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# *A Year in the Word*

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## **A Year in the Word: Part 14**

### **Small Group Questions: Divine Direction From a Donkey**

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#### **Read**

Numbers 22 through 24; Deuteronomy 2:9; Romans 8:31; and Galatians 6:1

#### **Reflect**

King Balak of Moab wrongly assumes the Israelites want to overrun his land. He does not know that God has given the Israelites instructions not to provoke or fight the Moabites because they are descendants of Lot (Abraham's nephew). So King Balak seeks out the prophet Balaam to curse the Israelites, and won't accept Balaam's refusal. After Balak's second offer, Balaam goes with the Moab princes, but God sends an angel with sword drawn to block the road. The donkey Balaam rides sees the angel and eventually refuses to go any further. Why was God upset with the prophet Balaam?

Pastor Josh Surratt offers us several lessons we can learn from a donkey:

1. It's never a good idea to be against what God is for or what God is against.
  - a. Have you ever gone the wrong way and didn't realize it? Explain.
  - b. When have you attempted to make something happen when God already said no? What were the results?
  - c. Is there something you're pursuing that could lead you off course?
2. When we step out of God's will, he often puts roadblocks in the way to get our attention.
  - a. Are you facing a roadblock right now? Explain.
  - b. How do you differentiate between warning signs, and needing to persevere and accept God's timing?
  - c. Balaam was blind to the danger of the angel blocking the road. What might be causing you or those you love to be blind to God's will?
3. When God puts a roadblock in your way, don't beat someone else up for it.
  - a. Balaam becomes angry at his donkey for not doing what he wants. When have you become angry with someone, only to learn they kept you from danger, pain, or making a serious error?
  - b. God uses a talking donkey to keep Balaam from going down the wrong path. What extremes has God used to get your attention?
  - c. How easy is it for those you love to tell you the truth?
  - d. How are you at delivering hard truths? What prevents you from bringing up difficult topics?
4. It's never too late to get back on the right path.
  - a. What do you think God wants to see most from us after we've sinned?
  - b. Balaam goes with the Moabites, but blesses rather than curses the Israelites. What else does he prophesy about?
  - c. How has God used your missteps to draw you closer to him?

**Respond:** Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?