



Worship Illustration: Script
Critter Kingdom
Kings & Kingdoms Part 1: The Life of Jesus
Unit 5, Lesson 23

The Lost Sheep

Luke 15:4-7

Running time: Approximately 5 minutes

Setting: This series (Units 5 & 6) is set in the barn area of an outdoor camp. The set is designed to look like the interior of a barn, which is the set for Ranger Reggie's talk show, Critter Kingdom. There is a door to enter, a fireplace with stuffed animal heads over the mantle, and a ramp (or steps) to invite children up to participate in object lessons. Orville (a bird on a zip line) slides down and lands in a box containing a plastic egg. The Bible is kept in a crate that lights up; music plays when opened. There are different openings, trapdoors, and windows from which the animal of the day can fall and characters and puppets can pop up.

Characters: Ranger Reggie is Camp Venture's Head Bible Counselor and host of the weekly talk show "Critter Kingdom". He is a former explorer and animal expert. (For added humor, he pronounces all "R"s and "L"s as a "W.") Orville is a klutzy carrier pigeon (silent toy bird attached to a zip line) that delivers messages. Fluffy is a confused and somewhat upset sheep whose role can be performed live or on video.

Plot: In this episode of "Critter Kingdom," Ranger Reggie introduces his friend Fluffy, the irritated sheep. They read the Parable of the Lost Sheep. Reggie points out that when the shepherd finds the sheep, he rejoices. We learn we are each important to Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

Costumes: Pith helmet, camouflage shorts, camp shirt, vest, mustache and eyeglasses. Sheep head piece, sunglasses, white leotard or sweats, shorts with tail sewn on.

Props: Toy bird on a zip line, plastic egg, falcon puppet or stuffed animal, Bible. Note: Each episode introduces a different creature. These may be ten separate puppets, stuffed animals, or one basic sock puppet to represent the 10 following creatures: Falcon (Lesson 23), Earthworm (Lesson 24), Bear (Lesson 25), Ant (Lesson 26), Turkey (Lesson 27), Seagull (Lesson 28), Ostrich (Lesson 29), Pigeon (Lesson 30), Piglet (Lesson 31), Donkey (Lesson 32).

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro/Outro music suggestions: "I Like to Move It, Move It" from Madagascar
2. Lion's roar
3. Bible crate: "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" or other jungle song clip. Music plays when crate is opened during each episode to reveal the Bible.

Visual effects (VFX):

1. Video Intro featuring Ranger Reggie is available at Resourcewell.org
2. Critter Kingdom slide
3. Photo or video clip of falcon
4. A crate holds the Bible. When opened, light shines out and music plays.
5. Scripture Slide: **And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep."**
Luke 15:6b
6. Camper's Code slide:

**I will love God with all my heart.
I will love my neighbor as myself.
I will be a light wherever I go!**

Adaptations:

1. Sound Effects: instead of using recorded effects, have children make the sounds
2. Voiceovers: may be spoken off stage
3. This illustration is also available in storybook form at ResourceWell.org

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Voiceover (VFX: video intro)

You are about to join us on an adventure. My name is Ranger Reggie, intrepid explorer, former Marine, Bible-lover and friend to animals everywhere. I've traveled the four corners of the globe, climbed mountains, forged rivers and faced countless dangers to bring you the world's most interesting creatures...this is Critter Kingdom! (SFX: "I Like to Move It, Move It")

Reggie

(Pronouncing each "R" and "L" as a "W".)

Hello! Hello, boys and girls! Welcome to Critter Kingdom! (SFX: Lion's roar) **I'm the forest ranger here at Camp Venture. And I'm the host of Critter Kingdom,** (SFX: Lion's roar) **Ranger Reggie. Can you say that with me?**

Children and Reggie **Ranger Reggie!**

Reggie

Not Ranger Reggie. It's Ranger Reggie! Try it again!

Children and Reggie **Ranger Reggie!**

Reggie

Close enough. Every week on Critter Kingdom, (SFX: Lion's roar) **we will introduce you to a new and interesting animal. We call it our Creature Feature!** (SFX: "I Like to Move It, Move It") **We have a special friend named Orville, the carrier pigeon, who delivers our messages. Let's**

see if Orville can tell us who is today's featured creature. Let's all call him by shouting, "Hey Orville, come on down!" Ready?

Children and Reggie

"Hey Orville, come on down!" (Orville slides down and crashes through window; egg drops down into fireplace.)

Reggie

Orville laid an egg. Let's see what's inside. Today's Creature Feature is the Falcon. (VFX: photo or video clip of falcon in flight) **Let me go get one.** (Exit & reenter holding falcon puppet) **This is Perry; he is a peregrine falcon. Falcons have very good eyesight. In fact, in medieval times, falcons were used for hunting or to find things that were lost.**

Fluffy (enters w/ Bible)

Hey, that reminds me of a Bible story.

Reggie

Oh, look kids! It's my old friend, Fluffy, the irritated sheep. How are you, Fluffy?

Fluffy

(Irritated.) **You gotta read this story Jesus told in the book of Luke.**

Reggie

All right, let me get my Bible out right now! (SFX: "The Lion Sleeps Tonight.") **Here it is—the story of the lost sheep. Oh, this is one of the parables Jesus told His followers!**

Fluffy

Yeah, but read what it says!

Reggie

Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them..."

Fluffy

All right, stop right there! Do you see that? What kind of shepherd is that? He's supposed to be taking care of the sheep and he loses one!

Reggie

Let me finish. "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?"

Fluffy

Okay! Are you hearing what I'm hearing? That shepherd left ninety-nine sheep unattended! Now that's just bad shepherding!

Reggie

Calm down, Fluffy. It's not a real shepherd. It's just a parable.

Fluffy

A pair of bulls?! He left ninety-nine sheep and a pair of bulls sitting out there too?! I'm calling P.E.T.A.!

Reggie

Not a pair of bulls, a parable! Parables are stories Jesus told to teach us what the kingdom of God is like.

Fluffy

That's what the kingdom of God is like? Shepherds abandoning poor defenseless sheep?!

Reggie

Fluffy, you're getting worked up over nothing. Let me read the good part! "And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'" (VFX: Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.")

Fluffy

Rejoice? You mean the shepherd was celebrating?

Reggie

Absolutely!

Fluffy

Celebrating over one sheep? But why?

Reggie

Don't you see, Fluffy? This story is an example Jesus used to show us that in His kingdom, every single one of us is very special to Him. Can you imagine how you would feel if you were that one lost sheep?

Fluffy

Well, I...I guess if I wandered away, I'd be excited the shepherd found me and brought me safely back to the flock.

Reggie

We're all like the sheep—sometimes we wander away from God. Jesus is like that shepherd! When we are wandering far from Jesus, He looks for us and just like the sharp-eyed falcon, He finds us and brings us back close to Him! In fact, the Bible says there is more rejoicing in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and comes back to God than over ninety-nine people who don't need to repent!

Fluffy

Repent? What's a repent?

Reggie

To repent is to turn away from doing things we know are wrong in God's eyes. We call those things 'sins.' Instead of sin, we choose to love God with all our heart and make right choices.

Fluffy

Oh! I see, the shepherd is Jesus and He helps us to love God with all our heart. Hey, that's part of our Camper's Code here at Camp Venture!

Reggie

You're right, Fluffy! Every good ranger has to know the Camper's Code. Why don't you kids all stand and I'll make you official Camp Rangers! Raise your right hand and recite our Camper's Code after me!

All

I will love God with all my heart.

I will love my neighbor as myself.

I will be a light wherever I go!

(VFX: I will love God with all my heart. I will love my neighbor as myself. I will be a light wherever I go!)

Reggie

Well, Camp Rangers, looks like we're out of time for today. I'd like to thank our guests, Fluffy and Perry. We'll see you next time, right here at Critter Kingdom!

(SFX: Lion's roar)

So long rangers! (exit)

(VFX: Critter Kingdom slide) (SFX: Outro music)