



**Worship Illustration: Script
Critter Kingdom
Kings & Kingdoms Part 1: The Life of Jesus
Unit 6, Lesson 31**

The Lost Son

Luke 15:11-32

Running time: Approximately 6 minutes.

Please note: Salvation talk is approximately 4 minutes following the script. See beginning of The Bridge Illustration for roles and props.

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.

Plot: Ranger Reggie invites volunteers to act out the Parable of the Lost Son. We learn our Heavenly Father loves us and is always waiting to take us back into His arms.

Costumes: Ranger Reggie: Pith helmet, camouflage shorts, camp shirt, vest, mustache, and eyeglasses.

Props: Toy bird on a zip line, plastic egg with note inside, pig puppet, World's Greatest Dad hat, rake, play money, Bible. 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.
4. Ethereal background music. (Bridge Illustration)

Visual effects (VFX):

1. Video Intro featuring Ranger Reggie is available at ResourceWell.org
2. Critter Kingdom slide
3. A crate holds the Bible. When opened, light shines out and music plays.
4. Scripture slide: **"For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate." Luke 15:24**
5. 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!**
6. Admit slide:
**Lord Jesus,
I Admit I am a sinner.**

7. Believe slide:

I Believe You are the Lord who died to take my sins away.

8. Come slide:

Please Come into my heart and I'll follow You forever.

9. A-B-C Prayer slide:

A-B-C PRAYER (Admit – Believe – Come)

Lord Jesus,

I Admit I am a sinner.

I Believe You are the Lord who died to take my sins away.

Please Come into my heart and I'll follow You forever.

In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.

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

Critter Kingdom
Unit 6, Lesson 31
The Lost Son
Luke 15:11-32

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) Why don't we start things off by reciting our Camper's Code? Let's all stand, raise our right hand, and recite our Camper's Code together!

All (VFX: Camper's Code)

**I will love God with all my heart,
I will love my neighbor as myself,
I will be a light wherever I go!**

Reggie

Great job! Have a seat. Now it's time to introduce today's Creature Feature! (SFX: "I Like to Move It, Move It") Today's Creature Feature is, the piglet! Here he is a little, ole piglet and his name is Lazlo. Can you say, Lazlo? (Response.) Not bad. Now, I can think of several times that piggies are mentioned in the Bible, but I know someone who knows which parable we're supposed to read. 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

Today's parable is about the lost son! Sounds like a good one! Let me get the Bible. (SFX: "The Lion Sleeps Tonight," VFX: Bible crate opens and light shines out.)

I found it! The Parable of the Lost Son! Oh, I love this story! It's about a daddy and his two sons. The daddy loved his sons very much. I need someone very loving to play the dad. (Choose volunteer.)

Come on up here, Dad. Let's give you a dad hat. (Put hat on volunteer.)

There you go. Now, the younger son was behaving a wee bit greedy, like a little piglet, so he will be played by Lazlo.

But the older son, he was upset a lot of the time. Do we have anyone who knows how to look upset? (Choose volunteer.) Okay, you come on up. Here's your rake— you get to work on your father's farm.

Okay, it's story time. The Bible says, there was a man who had two sons. His younger son...that's Lazlo...came to his dad and said, "Father, give me my share of the estate." Well, his father loved him very much so he divided his property between his two sons.

And do you know what that young son did? He went to a far away country and wasted all that money having wild parties with his friends! (Exit stage and sit among children, hand out play money.)

Whoop-hoo! This is fun! Have some money. He had lots of fun, for a little while, until the money ran out. Then he had to find work and the only job he could find was feeding pigs! And even the pigs had better food than he did.

That poor son was sad, and hungry, and lonely...and then he remembered that His father's servants had plenty to eat. So, he thought, "I'll just go back to daddy and apologize. I will ask him to let me be one of his servants." So, he started for home. (Return to stage.)

The Bible says: "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him, and kissed him."

Reggie (to volunteer)

Go on, kiss the piggy! You can do it! Kiss the little pig! Oh, what a loving father.

"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'"

Do you think the daddy's going to let his son be a servant? No. Instead he gave him a new robe, new sandals, and a ring on his finger. He even got some food and threw a big party in his son's honor. (VFX: Scripture slide) The father said: "'For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate."

Isn't that beautiful? The dad loved his son so much that he forgave him, took him back in his arms, and celebrated. The father never even mentioned the mistakes the son had made, he just loved him.

Reggie

Let's have a big round of applause for our volunteer daddy and older son! You both may have a seat.

Just like that father in the parable, our God loves us and is always waiting to take us back into his arms. He is our Heavenly Father.

Well, Camp Rangers, looks like we're out of time for today's Critter Kingdom. I'd like to thank my special guest, Lazlo the Piglet. And let's give a big round of applause for our parable family. See you next time on Critter Kingdom! (exit)

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

(VFX: Critter Kingdom Slide)

(See next page for The Bridge illustration.)

Leading a Child to Christ
The Bridge Illustration

Roles: Leader 1, Leader 2, God the Father, Adam, Eve, Jesus

Props: Two raised platforms, large cross

Leader 1

That was an amazing parable, it made me really think about how much our heavenly Father loves us. I am so glad Jesus made a way for us to be forever with God.

(SFX: Ethereal background music)

Leader 2

He did that because He really wants us to be close with Him forever.

Leader 1

That's right. God made us so we would have a very special friendship with Him. Like our Camper's Code teaches us, we were each created to love God with all our heart, and soul, and mind.

Leader 2

That's true. In the beginning, when God made the first two people, Adam and Eve, they were very close with God. We have asked (Name volunteers.) _____ and _____ to come and give you a picture of this amazing story of God and His people. (Volunteer representing God the Father steps onto platform with Adam and Eve.)

(To Adam) **You stand not only for Adam but for all of the boys and men in the world.**

Leader 1

(To Eve) **You stand not only for Eve but for all the girls and ladies in the world. The Bible says God came and walked with Adam and Eve in the garden. Can you imagine how special that must have been to spend time alone with God Himself?**

Leader 2

It must have been very special--like having God the Father as your very best friend. But one day, Adam and Eve

disobeyed God's rules. That's called sin. Sin is doing wrong in God's eyes. It is choosing to do things our way instead of God's way.

Leader 1

That's right. And because God is perfect and cannot be near sin, He had to send Adam and Eve out of the garden. (God the Father points, sending Adam and Eve to the other platform.) **It's as if God lives way over there and we have to live way over here, separated from Him.**

Leader 2

Between us and God is a giant sea of sin. It stands for all the wrong things everyone does. It's too far for us to swim across. There is no way to get to God on our own. But God loves us so much that He made a way for us to be together with Him again.

Leader 1 (Volunteer playing Jesus enters with cross, stepping onto platform with Adam and Eve.) **Jesus, is the way. God sent His only Son, Jesus to take the punishment for our sins by dying on the cross. That way we could be forgiven and be close to God forever. It was as if the cross became a bridge from God to us.** (Jesus lays cross down on floor as a bridge between the two platforms.)

Leader 2

All we have to do is make the choice to follow Jesus. God promises that whoever believes in Him will have life forever close to God, now on earth and later in heaven--as a part of God's forever family. (Jesus offers his hand to Eve, holds her hand, and supports her as she walks on the cross to reach the platform with God the Father.) **See how when we choose to follow Jesus, He holds on to us and never lets us go. See how He is the way that leads us to God.** (After helping Eve onto the platform with God the Father, Jesus returns to offer His hand to Adam. He holds Adam's hand and delivers Him safely to join Eve and God the Father.)

Leader 1

Let's thank our actors for helping us understand how Jesus made the way for us to be a part of God's forever family. (Children applaud as Adam, Eve, Jesus, and God the Father exit.) **Jesus finished the hard part in God's plan when He died on the cross for us. He made a way for us to be with God. Jesus made our part in God's plan as simple as A-B-C.**

Leader 2 (VFX: Admit slide)

Yes! All anyone has to do is follow Jesus. To do that, first *ADMIT* you are a sinner –a sinner someone who has done wrong in God's eyes.

Leader 1

Yes, you can tell Jesus you're sorry for your sins.

(VFX: Believe slide) **Then, tell Him you *BELIEVE* He is the Lord who died to take your sins away.**

(VFX: Come slide) **And finally, ask Jesus to *COME* into your heart so you can follow Him forever. You'll be a part of God's forever family.**

Leader 2

If you have never asked Jesus to come into your heart, and you would like to trust Him today, we're going to give you a chance to do that now.

Leader 1

Let's all take a few moments now to think about Jesus. If you feel like today is the day that you want to trust and follow Him, then simply stand up and go to pray with your teacher.

Leader 2

If you have already asked Jesus to come into your heart, you don't need to do it again because He never forgets. Just use this time to pray for others to trust Jesus.

Leader 1

That's right. And, if you are not ready to make that choice, that's alright, too. Just bow your head for a moment and think about how much Jesus loves you.

We'll wait just a few minutes more.

(Individual children come to pray.) **Thank you, for being so brave and for choosing to trust and follow Jesus.**

Leader 2

Now, please repeat this A-B-C prayer after me. (VFX: A-B-C Prayer slide)

Lord Jesus,

I Admitt that I'm a sinner.

I Believe You are the Lord who died to take my sins away.

Please Come into my heart and I'll follow You forever.

In Jesus name, I pray. Amen!

Leader 1

Amen. Let's give a round of applause for what God has done here today. All of the angels in heaven celebrate with us when anyone chooses to follow Jesus and become part of God's forever family!

Leader 2

If you are thinking, I wish I had asked Jesus into my heart, know that you can do that any time with your teacher. Or, you may want to pray at home with a parent. There is never a wrong time to ask Jesus into your heart.

Leader 1

Let's celebrate now and take time to thank God for making a way for all who believe in Jesus to be in His forever family.

(Close with a song of praise and celebration.)