



**Worship Illustration: Script
Mail Call**
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts - Revelation
Unit 6, Lesson 31

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

**Revelation 19:11-16; 21:1-4; 22:1-5, 20;
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

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. Add a person dressed in a lion costume.

Plot: Safari Sam is sad that camp must end. Ranger Reggie assures him we will see each other again. He reads God's promises in Revelation. We learn we will be together forever with God and each other in heaven.

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

Props: Clipboard, Bible, letters, large plastic egg, toy lion, lightweight chair

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. "Theme from Rocky"
6. Lion roar
7. Slashing claws and yowls
8. Theme from "Lion King"

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:

**He's not afraid of anything,
God has made this cat the king.**

5. Scripture Slide (on Virtual Bible): ***For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of***

God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Revelation 21:1- 4

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 31

**The Revelation of Jesus Christ
Revelation 19:11-16, 21:1-4, 22:1-5, 20;
1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17**

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! Welcome back to our final Mail Call here at Camp Venture. (SFX: Bugle call, "Theme from Rocky")

Sam (runs in wearing medal)

Ranger Reggie! Ranger Reggie!

Reggie

Oh, hi, Safari Sam. What have you got there?

Sam

It's a medal!

Reggie

That's right! The big Ranger Runaround Rally Race was this week!

Sam

It was yesterday.

Reggie

And you won a bright, shiny medal! Did you come in first place?

Sam

Nope! I was dead last!

Reggie

Really? I'm so sorry for you, my friend.

Sam

Don't be sorry. This was the sweetest experience of my life! We were just starting the last lap and Ranger Drosselmeyer was in the lead but I was gaining on him swiftly.

Reggie

Did you pass him?

Sam

I was about to pass when suddenly we both stumbled, our legs got all caught up, and we went crashing to the ground!

Reggie

Oh, no!

Sam

Oh, yes! We both got pretty badly scraped up!

Reggie

That's terrible!

Sam

Actually, it was awesome! Ranger Drosselmeyer got up first and then, he helped me to my feet. Once I stood up, I noticed he had twisted his ankle so I told him to lean on me. All the other runners passed us and together we limped across the finish line in last place! They gave us the medal for "Best Show of

Sportsmanship!" Ranger Reggie . . . I don't know how to tell you this, but I think Ranger Drosselmeyer is my best friend!

Reggie

That's remarkable! Isn't it funny how God works?

Sam (starts to cry)

Yeah, but . . . now I'm really sad! Our time at Camp Venture is ending and I'll never see you or the campers or Ranger Drosselmeyer ever again!

Reggie

There, there. Dry your eyes, Safari Sam. We'll see each other next year.

Sam

What if I don't come back to Camp Venture next year?

Reggie

Those of us who love the Lord always know we'll meet again in the future.

Sam

How can you know for sure?

Reggie

I read it in a letter. And you know what that means? It's Mail Time! (Opens the mail bag. SFX: Mailbag Song plays when the mailbag is opened, VFX: Scripture slide) **This is from the book of Thessalonians! *For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.***

Sam

Wow! Jesus is coming back!

Reggie

Yes, God gave the apostle John a vision and he wrote that revelation down.

Sam

We read from that book last time!

Reggie

We did, but did you know John saw heaven open up and Jesus was riding on a white horse followed by all the armies of heaven!

Sam

Whoa! What's He coming to do!

Reggie

He's going to come back to rule over all the nations of the world!

Sam

Jesus has such amazing love for us. But, there are times the Bible describes Him as a warrior king and a judge.

Reggie

He is all those things. He loves us with all His heart, and He is a warrior against evil!

Sam

I wonder which animal of the day is the most like Jesus?

Reggie

Let's find out! It's Creature Feature time! (SFX: Creature Feature music, VFX: Creature Feature slide) **Wild William, give us our Critter Clue!**

Wild William

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

"He's not afraid of anything, God has made this cat the king." (VFX: Camp Critter Clue slide)

Sam

Ranger Reggie! I know the king of the jungle! It's a lion! (SFX: Lion's roar) Did you hear that? Behind the door! Go on, open it.

Reggie

I'm not going to open it! All the animals attack me. You open it!

Sam

I'm a coward. You open it!

Reggie

You first!

Sam

No, you!

Reggie

Fine, we'll open it together. 1-2-3! (they open door to reveal a toy lion) **Oh, look at him! He's the cutest little thing. I was afraid I was going to get attacked by a great big lion.** (person in lion costume sneaks up and attacks him) (SFX: Lion roars, slashing, yowls, etc.)

Sam (looking at the toy lion, facing away from Ranger Reggie) **Oh no, this little fella wouldn't hurt a soul. Would you, big guy?** (notices Reggie) **Whoa! Ranger Reggie! Look out! There's a big lion!**

Reggie

I'm aware of that! Get him off me!

Sam (pulls out lightweight chair)

Down! Back, lion! Get back! Back! Here! Here's your baby! (puts toy lion on box, large lion climbs up, lifts cub) (SFX: Lion King music) (person in lion costume exits) **It's okay, Ranger Reggie. I don't think he meant to hurt you. He was just protecting his cub.**

Reggie

I just got clawed to death by the king of the jungle!

Sam

That lion sure was powerful! Is that why Jesus is called the Lion of Judah?

Reggie

Sure is! Jesus takes care of those who belong to Him, and yet, He is the king who will return to judge the world and make things right once and for all!

Sam

Imagine that! A world where everyone bows down to King Jesus!

Reggie

That's right. And we'll all be together with Him in a perfect place.

Sam

How do you know?

Reggie

It says so in another part of Revelation that Orville was showing me earlier!

Sam

Well, I want to see it! Let's call him!

All

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

Sam (picks up egg from behind counter)

Here's Orville's message! May I read it? *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth . . . I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God...And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. That sounds beautiful!*

Reggie

That's the promise the Lord makes to all of us who follow Him. He will be with us forever!

Sam

So, I guess I really will see all of you again!

Reggie

For all eternity!

Sam

**Ranger Reggie, may I lead the very last
Campers Code of the summer!**

Reggie

Take it away, my friend!

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! Be sure to look for
ways to do each of those three things
every day until we meet again right here
next year at Camp Venture!**

Sam

So long!

(exit)

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.) **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)