



Worship Illustration: Script Mail Call

Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts - Revelation Unit 5, Lesson 26

Letters About Peace

Philippians 4:4-9; Hebrews 11:1; Colossians 3:15

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 to enter, 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 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 that the animal of the day can fall out of. 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 all "R"s and "L"s as a "W".) Safari Sam is a survivalist and lover of nature. He is very excitable and speaks with a lisp. Wild William recites Camp Critter Clue either via video, puppet or from an offstage mic. (Option: the Camp Critter Clue can be found on a slip of paper or appear on a slide and read by volunteer or any character.) Orville is a klutzy carrier pigeon (silent toy bird attached to a zip line) that delivers messages inside plastic eggs.

Plot: Safari Sam is sad because his jeep broke down. Ranger Reggie reads about God's peace in the Bible. We learn God wants us to have peace and His peace will carry us through hard times.

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

Props: Clipboard, Bible, letters, large plastic egg, toy dove

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. Bird squawking 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:
**Sweet and peaceful in his flight,
filled with Holy Spirit's light.**
5. Scripture Slide (on Virtual Bible): ***Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.***
Philippians 4:6-7

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 26
Letters About Peace
Philippians 4:4-9; Hebrews 11:1;
Colossians 3:15**

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 with sad face)

Hi, kids. Safari Sam here. I am sad, sad, sad. I'm so worried about Superstar Sally. She's really not feeling well.

Reggie (enters)

Hello, Campers! Ranger Reggie here! Welcome back to Mail Time! (SFX: Bugle call) Well, hello there, Safari Sam!

Sam (sadly)

Hi, Ranger Reggie.

Reggie

Safari Sam, are you okay?

Sam

No, I'm not! I am sad, sad, sad! I'm worried sick over Superstar Sally!

Reggie

Who is Superstar Sally?

Sam

Who is Superstar Sally? Who is Superstar Sally? She's only the greatest jeep that ever climbed a mountain! Now, she won't start.

Reggie

Oh! Isn't that your family jeep? I thought it was something serious.

Sam

It is serious! Superstar Sally has been in our family since she was fresh off the assembly line. For twenty years, she has taken us everywhere we needed to go.

Reggie

Twenty years is a long time to have a car. Maybe it's time to put her in the junkyard.

Sam (gasps)

How can you say that! Sally is more than a car to me! She's like family! And now I'm worried I may not be able to fix her.

Reggie

Safari Sam, I hate to see you so worried. What if we read a letter from the Bible? I'll let you dump the mailbag!

Sam

No, thanks. I'm too worried.

Reggie

If you don't do it. I'll ask someone else.

Sam

Go ahead. I don't care.

Reggie

Okay, who wants to come up and help me?

(Choose a volunteer.) Come on up. It's Mail Time! (Opens the mailbag. SFX: Mailbag Song plays when the mailbag is opened, VFX: Scripture slide) Pull the rope! Look, it's Paul's letter to the Colossians! Want to read it, Sam?

Sam

No, thank you.

Reggie

Wow, Safari Sam never misses a chance to read God's Word! Well, okay, I'll read it.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Did you hear that, Sam? God called us to peace and He wants us to be thankful!

Sam

Thankful?! Super Star Sally is about to go to jeep heaven. I don't feel like being thankful.

Reggie

It might bring you peace.

Sam

How can I have peace without Sally?

Reggie

We could pray to God and ask Him for peace! Would it make you feel better if I let you call Wild William?

Sam

I don't think anything could make me feel better.

Reggie

Okay, it's up to us. (to volunteer) **Do you know what time it is? It's time for our Creature Feature!** (SFX: Creature Feature music, VFX: Creature Feature slide) **Wild William! Who is today's featured creature?**

Wild William (VFX: Wild William video, actor, or puppet) **Sweet and peaceful in his flight, filled with Holy Spirit's light.**

Reggie (VFX: Critter Clue slide)

Hmm...**"sweet and peaceful in his flight, filled with Holy Spirit's light."** (to volunteer) **Do you know what it is?** (Volunteer responds.) **I think it's a dove! Now, I keep getting attacked by the featured creature so I'll let you handle him.** (Hand sticks out through curtain holding a dove, volunteer takes

dove.) **Go on. Look at that, he likes you! Here, let me hold him!** (SFX: Squawking) **Ahhh! Get off me! Get off!** (tosses dove) **Wow, I thought doves represented peace! Well, Sam, maybe we should see if Orville has a letter about peace.**

Sam (sadly)

Go ahead.

Reggie

Wow, you are really upset! Okay, it's you and me kids. Let's all shout, "Hey Orville, come on down!" Ready?

Reggie, Sam, Campers, and Counselors

Hey Orville, come on down! (Orville slides down zip line to crash behind mail counter. Reggie picks up egg from behind counter)

Reggie

Would you like to get Orville's egg? (opens egg, takes out letter) **It's from the letter to the Philippians. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. See that, Safari Sam? You don't need to worry! All you have to do is pray and have faith in God. He will give you peace in your heart and mind!**

Sam

How can I have faith in something I can't see?

Reggie

You just have to believe what God's Word says!

Sam

Well, that's hard to do!

Reggie

It is hard to do! But, I think I can show you that having faith has its rewards. (to volunteer) **Will you help me?** (Volunteer agrees.) **Great! I have these two shoe boxes. Now, one of them has a wonderful**

prize inside and one of them has a nasty mouse trap. You can't see what's inside; you just have to reach into the box and get your prize. But, here's the good news. I will tell you which box has the prize. Do you want to try it, Safari Sam?

Sam

How do I know you'll give me the right box?

Reggie

Because, I always tell the truth! In all the years that we have been friends, have I ever lied to you?

Sam

No.

Reggie (holds box)

Then, you can have faith that I'm telling the truth. Pick this box.

Sam

I'm worried about what's inside.

Reggie

(to volunteer) **You trust me, don't you?**

(Volunteer responds.) **Then, reach in the box and get your prize!** (Volunteer reaches in shoebox and gets some candy.)

Congratulations! You can have a seat. Let's give him (or her) a big round of applause for having faith in what he (or she) could not see!

Sam

I've got faith! I've got faith! (Grabs other box.) **Give me that box!** (Sam reaches in.)

(SFX: Loud crack or snap of a mousetrap)

Ouch! Ow! That stings! (pulls mouse trap out)
That really smarts!

Reggie

Safari Sam! I said it was the other box!

Sam

Silly me! I just can't get a break!

Reggie (gives him a candy bar)

I've got a prize for you anyway.

Sam

Thanks, Ranger Reggie.

Reggie

Do you feel better?

Sam

A little bit...hearing God's Word and knowing God is in control gives me peace.

Reggie

That's the peace that comes from trusting God. It's hard to explain but, if you know God is in control, your heart and mind will be calm even if there are problems all around you. That's what it means to have peace!

Sam

I guess I really do have peace even if I don't have Sally. I'm going to pray for more peace.

Reggie

I'm proud of you, my friend. Would you like to lead us in the Camp Venture Code?

Sam

I sure would! On your feet, Campers! Raise your right hand and 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!**

(SFX: Intro/outro music)

Reggie

That's all the mail for today. See you soon, campers! (they exit)