

Delbert & Lello
 Lesson 22, Unit 5
 The Promise of Guidance
LETTERS ABOUT LOVE
 1 John 4:7,12

Suggested setting: Prophets & Promises puppet sketches adapt to any setting such as a garden, forest, or farm. Once or twice a year, a set change or addition to the set is recommended for added interest. Decorate with colorful flowers, butterflies, birds, and ladybugs. Puppets can pop out from behind a window, hedge, tree hollow, stonewall, etc. For a simple, portable puppet stage, puppets pop up from behind a colorful blanket hung on a rod, or from a card table turned onto its side. Adjust setting and puppet names according to available puppeteers and resources. In Units 5 and 6, Posty the parrot pops up from a mailbox or a nest.

Characters: Delbert, the donkey and Lello, the lamb are good friends who are always excited to hear Bible stories about God. The Leader is the children's teacher or worship leader dressed in regular clothing or in costume consistent with the set (a gardener, forest ranger, etc.) The leader helps children focus on puppets, and leads group interaction with puppets. Units 5 and 6 introduce a new puppet, Posty the parrot. He wears a lanyard to carry letters from Delbert's Uncle Donny to the mailbox (or nest).

Sound Effects (SFX): Bird chirps and/or flapping wings for Posty's entrance

Props: Preprinted letter folded and attached to Posty's lanyard:

*Dear Delbert,
 Building the new church has been great.
 I've been meeting lots of new friends. I
 want to share with you what I've been
 learning in the Bible.
 Love,
 Uncle Donny*

*Dear friends,
 Let us love one another, for love comes
 from God. No one has ever seen God;
 but if we love one another, God lives in
 us and His love is made complete in us.
 Love,
 John*

Leader (Stands at puppet stage.)
It's time to call for Delbert.
"Dehhhhhl-bert Dehhhhhl-bert!"
 (Children repeat and Delbert, the donkey pops up.)

Delbert
Hee Haw! Hello everybody!
Guess what? A new friend
should be here any minute.

Leader
A new friend? Who is it?

Delbert
A parrot named Posty. My Uncle
Donny promised to send me
letters while he was away. And
Posty delivers the letters.

Leader
How wonderful! I love getting
mail, and I bet you do, too.

Delbert
Haw. I sure do – especially mail
from my Uncle Donny.

Leader

That's right! He's on his trip
helping to build a new church.
(SFX: bird chirps or flapping wings)

Delbert

Haw! Here comes Posty!
(Posty the Parrot pops up at his nest
or mailbox with the letter.)

Posty

You've got mail!
I deliver without fail!

Delbert

Thank you, Posty. I can't wait to
read it. (To leader.) Can you help
me open the letter?

Leader (Takes letter from lanyard)
Of course. Boys and girls, do you
want to hear what Uncle Donny
wrote?

Delbert

Ahem (Clears throat and reads):

Dear Delbert,
Building the new church has
been great. I've been meeting
lots of new friends. I want to
share with you what I've been
learning in the Bible.
Love,
Uncle Donny

Leader

His letter is about another
letter. It's a letter from John
that Uncle Donny found in the
Bible.

Posty

A letter in a letter,
What could be better?

Delbert

Let's see what that letter says!
Ahem (clears throat and reads):

*Dear friends,
Let us love one another, for love
comes from God. No one has
ever seen God; but if we love
one another, God lives in us and
His love is made complete in us.
Love,
John*

Posty

God up above,
Tells us to love.

Leader

That's right, Posty! In the Bible,
John wrote a letter teaching
people to love each other.

Delbert

Haw! I love you and you and
you! (Focusing on various children.)
And I love Lello. I'm going to go
find her and read Uncle Donny's
letter to her. See you later!

Posty

So long and goodbye!
It's time to fly!

Leader

Bye guys!
(All exit.)