

FOREWORD BY KATHY IDE

Donkey Devos

LISTEN WHEN GOD SPEAKS



SUSAN K. STEWART

2025 Donkey Devo Guide for Lent

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The Lenten season is a time of preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Messiah. Lent is forty days, excluding Sundays, beginning on Ash Wednesday. Forty days is said to imitate Jesus’s forty days of temptation in the wilderness. Sundays may be excluded because it is a day of rest, and each Sunday is a celebration of the Messiah.



Ash Wednesday

March 5	How I Learned to Love Donkeys	Mt. 22:39
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Jesus teaches us to love others as much as ourselves. During the Lenten days leading up to Easter, think of ways to love others as Jesus would. Create a calendar and mark a cross each day you lovingly helped someone at home, at church, in the neighborhood. Read “Give to the least”

<https://www.susankstewart.com/give-least/>



March 6	The Peaceable Kingdom	Is. 11:6
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How hard is it to get along with others? It can be difficult or easy. Often, we shift the problem to the other person—*If only they would...* Too often we fail to recognize we may be the lion. Ponder today how you can create a more peaceable kingdom—beginning with you.



March 7	Donkeys-God's Messengers	Ps 85:8
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Lent is a time of reflection, to look to God for peace, joy, hope, listen for the quiet spirit, think on all God has done. We must be quiet to hear God’s messengers. Spend time throughout the day blocking out the noise, even the noise in our own heads, to hear God speak. Strive to make this a daily practice.



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March 8 Go to the Donkey Lk 11:28

How is possible to listen for comfort and direction from God when we're running hither and yon? God always finds a way. Balaam's donkey is an example of God demanding attention. We'll be blessed if we quiet ourselves and listen to the donkey God sends our way.

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Sunday

March 9

Comfort

2 Cor. 1:3

Where do you seek comfort? Job went to his friends. How did that work out? Not so well. David looked for comfort in others, in God's rules. Ultimately, he found it in God's love (Ps. 119:76). Paul tells us God is the source of all comfort. Worship the Father of all mercy today. Seek him alone for comfort.



March 10

Balaam and the Angel

Ez 3:21

During Lent we look at how we live our lives. During the past year, have we had warnings of pitfalls in our life? Did we heed those warnings? Write a list of warnings not heeded. What can be done to change the situation?



March 11

Pumpkin Moves

Lk 9:62

As we examine our lives, it's easy to view the past as more comfortable than what we face in the future. God has our future in his hands. If we look to Jesus rather than ourselves, what is before us doesn't need to be so scary. Look at a past event. Was it as comfortable as memory serves? Do you need to grab Jesus's hand to face something coming?



March 12

Haltering Donkeys

Ps 143:10

Donkeys may not be stubborn, but they do need guidance at times. At those times, we use a halter and rope. Our experience has been the donks will accept the halter with no fuss. Are we the same when we need God to guide us? Or do we pull away from his halter? In what areas of your life do you need God's halter?



March 13

Georgia May's Injury

Ps 34:18

The past couple of years have been painful in so many ways. I don't think a one of us is exempt. The truth is we all suffer some type of pain many times in

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our lives. God is ready to comfort and heal. What pain needs to be taken to God today?



March 14 The Great Donkey Chase Pro 3:5

Chasing a donkey can be easier than chasing solutions for our problems. Family problem, business problem, financial problem—it doesn't matter. We can chase it all around with no solution. Often, we give up. That's when God, who has been watching the mad problem dash, quietly nudges us to the solution he had all the time. Are there problems we need to stop trying to fix with our own solutions? What do we need to let God handle?



March 15 Don't Be a Balaam Nu 22:28

We may not hear directly from a donkey as Balaam did. I know if one of my donkeys spoke directly to me, I certainly would listen. God speaks to us in many ways. He chooses what we need to hear in a way we can hear it. Too often though, we don't listen. What is God saying you need to listen to? Let's spend time today listening.





Sunday

March 16 **Conciliation** Col 3:13

“The effort to establish harmony & goodwill.” Conciliation is our effort to live with peace and goodwill with others. As we prepare our hearts for worship today, let’s pray to be an instrument of conciliation in our homes, churches, communities.



March 17 Guard Donkey Deut 31:6

Isn’t it wonderful to know the real guardian of the galaxy? He is with us night and day through every tribulation and tear. We are told to guard our hearts (Pro. 4:23), and God is our guardian. What do we try to protect on our own? Ponder how you try to be your own guard donkey.




March 18 Jeb Talking to the Girls Ps 145:18

As when a donkey family is separated, when we are away from family and friends, we want to stay connected. Sometimes we feel disconnected from God. He’s there. All we need to call to him—he’ll hear and listen. What do we need to tell God today? He’s there waiting for the connection.



March 19 The Singing Donkey Ps 95:1-2

Georgia May’s unusual singing bray was a sound of joy. What better time to sing with delight than now as we look forward to celebrating the resurrection of our Savior? What can we sing joyfully about today and the days leading up to Easter? Think of a favorite worship song to sing with gusto today. 

March 20 Donkeys are Social I John 1:3

God found it’s not good for humans to be alone. Jesus experienced aloneness in the garden when he was praying and, most assuredly, on the cross. We weren’t meant to go it solo.

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What can be done when we believe ourselves to be alone, without any companionship? What was Elijah's reaction in I Kings 19?



March 21 Now He's Alone Deut 31:8

Donkeys, like people, are social creatures. When Jeb was by himself, he became lonely, much the same way humans can be lonely. We need others like us. Who might need someone to visit, to talk to? Visit to someone who may live alone. Bring hope and joy with you.



March 22 It's A Unicorn Jn 8:12

Oh, so often we think we have a good view of life. When, in fact, we're only looking at the dim outline. Jesus lights our way. Sometimes our way can seem dark. When we turn around to the Light, we see truth ahead of us. What appears dark today? Ask Jesus to turn the light on.





Sunday

March 23

Charity

Mt. 6:2 (NLT)

Charity, as often used in the Bible, is described as “the highest form of love.” Giving to a stranger in need is an act of love—giving without expectation of a return. Jesus exhibited the ultimate charity He gave his life in love. Look for opportunities to love a fellow human without blowing our horn.



Our society has become driven by fear. We seem to be most frightened of strangers, especially someone who appears to be a street dweller. Jesus teaches us to be friends with strangers. Go the extra mile for them. Look for opportunities to show love to strangers.



People are called animal whisperers when they seem to be able to communicate with the creatures. God is a people-whisperer. He calls to us in a still, small voice. God whispers. Spend time listening for murmurs from him throughout the day.



How often do we have a great plan, then we ask God to bless it? Do you think God chuckles when we do that? God has a plan far superior to ours. Like the seemingly stubborn donkey, we cling to our plan no matter the difficulties. Spend time talking over plans with God. What needs to be released? What better plan do you hear from him?



March 24

Samaritan's donkey

Lk 10:37

March 25

Donkey Whisperer

I Kings 19:12-13

March 26

What Made Us Think?

Pro 3:5-6

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March 27

The Donkey's
Cross

Mt 16:24

Tradition says the cross markings on the back of a donkey come from the shadow of Christ's cross on a donkey. Our cross is the burden of sin. The shadow of the cross of Jesus covers our burden. Spend time reflecting on the burden of our cross and allow Jesus's cross to cover it.



March 28

Jeb Eats Boxes

James 1:19-20

Our donkey Jeb likes cardboard, particularly the cardboard of delivery boxes. Several times a box has been set to close to the pasture fence within reach of a mischievous equine. I could be angry with Jeb, the delivery driver, or even myself. Nothing would change. God tells us to listen more, talk less, and be slow to anger. How do these three instructions go together? Ask God to show you ways this week to practice them.

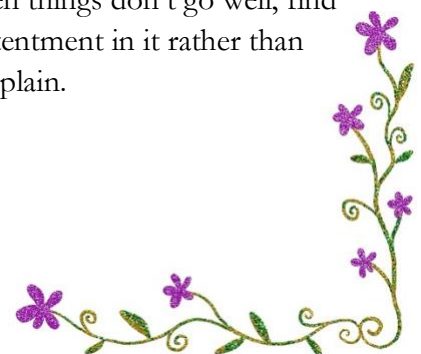


March 29

Donkey
Contentment

Phil 4:10-11

Our donkeys rarely complain. Well, except when they think more feed is needed. How about us? Don't we seem to look for opportunities to complain? We're told to be content, which is the opposite of complaining. When things don't go well, find contentment in it rather than complain.



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Sunday

March 30

Conscience

I Cor 4:4
(NLT)

Our conscience helps us to distinguish between right and wrong. At least twice, the Bible records that David’s conscience bothered him (I Sam 24:5 & 2 Sam 24:10) for disobedience. Paul tells the Corinthians his conscience is clear, but God would be the judge. As we move through these days of reflection, let’s ask the Holy Spirit to reveal—judge—our conscience. Is it clear or do we need to confess?



Have you ever been bored? Our donkeys will get bored and create some mischief in the Peaceable Kingdom. Have you ever been bored in your Christian life? I have. Instead of creating mischief, I quit—quit spending time with God. When this happens, God in his wisdom shakes up my life so I see joy in him again. Are you bored now? Ask God to jolt you from the ordinary to extraordinary.



Ever wonder why God comes to us with a small voice, a whisper. Like many animals, we respond to a gentle word. He knows how to woe us. Jesus went to Calvary quietly without even a whisper to draw us to God’s throne. Let’s listen to our voices this week. Are we screeching or speaking in a small voice? When we speak quietly, we hear others—we can also hear God.

March 31

Jeb and the
Feed Bucket

I Peter 2:25

April 1

A Thrasher

Pro 15:4

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April 2 Mr. Not-So-Donkey-Friendly Luke 17:23

Donkeys are cautious. They will stop if unsure about the path ahead. They'll also not respond to harsh words. Donkeys don't follow along a path because everyone else is. Unlike donkeys, we tend to take the path the crowd is following—even if it's uncomfortable. God has an easier, smoother path for us if we'll break away to follow him. What is our path this week, is it the rough way of others? Or are we traveling on God's easy road?



April 3 Delight Ps 119:35

David writes to delight in the Lord. That's easy, right? It's easy if life is smooth. When the going gets tough, delight isn't always our first choice. Our delight is in God, not in the comfort of our lives. Life has been tough recently. Despite all the negative around us, what can we delight in now? How can we express joy during dark days?



April 4 Nestor I Sam 16:7

The story of Nestor is not well known. Nestor is a donkey with overly long ears—a misfit. No matter his status among the other donkeys, he was chosen to be Mary's ride to Bethlehem. God uses the oddlings throughout the Bible—David, a small shepherd boy; Rahab, a prostitute; Zacchaeus, a short tax collector. How do we feel odd or out of place in the 21st century? What unique feature do you have that God can use for the benefit of all?

April 5

What's in a
Name?

Mal 3:6

We are known by our name. Some people don't like the name given at birth and have it changed. Our name connects us to others. Even if we change it, we don't want to change the connection. Several names are used for God. Whether it's Yahweh, Jehovah, Christ, we know who we're talking about. Why? Because God doesn't change. People may change, but the Lord remains the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. What is the meaning of your name? Have you ever wanted to change it? Which name for God is most meaningful to you.

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Sunday

April 6

Confess

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins . . .” our sins will be forgiven, and we’ll be cleansed. Jesus suffered and died, took our punishment, so we can be forgiven and declared clean. Our part is to confess—admit our sins. As we approach Holy Week, let’s spend time each day searching our souls for what we need to confess. Then thank Jesus for the cleansing he provided.



In this age of instant access to information, it’s too easy to see a tidbit of information and draw a conclusion. All too often, assumptions are made on partial details. We don’t know the rest of the story. Do we want to be on the receiving end of gossip or rumors? Of course not. As we scroll through social media, let’s begin the habit of prayerful consideration of what is posted. Let’s not be quick to judge without the whole story.



April 7

Another Side
of the Story

Luke 6:31

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We all need love. And we can all share love—maybe not as enthusiastically as Neesy though. How can we show love to others? Now is a good time to begin the habit of showing love through little actions. Soon it will be a habit. Jesus told us there's no greater love than to die for someone else (Jn. 15:13). That's exactly what he did for us on the cross.



Trust seems in short supply these days. We doubt the news, don't expect politicians to care about our interest, even neighbors are quite so neighborly anymore. Does this lack of trust spill over to our relationship with God? I confess it does for me. This is a good time to examine our hearts. Who do we trust? Is God at the top of the list?



From the beginning God has had a good plan for each of us. An individual plan to fit our personality, circumstances, and needs. Being sinful and stubborn humans, though, we tend to think we have a better way. What audacity to think we have an idea that will work better than God's. Have you had a plan you thought would work better than God's? Have you ignored God's plan? We all have. Seek him. Learn what good plan he has for you ... and follow it.

Many people want to be in charge, whether at home, at church, or in the community. We need to be cautious who we follow. The loudest

April 8 Neesy Needs Love John 3:16



April 9 Pumpkin's Trust Proverbs 29:25

April 10 Moving Donkeys Pro 19:21

April 11 Neesy Follows Jeb John 10:27

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person, the friendliest person, or even the cutest person isn't always the one God wants us to follow. Seek God's guidance. Who should you be following? Does the person meet God's standards? Ultimately, we need to follow him.



Palm Sunday April 13

Celebrate

John 12:14-15

Modern story-telling has us believe kings come in riding high on a horse, usually a large horse. Few think of a king on a donkey. In the time of Jesus, a king rode a donkey as a symbol of peace. Jesus riding a donkey showed he was the king, coming not as a warrior, but as a peacemaker. As we look forward to the coming day of resurrection, let's celebrate the coming of the king of peace. How can we be instruments of that peace?



Nessy has solid-colored hair, no white around her eyes or muzzle. She is considered a genetic mutation—a mistake. God doesn't make mistakes. None of us is without a weakness. God made each of us individuals, warts and all, for his good purpose. Praise him for the special "mistakes" he has given us and his special plan.



We are more like donkeys than we want to admit. Companionship is one of those similarities. Like our small equine friends, we like to be around others—even when we fuss or bicker. The past two years

April 14 No Light Points

Ps 139:4

April 15 Social Creatures

Heb 10:24-25

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has separated many from family and friends. Let's spend some time this week to re-connect.

History gives us examples of kings riding on donkeys rather than horse. Why? Donkeys, with their humble demeanor, symbolize peace. A leader coming in peace comes on a donkey. A horse means power. Leaders rode horses into battle. Maybe that's the origin of the phrase "on their high horse." How are we perceived: riding a high horse or a humble donkey? Pray for the peaceful humility of Jesus—be a donkey.



I wonder if the disciples entered the upper room thinking it was just another routine Passover meal. Probably not; because Jesus had recently entered the gates as a peaceful king. Still, they were expecting something from him. Hanging on a cross of shame wasn't it. Do we enter worship expecting something from God or others? What do we do when our expectations aren't met? Think about that last meal. Worship the Christ who was preparing to give all for his friends.



The night before Jesus was taken to the cross, his loved disciple, Peter, denied him three times. Do you think Peter may have later felt useless to the church God was building? Peter became a pillar of that church. God can use any of us if we're open to his leading. Today let's pray how God may use us in

April 16 Donkeys: Ride of Kings Zech 9:9

Maundy Thursday

April 17 As Bored as a donkey Ps 100:4

Good Friday



April 18 Donkey Size I Peter 5:9

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his kingdom no matter whether we feel we're worthy or not.

We imagine the Christ followers huddled behind closed doors on the days between the crucifixion and Jesus's rising. They probably couldn't see beyond the despair and dangers of the moment. The disciples were likely distracted by the world around them. What about us? Are we distracted from the glory to come? Do the events of the world divert our focus? Spend time today looking ahead to the glory God has for us in the future.

April 19 Distracted by
Green Grass

Ps 23:2



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Easter



April 20

Donkeys as a
Symbol of Wealth

Sam 16:7

The morning dawned for Jesus's friends and family the same way as the previous day. Their friend and leader was lying dead in a cave ... or so they thought. They only knew what they could see with their human eyes. God saw something different. He saw the glory of the risen Christ. For God, this day was the culmination of his plan of salvation. We don't look upon the world as God does. We see the outside; God sees the unseen—the heart. Rejoice! Christ arose! Look for the heart of others so they too can see what God sees.

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About *Donkey Devos*

Did you know the Bible mentions only two talking animals? Each of these creatures had a different message. The first to speak out was the serpent. This character certainly wasn't a model. If God was using this snake for a test drive, I can see why he kept the mouths of the other animals closed. This snake in the grass spoke words meant for evil. About two millennium later another animal spoke—the lowly donkey. The beast of burden. This time the animal had words of wisdom.

Susan K. Stewart expected dogs, cats, and the occasional goldfish would be all the pets she'd need. Until the day she met donkeys at a rescue center. A few years after that fateful visit, three donkeys became part of the Stewart family. Susan soon learned these humble creatures are still messengers of wisdom.

Recent Amazon reviews include:

“This endearing devotional collection contains enlightening and entertaining personal stories of interaction with these amazing animals and the spiritual lessons the author has learned from donkeys.”

“This was quite a unique devotional centered on the one animal you may never think much on; the donkey. The author has quite the knowledge on these gentle animals as the devotionals are based on her interactions of her own donkeys.”

“After reading these delightful devotions, I was ready to adopt a donkey and learn valuable lessons about God's ways of revealing His love.”

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