

Your Story – Distractions

God speaks to all of us. We won't necessarily hear his actual voice, but he makes himself known!

Balaam was an advisor to the king of Moab. Balaam had the reputation of being able to bless or curse people. Moab was a pagan civilization in the Promised Land that the Israelites were conquering. When the King saw the Israelites approaching, he sent Balaam to curse them. But on his way to do the king's bidding, Balaam encountered an angel of God who had been sent to give Balaam a message. The problem was, Balaam was so distracted by the thought of the reward the king had offered him, that he failed to recognize God's message. So God made himself known in a very hard-to-miss way! In the end, Balaam heard God's message to him – the message that he would be able to only bless the Israelites, not curse them (**Numbers 22:21-41**). You can see a video version of the story [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PaRIJ_hfNo). (God's Story: Balaam https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PaRIJ_hfNo)



There are lots of distractions in our own lives and lots of people giving us messages. We have friends to talk to, TV shows to watch, games to play on our tablets. Lots of these messages are very interesting and enticing. Sometimes they are so interesting that we don't recognize that they are not helping us become better people, or giving us good information. God wants us to hear His message, and he will make sure that we hear it.

In the Bible there are lots of instances where God "spoke" to someone. It wasn't always a voice, though sometimes it was. Here are some examples of God "speaking."

To Paul in a flash of light and a loud voice – Acts 9:4

To Elijah in a still, small voice – 1 Kings 9:13

To Mary through an angel – Luke 1:28

To Samuel in a dream – 1 Samuel 3:10

Other people have described the "voice of God" as a calling or a 'gut feeling'. Sometimes it is an unexpected thought or a feeling. It might be an idea to do or say something that surprises you. Whatever the manner, God will make His messages clear to you! And lucky for us, the Holy Spirit will help us recognize God's voice and understand the meaning.

Hearing and acting on the messages that God sends you is an important part of developing your own testimony – a story that describes your relationship with God.

Over the next several weeks we will be considering our relationship with God and thinking about our own testimonies. Each week we will be completing a page in "My Storybook" as we think about how we are important to God. That understanding will help us recognize how God is talking to us. Complete the first page for yourself.



From the moment I was created, I was unique and special and amazing!



What is my full name?

Do I have any nicknames?



Draw or add picture of family HERE!

★ Don't forget PETS ★

Who is in my family? Who are the people who take care of me?

