



## Leader's Guide

# Prophet Driven by Profit

*Numbers 22:21-38 | Pastor Nick Engle | June 21, 2026*

### Session Overview

This week, we will be discussing the story of Balaam, who was not an Israelite, but God chose to talk to him. He had the ability to curse and bless others and the king, Balak, wanted to hire him to curse the incoming Israelites. Balaam had a choice to make: help the Israelites or take the money Balak was offering to curse them. Today, we will talk about how God uses our gifts, the sacrifices God asks us to make in order to accept our gifts, and what sins we may need to repent from.

### Session Flow (60-75 minutes)

#### ***Welcome and Icebreaker (10 minutes)***

When was a time when you were stuck in the middle and neither option seemed like a good one? What did you do in the end and how did you come to that decision?

Purpose: To open up with a question that isn't too deep yet but gets everyone talking about how we make tough decisions in life.

#### ***Scripture Reading***

Read Numbers 22:21-38 aloud together.

#### **Leader Coaching Sidebar**

- One thing that can be uncomfortable is talking about what we are good at. When talking about the gifts God gives us, remember that it isn't bragging but gratitude for those gifts.
- We want to keep an atmosphere of hope in these discussions. Even though we are talking about repenting from sin, we want to always remember the redemption that comes with the Cross.
- Try to foster an atmosphere of community and to bring the group together to be able to lean on each other throughout the week in trying to stay on the path God has for us.
- Don't be afraid of silence. Sometimes it takes a moment for others to reflect.

## **Discussion (40-50 minutes)**

- 1. Like every other story in the Bible, Balaam is a human character with relatable flaws. What parts about Balaam's story do you relate to?**

*Leader Note: Examples - Balaam was not a part of the Israelite people, he had a special talent that could be used for evil, he was tempted by material wealth, etc.*

- 2. Think about who you were before Christ. What was something that God initially asked you to give up in order to move closer to Him?**

*Leader Note: Some people may have been a Christian for as long as they remember, but God still calls us closer to Him even after we find Christ.*

- 3. Is God calling you to only speak the words that He puts in your mouth just like he did for Balaam? What might God be trying to get you to say?**

*Leader Note: We don't just surrender our sin, we surrender our whole being. One of the hardest things to give up to God are our words.*

- 4. Our sin affects everything in our lives, including the people around us. Who might be affected by your sin?**

*Leader Note: Think about the donkey in the story. Balaam's donkey was loyal, never leading him astray, but his sin caused him to hurt her. Is there someone we hurt unintentionally?*

- 5. Has there ever been a time where you were presented with a choice to use your gifts for yourself or for others? Which did you choose?**

*Leader Note: We are given natural talents from God that can be used for ourselves and for the kingdom. Think about those gifts and how you have used them in the past.*

- 6. One thing about repentance is that we need to be willing to give up sin. Is there a sin in your life that you are struggling to give to God?**

*Leader Note: This could be a great opportunity for group vulnerability and connection. When one person shares a struggle, it encourages others to talk about their struggles.*

- 7. Is there a sin that you keep coming back to? How can we as a group help you to stay on the right path?**

*Leader Note: Connect the last question with this one. Like we learned last week, the biggest struggle is trying to do the Christian walk alone.*

- 8. Sometimes God wants us to surrender something in order to receive something. What might you be missing out on for fear of losing what you have?**

*Leader Note: Sometimes when we put the expectation on Jesus to be a conquerer, we are disappointed when He presents as a comforter. Reflect on these expectations.*

- 9. Is there something you think God is trying to give you or is there a natural talent that God is wanting to strengthen?**

*Leader Note: Encourage the group that this isn't bragging on ourselves but on what God has given us and done in our lives.*

- 10. What is a natural gift you think God has given to you? How could you use those gifts for the growth of the kingdom?**

*Leader Note: Remind the group that our experiences can help bring others towards change. Think of someone who may need some extra encouragement in their struggles.*

## ***Application and Prayer (10-15 minutes)***

Read Romans 7:14-25 as a group.

Paul talks about wanting to do good but doing evil instead. The only cure for the evil within us is to allow the Holy Spirit to fully take over our actions but that requires complete surrender. What is one thing you feel like God is asking you to surrender? How can we help each other in this journey of releasing control and letting the Spirit take over?

### **Closing Prayer Suggestion**

Lord we thank you for the resources you have given us. Whether it be money, a spiritual gift, or a special talent or skill, we want to recognize that you are the one who gave them to us. We didn't earn them but you graciously gave them. We lift our gifts to you; we ask you to make us a vessel to use them for your kingdom. When we are faced with the option to serve ourselves or serve You, guide us to choose You. Help us to turn away from our sins and make room for the gifts you desire to give us. Guide our hearts away from the temptation of greed and towards a generous Spirit to use our gifts for Your kingdom. In Your name we lift up our prayer to You, amen.