



**Worship Illustration: Script
Mail Call
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts - Revelation
Unit 5, Lesson 27**

Letters About Perseverance

Hebrews 12:1-3; Philippians 3:12-16

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 wants to win a race so he can beat Drosselmeyer. Ranger Reggie reads about perseverance in the Bible. We learn we should never give up and always focus on the real prize, eternity with Jesus.

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

Props: Clipboard, Bible, letters, large plastic egg, racehorse legs, binoculars, flyer
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. "Theme from Rocky" song clip
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. Horse whinnying sound
6. Crashing 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:

**Swift and mighty by design,
he gallops toward the finish line.**
5. Scripture Slide (on Virtual Bible): ***I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. Philippians 3:14-15***

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

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Letters About Perseverance
Hebrews 12:1-3; Philippians 3:12-16

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!

Reggie (enters)

Hello Campers! Ranger Reggie here! Welcome back to Mail Time! (SFX: Bugle call) I have good news. Ranger Drosselmeyer stopped by and fixed Safari Sam's jeep! I didn't even know he used to be a mechanic. It just goes to show what can happen when you keep your faith focused on God! (SFX: "Theme from Rocky")

Sam (jogs in with binoculars)

Hut-2-3-4! Hut-2-3-4!

Reggie

Hi Safari Sam! What are you doing?

Sam

Can't talk now. Have to stay focused. Hut-2-3-4! Hut-2-3-4!

Reggie

What are you doing?

Sam

I'm focusing. I'm getting in shape to beat Ranger Drosselmeyer.

Reggie

Why? Did your car break down again?

(SFX: Fade out music)

Sam

No. He replaced the starter and now Superstar Sally is sailing smooth!

Reggie

Then, why do you want to beat him?

Sam (hands him a flyer)

Take a look at this!

Reggie

The Ranger Runaround Rally Race.

Sam

It's the biggest ranger race of the summer and I'm going to win it!

Reggie

That's great, Safari Sam! It says here the winner gets a thousand dollar prize to give to his favorite charity.

Sam

It does?

Reggie

Sure. Isn't that why you're running the race?

Sam

Well...not exactly...to be honest, I didn't even know about the prize. I just want to beat Drosselmeyer.

Reggie

Are you still upset with him? Even after he fixed your jeep?

Sam

I know...he did. And, it's not that I'm not grateful, it's just...where does he come off being the best at everything?! He's the best at volleyball, he's the best at jeep fixing, he's the best Bible teacher...

Reggie

Excuse me?

Sam

Well, second best, after you. The point is, just once I want to see him get beat! With these long legs, I know I can outrun him!

Reggie

Oh Sam, you've got your focus on the wrong thing.

Sam

Oh, yeah? Now, I suppose you are going to tell me there is a letter in the Bible about racing.

Reggie

As a matter of fact, there is! Let me show you! **It's Mail Time!** (Opens the mail bag. SFX: Mailbag Song plays when the mailbag is opened, VFX: Scripture slide) **Here it is. *Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross...***

Sam

What does that mean?

Reggie

Well, perseverance is a big word that means never giving up. This letter is telling us to have the right focus and to pay close attention to Jesus. Jesus kept His eyes on the finish line.

Sam

What finish line?

Reggie

Heaven! Jesus knew there was only one way we could live with Him forever in heaven. He had to sacrifice Himself for our sins.

Sam

Oh, so Jesus was willing to die on the cross, because it was worth the prize.

Reggie

Yes! And, Paul tells us to keep our eyes on the finish line. Our prize is to become more like Jesus!

Sam

I've got my eyes on this finish line! And when I cross it, I'm going to laugh while Drosselmeyer cries his little eyes out!

Reggie

Oh no, Safari Sam! You're missing the point. There are so many better reasons to win the race.

Sam

Name one.

Reggie

Well, for one thing you get to give the prize money to your favorite charity. You could give the money to help kids in need and use your speed and talents to glorify God!

Sam

Well, I guess you're right.

Reggie

Of course, I'm right. It's just like the letter Orville was showing me this morning.

Sam

Let's call him, kids!

Reggie, Sam, Campers, and Counselors

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

Sam

Wow, Orville had his eyes on the target!

Reggie (picks up egg from behind counter, opens it and removes paper) **Here is Orville's message. It's from Paul's letter to the Philippians. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things.**

Sam
So, you're saying I should be focusing on God instead of focusing on hurting Ranger Drosselmeyer's feelings.

Reggie
It's always the right choice to keep our focus on God!

Sam
I wonder if our featured creature knows how to focus on the finish line.

Reggie
Let's find out! 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)
Swift and mighty by design, he gallops toward the finish line. (VFX: Camp Critter Clue slide)

Reggie
I know an animal that focuses on the finish line and gallops! It's a racehorse! (horse legs kick out through curtain, SFX: whinnying) **Ow! That hurts! Ouch! Ooh! Ah! Wahhh!** (falls down)

Sam
Ranger Reggie! Are you okay?

Reggie (disoriented)
Oh sure, he only kicked me in the head. Hey Orville, come on down!

Sam
Ranger Reggie, we already read Orville's message.

Reggie
Was it good?

Sam
Oh yes, it was great!

Reggie
Is it Mail Time?

Sam
Wow, that horse kicked you really hard. You'd better lie down.

Reggie
I can't. I must lead us in the Camp Venture Code.

Sam
You lie down, Ranger Reggie. I'll lead the code.

Reggie
Nighty-night! (collapses)

Sam
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!**

Sam
Ranger Reggie's going to get some rest! (helps him to door)

Reggie (collapses offstage)
Yippie kai ayyy! (SFX: crash)

(SFX: Intro/outro music)

Sam
See you soon, campers! (exits)