



Worship Illustration: Script

Critter Kingdom

Kings & Kingdoms Part 1: The Parables of Jesus

Unit 6, Lesson 30

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Luke 18:9-14

Running time: Approximately 6 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. Padre Pedro is a Columbian priest who lives at "La Iglesia de las Lajas" (The Church of the Rocks) and trains pigeons.

Plot: Ranger Reggie invites Padre Pedro to tell about his temple and his pigeons. They act out the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. We learn God looks at the attitude of our hearts, not our deeds.

Costumes: Ranger Reggie: Pith helmet, camouflage shorts, camp shirt, vest, mustache and eyeglasses. Padre Pedro: Brown hooded robe, cross, mustache, and wig.

Props: Toy bird on a zip line, plastic egg, Bible, pigeon puppet or stuffed animal, sunflower seeds, prayer shawl, prayer beads, box, ragged robe, sombrero. 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. Photo of "The Church of the Rocks"
4. A crate holds the Bible. When opened, light shines out and music plays.
6. Scripture slide: **"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."**
- Luke 18:14**

7. 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 located at ResourceWell.org

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Voiceover (VFX: short 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. Today, we have a special guest on Critter Kingdom. He is my new friend and he comes all the way from Columbia, South America. Let's welcome our new friend, Father Pedro.**

Padre (enters with stuffed pigeon)
iHola! iHola ninos! iBuenos Dias!

Reggie

Buenos Dias to you, Father Pedro. Should I call you Father or Pedro or...

Padre

You may call me Padre. That is the Spanish word for Father.

Reggie

Oh, Padre. I like that, Padre Pedro! And I see you brought along the animal of the day. Who is this?

Pedro

This is my friend, Reynaldo. He is una paloma, a carrier pigeon. I trained him to carry messages to the local villages.

Reggie

Now, Padre Pedro, you live in a very famous church in Columbia.

Padre

Sí, I live in "La Iglesia de Las Lajas"!

Reggie

Ingles-olays dola Blah-blah!

Padre

No, no! La Iglesia de las Lajas. ¿Cómo se dice en inglés? The Church of the Rocks! (VFX: Slide of The Church of the Rocks)

Reggie

The Church of the Rocks, wow! That is beautiful. It looks like it's carved right into the landscape. Now, Padre Pedro, how did you get interested in pigeons.

Padre

Well, many pigeons live in the cliffs near our church. Some of them even like to roost in the high arches of our sanctuary. Since they already belonged there, I began to feed them and train them.

Reggie

So pigeons actually build nests in the arches of your temple?

Padre

Sí. We like to say the pigeons come to hear the prayers of the saints and carry their messages to the Lord, "El Señor."

Reggie

That's beautiful and it reminds me of a special parable Orville told me about. Let's call him and find out what it is. Let's all say, "Hey Orville, come on down!" Ready?

All

"Hey Orville, come on down!" (Orville slides down and crashes through window; plastic egg drops down into fireplace. Reggie opens egg, reads note inside.)

Reggie

According to this, today's story is the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. Let me get the Bible right now.

(SFX: "The Lion Sleeps Tonight," VFX: Bible crate opens and light shines out.) **Here we are:**

"The Pharisee and the Tax Collector."

Padre Pedro, would you like to help me teach the Bible story?

Padre

iSí, I love La Palabra de Dios!

Reggie

The what?

Padre

The Word of God!

Reggie

Oh yeah, sí, sí! I'll tell you what, Padre Pedro. I'll get a couple of kids to help us act it out. All right, I need a Pharisee and a tax collector. (Choose volunteers.) Okay, come on up here. Now, Pharisees were very religious and very proud. They wanted everyone to notice how holy they were. You can wear this golden prayer shawl and these prayer beads and stand on this box so God can see you.

Padre

iMuy bien! (to second child) Now, you are...¿Cómo se dice... un tax collector?

Reggie

The tax collector's job was to take other people's money, so everyone hated him. He did not want to draw attention to himself.

Padre

Bueno, put on estas ropas viejas y este sombrero—these old clothes and this hat!

Reggie

Very nice, very humble.

Padre

iSí, humilde y vanidoso!

Reggie

All right, let's read the story: "Two men went up to the temple to pray. One a Pharisee... (Pedro raises his hand.)

Padre

iOle!

Reggie

..the other a tax collector.

Padre

Boo!

Reggie

"The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'"

Padre (claps)

Very good, Pharisee!

Reggie

"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven..."

Padre

Don't look up. Look down! iMira! iAbajo!

Reggie

"He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said..." (Pedro picks up a bat.) Wait! What are you doing?

Padre

I beat his breast!

Reggie

No, no! Not with a bat! He beat his breast with his fists!

Padre

Oh! Lo siento. So sorry!

Reggie

"He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'"

Padre

Very good, tax collector.

Reggie (VFX: Scripture slide)

"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves..." (Pedro raises Pharisee's hand.) **"will be humbled..."**

Padre (Pedro makes Pharisee kneel.)

Get humble!

Reggie

"...and those who humble themselves..."

Padre (Pedro pats tax collector.)

iPobrecito!

Reggie

"...will be exalted."

Padre (Pedro puts tax collector on box and raises his hand.) **Hooray, tax man!**

Reggie

Didn't they both do a great job? Let's give them a great big hand! Thank you. You may both have a seat. (Volunteers sit.)

Padre

Ranger Reggie, the Pharisee, he was trying to do the right thing, no?

Reggie

Oh sí, yes, he was praying and fasting and giving to the church...

Padre

Then, why did this not please God?

Reggie

Because he was also judging others and bragging and showing off. When we serve God we should be humble. You see Padre Pedro, God looks at the attitude of our hearts, not at all the deeds we do.

Padre

Of course! God wants our whole heart because he loves us this much! (Pedro spreads arms and accidentally hits Reggie on the head with bat.) **Oh no, Ranger Reggie! iLo siento! I am so sorry! Are you okay?**

Reggie (Acts like a pigeon.)

Coo, coo, coo...

Padre

Oh no, Ranger Reggie got hit on the head and now he thinks he is "una paloma," a pigeon! What can I do to help you, Pigeon Reggie?

Reggie

Coo, coo, coo...

Padre

What's that? Say the Critter Kingdom Code? All right, stand to your feet. Raise your right hand and say it with us.

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!"**

Padre

All right, I must get Pigeon Reggie back to his nest, I mean his home, and make him lie down. Hopefully, he will see you next time on Critter Kingdom! (Ranger Reggie and Padre Pedro exit)

(SFX: "I Like to Move It, Move It")

(VFX: Critter Kingdom Slide)