1. *Read the story of* ***Balaam and the Angel*** *– and Balaam’s donkey – in* ***Numbers 22:21-31*** *below:*

21 Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab. 22 God’s anger burned because he went; and Yahweh’s angel placed himself in the way as an adversary against him. Now he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. 23 The donkey saw Yahweh’s angel standing in the way, with his sword drawn in his hand; and the donkey turned out of the path, and went into the field. Balaam struck the donkey, to turn her into the path. 24 Then Yahweh’s angel stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, a wall being on this side, and a wall on that side. 25 The donkey saw Yahweh’s angel, and she thrust herself to the wall, and crushed Balaam’s foot against the wall. He struck her again.

26 Yahweh’s angel went further, and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. 27 The donkey saw Yahweh’s angel, and she lay down under Balaam. Balaam’s anger burned, and he struck the donkey with his staff.

28 Yahweh opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, ‘What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?’

29 Balaam said to the donkey, ‘Because you have mocked me, I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would have killed you.’

30 The donkey said to Balaam, ‘Am I not your donkey, on which you have ridden all your life long until today? Was I ever in the habit of doing so to you?’

He said, ‘No.’

31 Then Yahweh opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw Yahweh’s angel standing in the way, with his sword drawn in his hand; and he bowed his head, and fell on his face.

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1. *Discuss the story with a partner or small group. What are the main events of the story? Who are the characters? What does each character want (their objective)? How does it end? What ‘journey’ does each character go on during the story? What is the meaning of the story? Why was it written down?*
2. *With your partner or small group, write a* ***summary of the text*** *in* ***exactly 15 words****. The word limit* ***must*** *be respected! Set a time limit, e.g. 10 minutes, then, each pair or group reads their sentence out loud to the class. Teacher and other students provide error correction and give general feedback. Consider how the word limit affected your use of language.*
3. *Repeat step c) except write a summary of the text in* ***exactly 10 words****.*
4. *Repeat step c) except write a summary of the text in* ***exactly 5 words****.*
5. *Repeat step c) except write a summary of the text in* ***exactly 1 word****.*
6. *The whole class discusses: how easy was it to summarise the text? How did you decide what to leave in and what to omit? Has it changed the way you thought about this Bible story at the beginning of the lesson?*