



**Worship Illustration: Script
Mail Call**
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts - Revelation
Unit 6, Lesson 28

Letters About Weakness

2 Corinthians 4:6-9, 16-18; 12:7-10; Jude 1:24-25

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 Reggie explains to Safari Sam the meaning of Paul's teachings about our weakness and God's power. We learn God's power is shown in our weakness.

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

Props: Clipboard, Bible, letters, large plastic egg, toy kitten, wheelchair, bandages

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. Meowing sound
6. Cat yawling and slashing 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:

**Cute and cuddly, soft as silk,
fill her saucer up with milk.**

5. Scripture Slide (on Virtual Bible): ***Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me...For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10***

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 6, Lesson 28
Letters About Weakness
2 Corinthians 4:6-9, 16-18; 12:7-10;
Jude 1:24-25

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 (pushes wheelchair)

Hi campers! Welcome back to Mail Call! (SFX: Bugle call) **Ranger Reggie is still sore from being attacked by that racehorse.**

Reggie (in wheelchair with bandages)
I'm fine, Safari Sam.

Sam

You need to take it slow, Ranger Reggie.

Reggie

I know, I know. Rest, relax and recuperate. But really, I feel okay.

Sam

Still, I worry about you. You're in a weakened condition.

Reggie

Thanks for caring, my friend. But, I think I'll be all right.

Sam

Well, let's see what the Bible has to say about that! It's Mail Time! (Opens the mail bag. SFX: Mailbag Song plays when the mailbag is opened, VFX: Scripture slide) **Here's Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts . . . but we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. What does that mean?**

Reggie

It means we are weak, like a breakable clay jar, but God put His light in our hearts so everyone would see He is the one with the power, not us.

Sam

God is showing His power through us! That's good news!

Reggie

Right! Let me see that Bible and I'll show you some more good news! (hands Bible to Reggie) **Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.**

Sam

So, no matter how weak we feel on the outside . . .

Reggie

He is making us stronger on the inside!

Sam

So, our faith in God makes us strong even if we get smacked in the head by wild horses?

Reggie

Did you have to bring that up?

Sam

Wow, I never realized weakness can be a good thing.

Reggie

It's not that anybody wishes to be weak, but there are times in all our lives when we find out we just can't do everything on our own.

Sam

And it's those times when we learn to lean on Jesus and let His light shine through us.

Reggie

Just like David did when he faced Goliath, the giant.

Sam

Right, because David was small and weak.

Reggie

But, God worked through him in a special way so everyone knew the victory belonged to God.

Sam

Our weakness gives God a great way to show His strength. I'll bet today's Creature Feature is a symbol of weakness.

Reggie

There's only one way to find out! It's time for our Creature Feature! (SFX: Creature Feature music, VFX: Creature Feature slide) (Sam twirls Reggie around in the wheelchair.)

Sam

Wild William, "Who is today's featured creature?"

Wild William (VFX: Wild William video, actor, or puppet)

Cute and cuddly, soft as silk, fill her saucer up with milk. (VFX: Camp Critter Clue slide)

Reggie

What do you think it is, kids? (Children respond.) I think you're right! I think it is a kitten! (hand pokes through curtain holding toy kitten)

Sam (picks up kitten)

Ranger Reggie, after last week's incident, I don't think you should be around any more dangerous critters!

Reggie

Oh, Sam, please! There's nothing weaker than a tiny little kitten! Bring her here! (Sam gives Reggie the kitten.)

Sam

Look at that, she likes you!

Reggie

Of course, she does! You're just a pretty little kitty, aren't you? (SFX: Cat yowling and slashing) Whoa! Help! Get her off my face! (falls out of chair)

Sam (tosses kitten offstage)

Scat, cat! Ranger Reggie! I knew you were too weak to handle her!

Reggie

That cat is part mountain lion!

Sam

Should I get the first aid kit?

Reggie

It's just a scratch . . . or ten. Don't worry. God is stronger than my weakness.

Sam

Who told you that?

Reggie

Orville. Hey kids, why don't we call him? Are you ready?

Children and Counselors

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

Sam (picks up egg from behind counter)

It's an egg with a letter inside!

Reggie

Open it and read it to us.

Sam (opens it and removes paper)

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me . . . For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Sam

So, when we are weak, that's when God's power shows the most!

Reggie

Amen, brother! God's power is something we can really brag about! It's good to remember that in our weakness, His light in us shines really brightly. That reminds me of our Camper's Code! On your feet, campers! Raise your right hands and recite this with 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

It's easy to be a light, when it's God's power shining through you!

(SFX: Intro/outro music)

Sam

See you soon campers!

(exit)