



Paul and King Agrippa

Acts 25:23-27; 26:1-32

Running time: Approximately 6 minutes

Setting: This series (Units 1- 4) is set on board a spaceship. The set is designed to look like the interior of the spaceship Skylab Omega. There are colored Plexiglas panels with lights behind them, computer parts, knobs and buttons, and a built-in view screen. The Command Center is on the B-deck (upper level or stage right area). The 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 the 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: Cosmos tells Yago about Paul boldly sharing the gospel with King Agrippa. Yago decides to follow Jesus. We learn the Holy Spirit gives us strength to tell others about the Lord.

Costumes: Cosmos wears a space suit and boots. Yago wears a shiny tunic, satin pants, boots, and a helmet.

Props: Bible, remote control, "engine hole" with lid

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro/outro music suggestion: Space-themed songs
2. Computer Voiceover: Voice with echo
3. Teleport sounds and fanfare
4. Plexiglas window suggestion: Handel's Messiah "Hallelujah Chorus." Music plays when window is opened to reveal Bible.
5. Computer keyboard typing sounds. (For more humorous elements, add SFX such as cowbell, foghorn, etc.)
6. Virtual Bible theme suggestion: "Close Encounters" Theme

Visual effects (VFX):

1. Video Intro featuring space ships and rockets available at ResourceWell.org
2. Strobes and fog (Teleport)
3. Sliding Plexiglas window holds the Bible. When opened, light shines out and music plays.
4. Scripture Slide (on Virtual Bible): ***Paul replied, "Short time or long—I pray God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains." Acts 26:29***
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 located at ResourceWell.org

Commander Cosmos
Unit 4, Lesson 19
Paul and King Agrippa
Acts 25:23-27; 26:1-32

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!

Cosmos (enters through hole in stage)
Hello, Space Cadets! Commander Cosmos, Space Ranger, at your service! What an amazing time we had on Planet Ephesus. Those people were so excited to hear about Jesus. Lieutenant Ruby shared God's Word with the whole planet. We never saw so many people give their hearts to Jesus. The king of Planet Ephesus threw a big feast to celebrate. We hated to leave. (pulls letters out of ottoman)
Let me read some mail from some of the friends we made!

***Dear Skylab Crew,
Thanks for teaching us about Jesus.
We love you!
The Ephesians.***

Let me sit and read some more. (gets stuck in seat) **Oh no! I'm stuck! Help! Somebody help!**

Computer V.O.
Visitor arriving in 5-4-3-2-1. (SFX: Teleport sounds and fanfare, VFX: Strobes and fog)

Cosmos
Oh no! Why am I always in a weird position when company comes?!

Yago
Ah, Commander Cosmos, you find the strangest places to sit.

Cosmos
A little help? (Yago helps him.) **Thank you, Captain Yago. You have a habit of dropping in unannounced.**

Yago (lifts lid on engine hole)
I wanted to check on the thruster engines and make sure all the systems are operating properly.

Cosmos
So far, it's running great.

Yago
Let me be the judge of that. (climbs into engine hole) **So, I see you are still flying all over the galaxy preaching your message.**

Cosmos
That's our calling.

Yago
Ah yes, your "calling." I don't see why your God makes you travel all over the place talking about Him.

Cosmos
You make it sound like a punishment. God doesn't *make* us do it. It's actually a great privilege.

Yago
Oh yes, like your great Apostle Paul. He had the "privilege" of being beaten and thrown in jail.

Cosmos
That's true. Paul did suffer for his faith, but God lead him to many places and used him in powerful ways. Let me get the Bible and tell you all about it. (Opens window, SFX: "Hallelujah Chorus," VFX: Beam of light shines from window.) **At this time, the Apostle Paul was on trial in Philippi.**

Yago
Again? That Paul is such a jailbird!

Cosmos
But, God gave Paul the honor of spreading His message to a king!

Yago

A king? What king?

Cosmos

King Agrippa. There was a man named Festus who was the governor of Judea when the Jews insisted Paul be arrested.

Yago

For what? What did Paul do?

Cosmos

All he did was talk about Jesus.

Yago

That is ridiculous! A man should not be arrested for speaking what is in his heart.

Cosmos

You're right, but the Jews thought that Paul was wrong about Jesus.

Yago

Still, an innocent man should not be sent to jail without being accused of a proper crime.

Cosmos

Exactly! That is what Festus thought! So he asked his friend, King Agrippa, to help him decide which crime to charge Paul with. Paul was brought in chains to explain everything to them.

Yago

What did he say?

Cosmos

He told his whole life story.

Yago

You mean how he had been raised as a devoted Jew and became a Jewish leader himself?

Cosmos

Yes, you've been paying attention.

Yago

Did he also tell them how badly he had treated the Christians?

Cosmos

He did. Then he told them how the bright light blinded him on the road to Damascus.

Yago

Ah yes, and Jesus spoke to him.

Cosmos

Yes and Paul became a Christian. God sent him to spread the good news that Jesus is the Lord.

Yago

In Jerusalem and Judea and to the Gentiles...we know this. But, that is why Paul was arrested in the first place.

Cosmos

That's what Festus said. He thought Paul was crazy to keep preaching God's Word even when he was being thrown in jail for it. But, Paul spoke to King Agrippa because he knew the king understood Jewish law.

Yago

That *is* crazy! Did he think that in such a short time he could convince this king to believe in Jesus?

Cosmos

Do you know the king asked that same question? Let me get out the Virtual Bible and show you what Paul said. (SFX: Virtual Bible Theme, VFX: Scripture Slide) *Paul replied, "Short time or long—I pray God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains."*

Yago

Sometimes this Paul impresses me. I like that he was bold enough to tell a room full of important people that he would pray for them no matter how long it took.

Cosmos

He was simply fulfilling the mission God had given him.

Yago

Mission? What mission?

Cosmos

The "calling," the same mission we all have, even to this day, to tell everyone Jesus died to take our sins away and to pray they believe in Him and ask Him to come into their hearts so they can follow Him forever.

Yago

Okay.

Cosmos

Okay? Okay what?

Yago

Okay, I believe.

Cosmos

You believe?

Yago

Yes, you have convinced me. I believe this Jesus is the Lord who died to take away my sins. I want to follow Him.

Cosmos

You do?

Yago

I do! At first, I thought Lieutenant Ruby only followed Jesus because she was used to following orders. And Nofutu, well, he is simple and easy to convince.

Cosmos

But, you took a long time.

Yago

I am a Captain. I am not used to following the commands of any man, not even God's Son. Like this King Agrippa, I wanted to hear your whole story and make sure this Jesus is for real.

Cosmos

And now?

Yago

You and your crew and everyone who follows Jesus all seem to...change. They all seem to know the same thing these kids know. And now, I will say it with all of you!

All

Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever! (VFX: Closing slide, SFX: Outro music)

Cosmos

Yago, this is excellent news, my friend! Come on, I'll pray with you.

Yago

Aye, aye, Commander.

(exit)