



**Worship Illustration: Script  
Critter Kingdom  
Kings & Kingdoms Part 1: The Life of Jesus  
Unit 6, Lesson 28**

# The Rich Fool

**Luke 12:15-21**

**Running time:** Approximately 5 minutes

**Setting:** This series (Units 5 & 6) is set in a 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's 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 W's.) Orville is a klutzy carrier pigeon (silent toy bird attached to a zip line) that delivers messages. Bugsy is a sharp-tongued seagull whose role can be performed by an actor, puppet, or on video.

**Plot:** In this episode of "Critter Kingdom," Bugsy the Seagull tells Ranger Reggie about his greedy relatives. Reggie uses a volunteer to act out the Parable of the Rich Fool. We learn it is fine to have possessions and wealth but we should use them to serve and honor God.

**Costumes:** Ranger Reggie: Pith helmet, camouflage shorts, camp shirt, vest, mustache, and eyeglasses. Bugsy: Hat with feathers, sunglasses, rubber beak, white leotard or sweats.

**Props:** Toy bird on a zip line, plastic egg with note inside, Bible, items for the rich fool: crown, mink stole (or robe), sunglasses, bag of gold, checkbook, toy car, corn, grapes, broccoli, cheese, onions, trunk, chair, cup, lollipop. 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 to reveal the Bible.

**Visual effects (VFX):**

1. Video Intro featuring Ranger Reggie is available at ResourceWell.org
2. Critter Kingdom slide
3. Video clip from "Finding Nemo"
4. A crate holds the Bible. When opened, light shines out and music plays.
5. Scripture slide: **"Watch out! Be on your guard against all greed; a man's life does not consist of the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15b**
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

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Critter Kingdom</u></b> <b>Unit 5, Lesson 28</b> <b>The Rich Fool</b> <b>Luke 12:15-21</b></p>
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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**

**Hello! Hello, boys and girls! Welcome back to Critter Kingdom!** (SFX: Lion's roar) **You all know me, Ranger Reggie. I have picked out a very special Creature Feature! Today's featured animal is the seagull and it just so happens that I have a very special seagull friend. His name is Bugsy the Seagull. Let's call him out. Oh, Bugsy! Come out and play!**

**Bugsy** (with shovel or sand trowel)  
**Bawk! Hi, Ranger Reggie!**

### **Reggie**

**Hello, Bugsy the Seagull. What are you doing?**

### **Bugsy**

**Oh, I've got a very busy day ahead of me. All my relatives are coming for a visit and I've got to bury all of my belongings! Awk!**

### **Reggie**

**Bury everything? I thought you were supposed to put your best food on the table when family comes for a visit?**

### **Bugsy**

**Awk! You obviously don't know my family! They think everything belongs to them. Look at this video I shot at our last family reunion.** (VFX: "Mine! Mine!" scene from Finding Nemo)

### **Reggie**

**Wow, I had no idea, seagulls were so selfish.**

### **Bugsy**

**Selfish! That's putting it nicely! Most seagulls are downright greedy! In fact, seagulls are so greedy that they could have a nice piece of food in their mouth and they'll fight over another piece.**

### **Reggie**

**But aren't they afraid they'll drop the first piece?**

### **Bugsy**

**They usually do and then they end up with nothing. That's how it is with greediness. Those who want everything often end up with nothing. And speaking of nothing, I've got to get these clams buried or my family will eat me out of nest and home! I'll see you guys later!**

### **Reggie**

**So long, Bugsy! Wow campers, did you know seagulls were greedy? That reminds me of a Bible parable Orville was telling me. Let's ask him which parable it was. Let's all say, "Hey Orville, come on down!" Ready? "Hey Orville, come on down!"** (Orville slides down and crashes through window; egg drops down into fireplace. Reggie opens egg and reads note inside.) **Today's parable is The Rich Fool. Let me get the Bible right now.** (SFX: "The Lion Sleeps Tonight," VFX: Bible crate opens and light shines out.)

**Here we are, "The Rich Fool." What a silly name! I wonder why they called him that? Do we have anybody here who will volunteer to play the rich fool?** (Choose volunteer.) **Okay, come on up here.**

## **Reggie**

**Well, you are rich so you should put on this crown and this mink stole and these sunglasses. And hold this bag of gold and this checkbook and this sports car. Okay, you got all that? Good, let's read our story. This is what the Bible says:**

**"And Jesus told them this parable: 'The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop.'"**

(While handing the items to the volunteer.) **So, you're gonna' need some corn and some grapes and some broccoli and some cheese and some onions...anything else? Have you got all that, rich man? Okay, let's get back to our parable.**

**"He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.'"**

**That sounds like a smart idea. I wonder why the Bible called him a rich fool? Okay, let's pretend this trunk is your new barn. Put all your stuff inside. (Volunteer puts props in trunk.) There you go. Let's read what the rich guy said next.**

**"And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink, and be merry.'"**

(Seat volunteer in chair with a cup and a lollipop.) **Here you go, have a seat. Snack time! Relax buddy and I'll read you what happens next.**

**"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then, who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."**

**Do you see campers? He was called a fool because he was storing up things that wouldn't last forever. If we don't use our riches to be rich toward God, then all we have is a trunk full of junk!**

**Wow, that's some parable. Let's hear some applause for our rich fool! (Applause for volunteer.) You may have a seat; you've been through a lot!**

**Jesus was sending us a great big warning. Do not be greedy like a seagull. Look what Jesus said to His followers: (VFX: Scripture slide: Luke 12:15)**

**"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."**

**Do you hear that? Having lots of stuff is not the most important thing. Our greatest treasure is Jesus. Is it okay to have lots of things? Of course, it is. But, we must use them to build God's kingdom instead of keeping them for ourselves. That's what it means to be rich toward God.**

**Well, Camp Rangers, it looks like we're out of time for today's Critter Kingdom. I'd like to thank our guest, Bugsy the Seagull. And let's give one more round of applause for our rich fool volunteer.**

**Let's finish up by reciting our Camper's Code. Stand to your feet, raise your right hand, and let's say this together:**

**All (VFX: 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!"**

## **Reggie**

**So long, Rangers! See you next time! (exit)**

(SFX: "I Like to Move It, Move It")  
(VFX: Critter Kingdom Slide)