



Worship Illustration: Script Mail Call

Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts - Revelation Unit 6, Lesson 30

Letters to the Seven Churches

Revelation 2, 3

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 teaches Safari Sam about the letters to the seven churches. We study the concept of warnings and rewards. Most importantly we learn Jesus invites all of us to an eternal reward with Him in Heaven.

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

Props: Clipboard, Bible, letters, large plastic egg, elephant ears and trunk, 7 envelopes, 14 index cards, corkboard (See script for how to label envelopes and index cards.)

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. Elephant trumpeting 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:
**His legs are thick, his ears are grand,
largest animal on land.**
5. Scripture Slide (on Virtual Bible): **Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in. Revelation 3:20**
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 30
Letters to the Seven Churches
Revelation 2, 3

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! It's so good to see you! Welcome back to Mail Call. (SFX: Bugle call) You haven't seen Safari Sam, have you?

Sam (runs in carrying letter)

Ranger Reggie! Ranger Reggie! Look what I've got!

Reggie

What is it?

Sam

I don't know but it looks important. It says, "Warning!"

Reggie

Well, open it up.

Sam

Not me! Who knows what's inside?

Reggie

We'll never find out if you don't open it.

Sam (hides behind Reggie)

You open it.

Reggie

I don't want to open your mail!

Sam

I give you permission. Go ahead.

Reggie

Well . . . okay.

Sam (hides behind counter)

Wait! Okay, now go.

Reggie

Safari Sam! It's not going to explode!

Sam

You don't know that.

Reggie

Fine, I'll open it (opens envelope) . . . BOOM!

Sam (jumps)

Ah! Don't do that! What does it say?

Reggie

It says, "Dear Safari Sam, You have two days to submit your medical forms if you want to run in this year's Ranger Runaround Rally Race. Love, Ranger Drosslemeyer."

Sam

Is that all? Why did he have to send it in a big old envelope marked, "Warning!"

Reggie

Because, he wanted to warn you.

Sam

I know, but warnings are scary.

Reggie

No, they're not. Warnings are a good thing. People who love us send warnings to keep us from trouble. Even God sends warnings to His children.

Sam
He does?

Reggie
He sure does. He loves us enough to give us a big warning when we're heading for trouble.

Sam
I think I know what's coming now. It's **Mail Time!** (Opens the mail bag. SFX: Mailbag Song plays when the mailbag is opened, VFX: Scripture slide) **This is from the letters found in the book of Revelation! He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. What does Jesus mean? Don't we all have ears?**

Reggie
Oh, those words are found in each of the letters to the seven churches. In John's vision, Jesus told him what to write in letters to seven different churches. As for our ears, I think our featured creature can help us figure it out! It's **Creature Feature time!** (SFX: Creature Feature music, VFX: Creature Feature slide) **Wild William, give us a clue!**

Wild William (VFX: Wild William video, actor, or puppet) **"His legs are thick, his ears are grand, largest animal on land."** (VFX: Camp Critter Clue slide)

Reggie
"His legs are thick, his ears are grand, largest animal on land."

Sam
I know, I know! It's an elephant! (elephant ears drop in his hands, he puts them on) **Look at me! I've got big ears! I'm an elephant!** (SFX: Elephant trumpeting)

Reggie (elephant trunk reaches out of curtain and grabs him) **Help! Help! Mad Elephant on the loose!**

Sam (saves Reggie)
Oh no! Down Jumbo! Get back! (trunk backs offstage) **Ranger Reggie! Are you all right?**

Reggie
Now, I'm going to smell like peanuts all day!

Sam
Wow, your screams sure sounded super loud with these ears on!

Reggie
That's it, Sam! That's why God picked the elephant. God is showing us that if we listen with super ears and hear His warnings, we will always do what's right!

Sam
Well then, I'm all ears! What did Jesus say in His letters to those seven churches?

Reggie (pulls out letters)
He gave encouragements or warnings and promised rewards in heaven for those who were faithful. Here, why don't I show you? I've got seven envelopes right here.

Sam (removes index card 1 from envelope 1)
Let's take a look. To the church in Smyrna He encouraged them to not be afraid of the hard times ahead that they would suffer for their faith. (pins card on left of corkboard)

Reggie (removes index card 2 from envelope 1)
And Jesus promised them if they stayed faithful they would get the crown of life as a reward in heaven! (pins card on right of corkboard)

Sam (removes index card 3 from envelope 2)
That's good news! This one is to the church in Sardis. Jesus warned them to wake up their faith, repent, and obey! (pins card to left of corkboard)

Reggie (removes index card 4 from envelope 2)
Jesus promised to keep the names of all who repented and obeyed His Book forever! (pins card to right of corkboard)

Sam
That's great news!

Reggie

It sure is! Let's see what Jesus wrote to the church in Philadelphia. (removes index card 5 from envelope 3) **He told them they were running out of strength,** (pins card on left of corkboard)
(removes index card 6 from envelope 3) **but if they would stay strong until the end, He would write His new name on them!** (pins card on left of corkboard)

Sam

That's great! Who's next? (reads envelope 4)
The church of Ephesus! (removes index card 7 from envelope 4) **Jesus was pleased with what they had done, but now they were starting to put other things first. He warned them to return to the way they did things when they first started to follow Him.** (pins card on left of corkboard)

Reggie (removes index card 8 from envelope 4 and pins on right of corkboard) **Look! Jesus said if they would return to obeying Him they would eat from the tree of life! Excellent! Who's next?**

Sam

The church in Pergamum. (removes index card 9 from envelope 5) **They were doing good things but believing in false teachings about God!** (pins card on left of corkboard)
(removes index card 10 from envelope 5) **Jesus promised if they came back to His teaching, He would give them a stone with a new secret name on it and hidden manna! Is that like the bread that God sent to His people in the desert?** (pins card on right of corkboard)

Reggie

It is! Give us this day our daily bread! Next is the church in Thyatira! (removes index card 11 from envelope 6) **Jesus encouraged them for their love and good deeds, but warned them not to follow false teachings.** (pins card on left of corkboard)

Sam (removes index card 12 from envelope 6) **But, Jesus promised those who stayed away from sin would rule other nations.** (pins card on right of corkboard)

Reggie

Well, here's one last letter—it's to the church in Laodicea.

Sam (removes index card 13 from envelope 7) **It says, Jesus told them they were lukewarm? I don't know what that means.**

Reggie

Well Sam, when we first decide to follow Jesus, we are so excited that our hearts feel like they are on fire! We want to be with Him and talk about Him all the time. Sometimes, after a while, people cool off a little and put other things first.

Sam

Oh, so Jesus wants us to stay close to Him and if we do, (removes index card 14 from envelope 7) **He invites us to sit with Him on His throne.** (pins card on left of corkboard.) **Say, that reminds me of the letter Orville showed me! Hey campers, let's call Orville? 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) **Here's the egg with the letter in it!**

Reggie

Open it and read it to us!

Sam

It's a very important message! Jesus says, *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in.*

Reggie

He knocks at the door of everyone's heart—we can invite Him to come in and be the Lord of our lives forever.

Sam

And, anyone who believes in Jesus as Lord, gets to be close with Him forever here on earth and later in heaven.

Reggie

Right, and did you know that even after we believe in Him, Jesus still knocks on the door to our hearts.

Sam

Why is that?

Reggie

He's there with forgiveness, love warnings, power, and second chances!

Sam (point to warning column)

Well, when I look at this column of warnings, I feel like I have done all of these wrong things.

Reggie

We all disobey God sometimes.

Sam

Sometimes, I don't put Jesus first.

Reggie

That's true for us all, and sometimes, we believe false teachings or have lukewarm faith. But, Jesus loves us enough to warn us and give us another chance. He always stands at the door of our hearts and knocks, remember?

Sam

If we invite Him to come into our hearts as our Lord, His Spirit lives in our hearts and helps us do things His way. (point to reward column) And look at all the rewards that those who are faithful receive in heaven!

Reggie

That's right. And we all know at least three ways we can all be faithful to Jesus.

Sam

We do?

Reggie

Yes! We say them all the time . . . in our Camper's Code. Let's say it together, campers!

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

Great job, campers! Today, look for a way to do each of those things.

Sam

So long!

(exit)