's not exactly that I am stubborn. It's that I don't like to do anything that seems unsafe or is not in my best interest. I am rather intelligent, after all.

**Interviewer:** Is that so? Prove to me that you are intelligent.

**Donkey:** Hee crawl! I have an incredible memory: I can recognize places and other donkeys I was with up to 25 years ago. I am very curious. People who work with me say I am highly intelligent.

**Interviewer:** Okay. You have proved your point.

**Donkey:** Hee law! I want to tell you that we donkeys are one of the earliest- mentioned animals in the Bible, and we're mentioned over 400 times! One of us was honored to be the only animal the Bible records that Jesus ever rode. He rode a donkey into Jerusalem the week He was crucified.

**Interviewer:** That is interesting. I never would have guessed that you are such a remarkable animal. You really are wonderful.

**Donkey:** Hee haw! Thank you for your compliment, but I had nothing to do with being remarkable. My Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the wonderful Maker of all that is good. Praise Him. Hee haw!

Resources:

<http://bibleanddonkeys.com/?id=131>

<http://www.equest4truth.com/equus-in-the-bible/123-donkeys-in-the-bible>

<http://www.mikesdonkeys.co.uk/facts.html>

<https://www.livescience.com/54258-donkeys.html>



