




Balaam's Donkey Talks

Numbers 22:1-38

Young children aren't ready developmentally to pay attention for long periods of time. Toddlers and twos absorb life in small bites. Longer attention spans will develop in the latter preschool and early elementary years. However, don't be surprised if a child occasionally shows great attention to a particular toy, game, or project. Try not to interrupt the child when that happens. As much as possible, let your little ones dictate the flow of activity in your nursery. By letting them remain focused on an activity of their choosing, you're encouraging them to develop the attentiveness that's necessary for listening to God.

INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to praise songs.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Donkey Speaks Listen to the donkey tell what happened.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Here Is Balaam's Donkey Hear a rhyme about the teaching picture.	scissors Teacher Pack: "Balaam and His Donkey" teaching picture 	Cut the picture of Balaam from the teaching picture by cutting along the left-hand edge of the picture of the donkey. Then cut on the dotted line around the picture and on the dotted line on Balaam's robe to form a slit. Make a small slit on the donkey's back, along the dotted line, for Balaam to be placed in.
	Animal Sounds Listen to animal sounds, and learn which animal is making the sound.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► Bible Point

Pay attention to God.

Key Verse

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).


Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will learn that we pay attention to God.





TODDLER


LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to or sing praise songs.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Balaam's Donkey Listen to the donkey tell what happened, and add motions.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Donkey Picture Make a donkey picture.	scissors, brown construction paper, glue stick, crayons, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Donkey" handout (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut out small pieces of brown construction paper for ears.
	Where Is Balaam's Donkey? Do an action rhyme about Balaam and his donkey.	scissors Teacher Pack: "Balaam and His Donkey" teaching picture 	Cut the picture of Balaam from the teaching picture by cutting along the left-hand edge of the picture of the donkey. Then cut on the dotted line around the picture and on the dotted line on Balaam's robe to form a slit. Make a small slit on the donkey's back, along the dotted line, for Balaam to be placed in.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

The "Growing With Jesus" page at the end of each lesson includes an in-class craft or activity on one side and a take-home page for parents on the other side. We want to ensure all the information on the parent pages is retained, so we've made some adjustments to activities that require cutting. These pages may require a little assembly for parents to use at home, and we've included envelopes in the supply lists to keep each child's pieces together.



2-YEAR-OLD

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to or sing praise songs.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Hear the Donkey! Listen to what happened, and pretend to be Balaam's donkey.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Balaam's Donkey Puppet Make a donkey puppet, and say an echo rhyme.	scissors, 1 brown paper lunch sack per child, glue stick, crayons, 1 copy per child of the "Donkey Face" handout (at the end of the lesson)	Cut out the donkey-face pieces from the "Donkey Face" handouts.
	Balaam Had a Donkey Do an action rhyme about Balaam and his Donkey.	scissors Teacher Pack: "Balaam and His Donkey" teaching picture, "Balaam's Donkey Talks" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Cut the picture of Balaam from the teaching picture by cutting along the left-hand edge of the picture of the donkey. Then cut on the dotted line around the picture and on the dotted line on Balaam's robe to form a slit. Make a small slit on the donkey's back, along the dotted line, for Balaam to be placed in.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

The "Growing With Jesus" page at the end of each lesson includes an in-class craft or activity on one side and a take-home page for parents on the other side. We want to ensure all the information on the parent pages is retained, so we've made some adjustments to activities that require cutting. These pages may require a little assembly for parents to use at home, and we've included envelopes in the supply lists to keep each child's pieces together.



**INFANT****1****GETTING
STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Sing or listen to “Come and See” (track 10 on the CD) to the tune of “The Mulberry Bush” anytime during the lesson. Hold an infant on your lap as you sing. Clap baby’s hands, rock him or her back and forth, or move baby’s arms up and down to the beat of the song.



**Come and see what God has done,
God has done, God has done.
Come and see what God has done—
Mighty, wonderful things.**

**Wonderful, awesome, God is great!
God is good! God is great!
Wonderful, awesome, God is great!
What a mighty God!**

Afterward, say: **God is great! We ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.**

Sing “Pay Attention” (not on the CD) to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It” anytime during the lesson. Sing while holding an infant, doing the motions with him or her.



**Pay attention to God, clap your hands. (clap hands twice)
Pay attention to God, clap your hands. (clap hands twice)
Pay attention to God, pay attention to God,
Pay attention to God, clap your hands. (clap hands twice)**

Afterward, say: **► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.**

2**BIBLE
EXPLORATION**

Donkey Speaks

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Play “Balaam’s Donkey (Infants)” (track 11 on the CD) while sitting on the floor next to

**Sing and Celebrate
Supplies**

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Come and See”
(track 10)

**Donkey Speaks
Supplies**

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Balaam’s Donkey
(Infants)” (track 11)



Here Is Balaam's Donkey Supplies

scissors
Teacher Pack
"Balaam and His
Donkey" teaching
picture

Here Is Balaam's Donkey Easy Prep

Cut the picture of
Balaam from the
teaching picture by
cutting along the left-
hand edge of the picture
of the donkey. Then
cut on the dotted line
around the picture and
on the dotted line on
Balaam's robe to form
a slit. Make a small slit
on the donkey's back,
along the dotted line, for
Balaam to be placed in.

Animal Sounds Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "Animal Sounds"
(track 13)

a baby. Each time you hear the donkey say "Heehaw, heehaw," put your hands on your head like ears, wiggle your hands, and say "heehaw."

Afterward, say: ► **PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.**

3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Here Is Balaam's Donkey

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Show the assembled "Balaam and His Donkey" teaching picture to an infant as you say this rhyme.

Here is Balaam's donkey. Can you see her walk?
Here is Balaam's donkey. Can you hear her talk?
Listen with your ears; you will hear the donkey say,
"► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD, for that's the right way."

Animal Sounds

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Hold an infant and stand near the CD player. Say: **Let's listen to some animal sounds. You'll have to pay attention to hear the sounds of the animals.** Play "Animal Sounds" (track 13 on the CD). Name the animals as you hear them.

Say: **We had to pay attention to hear the animal sounds. Balaam had to learn to pay attention to God. We have to learn to ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD, too.**



Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

TODDLER

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Sing or listen to “Come and See” (track 10 on the CD) to the tune of “The Mulberry Bush” anytime during the lesson. Have toddlers hold hands and walk in a circle as you sing. Have them walk in the opposite direction on the second verse.

♪ Come and see what God has done,
God has done, God has done.
Come and see what God has done—
Mighty, wonderful things.

Wonderful, awesome, God is great!
God is good! God is great!
Wonderful, awesome, God is great!
What a mighty God!

Afterward, say: **God is great! We ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.**

Sing “Pay Attention” (not on the CD) to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It” anytime during the lesson. Repeat the song several times, replacing the phrase “Clap your hands” with one of these new phrases each time you sing it: “Stomp your feet,” “Say ‘amen,’ ” or “Shout ‘hooray.’ ”

♪ Pay attention to God, clap your hands. (*clap hands twice*)
Pay attention to God, clap your hands. (*clap hands twice*)
Pay attention to God, pay attention to God,
Pay attention to God, clap your hands. (*clap hands twice*)

Afterward, say: ► **PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.**



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1
copy per child of the
“Growing With Jesus”
page (at the end of the
lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 9
pages from each My
Bible Snuggles student
book.

Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: “Come and See”
(track 10)





Balaam's Donkey Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Balaam's Donkey
(Toddlers & 2s)"
(track 12)

Donkey Picture Supplies

scissors

brown construction
paper

glue stick

crayons

My Bible Snuggles or 1
copy per child of the
"Donkey" handout (at
the end of the lesson)

Donkey Puppet Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 9
pages from each My
Bible Snuggles student
book. Cut out small
pieces of construction
paper for ears.

2

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Balaam's Donkey

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have toddlers sit on the floor near the CD player. Play "Balaam's Donkey (Toddlers & 2s)" (track 12 on the CD) for toddlers. Each time you hear the donkey say "Heehaw, heehaw," encourage children to put their hands on their heads like ears, wiggle their hands, and say "heehaw."

Afterward, say: ► **PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.**

3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Donkey Picture

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a "Donkey" handout.

Say: **Balaam listened to his donkey with his ears. We can use our ears to ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD. Let's glue brown construction paper to the donkey's ears.** Help children glue small pieces of brown construction paper to the donkey's ears on their handouts. **We can pay attention to God with our eyes, too. God opened Balaam's eyes to see the angel blocking the road. Let's color the donkey's eyes.** Let children use crayons to color the donkey's eyes. **We can use our noses and mouths to ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD. Let's color the noses and mouths on our donkeys.** Help children until everyone has finished making the picture. **We can use our whole bodies to ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.** Let toddlers finish coloring their pictures any way they choose.



Where Is Balaam's Donkey?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Gather two or three toddlers together. Use the "Balaam and His Donkey" teaching picture with the following rhyme. Start out with Balaam off the donkey. Have children take turns following the instructions in the parentheses after each line.

Say: **Where is Balaam's donkey? Is she going for a walk?** *(have a child point to the donkey)*

Where is Balaam's donkey? The Lord God made her talk. *(have a child point to the donkey's mouth)*

God used Balaam's donkey to help Balaam hear. *(have a child point to Balaam's ears)*

God used Balaam's donkey to make his point so clear. *(have a child point to his or her own ears)*

The donkey spoke to Balaam, and then Balaam heard. *(help a child put Balaam on the donkey's back)*

The donkey spoke to Balaam. Balaam heard every word. *(have a child point to his or her own ears)*

Afterward, say: **We ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.



Where Is Balaam's Donkey? Supplies

scissors

Teacher Pack

"Balaam and His Donkey" teaching picture

Where Is Balaam's Donkey? Easy Prep

Cut the picture of Balaam from the teaching picture by cutting along the left-hand edge of the picture of the donkey. Then cut on the dotted line around the picture and on the dotted line on Balaam's robe to form a slit. Make a small slit on the donkey's back, along the dotted line, for Balaam to be placed in.

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)



Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Come and See"
(track 10)


2-YEAR-OLD

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Sing or listen to "Come and See" (track 10 on the CD) to the tune of "The Mulberry Bush" anytime during the lesson. Have children stand in a circle and do the motions in parentheses as they sing.

 **Come and see what God has done,
God has done, God has done.** (*hold hands, and walk in a circle*)
Come and see what God has done—(*continue walking in a circle*)
Mighty, wonderful things. (*stop walking, and drop hands*)

Wonderful, awesome, God is great!

God is good! God is great! (*slap legs twice, clap hands twice, and wave hands in air to the rhythm of the song*)

Wonderful, awesome, God is great! (*slap legs twice, and clap hands twice to the rhythm of the song*)

What a mighty God! (*join hands, and walk in a circle*)

Afterward, say: **God is great! We ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.**

Sing "Pay Attention" (not on the CD) to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It" anytime during the lesson. Repeat the song several times, replacing the phrase "Clap your hands" with one of these new phrases each time you sing it: "Stomp your feet," "Say 'amen,'" or "Shout 'hooray.'"

 **Pay attention to God, clap your hands.** (*clap hands twice*)
Pay attention to God, clap your hands. (*clap hands twice*)
Pay attention to God, pay attention to God,
Pay attention to God, clap your hands. (*clap hands twice*)

Afterward, say: ► **PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.**



2

BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Hear the Donkey!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have 2-year-olds sit on the floor near the CD player. Play “Balaam’s Donkey (Toddlers & 2s)” (track 12 on the CD). Each time you hear the donkey say “Heehaw, heehaw,” encourage children to put their hands on their heads like ears, wiggle their hands, and say “heehaw.”

Afterward, say: **Let’s pretend to be Balaam’s donkey.** Have children crawl around the room on all fours, pretending to be Balaam’s donkey. Designate an object, such as a chair, to be Balaam. Place the chair in the middle of the room. Tell children that each time they pass by “Balaam,” they should say, “Heehaw. ► **PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.**”

3

WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE

Balaam’s Donkey Puppet

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **We can pay attention to God with our ears; we can listen to God. Balaam listened to his donkey speak when God allowed the donkey to talk. Let’s glue the donkey’s ears on the bottom of the sack.** Help each child glue the ears in the correct spot on their puppets.

Say: **We can ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD with our eyes by reading the Bible and looking at how others live. God opened Balaam’s eyes to see the angel blocking the road. Let’s glue the donkey’s eyes in place.** Help children glue the eyes in the correct spot on their puppets.

Say: **We can use our nose and mouth to ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD. Balaam used his mouth to talk to the donkey.** Help children glue the nose and mouth on their donkey puppets. Let children use crayons to decorate their puppets in any way they choose.

Have children put the puppets on their hands and say this rhyme, repeating each line after you and doing the actions in parentheses.



Hear the Donkey! Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Balaam’s Donkey (Toddlers & 2s)” (track 12)

Balaam’s Donkey Puppet Supplies

scissors

1 brown paper lunch sack per child

glue stick

crayons

1 copy per child of the “Donkey Face” handout (at the end of the lesson)

Balaam’s Donkey Puppet Easy Prep

Cut out the donkey-face pieces from the “Donkey Face” handouts.





Balaam Had a Donkey Supplies

scissors

Teacher Pack

“Balaam and His Donkey” teaching picture

“Balaam’s Donkey Talks” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Balaam Had a Donkey Easy Prep

Cut the picture of Balaam from the teaching picture by cutting along the left-hand edge of the picture of the donkey. Then cut on the dotted line around the picture and on the dotted line on Balaam’s robe to form a slit. Make a small slit on the donkey’s back, along the dotted line, for Balaam to be placed in.

Say: **I can pay attention with my eyes—blink, blink.** (*blink eyes twice on “blink, blink”*)

I can pay attention with my mind—think, think. (*tap forehead twice with your free hand on “think, think”*)

I can pay attention with my hands—watch this. (*pat leg twice with your free hand on “watch this”*)

I can pay attention with my nose—sniff, sniff. (*point to nose on “sniff, sniff”*)

I can pay attention with my ears—listen now. (*cup hand around ear with your free hand on “listen now”*)

I can ► PAY ATTENTION TO GOD—oh wow! (*jump up and down on “oh wow!”*)

Balaam Had a Donkey

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Gather 2-year-olds, and let them look at the “Balaam’s Donkey Talks” poster. Then use the “Balaam and His Donkey” teaching picture with the following rhyme. Have children take turns following the instructions in parentheses after each line.

Say: **Balaam had a donkey. Can you pet her side?** (*have a child pretend to pet the donkey*)

Balaam had a donkey he loved to ride. (*have a child place Balaam on the donkey’s back*)

The donkey saw God’s angel standing in the path. (*have a child point to the donkey’s eyes*)

The donkey saw God’s angel, and she stopped in her tracks. (*have a child point to his or her own eyes*)

Balaam was so angry, he got off his donkey’s back. (*have a child take Balaam off the donkey’s back*)

Balaam was so angry that he gave the donkey a smack. (*have a child show a mean face*)

The donkey opened her mouth and asked, “Do you mind?” (*have a child point to the donkey’s mouth*)

“Why are you being so mean and unkind?” (*have a child pet the donkey*)

God used Balaam’s donkey to make Balaam hear. (*have a child point to Balaam’s ears*)

God used Balaam’s donkey to make his message clear. (*have a child put Balaam back on the donkey*)

“Pay attention when God speaks to you,” said God to the man.

“Pay attention when God speaks to you. Now do you understand?”

Afterward, say: ► **PAY ATTENTION TO GOD.**



Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1
copy per child of the
“Growing With Jesus”
page (at the end of the
lesson)



HOME
CONNECT®

Building Attention Skills

The technology of our time seems to cause us to rush through life at an ever-quicken pace. As a result, we rarely pay attention to any one task for very long. Paying attention is the single most important skill our children need for learning. Just as God had to get Balaam's attention before he could speak to him, we must get our children's attention before we can teach them anything of lasting value. Help your child pay attention by playing simple games that require him or her to concentrate, such as Simon Says or a memory card game.

OK
TO COPY

Growing With Jesus

Your child learned to pay attention to God (from Numbers 22:1-38). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

Here Is Balaam's Donkey

Get on the floor on all fours with your infant. Pretend to be a donkey.

Say: **Here is Balaam's donkey. Can you see her walk?**
Here is Balaam's donkey. Can you hear her talk?
Listen with your ears; you will hear the donkey say,
"Pay attention to God, for that's the right way."

Afterward, say: **We pay attention to God.**

TODDLER

Where Is Balaam's Donkey?

Pretend to be a donkey while you say this rhyme with your child.

Say: **Where is Balaam's donkey? Is she going for a walk?**
Where is Balaam's donkey? The Lord God made her talk.
God used Balaam's donkey to help Balaam hear.
God used Balaam's donkey to make his point so clear.
The donkey spoke to Balaam, and then Balaam heard.
The donkey spoke to Balaam. Balaam heard every word.

Afterward, say: **Pay attention to God.**

2-YEAR-OLD

Balaam's Donkey

Encourage your child to pretend to be a donkey and say this rhyme, repeating each line after you and doing the actions in parentheses.

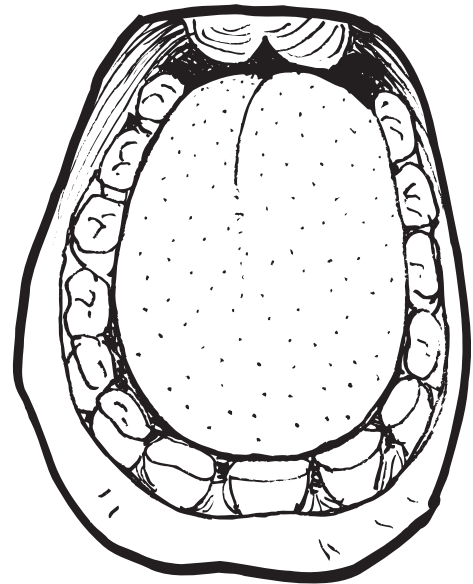
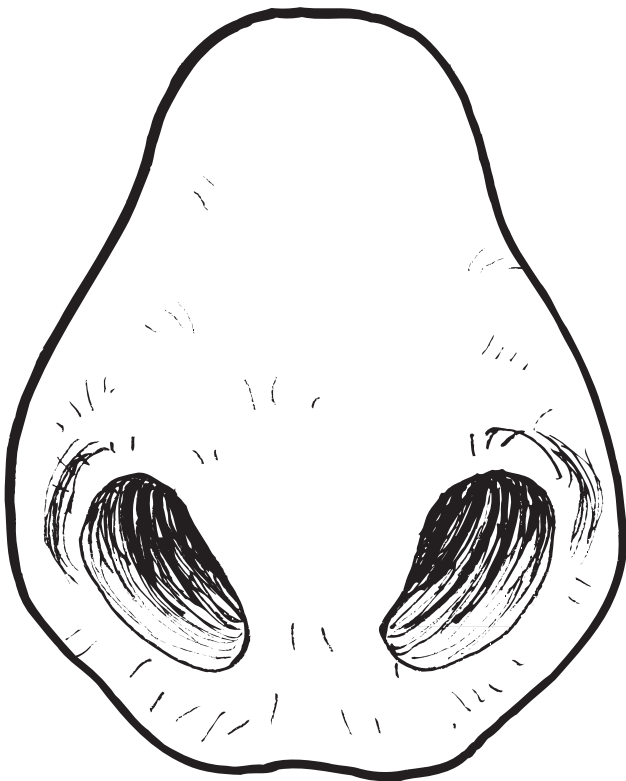
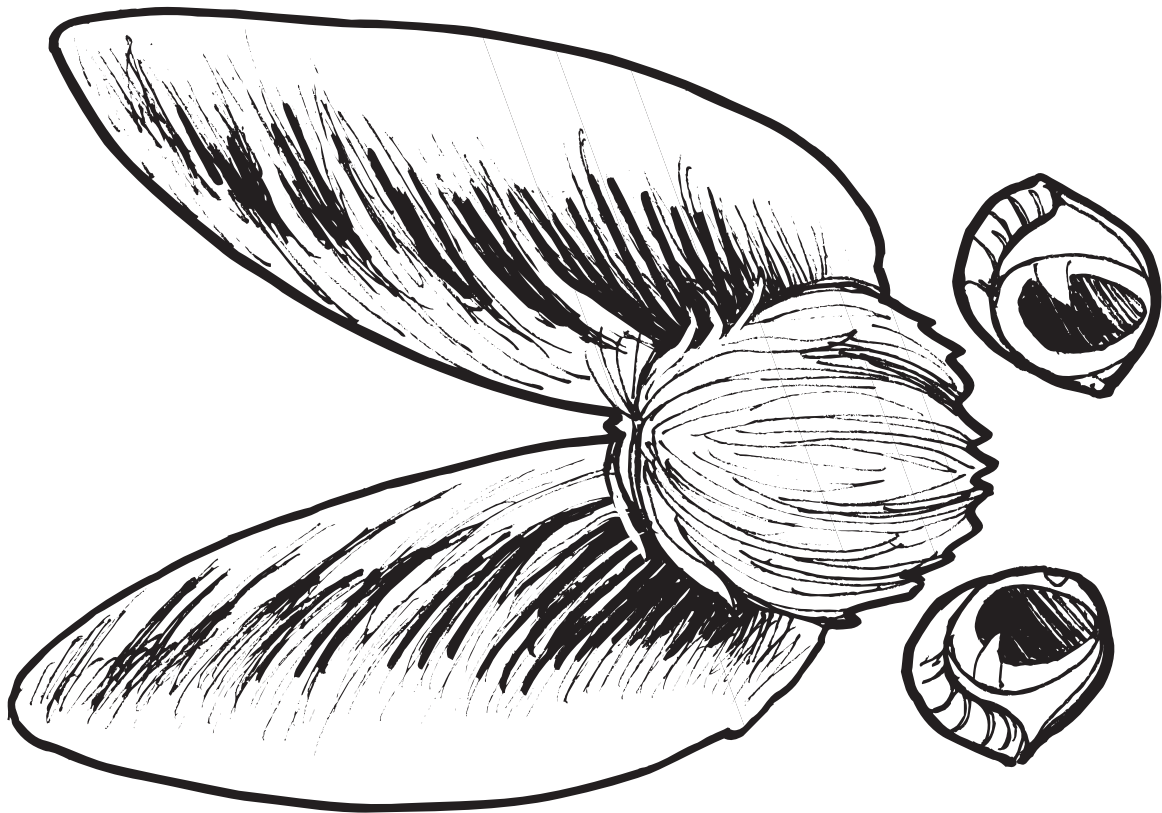
Say: **I can pay attention with my eyes—blink, blink.** (*blink eyes twice on "blink, blink"*)
I can pay attention with my mind—think, think. (*tap forehead twice on "think, think"*)
I can pay attention with my hands—watch this. (*pat leg twice on "watch this"*)
I can pay attention with my nose—sniff, sniff. (*point to nose on "sniff, sniff"*)
I can pay attention with my ears—listen now. (*cup hand around ear on "listen now"*)
I can pay attention to God—oh wow! (*jump up and down on "oh wow!"*)

Use these ideas to help your child become a FaithWeaver:

- Help your child use his or her ears to pay attention to the sounds of God's world. Sit with your child outside with your eyes closed. What sounds do you hear?
- Say a simple prayer, thanking God for ears to hear. Ask God to help you always pay attention to him.

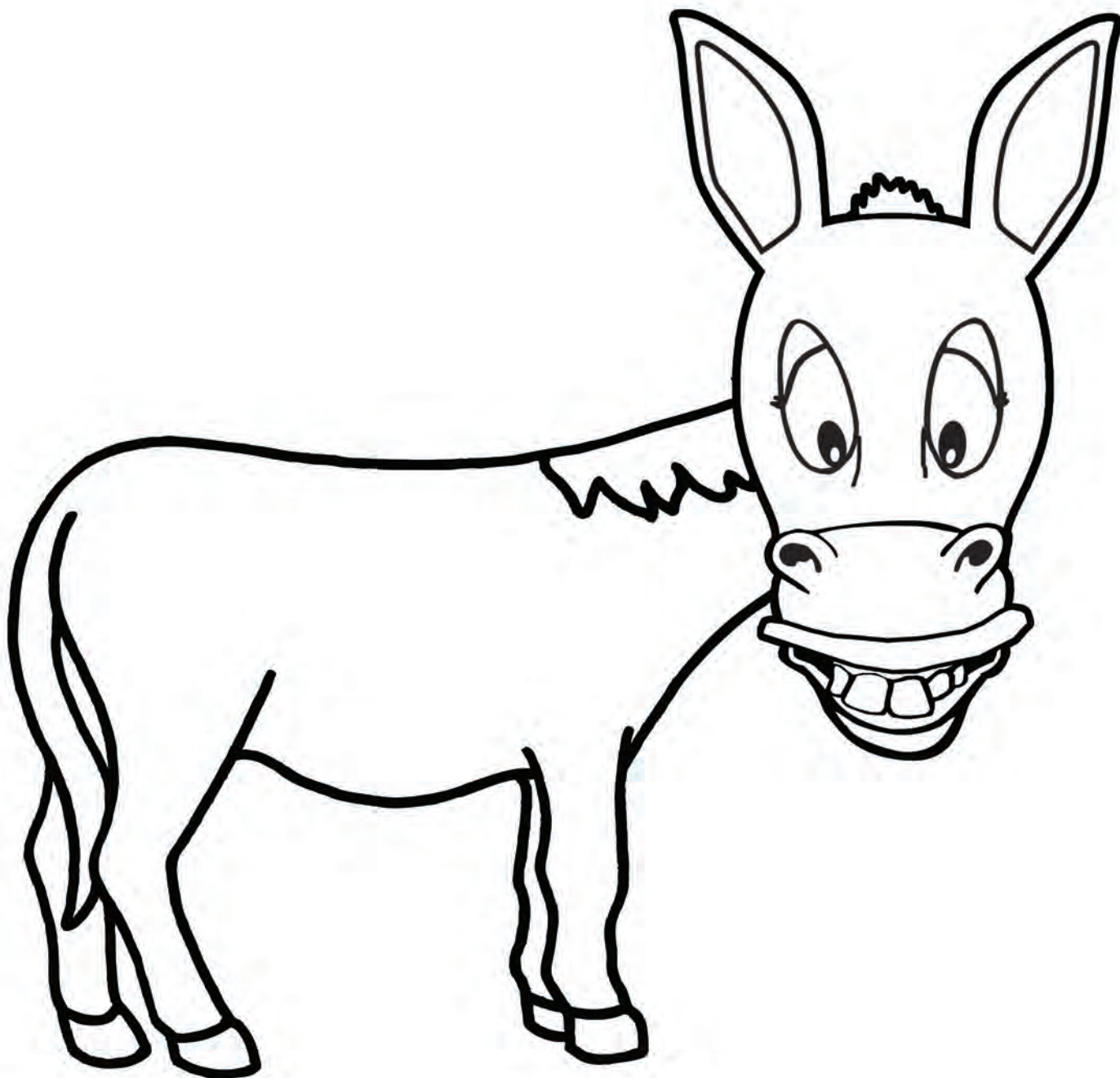


Donkey Face



OK
TO COPY
Illustrated by Nancy Munger.

Donkey



OK
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