

Introduction: Wilder

Awesome Critters

Wilder: *(Enters and looks around at all the kids in the audience before speaking.)* Well, well. Just look at all you amazing people who are here for our show! You probably weren't expecting to see a lion here today, were you? After all, we lions spend most of our time in the plains of Africa—what we call “the savanna.”

I'm only one of the amazing animals that make our home in the savanna. And just like incredible animals live in the savanna, amazing animals live in other places too—all over the world. God created every single one of those animals, and each one shows how wonderful our Creator God is. Did you know that God's Word, the Bible, says God is strong and courageous just like a . . . you guessed it . . . a *lion*! That's me! One hundred percent strong and courageous. Well, except when it comes to spiders. I'm not so courageous around spiders. *(A spider appears, and Wilder shrinks back.)*

Now here's something else amazing. Even though the Bible says God is like a big, strong lion, it also says He's like a bird that takes care of its little chicks. *(A bird and chicks appear.)* Isn't that something! And then another part of the Bible says God is like an eagle *(stretches arms out)* with big, strong, powerful wings. *(An eagle appears.)*

Did you know that animals can help us understand some facts about God and about His Son, Jesus Christ? At VBS we'll trek around the world to find animals that stand out—animals you might not have met before. But most important, we'll discover five descriptions of Who Jesus is and what He does.

I'm so excited about this trip. Who knows what sorts of creatures we might encounter? Maybe a camel . . . or a bighorn sheep . . . or how about a blobfish? I don't even know what a blobfish is, but it sounds interesting!

So be on the lookout for wild and unique animals! I'll see you again soon! *(Exits.)*

Introduction

Meet the Crew

Mia enters first, carrying a video camera and looking through its viewfinder. She is walking backward and filming Logan, Sebastian, and River as they enter.

Mia: *(Narrating the action as she films.)* All right, the camera fades up from black. It moves slowly as we follow three energetic and fashionable young people as they enter the room.

Logan: Mia, what are you doing?

Mia: I'm capturing the moment as it unfolds. You never know when you might get the video of a lifetime on camera.

Sebastian: This isn't the actual show, is it? I'm not camera ready. I have an image to uphold.

River: I don't think we've started yet. I mean, we're supposed to be creating a wildlife show. This is a meeting room. We won't find much wildlife here.

Logan: Everybody, just calm down. Nobody needs to be camera ready or setting up for scenes. This is just a production meeting—you know, so we can plan everything and make sure we all know what we're supposed to do.

Mia: I still think I should film all this though. *(Pans the room with the camera.)* We need to get plenty of footage for the behind-the-scenes special.

Sebastian: Behind the what?

Mia: Behind the scenes! You know, it's a show about the making of a show. And then, of course, there's the behind-the-scenes special about making the behind-the-scenes special.

Sebastian: Okay, I'm confused.

Logan: *(A bit frustrated.)* We aren't doing any behind-the-scenes specials, or in-front-of-the-scenes specials, or anything like that! It's our job to make a show about the amazing animals in the world, and that's what we're going to do.

River: But not until after we have this production meeting, right?

Logan: Right. Now, the show we're producing is called WildLIVE! It's all about the amazing creatures God made. Some of these creatures act in ways that can help us understand God's Son, Jesus, a little better. For example, Jesus is compassionate, and some animals act compassionately. Others are faithful, and so is Jesus.

Mia: The show sounds exciting!

Logan: It will be! *(Remembers to introduce himself.)* But where are my manners? I'm Logan, the director of this show. That means it's *my* job to make sure all the rest of you do *your* jobs. *(Gestures to Sebastian.)* Now this is Sebastian. He's going to be the on-camera host of the show. He also writes the script for each episode.

Sebastian: I've been busy preparing all sorts of interview questions for the animals we'll be filming. *(Clears throat.)* Tell me, Mr. Armadillo—if you were a tree, what kind of tree would you be?

River: I don't think you'll actually interview the animals.

Logan: *(To Sebastian.)* Your job is to tell the viewers interesting facts *about* the animals. And those facts will be provided by River here. *(Gestures to River.)* She's our animal expert and spotter.

Mia: Spotter? What's that?

River: When we go out into the field, someone has to find the animals we're trying to capture on video. I know all sorts of tricks for finding them.

Mia: And once we find them, that's when I come in!

Logan: Right! This is Mia. She's our camera operator and sound mixer.

Mia: Yep. Cameras, sound, lights . . . that's my area of expertise. I'll capture everything in stunning high-definition video with super realistic audio. Our show will look and sound even better than real life.

Sebastian: Is that even possible?

Mia: Oh, it's possible. Believe me, it's possible.

As the last few lines are spoken, Wilder enters quietly behind Logan, who does not notice.

Logan: Excellent! I can tell we've got the right crew for the job!

River: Uh, Logan, I think I've already spotted an animal for the show. And it's right behind you.

Logan: Nice try, but there are no wild animals in the meeting room.

Wilder: Are you sure?

Logan: *(Lets out a startled scream.)* Oh, Wilder. You startled me.

Wilder: What can I say? I'm a lion. I move with stealth and agility.

Mia: Why is there a lion in our production meeting?

Logan: This isn't just any lion. This is Wilder. He's our production assistant.

Sebastian: Production assistant?

Wilder: Sure! That means I'm here to help whenever I'm needed. I can set up the camera, test the sound equipment, help you practice your lines . . . I can even get coffee.

River: Coffee? Gross.

Wilder: Juice boxes then.

River: That's better.

Logan: Wilder is here to do whatever is necessary to help make this show a success.

Wilder: You said it! I can't wait to learn about all these amazing creatures.

Sebastian: So, where are we going to find all these animals? Do you have season passes to the zoo or something?

Logan: Of course not! We have to get out into the field and find these creatures in their natural habitats. We'll be going all around the world!

Mia: Wow! This really will be an adventure.

Logan: All right, everybody. There's a lot we need to do to get ready. Are you with me?

Others: Yeah!

Logan: Great! Let's do this!

All exit, chattering excitedly.