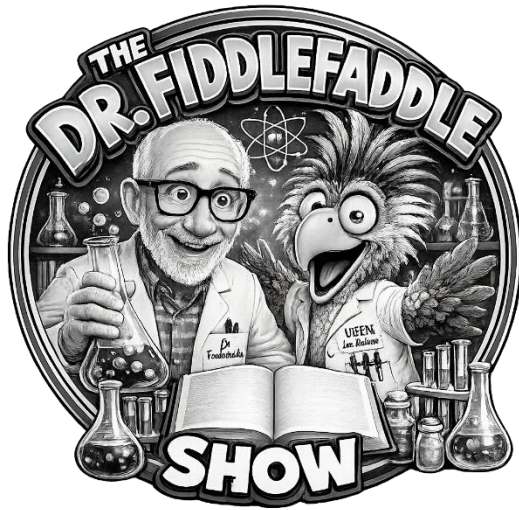




Episode 3

The Talking Donkey

Theme: Obedience Is the Very Best Way

Bible Text: Numbers 22:22–41 (KJV)

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 15:22 (KJV)

22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

Bible Truth: God wants us to obey Him, even when we don't understand everything He is doing.

Age Group: 6–12 years

Teaching Time: 30–40 minutes

Lesson Aim

To teach children that God desires obedience from His people. When we listen to God instead of following our own thoughts and desires, He leads us in the right way.

Opening Object Lesson (5 Minutes)

"Who's Giving the Directions?"

Bring:

- A toy car
- A simple road map or picture of a road

Ask for a volunteer to drive the toy car. Give two sets of directions:

One child gives silly directions:

- "Drive into the wall!"
- "Go backwards!"

Another child gives good directions:

- "Stay on the road."
- "Go around the obstacle."

Ask: Which directions should we follow?

Explain: Every day we choose whose voice we will listen to. Today we'll learn about a man who didn't listen to God's directions—and even a donkey tried to help him!

Read the Scripture

Read selected portions of:

Numbers 22:22–41

Focus on:

- Verses 22–27
 - Verses 28–31
 - Verses 34–35
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Background for the Teacher

Balak, king of Moab, wanted Balaam to curse Israel. Although Balaam knew God's will, he allowed the promise of riches and honor to influence his heart. God used an angel and even Balaam's donkey to stop him and warn him. The miracle reminds us that God can use anyone—or anything—to get our attention. The emphasis of the lesson should be **obedience**, not merely the miracle.

Lesson Point 1

God Knows the Right Path

Read: Numbers 22:23

The donkey saw the angel. Balaam did not.

Explain: Sometimes we cannot see everything God sees. God always knows what is ahead.

Application: When God tells us to obey Him, He is protecting us—even when we don't understand why.

Ask

Have your parents ever told you not to do something that later turned out to be dangerous? God protects His children, too.

Lesson Point 2

Disobedience Leads to Trouble

Read: Numbers 22:27

Balaam became angry. He blamed the donkey. But the donkey was actually saving his life.

Explain: Sometimes when we disobey, we become frustrated because things don't go the way we planned. Instead of asking, "What is God trying to teach me?" we get angry.

Application: Obedience brings peace. Disobedience often brings problems.

Lesson Point 3

God Can Get Our Attention

Read: Numbers 22:28

God performed an amazing miracle. The donkey spoke!

Ask: Has your pet ever talked to you? (Let children laugh.)

Explain: God doesn't normally make animals talk. This miracle happened because Balaam refused to listen. God wanted Balaam to stop before it was too late.

Application: Today God usually speaks to us through:

- His Word
 - The Holy Spirit
 - Godly parents
 - Pastors
 - Faithful teachers
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Lesson Point 4

We Must Obey Christ

Read: 2 Corinthians 10:5

Explain: The Bible says we should bring every thought into obedience to Christ. That means we choose God's way instead of our own way. Sometimes we think: "I don't want to obey." But God's way is always the best way.

Object Lesson

Stop Sign

Bring a stop sign picture.

Ask: Why do we stop? Because the sign wants to make us late? No. Because it protects us.

Explain: God's commands are like stop signs. They aren't meant to ruin our fun. They're there because God loves us.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did Balaam's donkey stop?
 2. What did Balaam do when the donkey stopped?
 3. Who did the donkey see?
 4. Why did God allow the donkey to speak?
 5. What does obedience mean?
 6. Why is God's way always the best way?
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Memory Verse Activity

Write 2 Corinthians 10:5 on the board. Have everyone repeat it together. Then erase one phrase at a time until the children can say it without looking.

Explain: Every good choice begins with choosing to obey Christ in our thoughts.

Bible Challenge

This week, whenever someone asks you to do something that agrees with God's Word: Instead of saying, "I don't want to..." Practice saying, "I want to obey because I love God."

Life Application

Think of places where you can obey this week:

- At home
- At church
- At school
- During chores
- When no one is watching

Obedience isn't just for big decisions. It starts with the little choices we make every day.

Gospel Connection

The greatest example of obedience is the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus always obeyed His Heavenly Father, even when it meant going to the cross for our sins. Because Jesus obeyed perfectly, He became our Savior. When we trust Him by faith, He forgives our sins and gives us eternal life. After we are saved, we obey Him—not to earn His love, but because we love Him.

Review Game

"Obey or Disobey?"

Read each situation. Children answer **"Obey!"** or **"Disobey!"**

- Your parents ask you to clean your room, and you do it with a cheerful heart. (**Obey!**)
 - You tell the truth even when it's hard. (**Obey!**)
 - You sneak a cookie after being told to wait. (**Disobey!**)
 - You listen during Bible class instead of distracting others. (**Obey!**)
 - You are kind to a child who is left out. (**Obey!**)
 - You refuse to forgive someone after they apologize. (**Disobey!**)
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Teacher's Closing Challenge

Teach the children this simple truth to remember: **"Obedience is the very best way to show that you believe God knows what is best."**

Close in prayer, asking God to help each child have a heart that is willing to obey Him, trust His Word, and follow His way every day.

