



**Worship Illustration: Storybook  
Mail Call  
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts—Revelation  
Unit 6, Lesson 30**

# **Letters to the Seven Churches**

**Revelations 2, 3**

**Safari Sam ran through the door and up to the counter. He was waving an envelope in the air. "Ranger Reggie! Ranger Reggie! Look what I have! I don't know what's inside, but it looks important." He pointed to the red letters stamped on the envelope flap. "It says: Warning!"**

**"Well, open it up," Ranger Reggie urged.**

**"I'm not going to open it. Who knows what's inside?" Safari Sam pushed it into Ranger Reggie's hands and backed up. "You open it."**

**"Well . . . okay," Ranger Reggie started to slit the fold.**

**"Wait!" Safari Sam ducked beneath the counter. "Okay, now go."**

**"Safari Sam! It's not going to explode!" Ranger Reggie exclaimed.**

**"You don't know that," Safari Sam insisted.**

**"Fine. You stay there and I'll open it." Ranger Reggie finished slitting open the top. "BOOM!" he shouted.**

**Safari Sam jumped in fright and bumped his head on the counter. "Ow! Don't do that!" He rubbed his head as stood up. "What does it say?"**

**Ranger Reggie laughed. "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. Your friend, Ranger Drosselmeyer."**

**Safari Sam stepped out from behind the counter. "Is that all? Why did he have to send it in a big, old, scary envelope?"**

**Ranger Reggie shrugged. "Because, he wanted to warn you."**

**"I know but, warnings are scary," Safari Sam said.**

**"No, they're not," Ranger Reggie stated. "Warnings are a good thing. People who love us send warnings to prevent us from getting into trouble. Even God sends warnings. He loves us enough to give us a big warning when we're heading for trouble."**

**"I think I know what's coming. It's Mail Time!" Safari Sam opened the mailbag and removed the Bible. He found the bookmark in Revelation. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Safari Sam stopped. "What churches? What is the Bible talking about?"**

**"Oh, those words are found in each of the letters to the seven churches," Ranger Reggie explained. "In John's vision, Jesus told him what to write."**

**"I get it. So, what did the letters say?" Safari Sam asked with curiosity.**

**"Why don't I show you? I've got seven envelopes right here." Ranger Reggie pulled seven envelopes from his pocket and set them on the counter. He picked up the first one and opened it. "To the church in Smyrna, Jesus encouraged them to not be afraid of the hard times ahead or to worry they would suffer for their faith. He promised them if they stayed faithful, they would get the crown of life as a reward in heaven."**

**"That's good news!" Safari Sam said. He found the second letter and opened it. "This one is to the church in Sardis. Jesus warned them to wake up their faith, repent, and obey! To all who repented and obeyed, Jesus promised He would keep their name in His book forever!"**

**Ranger Reggie reached for the third envelope. "Jesus wrote to the church in Philadelphia that He knew they were running out of strength. He assured them that if they would stay strong until the end, He would write His new name on them!"**

**"That's great! Who's next?" Safari Sam asked. He read the fourth envelope. "The church of Ephesus! Jesus was pleased with what they had done, but they had started to put other things first. He warned them to return to the way they did things when they first followed Jesus. He said if they would return to obeying Him, they would eat from the tree of life!"**

**"Excellent!" Ranger Reggie cheered. "It looks like the fifth envelope is addressed to the church in Pergamum. They were doing good things but believing in false teachings about God. 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! That sounds like the bread God sent to His people in the desert."**

**Sam reached for the sixth envelope. "Next is the church in Thyatira. Jesus encouraged them for their love and good deeds, but warned them about following false teachings. Jesus promised that those who stayed away from sin would rule other nations."**

**"Well, here's the last letter," Reggie said. "It's to the church in Laodicea. Jesus called them lukewarm. Do you know what that means? 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 become less excited and they begin to put other things first."**

**"Oh, so Jesus wants us to stay close to Him. If we do, He invites us to sit with Him on His throne!" Safari Sam put the letters down and said thoughtfully, "Say, that reminds me of the letter Orville showed me! Hey campers, let's call Orville? Are you ready?"**

**"Hey Orville, come on down!" the children and counselors called out. Orville swooped down from his nest and dropped a message egg onto the counter.**

**Safari Sam opened the egg and began to read. "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.'"**

**Ranger Reggie smiled. "He knocks at the door of everyone's heart. We can invite Him to come in and be the Lord of our lives forever. Those who believe in Jesus as Lord will be close with Him forever here on earth and later in heaven."**

**Safari Sam thought for a minute. "When I look at all the warnings Jesus gave to the churches, I know I have done all of these wrong things. Sometimes, I don't remember to put Jesus first."**

**"We all disobey God sometimes," Ranger Reggie replied, "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?"**

**Safari Sam nodded and said, "If we invite Him in as our Lord, His Spirit lives in our hearts and helps us do things His way. And let's not forget the good news Jesus told the churches in His letters. He promised the faithful will receive many rewards in heaven! There's only one thing I don't understand. What does God mean when He says, 'He who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says. . . ?' Don't we all have ears?"**

**"We do, but I think our featured creature can help us figure it out. It's Creature Feature time!"**

**Just then, Wild William peered around the corner of the horse stalls and into the Mail Center. "His legs are thick. His ears are grand. He is the largest animal on land."**

**"I know, I know! It's an elephant!" Safari Sam guessed immediately.**

**At the first sight of the elephant lumbering down the aisle, Ranger Reggie hid behind the counter, but it was too late. The elephant lifted him effortlessly with his long gray trunk. "Help! Help! Mad elephant on the loose!" Ranger Reggie cried.**

**Safari Sam leapt into action. "Oh no! Down Jumbo! Get back!" He held out a palm full of peanuts. The elephant dropped Ranger Reggie and followed Safari Sam and the peanuts back down the aisle. Safari Sam returned to the stage. "Ranger Reggie! Are you all right? Your screams sure must have sounded super loud to that elephant. Did you see how big his ears are?" Safari Sam asked.**

**"That's it, Safari Sam!" Ranger Reggie exclaimed. "The elephant and his giant ears was today's featured creature. If we listen with super ears and hear God's warnings, we will always do what is right!"**

**Safari Sam grinned. "That's a reward I can live with, plus we can use our ears to hear Jesus knocking!"**

**Ranger Reggie grinned back. "Now, let's all go out to the campfire together. We can have a special time of worship and talk more about what it means when we say Jesus is knocking on the door to our hearts!"**