



**Worship Illustration: Script
Commander Cosmos
Prophets & Promises 1: Acts - Revelation
Unit 1, Lesson 1**

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:3-11

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. Lieutenant Ruby Starlight is first mate. She is anxious to explore and to please the Commander and his God. Professor Von Himmel is a wise but scatter-brained scientist who loves God. He appears on video or live on a side stage.

Plot: Lt. Ruby is anxious to take off on a space mission. Commander Cosmos checks the flight manual (Holy Bible). They read how Jesus told His followers to wait for the power of the Holy Spirit. We learn God want us to be His witnesses. The Holy Spirit will give us power to do that.

Costumes: Cosmos and Ruby wear space suits and boots. Professor von Himmel wears a lab coat, shorts, patterned shirt, suspenders, slippers, white wig, and glasses.

Props: Clipboard, Bible

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro/outro music suggestion: Space-themed songs
2. Fanfare
3. Plexiglas window suggestion: Handel's Messiah "Hallelujah Chorus". Music plays when window is opened to reveal Bible
4. Computer keyboard typing sounds. (For more humorous elements, add SFX such as cowbell, foghorn, etc.)
5. Virtual Bible theme suggestion: "Close Encounters" Theme
6. Voiceover: "Commence Launch Sequence. 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1. Liftoff!"

Visual effects (VFX):

1. Video Intro featuring space ships and rockets is available at ResourceWell.org
2. Lesson 1 Video Supplement is available at ResourceWell.org
3. Sliding Plexiglas window holds the Bible. When opened, light shines out and music plays.
4. Scripture Slide (on Virtual Bible): ***But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8***
5. Star map (optional): Photo or map of stars
6. Closing Slide: "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever!"
7. 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 1, Lesson 1
The Promise of the Holy Spirit
Acts 1:3-11

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!

Ruby (enters with clipboard)

Let's see, we've got three crates of frozen broccoli, check! 500 gallons of lemonade, check! 1,000 boxes of chocolaty Cocoa Puffs, double check! (sees children) Oh, hello there! Welcome aboard Skylab Omega. I'm Lieutenant Ruby Starlight. What are your names? (children respond) That's a lot of names. I'll just check the flight records. I was taking pre-flight inventory. We're about to take off on a very important mission. I'm just waiting for the Commander to finish his systems checks. (SFX: Fanfare) Oh, there he is! He loves to be announced. All hands on deck for Commander Cosmos: Space Ranger!

Cosmos (appears in teleport, steps into room and trips) **I meant to do that! At ease, men. Commander Cosmos, Space Ranger at your service!**

Ruby (anxiously)

So are we ready to take off?

Cosmos

Soon, Lieutenant, soon.

Ruby

Did you finish your systems checks?

Cosmos

All systems are "Go."

Ruby

Then, we can take off!

Cosmos

Slow down. In due time.

Ruby

But, I thought we were taking off today! I haven't been in space in so long and I'm so excited to get up there and see the galaxy again! I'll prepare the engines and the computers and the...

Cosmos

Patience, Lieutenant, patience. We have to wait.

Ruby

Wait? What are we waiting for?

Cosmos

Our marching orders.

Ruby

But, I thought the commander is supposed to give the orders. And you're the commander!

Cosmos

Of this vessel, yes. But, (softly) there is a supreme commander that has authority over every move I make.

Ruby (softly)

Is it God?

Cosmos (loudly)

It is! And we are going to get instructions from Him by checking the flight manual, right now! (Opens window, SFX: "Hallelujah Chorus," VFX: Beam of light shines from box)

Ruby

Wow! Is that a songbook?

Cosmos

No, it's much more important. This is God's Holy Bible. But, I like to call it my flight manual because I never take a step without first checking God's Word and asking Him to show me His plan!

Ruby

**But that book is thousands of years old.
How can it show us what to do today?**

Cosmos

Why, Ruby Starlight, don't you know that the Spirit of God is bigger than time and space? The Bible says, "Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever!"

Ruby

God has a message for us today?

Cosmos

God always has a message! Ah, here it is! This message takes place after Jesus died and rose again.

Ruby

Oh yeah, Jesus rose to life and visited His disciples!

Cosmos

Jesus appeared to His followers many times over a period of forty days but on one occasion He said to them, "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised..."

Ruby

Waiting again! What gift was He talking about? What did Jesus want them to wait for?

Cosmos

Open up the "Virtual Bible" and we can all read it together!

Ruby (pushes buttons on remote)

Aye, aye, Commander. Accessing Virtual Bible! (SFX: Virtual Bible theme)

Cosmos (VFX: Scripture slide)

The Bible says, "*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*"

Ruby

So, the gift was the Holy Spirit?

Cosmos

Yes, Jesus gave them an important mission and He instructed them not to leave until they had the power to fulfill His mission. And do you know where that power comes from?

Ruby

The ... Holy Spirit?

Cosmos

Exactly!

Ruby

What exactly is the Holy Spirit?

Cosmos

The Holy Spirit is God! He's the part of God that helps us know what God wants us to do. The Holy Spirit points us towards Jesus.

Ruby

Hey, that's what we need!

Cosmos

That's what everyone needs!

Ruby

So, did Jesus give them the Holy Spirit, right then and there?

Cosmos

No. Jesus was lifted up into heaven right before their eyes!

Ruby

What?! He promised them the Holy Spirit ...and then He just left and went up into heaven?

Cosmos

It was time for Him to go back to His Father in heaven.

Ruby

But, what about the Holy Spirit? When will they get the Holy Spirit?!

Cosmos

Remember what Jesus told them? Wait!

Ruby

Ooh, waiting makes me anxious!

Professor (VFX: Lesson 1 Video Supplement)

Come in, Commander Cosmos.

Cosmos

Wait, we're getting a message.

Professor

Oh, hello Lieutenant. Thank you both for your patience. I'm below deck and I have our mission plan ready.

Ruby (pushes buttons)

All Right! Let's go! (SFX: computer sounds)

Professor (VFX: Star map)

Wait! First let me tell you the mission. We are to start on planet Jerusalem in the Judean solar system in the galaxy of Samaria.

Cosmos

We have space stations all over that galaxy.

Professor

Yes, and they are badly in need of the truth about Jesus! Your mission is to carry God's word to all of them and to the ends of the earth and the universe!

Ruby

Awesome!

Professor

Well, what are you waiting for? Get below deck and strap in! I'm initiating launch sequence now!

Voiceover (SFX: Voiceover)

Commencing launch sequence. 10-9-8-
(continues as Cosmos speaks)

Ruby

Yes, Sir! So long, kids!

Cosmos

See you next week. And remember Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever!

(SFX: Outro music, VFX: Fallback slide)

(Exit)