



**Worship Illustration: Storybook**

**Mail Call**

**Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts—Revelation**

**Unit 5, Lesson 23**

## **Letters About Unity**

**Ephesians 4:1-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 17-18, 29**

**"Hello kids! Welcome back for Mail Call. Safari Sam at your service!" Safari Sam saluted the campers who were seated on the straw-covered floor. "And now . . . that Bible Counselor we all love to love . . . Here's Ranger Reggie!" Safari Sam clapped with the campers as a surprised Ranger Reggie popped up from behind the mail counter.**

**"Thank you! Thank you! Hello, boys and girls! Welcome to Mail Call!" Ranger Reggie smiled. "I'm glad you're here, Safari Sam, because we just got a letter from Ranger Drosselmeyer." He pulled a letter from his pocket and offered it to Safari Sam.**

**Safari Sam shook his head. "Not a letter from Ranger Drosselmeyer?! The one who runs Camp Coconut? I don't want to read it. I don't like that guy!"**

**Ranger Reggie frowned. "Now, now, Safari Sam, Ranger Drosselmeyer is our brother in the Lord and a wonderful counselor."**

**"I know," said Sam, "but every year at the Ranger's Picnic his team beats us at volleyball and then he spends the whole year bragging about the great Camp Coconut Champions!"**

**"Well, that may be, but he is a part of God's family," Ranger Reggie reminded him. He pushed the letter toward Safari Sam.**

**"Okay, I'll open it," Safari Sam huffed. He took the letter and read:**

**Dear Fellow Rangers,  
Here is your official invitation to the annual Ranger's Picnic. This year's theme is unity in Jesus from Ephesians 4:1-6 in the Bible.  
Sincerely,  
Ranger Drosselmeyer**

**"I love the book of Ephesians, and I know just where to find it! Mail Call!" Ranger Reggie exclaimed. He reached into his pocket and pulled out his worn leather Bible. "Here's the Bible and here's today's letter. It's another one written by the Apostle Paul." He read, "'There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.'"**

**Safari Sam rolled his eyes. "I think I know what's coming. You're going to say that since God wants us to be one body, then I have to be Ranger Drosselmeyer's friend!"**

**"The Bible does say there is 'one body and one Spirit,'" Ranger Reggie replied.**

**"You're right," Safari Sam sighed. "The Holy Spirit does make us unite as one because of Jesus, but how come some Christians are so different than me?"**

**"That's the way God makes us. The church would be a pretty boring place if we were all Ranger Reggies or all Safari Sams," Ranger Reggie explained. "God makes us different so we can help each other. He makes some of us pastors, some of us prophets, and some of us teachers. Just as the different parts of your body work together as one body, each person who believes in Jesus is a different part of the body of Christ working together as one community—the family of believers."**

**"Just like it is in the animal kingdom," Safari Sam suggested. "All the animals work together for the flock, or pride, or herd, or gaggle, or . . ."**

**"Yes! Thanks for reminding us, Safari Sam!" said Ranger Reggie. "It's time to find out our animal of the day. It's Creature Feature time! Let's ask our friend, Wild William, to come out and give us our Camp Critter Clue so we can find out what is today's featured creature!"**

**Safari Sam cupped his hands around his mouth and called out, "Oh, Wild William! Which critter will be today's featured creature?"**

**Wild William appeared in the doorway long enough to call out, "These little guys are like family, working to build a community!" He looked at the campers with wild eyes and then disappeared.**

**"Lots of animals are like families. Who is he talking about?" Ranger Reggie wondered.**

**Safari Sam's eyes lit up. "I think I know! It's a meerkat!"**

**Ranger Reggie yelped as a light brown and white furry animal with a narrow nose and little black eyes jumped down from the rafters above and landed on his head. Ranger Reggie danced wildly around the room. "Ah! It's on my head! Get him off! Get him off!"**

**Safari Sam snatched the little creature from his head. "I've got him! Wow, Ranger Reggie, animals sure love you!" he said, as he put the animal on the ground. It stood up on its hind legs and looked around.**

**Ranger Reggie rubbed his head and stared down at the curious animal. "I wish they'd love someone else once in a while!"**

**"Meerkats are a great symbol of unity because they all work together to build up the colony," Safari Sam explained.**

**"That's true. They really need each other. One meerkat can't dig a tunnel alone!" Ranger Reggie leaned down to pet the meerkat, but jumped away as the animal squeaked at him.**

**"Right!" Safari Sam said, as he knelt down and stroked the meerkat's back. It snuggled close to him. "While some meerkats are digging, others are gathering food, taking care of the babies, or watching out for enemies."**

**Ranger Reggie nodded, while keeping his distance from the meerkat. "We, as believers, can work together in the same way. As a team, we can help each other do so much more than we can do on our own. I think unity in Jesus is a pretty cool theme for the picnic."**

**"I guess, but some people are easier to work with than others. I wonder what Orville has to say on that subject." Safari Sam looked up to Orville's nest in the rafters.**

**"Let's call him and find out," Ranger Reggie suggested.**

**"Hey Orville, come on down!" the counselors and campers called out together. The gray pigeon swooped down and dropped the egg-shaped message container into Ranger Reggie's hands. The campers watched as he flew over their heads and returned to his nest.**

**"Orville laid an egg! Let's see what's inside!" Ranger Reggie laughed as he opened the letter that came from inside the egg. "It's from Paul's letter to the Corinthians. Would you like to read it, Sam?"**

**Safari Sam looked up the verses in the Bible and read, "' . . . God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be. . . . If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.'" Safari Sam stopped reading. "I don't get it."**

**"God puts the family of believers together like a body—with different kinds of strengths and talents so we can support each other," Ranger Reggie explained. "We are called members of the body of Christ.**

**Safari Sam suddenly smiled. "And, when we all work together, we all glorify God!"**

**Ranger Reggie grinned. "Even rangers from Camp Coconut?"**

**Safari Sam laughed. "Even rangers from Camp Coconut."**

**"After all, Camp Coconut is our neighboring camp and what does the Camp Venture Camper's Code say about neighbors?" Ranger Reggie asked.**

**"Love your neighbor as yourself," Safari Sam nodded. "I get what you're saying. We need each other, kind of like the meerkats need each other."**

**"That's how the body of Christ works, and the body of Christ here at Camp Venture likes to say the Camper's Code together! Would you like to close today's Mail Call by leading our campers, Safari Sam?"**

**"It would be my honor!" Safari Sam faced the campers and waved for them to stand up. "Raise your right hand. Now, repeat after me!"**

**All the campers and counselors recited, "I will love God with all my heart. I will love my neighbor as myself. I will be a light wherever I go!" Then with a cheer, they headed outside to enjoy another sunny day at Camp Venture.**