



Worship Illustration: Script Mail Call

Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts - Revelation Unit 5, Lesson 24

Letters About Forgiveness of Sin

Romans 3:23; 7:19; 1 John 1:9; Galatians 5:22-23

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: Safari Sam plays a prank on Drosselmeyer. The scripture shows him his sin is wrong and he apologizes. We learn the punishment for our sins is separation from the Lord, but when we confess our sins, He forgives us.

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

Props: Clipboard, Bible, letters, large plastic egg, empty barrel, toy snake
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. Snake hissing 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:
This critter's covered up with scales, but has a very noisy tail!
5. Scripture Slide (on Virtual Bible): ***The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.***
Galatians 5:22-23

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 24
Letters About Forgiveness of Sin
Romans 3:23; 7:19; 1 John 1:9;
Galatians 5:22-23**

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 friends, here every week, for Mail Call where we open our Special Deliveries!

Sam (enters)

Hey Campers, it's me, Safari Sam. Guess what I did? I snuck over to Camp Coconut and put itching powder in Ranger Drosselmeyer's sleeping bag. Then, I put ants in his Kool-Aid! He is going to be so surprised! Oops, here comes Ranger Reggie. Don't say a word!

Reggie

Hello, Campers! Hello, Safari Sam!

Sam

Hello, Ranger Reggie!

Reggie

Campers, welcome to Mail Time! (SFX: Bugle call) Did we get any mail today, Safari Sam?

Sam

Why? What did you hear?

Reggie

Nothing, I just heard it was Mail Time!

(Opens the mailbag, SFX: Mailbag Song plays when the mailbag is opened, VFX: Scripture slide) **Ah, here's my Bible! Let's see what love letters God has sent us today! Here we are, Paul's letter to the Romans. *If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.***

Sam

I didn't do it!

Reggie

What? Safari Sam, is something bothering you?

Sam

Who me? No, nothing, what? I didn't...it's just...why were you talking about confessing sins?

Reggie

Because, it's in the Bible. Do you want to read what comes next?

Sam

Do I have to?

Reggie

What?

Sam

I mean, sure. *I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.* Okay, you got me!

Reggie

I got you? Safari Sam, what is wrong with you?

Sam

You made me read this because you know what I did!

Reggie

Safari Sam, I have no idea what you're talking about.

Sam

You mean...you don't know? But that verse described me perfectly. I want to do good things but sometimes I do the opposite of the good that I want to do!

Reggie

That verse describes all of us. We all have done things that are wrong in God's eyes. It's called sin.

Sam

Well, that's what I did. I put itching powder in Ranger Drosselmeyer's sleeping bag.

Reggie

Oh, Safari Sam, that was wrong.

Sam

And, I put ants in his Kool-Aid.

Reggie

Safari Sam, that's not nice at all!

Sam

I know! I'm a wretched man!

Reggie

What you did was sneaky and low, low, low.

Sam (hides his head in a barrel)

Uh-oh. I've got a feeling that today's Creature Feature is a sneaky one.

Reggie

Look up, Safari Sam. It's time to face our Creature Feature! (SFX: Creature Feature music, VFX: Creature Feature slide) **Our friend, Wild William is coming out to give us our Camp Critter Clue so we can meet today's**

featured creature! Wild William! Who is today's featured creature?

Wild William (VFX: Wild William)

This critter's covered up with scales, but has a very noisy tail!

Sam (VFX: Critter Clue slide)

Thanks, Wild William. I think I know what it is! It's a rattlesnake!

Reggie (toy snake drops onto his head)

(SFX: Hissing sound) **Ah! He's got me! Get him off! Get him off!**

Sam (tosses snake offstage)

I've got him! I've got him! Wow, Ranger Reggie, animals sure are drawn to you.

Reggie

Yeah? Well, this one drew blood!

Sam

Ranger Reggie, I am so sorry. I think God is trying to teach me a lesson today.

Reggie

Really? You really think so?

Sam

Well, the serpent is a symbol for sin, isn't it?

Reggie

Yes, remember kids? Which animal tempted Adam and Eve to eat the forbidden fruit? (Children respond.)

Sam

That's right, it was a serpent.

Reggie

And, remember what God told the serpent? (Children respond.) Because of his sin, what did the serpent have to do the rest of his life? (Children respond.)

Sam

Right, he had to crawl on his belly all the days of his life. (Gets down on his belly.) **That does it! I'm going to crawl on my belly because I'm a rotten sinner, just like the serpent!**

Reggie

Wait, Safari Sam! We are all sinners, but we don't have to crawl on our bellies.

Sam

We don't?

Reggie

No. Jesus died to pay for our sins. We who believe in Jesus are completely forgiven.

Sam

That's right. The punishment for our sins is to be separated from the Lord for all time. But, once we believe in Him, He promises we will be with Him for all eternity!

Reggie

If you sin again, and if you are truly sorry and admit your sin to Jesus, He will still forgive you! And the best part is we have His Spirit living in us to help us choose to do the right thing!

Sam

We can choose to do what's right?

Reggie

Sure, I think my friend Orville can point us in the right direction. 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.)

Sam (picks up egg from behind counter)

Orville laid an egg. May I read what's inside? (opens egg and takes out letter) **It's part of the Paul's letter to the Galatians: *The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.***

Reggie

Do you see, Safari Sam? That's the fruit of the Spirit that lives in us.

Sam

So, I don't have to do wrong things. I can choose things like love, patience, kindness and self-control! I'm going to apologize to Ranger Drosslemeyer for all the sneaky things I did to him.

Reggie

That's the spirit! Campers, let's choose to do the right thing and say our Camper's Code together?

Sam

Yes! Raise your right hand and recite our Camper's Code 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!**

(SFX: Intro/outro music)

Reggie

Those are great choices, campers! Have a great day! See you soon!

Sam

So long campers! (they exit)