



Worship Illustration: Script 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

Running time: Approximately 6 minutes

Setting: This series (Units 5-6) is set in the Mail Center at Camp Venture. The set is designed to look like the interior of a rustic cabin where campers and counselors retrieve and often read their mail. There is a door and a fireplace with stuffed animal heads over the mantle. 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 the counselor's hands. There is a bird's nest on a ceiling beam with a zip line leading down to the mail counter. There are openings, trapdoors, and windows from which the animal of the day can fall. For extra fun, build windows where the characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

Characters: Ranger Reggie is the Head Bible Counselor at Camp Venture. He is a former explorer and animal expert. (For added humor, he pronounces his "Rs" and "Ls" as "Ws".) Safari Sam is a survivalist and lover of nature. He is very excitable and speaks with a lisp. Wild William recites the Camp Critter Clue either via video, puppet, or from an offstage microphone. (Optional: The Camp Critter Clue can be found on a slip of paper or appear on a slide and be read by a volunteer or any character.) Orville is a klutzy carrier pigeon (silent toy bird attached to a zip line) that delivers messages which are inside plastic eggs.

Plot: Ranger Drosselmeyer sends a picnic invitation. Reggie and Sam read about unity from two of Paul's letters. We learn God puts the family of believers together like a body—with different kinds of strengths and talents so we can support each other.

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

Props: Clipboard, Bible, letters, large plastic egg, toy meerkat.

Note: Each episode introduces a different creature. These may be ten separate puppets, toy 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)

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro/outro music suggestion: Banjo music
2. Bugle call: Reveille
3. Creature Feature music suggestion: "I Like to Move It, Move It" from Madagascar
4. Mailbag Song suggestion: "Mail Time" from Blues Clues music plays when bag is opened each episode to reveal the Bible
5. Meerkat squeaking sound

Visual effects (VFX):

1. Video Intro featuring Ranger Reggie is available at ResourceWell.org
2. Creature Feature slide: **Creature Feature**
3. Wild William's Camp Critter Clue video
4. Camp Critter Clue slide:

**These little guys are like family,
working to build a community!**

5. Scripture Slide (on Virtual Bible): **God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ...Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.**
1 Corinthians 12:18, 27

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 located at ResourceWell.org

Mail Call

**Unit 5, Lesson 23
Letters About Unity
1 Corinthians 12:12, 17-18, 29**

Voiceover (VFX: Short video intro)

Hello, my name is Ranger Reggie. For years, I explored the four corners of the globe, climbed mountains, forged rivers, and faced countless dangers to bring you the interesting creatures on God's green earth. Now, my friends and I use our knowledge of animals and our love of the Bible to bring God's Word to life. Join me, Ranger Reggie, and my friends, here every week for Mail Call where we open our special deliveries!

Sam

Hello, kids! Welcome back to Mail Call. (SFX: Bugle call) It's me, Safari Sam, at your service! And here comes that Bible Counselor we all love to love ... here's Ranger Reggie! (SFX: Applause)

Reggie

Thank you, thank you! Hello, boys and girls! Welcome to the Mail Call! (SFX: Bugle call) It's me, Ranger Reggie. Let's all say that together! (Children say, "Ranger Reggie.") Close enough. I'm glad you're here Safari Sam; we just got a letter from Ranger Drosselmeyer.

Sam (runs in)

Ranger Drosselmeyer! The one who runs Camp Coconut? I don't want to read it. I don't like that guy!

Reggie

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

Sam

I know, 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!

Reggie

Well, that may be, but he is still a friend and we haven't even opened the letter yet.

Sam

Okay, I'll open it. *Dear Fellow Rangers, Here is your official invitation to the annual Ranger's Picnic. This year's theme is Unity in Jesus. Ephesians 4:1-6.*

Reggie

I love the book of Ephesians and I know just where to find it! Where's that mailbag? (Opens the mail bag. SFX: Mailbag Song plays when the mailbag is opened, VFX: Scripture slide) Here's the Bible and here's today's letter! It's another one written by the Apostle Paul. *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.*

Sam

I think I know what's coming. Ranger Drosselmeyer is going to say that since God wants us to be one body, then I have to be his friend!

Reggie

The Bible does say there is *one body and one Spirit.*

Sam

You're right. The Holy Spirit does make us one in Jesus but why are some Christians so different than me?

Reggie

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. God makes us different so we can help each other grow. He makes some of us pastors and some of us prophets and some are teachers. Together, we build a community—a family of believers.

Sam

Like in the animal kingdom. All the animals work together for the flock, or pride, or herd, or gaggle, or...

Reggie

Yes! Thanks for reminding us! It's time to find out our animal of the day! It's **Creature Feature time!** (SFX: Creature Feature music, VFX: Creature Feature slide)
Let's ask our friend, **Wild William**, to come out and give us our **Camp Critter Clue** so we can find out who is today's featured creature!

Sam

Oh, **Wild William**! Which critter will be today's featured creature?

Wild William (VFX: Video, puppet, or actor)
These little guys are like family, working to build a community!

Reggie (VFX: Camp Critter Clue slide)

Lots of animals are like families. What "little guys" is he talking about?

Sam

I think I know! It's a meerkat!

Reggie (Meerkat drops on his head.) (SFX: squeaking sound.) **Ah! It's on my head! Get him off! Get him off!**

Sam

I've got him! Wow, Ranger Reggie, animals sure love you!

Reggie

I wish they'd love someone else once in a while!

Sam

Meerkats are a great symbol of unity because they all work together to build up the colony.

Reggie

That's true. They really need each other. One meerkat can't dig a tunnel all by itself!

Sam

Right! And while some are digging, other meerkats are gathering food, taking care of the babies, or watching out for enemies.

Reggie

And we, as believers, can work together in the same way. As a team, we can help each other do so much more than we could have done on our own. I think "Unity in Jesus" is a pretty cool theme for the picnic.

Sam

I guess ... but some people are easier to work with than others. I wonder what Orville has to say on that subject.

Reggie

Let's call him and find out. Hey campers, let's all shout, "Hey Orville, come on down!" Ready?

Reggie, Sam, Counselors, and Children

Hey Orville, come on down! (Orville slides down zip line to crash behind mail counter.)

Reggie (picks up egg from behind counter)

Orville laid an egg. Let's see what's inside. (opens egg and takes out letter) **It's Paul's letter to the Corinthians. Would you like to read it, Safari Sam?**

Sam (VFX: Scripture slide)

Sure. ...*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...* Um...I don't get it.

Reggie

God puts the family of believers together like a body—with different kinds of strengths and talents so we can support each other.

Sam

And when we all work together, we all glorify God!

Reggie

Even rangers from Camp Coconut?

Sam

Even rangers from Camp Coconut.

Reggie

After all, Camp Coconut is our neighboring camp and what does the Camper's Code say about neighbors?

Sam

Love your neighbor as yourself. I get what you're saying. We need each other, kind of like meerkats need each other.

Reggie

That's how God builds a team and since we're all going to be on God's team, we should all say our Camp Venture Camper's Code together! Would you like to lead the campers in the Camper's Code, Safari Sam?

Sam

It would be my honor! Stand to your feet campers and raise your right hand. Now, repeat after me!

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

Have a great day at Camp Venture! We'll see you right here at our next Mail Call for more special deliveries.

Sam (SFX: Intro/outro music)

So long campers! (exit)