

WORSHIP ILLUSTRATION

Lesson 29, Unit 6

The Bible Barn

Letters About Strength

Running time: Approximately 5 minutes

New Testament Letters:

Ephesians 6:10-18;

1 Peter 5:8-10

Setting: This series (Units 5 & 6) is set in a barn area of an outdoor camp.

Set: The set is designed to look like the interior of a barn. There's a door to enter, a fireplace with stuffed animal heads over the mantle, and a ramp to invite kids up to participate in object lessons. There is a mailbag or box that sits on a high shelf, it can have a trap door or simply tip over to dump a pile of letters and a Bible into counselor's hands. There are different openings, trapdoors and windows that the animal of the day can fall out of. For extra fun, build windows where the characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

Characters:

Ranger Reggie is the Head Counselor and Bible teacher at Camp Venture. He is a former explorer and animal seeker, like the "Crocodile Hunter". (for fun pronounce all "R"s and "L"s as a "W") Safari Sam is the assistant Bible teacher and Ranger Reggie's longtime friend. Like Reggie, he loves animals, kids and the Bible. (for fun pronounce all "S"s with a "Th" sound) Wild William is a video character that recites the poem. (As an alternate, the rhyme can be found on a slip of paper or appear on a slide) Orville is a klutzy carrier pigeon (silent toy bird attached to a zip line) that delivers messages.

Creature Feature's Camp Critter: Gorilla

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: Love Birds (Lesson 22), Meerkat (Lesson 23), Serpent (Lesson 24), Little Lamb (Lesson 25), Dove (Lesson 26), Race Horse (Lesson 27), Kitten (Lesson 28), Gorilla (Lesson 29), Elephant (Lesson 30), Lion (Lesson 31)

Plot: Ranger Reggie is feeling stronger. We read about the armor of God and invite a volunteer to try it on. We learn that we are strong in the Lord.

Costumes: Safari hats, shorts, boots, vests, camp t-shirts.

Props: Clip board, Bible, letters, large plastic egg, large trunk or box, breastplate, belt, shoes with the words "Good News," shield, helmet, sword, large gorilla arm.

Sound effects: (SFX)

1. Intro/outro music suggestions:
"Hoe-down Throw down" by Miley Cyrus.
2. Moo SFX
3. "I Like to Move It, Move It" from Madagascar
4. Mail Time Song from Blues Clues
5. Gorilla Howling

Visual effects: (VFX)

Video Intro is available at

www.childrensministrywarehouse.net.

1. Video Intro: Video featuring Reggie exploring and teaching Bible lessons.
2. Mailbox overhead, whenever it is opened letters and Bible pour out. (Song: "Mail Time" from Blues Clues)
3. Creature Feature slide
4. Wild William is a video character who appears to give us a rhyming hint at the "Creature Feature," animal of the day.
5. Slide of poem
6. Slide of Camper's Code

THE BIBLE BARN: Lesson 29
Letters About Strength
Ephesians 6:10-18;
1 Peter 5:8-10

(VFX: short video intro)

Reggie (enters) **Hello campers! It's so good to see you! Welcome to the Bible Barn. (SFX: Moo)**

Sam (runs in)
Ranger Reggie, Ranger Reggie!
You're standing on your own two feet! Are you healed?

Reggie
Hi, Safari Sam. I feel stronger!

Sam
You sure look stronger. I'll bet you're strong enough to catch that whole box full of mail!

Reggie
We're about to find out because it's Mail Time! (SFX: "Mail Song" from Blues Clues plays when the mail box is opened.) It's Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus! "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."

Sam
The full armor of God? What is the full armor of God?

Reggie
Why don't I show you? Now, we are going to need some help for this one. Do I have a volunteer who wants to help me? (Choose volunteer) All right come on up. Now, you stand next to me and Safari Sam you go over to that trunk and take out what I tell you.

Sam
Wow, this is full of cool stuff!

Reggie
Just take out what I read in the Bible! Now the Word of God tells us to put on the full armor of God. Listen to what it tells us. "Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place..."

Sam (picks up breastplate and belt)
This must be the breastplate and this belt holds it in place! (Puts both on volunteer) Now hold still while I get you suited up.

Reggie
You look great! The breastplate of righteousness protects our heart.

Sam
Aha! That way if the devil ever tries to make you feel sad or weak, you can remember how right it is to be with God!

Reggie
...and your heart can be filled with his righteousness!

Sam
What about the belt?

Reggie
The belt represents God's truth! No lies can ever harm us because we wrap ourselves in God's truth!

Sam
I like that! What's next?

Reggie
The Bible says to have "your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace."

Sam (holds up shoes with the words "Good News") **Look! Gospel shoes!** (To volunteer) **Here you go, slip these on!**

Reggie
Perfect! Now you will be showing others God's "Good News" with every step that you take!

Sam
This sure is swell! What now?

Reggie
"...take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."

Sam
(takes out shield and hands it to volunteer.) **That makes perfect sense. The devil can't get past our faith!**

Reggie (to volunteer)
Are you ready for more?

Sam (runs to trunk)
I'm on it!

Reggie
"Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

Sam
(puts helmet on volunteer and hands sword) **Here's your helmet and your sword! Ranger Reggie, why does the helmet stand for salvation?**

Reggie
Well Sam, sometimes Satan tries to make us doubt in our minds that God truly loves us enough to save us.

Sam
Ooh, that Satan is so slippery!

Reggie
The helmet protects our mind. No matter what lies the devil tells us, we always know in our mind that God is with us!

Sam
And then we can use the sword to chase Satan away?

Reggie
Precisely, there's no better weapon than the Word of God!

Sam
Because Satan tries to fool us with lies...

Reggie
But we know every word of the Bible is true. And Satan cannot stand against the truth of God's Word.

Sam
He has to run for the hills! (to volunteer) **Well, you look like a real godly warrior!**

Reggie (as they take off armor)
Let's review! You have the truth wrapped around you! (remove belt)

Sam
And God's righteousness protects your heart! (remove breastplate)

Reggie
The Gospel guides every step you take! (remove shoes)

Sam
No attack can get past your faith! (remove shield)

Reggie
You know in your mind you are saved by God! (remove helmet)

Sam

And God's Word can chase away all lies and sin! (remove sword)

Reggie

Let's here it for our fearless warrior! (applause) **You may have a seat. Now kids, you all have that same armor and those same weapons available to you!**

Sam

You may not have a trunk full of goodies like these. But we can all put on God's spiritual armor by praying and reading His word!

Reggie

It's time to find out which animal is super strong! It's Creature Feature time! (SFX: "I Like to Move It, Move It") (VFX: slide reading: Creature Feature) **Wild William, give us a clue!**

Wild William (VFX: Wild William)

"So much stronger than the rest, he beats his fists upon his chest." (VFX: clue slide)

Sam

It's gotta be a gorilla!

Reggie (Off-stage gorilla arm strangles Reggie) **Is it a gorilla?** (SFX: gorilla howling) **Ow! Get your paws off me you darn, dirty ape! Help! Can't breath!**

Sam (saves Reggie)

Back! Back! Let go! Bad monkey! (arm backs offstage) **Ranger Reggie! Are you all right?**

Reggie

Now I'm going to smell like bananas all day!

Sam

Wow, Ranger Reggie, you sure do suffer for your faith!

Reggie

Suffer! That reminds of the letter Orville showed me!

Sam

I'd love to read that! Hey kids, let's call Orville? Are you ready?

Reggie, Sam, Children, Counselors

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

Sam (picks up egg)

Here's the egg with the letter in it!

Reggie

Open it and read it to us!

Sam

"And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."

Reggie

Of course! It's Jesus who makes us strong! Just like the Apostles, we can always count on Him to restore our strength!

Sam

Amen! Ranger Reggie, may I lead the Camper's Code?

Reggie

That's a great idea!

Sam

On your feet, campers! Raise your right hand and recite this with 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

**Let's head over to the flagpole and
sing our Camp Critter song? (SFX:
outro)**

ALL (Reggie, Janette, children, adults)

(Sing Critter Kingdom Song verse 8)

I spied a Gorilla overhead;**Here's what that Gorilla said,**

(clap 3 times) **"With His armor on,**

(clap 3 times) **...we can all be strong."**

**I saw a gorilla who, followed a
kitten, who followed a race horse,
who followed the dove, who
followed a little lamb, who followed
a serpent, who followed a meerkat,
who followed a lovebird and the
lovebird hollered,
"Yippee-kigh-yay!"
...at Camp Venture today!**

(VFX: lyric slide or poster cue cards:

I spied a Gorilla overhead;

Here's what that Gorilla said,

(3 claps) "With His armor on,

(3 claps) ...we can all be strong."

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who followed a race horse,
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