



**Date: February 20, 2022**

Message: "In Search of Oz: Finding God's Purpose in Our Trials"

Teacher: Billy Burch

## Message-based Study

Video is available online at: [visitccc.com](http://visitccc.com)

### **Connection**

What is your favorite winter Olympic sport?

### **Cheer and Challenge**

- How did it go living out your "I will..." statement from last week? Share your experience.
- Tell about any experiences you had this week following through on the B.L.E.S.S. challenge.

### **Content**

#### ***Live in expectation that God is real and His power cannot be stopped.***

Numbers 21-24 tells the story of Balaam, a prophet of God, and the Israelites as they continue their journey to the Promised Land .

#### **1. Resist the temptation to give up ~ Numbers 21:20-23, 33-34**

Like the Israelites, we experience road blocks and obstacles in life that can tempt us to give up on God and His promises to us.

From these verses, what obstacle did the Israelites face?

What opportunity did God turn that into?

What obstacles are you facing right now that might be tempting you to give up on God?

How might God use your obstacle for an opportunity to show Himself faithful to meet your need?

#### ***If God has made you a promise, He will fulfill it!***

Read the following verses and make a list of what we are to do when we face obstacles.

James 1:2-4, Romans 5:3-5, Hebrews 10:23

## 2. Resist the temptation to give in ~ Number 22:1-8, 21-35

In these verses, what was it that tempted Balaam to possibly give in to the Moabites?

Balaam seemed to have one ear listening to the requests of the Moabites and one ear listening to God. Perhaps trying to please both, how did Balaam compromise God's plan for the Israelites and what the King of Moab wanted for the Israelites?

Take a moment to evaluate your life and how you have responded to trials and obstacles. How might you have been tempted to give in to those difficulties?

Read Isaiah 55:10-12. Write out the promise that God declares to us through the prophet.

### **Commitment**

God cannot be stopped. We have to make a choice to not limit God by giving up and compromising on what God says. Below, write what you will do this week to not give up on God or not compromise on God's word.

I will \_\_\_\_\_.



**Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve. Share your story.**

**Listen with care** to someone in your life who needs to know they are loved. As you listen, be mindful to not jump in to share your own struggles. Listening fully will communicate God's love for that person.