



Peter Visits Cornelius

Acts 10: 9-15; 28-35; 43-48

Running time: Approximately 6 minutes

Set: The set for Units 1-4 is designed to look like the interior of the spaceship Skylab Omega. There are colored Plexiglas panels with lights behind them, computer parts, knobs, buttons, and a built-in view screen. The Command Center is on B-deck (upper level or stage right). A-deck (lower level or stage left) has a sliding entrance upstage center and a teleport. There is a tube where messages and the Bible can be received. The Virtual Bible is a screen or monitor displaying the Bible verses in the script. For extra fun, build windows where characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

Characters: Commander Cosmos is the pilot of Skylab Omega. He is a strong, confident leader with a bit of a strut in his walk. Captain Yago is a "Klingon-like" soldier from Planet Pharis. He is very aggressive and always ready to battle. He speaks with a Russian accent.

Plot: Captain Yago intercepts Ruby's message and mistakes it for a threat. Commander Cosmos tells him about how Peter reached out to a Gentile named, Cornelius. We learn that God accepts all men who choose to follow Jesus.

Costumes: Commander Cosmos wears pajamas, boots, curlers, and a hairnet. Yago wears a shiny tunic, satin pants, boots, and a helmet.

Props: Light saber, sword, scroll, Bible

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro/outro music suggestion: Space-themed songs

2. Loud whooping sirens
3. Fanfare
4. Computer Voiceover: "Intruder Alert! Intruder Alert! Uninvited intruder boarding Skylab Omega in 5-4-3-2-1!"
5. Teleport sounds and fanfare
6. Chase music suggestion: The Khachaturian Saber Dance
7. Battle music suggestion: Star Wars battle music
8. Plexiglas window suggestion: Handel's Messiah "Hallelujah Chorus." Music plays when window is opened to reveal Bible.
9. Computer keyboard typing sounds. (For more humorous elements, add SFX such as a cowbell, foghorn, etc.)
10. Virtual Bible theme suggestion: "Close Encounters" Theme

Visual effects (VFX):

1. Video Intro featuring space ships and rockets is available at ResourceWell.org
2. Slide 1: Somewhere in space ... Just east of Planet Joppa ... time: 3:00 in the morning ... Earth time
3. Slide 2 (flashing): Intruder Alert!
4. Strobes and fog
5. Sliding Plexiglas window holds the Bible. When opened, light shines out and music plays.
6. Scripture Slide (on Virtual Bible): ***It says, Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right."***
Acts 10:34, 35
5. Closing Slide: "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever!"
6. Fall back slide: Traveling rocket ship

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 at ResourceWell.org

Commander Cosmos
Unit 2, Lesson 9
Peter Visits Cornelius
Acts 10:9-15; 28-35; 43-48

Voiceover (VFX: short video intro)

Scripture ... the finest frontier. These are the voyages of Skylab Omega. Its five month mission to spread the Gospel to the galaxy, to share God's love with civilization, to boldly go where one Savior has gone before! Come with us now as we blast through the Bible with Commander Cosmos: Space Ranger!

(VFX: Up to half on silent, empty room)
(VFX: Words type across the view screen, "Somewhere in space...Just east of Planet Joppa...time: 3:00 in the morning... Earth time")
(SFX: Loud, whooping siren and computer voiceover)
(VFX: flashing red lights,
(VFX: Intruder Alert! flashing on screen)

Computer V.O.

Intruder Alert! Intruder Alert! Uninvited intruder boarding Skylab Omega in 5-4-3-2-1!

(SFX: Teleport sounds and fanfare)
(VFX: Strobes and fog)

Yago (enters through teleport)

At last, I am aboard the enemy ship! I shall disable the main computer! (climbs ladder)

Cosmos (enters wearing pajamas, a robe, curlers and a hairnet) **What is all that racket? Did you kids see any intruders?** (response) **Up there? All right, I'll check.** (climbs ladder) **There's nobody here.** (Yago appears on B deck) **What? He's downstairs?** (response) **Okay.** (climbs down) **See, the ship is empty.**

(Yago appears on A Deck) **What? Upstairs? I just checked up there! All right, calm down, I'll ask. Is there anybody upstairs?**

Yago

There's nobody here but us chickens!

Cosmos

Hey! You get down here!

Yago

Come and get me, Spaceman!

Cosmos

Oh, I'll get you! (SFX: Chase music) (Cosmos climbs up ladder, Yago climbs down) **Where are you?**

Yago

Down here, Slowpoke!

Cosmos

Stay right there. (climbs down back stairs)

Yago

How about...NO?! (exits stage left)

(Cosmos enters SR (stage right) and exits SL (stage left); Yago enters SR and exits SL; Cosmos enters SR and exits SL; Cosmos enters SL and crosses to SR)

Yago (enters stage right)

Excuse me.

Cosmos

Of course, after you! (Yago exits SL; Cosmos exits SR then enters SR) **I've got an idea.** (He draws his light saber; Yago enters SR) **Hold it right there, Intruder!** (Yago draws his sword) **State your name and business!** (SFX: Battle music begins)

Yago

I am Yago, Captain of the Pharisees! Are you the one they call Rubbish Tarlite?

Cosmos

You mean, Ruby Starlight. I am her commander, Commander Cosmos!

Yago

Bring this Lieutenant Ruby to me.

Cosmos

She's sleeping. What is it you want?

Yago

We received this threat from your ship!

Cosmos

Threat? We never sent any threats.

Yago (opens scroll)

I shall read it. (SFX: Battle music stops)

"Attention friends and Pharisees!" You see, Pharisees are not called friends!

"Skylab Omega will be spreading God's Word throughout your galaxy." You come to our galaxy forcing things upon us? "All are welcome to come aboard and hear about the power of our Lord. Your friend, Lieutenant Ruby Starlight." This "friend," Lt. Ruby, has threatened us with the power of your Lord!

Cosmos

No, no, no. That's not a threat! Truce, my friend. Let's put our weapons down.

Yago

You go first!

Cosmos (lowers light saber)

Of course! Come put yours away.

Yago (returns sword to sheath)

Okay! Now, what of these threats?

Cosmos

You are mistaken, Captain Yago. We come in peace. This message is a greeting, not a threat. God's Word is our Bible, a book that tells of our Lord Jesus. He loves all people. We want to share it with everyone.

Yago

Where is this Bible?

Cosmos (reaches for Bible)

Right here in this box.

Yago

Stop! I will get it. (Opens window, SFX: "Hallelujah Chorus," VFX: Beam of light shines from window) **Aha! A trap! I knew it!** (he beats on window with sword)

Cosmos

Wait! Wait! Stop, Captain Yago! It's just a Bible! See? This is God's Word. Come. Sit. I will read you a story from His Word.

Yago

All right, but, be careful. I am watching you.

Cosmos

This is about Peter, a follower of Jesus. One day he dreamed that he saw a sheet being lowered down from heaven.

Yago

What was in this sheet?

Cosmos

All kinds of four-footed animals and birds and reptiles. Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

Yago (draws sword)

Aha! Kill! I knew this was a trap!

Cosmos

Calm down, Captain Yago, let me explain. Peter was Jewish and his people were not allowed to eat the foods the Gentiles ate.

Yago (returns sword to sheath)

What is a Gentile?

Cosmos

A Gentile is a person that does not follow God. The Jewish people called them unclean.

Yago (draws sword, then returns it)

Are you calling me unclean!

Cosmos

No, not you, the animals and birds and reptiles...

Yago (draws sword again)
Are you calling me a reptile?!

Cosmos
No, relax! God told Peter, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." God was showing Peter that He loved the Gentiles just as much as he loved the Jews, and that He wanted them to be part of His kingdom, too. God told Peter to go downstairs because He had sent three men to find him.

Yago (returns sword to sheath)
Did they capture him and keep him as a prisoner?

Cosmos
No, they invited him back to the house of a Gentile named, Cornelius. He told Peter that an angel had appeared to him and told him to invite Peter to his home. Cornelius wanted Peter to tell him and all his friends about Jesus.

Yago
What did Peter say to this Cornelius and his friends?

Cosmos
Let's check the Virtual Bible. (SFX: computer keyboard, VFX: Scripture slide) **It says, Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right."**

Yago
Your God accepted these Gentiles? I thought they were unclean.

Cosmos
They were called unclean because they had sin in their lives.

Yago
What is this sin?

Cosmos
Sin is when we do wrong things in God's eyes.

Yago
Do I have sin?

Cosmos
Yes.

Yago (draws sword)
How dare you! Infidel!

Cosmos
No, no, we all do! I sin, too! The Bible says we all sin. But the good news is God can wash away our sins. Not with soap and water, but with His forgiveness. When anyone believes in Jesus, his or her sins are washed away, forgiven forever.

Yago
Your Bible says, "anyone from any nation," that does that include the Planet Pharis?

Cosmos
Yes, He loves everyone. God has no favorites.

Yago (returns sword to sheath)
I have never heard of such a thing. I want you to tell me more.

Cosmos
I'd be honored. Come down to the kitchen with me. I'll treat you to breakfast and we can talk about His kingdom.

Yago
Is there still room in His kingdom for my people?

Cosmos
There's always room in His kingdom. After all...say it with us, kids! Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever! (SFX: Outro music, VFX: Fallback slide)

(exit)