

Kay Alden's Preschool Religion Lessons

THE STORY OF BALAAM AND BALAK

Reading: Numbers 24:15-19

Recitation: "And a star shall come out of Jacob and a scepter shall rise out of Israel."

Part One

Project:

Make stars and scepters. Have children trace stars cut then out of yellow tagboard. Use straws and aluminum foil, ball up a piece of foil and hold on one end of straw while you cover both with another piece of foil. Use these every day in worship when you say the recitation: "And a star shall come out of Jacob and a scepter shall rise out of Israel."

Materials:

Yellow tagboard
Straws
Aluminum foil

Procedure:

Preview the story for the children and read aloud Numbers 24:15-19. Then make the stars and scepters. Let the children lift these into the air as you all say the recitation.

Part Two

Follow-Up Activity:

Dramatize the Story of Balaam and Balak

Materials:

See below for story of Balaam and Balak, simplified for young children.
Use the stars and scepters the children made previously.

Procedure:

Preview the story for the children. Then direct them in dramatizing the story as adult reads it aloud. For example, have Balak send messengers to Balaam. Then show Balaam looking up toward heaven as he talks to the Lord. (Children should not add dialogue that is not directly given in the Word, but they can convey the emotions of the people involved in the story.)

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THE STORY OF BALAAM AND BALAK

Balak was the king of the nation of Moab. He was scared because the Children of Israel were camped outside of his country and he thought that they would make war with his people. Balak knew of a prophet named Balaam who lived in a far off country. He asked special messengers to go and find Balaam and ask him to come and curse the Children of Israel. Balak thought that if Balaam cursed the Children of Israel nothing bad could happen to his country. The messengers went and found Balaam and asked him to come and curse the Children of Israel. They would give him lots of money if he would do it. Balaam talked to the Lord and the Lord said "Don't curse the Children of Israel, they are good people." So Balaam told the messengers that he would not curse them and sent the messengers home. When the messengers told Balak what Balaam has said, Balak sent even better messengers and more money. Balak talked to the Lord again and the Lord said "You can go, but you must say only the words that I put into your mouth." Balaam told the messengers this and started on his journey.

Then the Lord got angry that Balaam was going. He sent an angel to get in his way. The angel stood in the road and Balaam's donkey saw him, but Balaam did not. The donkey ran into the field and Balaam beat him with a stick. They started on their way again and when the donkey saw the angel the second time he crushed Balaam's foot against a wall. Once again Balaam beat the donkey. They started on the way again and this time when the donkey saw the angel he had no where to go so he lay down in the road. Balaam was very angry and was going to beat the donkey, but the Lord did a miracle and made the donkey talk!

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“Why are you going to beat me?” asked the donkey. “Haven’t I always done what you said before?” The Lord then opened Balaam’s eyes and he saw the angel. He felt very sorry for his mistake.

When Balaam got to Moab, he told Balak that he could only say what the Lord put in his mouth and that he would take none of Balak’s gold and silver. Balak took Balaam to a mountain where they could see the children of Israel and he built seven altars and asked Balaam to curse the Children of Israel. But instead the Lord put a blessing in Balaam’s mouth. Balak took him to another place and made seven altars. Once again the Lord put a blessing in Balaam’s mouth. Then for a third time Balak took Balaam to another place and built seven altars and once again the Lord put a blessing in Balaam’s mouth. Three times he had blessed the Children of Israel. Then he opened his mouth a fourth time and he prophesied that someday the Lord would be born to the children of Israel. The promise was like this:

I see Him, but not now;
I behold Him, but not near;
A Star shall come out of Jacob;
a Scepter shall rise out of Israel.