



SDG Discussion Guide

Numbers 22-24

March 18, 2018

For starters:

When you receive more than your usual amount of messages or notifications on your phone or device, are you eager to attend to them? Or do you feel annoyed?

If you were to typecast your personality with that of an animal stereotype, what animal would fit you and why?

What is a mistake you have repeated multiple times and why?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.)

As you can, read aloud chapter 22 in your group. Before you begin the discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together, what points and questions of the text arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. What else did you notice? Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. Balak sends all the way to the Euphrates River basin for Balaam, twice (22:5, 15). What does that tell you about Balak's fear?
2. What does Balak want Balaam to do, ultimately? What does this reveal about his view of the relationship between humanity and God? How does this view differ from Balaam's?
3. Why does Balaam deny the messengers the first time (22:12-13)? Why, if he had a sure word from God then, does Balaam inquire of God again (22:18-19)? Why does God permit Balaam to go the second time but not at first?
4. Why do you think God is angry with Balaam for leaving (22:22), since just prior, he had told him to go and later repeats that command (22:20, 35)?
5. Where do you identify with Balaam the most? Ignoring God and going ahead? Kidding yourself about your motives? Experiencing adversity as a way God gets your attention? Being willing to turn back when you are convicted God says so?
6. What do you think God is teaching Balaam through his donkey (see 22:37-38; 23:12,20,26)?
7. What is your initial reaction to conflict: Like Balak? Like Balaam? Or what?
8. When have you found yourself resisting or even opposing God, to your surprise? How did that go for you?
9. When you want insight into God's will for your life, what do you do?
10. In the recent past, how has God removed obstacles keeping you from serving him? What part did you play in their removal? What did you learn?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to help you to pray. Ask God to speak to you and to show you anything you need to see in or around the content of this passage. Pause and sit in silence a while, listening.... Ask God to help you to respond. Ask God to both encourage and challenge you regarding any particular area where you may need it. Go forth this week in the confidence of God's guidance and direction for you and those around you in the ways you need most.

*These questions were adapted from The Serendipity Bible for Groups (Zondervan, 1998).