

# Connecting Church and Home

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Quarter 4, Week 8 :: **God's Promised Deliverer**

**Treasure Story:** Numbers 22 & 24:1-19

Sometimes things just don't go as planned. No matter how hard we try, we cannot guarantee that all the things we want to happen will actually come to pass. This was certainly true of King Balak in our Treasure Story today. He was fearful of the children of Israel. He did not want them to succeed in their quest to conquer Canaan. He even hired Balaam the prophet to prophesy against the Israelites and curse them. To Balak's chagrin, not only was Balaam not able to curse the Israelites, but God caused Balaam to actually bless them. In Balaam's blessing, we also learn more of the Deliverer that God had promised way back in Genesis 3:15.

## Connect

"Ah, the heathen may 'rage' and the people imagine a 'vain thing'; the kings of the earth may 'set themselves', and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against His Christ . . . but God knows that He can crush men like moths when He pleases, or consume them in a moment with the breath of His mouth. Ah, it is but 'a vain thing' for the potsherds of the earth to strive with the glorious Majesty of Heaven. Such is our God; worship ye Him."

- A. W. Pink, *The Sovereignty of God*, pg. 42

God sovereignly rules in the affairs of men and accomplishes His plans—not in spite of our choices but through them. He even uses our attempts to resist Him to bring glory to His name. We see this happening in today's Treasure Story. Instead of Balak's efforts resulting in the Israelites being cursed, they actually are blessed. Here are a few ways to get your family thinking about the power and majesty of God's sovereignty at work in our lives:

- **Things We Can't Explain:** Have you and your family ever taken time to reflect on things that have happened in your lives that you can't explain? Many times God is at work in small and big ways that we fail to notice or attribute to His sovereign reign over us. Take some time to discuss these things with your children and then praise the Lord together for what He has done.
- **Everything Has a Reason:** How often do you and your family thank the Lord for everything—the good and the bad? It's so easy to get caught up in the busyness of life that we sometimes allow events to slip by us and chalk them up as random events. If God's Word is true, there is no such thing as a random event. Everything that happens to us happens by permission of God and is accomplishing His ultimate purpose, which is to glorify His name and to do us good (Romans 8:28).

## My Mission As Parent

- Do you catch yourself using words such as "random," "chance," and "luck" frequently? How much better for you and your children to improve your vocabulary and your focus on God by using words like "purpose," "sovereignty," and "providence" instead.
- Think of the comfort and hope that you and your children will have as you see all things—good and bad—as part of God's sovereign plan to restore His creation and bring us back to Himself.

## Prayer Points

- Pray for the Lord to help you see His sovereign hand guiding all things.
- Ask the Lord to remind you of His ability to cause all things to work together for His glory and for our good.
- Pray with your children and thank the Lord for using even seemingly bad things to further His plan to heal us and make us His own.