

Worship Illustration: Storybook

Commander Cosmos

Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts - Revelation

Unit 1, Lesson 2

The Holy Spirit Comes

Acts 2:1-8; 12-17; 21; 36-39

"Attention crew: Officer approaching!" Lieutenant Ruby Starlight announced in a loud voice as she raced into the control room. She and the entire crew stood up and snapped to attention just in time to see Commander Cosmos stride into the room and trip on the doorstep. Bouncing up quickly, he looked around at the crew.

"I meant to do that!" he grinned. "At ease, crew. Lieutenant Starlight, check our coordinates."

"Aye, aye, Commander," Ruby saluted. She sat down at the main control board and typed instructions into the ship's computer. A map popped onto the large screen with an arrow pointing to their location. "We are entering the galaxy of Samaria."

Commander Cosmos nodded his approval and sat down in the captain's chair. "Excellent, Lieutenant. We'll be reaching planet Jerusalem in no time."

"That's what I'm afraid of," Ruby mumbled to the keyboard.

Commander Cosmos heard her. "Afraid? I thought you were looking forward to exploring new places."

Ruby's head snapped up, her eyes wide with embarrassment. "Well, I am ... but, well ..." she stuttered. "Jerusalem's far away and not everyone speaks our language and ..." she paused, searching for the right words. "Well, what will I say?"

Commander Cosmos shrugged. "Start with hello."

"Of course," Ruby said. "But, what I mean is we have ambassadors from every country on earth stationed on all of these planets around the galaxy. How are we going to bring God's Word to all these different people?"

"Fear not, Lieutenant," Commander Cosmos said. "The Spirit of God will give us the words."

Ruby Starlight did not look convinced. "How can you be so sure?"

Commander Cosmos opened the clear plastic door next to his chair and lifted out the silver Bible. "I checked the flight manual. It tells me that God's Spirit is for ALL people." He held up the Bible and turned to the book of Acts, chapter 2. "Communication is not a new obstacle, Lieutenant. God has dealt with this kind of thing before. In fact, here's a great example on the day of Pentecost."

"What's a Pentecost?" asked Ruby.

"Pentecost was a holiday that the Jewish people celebrated," Commander Cosmos answered. "But on this day of Pentecost, Peter and all of the apostles of Jesus were gathered together."

"We're they still waiting?" Ruby asked. She hated waiting.

Commander Cosmos nodded. "They were! Just as Jesus had told them, they were waiting for the Holy Spirit of God to come. But, on this day there was a huge crowd of people who spoke all different languages gathered in Jerusalem."

"Wow! That <u>is</u> like our situation," Ruby realized. "Did Peter and the others learn all those languages in school?" Commander Cosmos shook his head. "Then how could they talk to each other?" Ruby wondered.

"The Holy Spirit came, just like Jesus had promised," Commander Cosmos replied.

"The Holy Spirit just showed up and suddenly everyone spoke Hebrew?" asked Ruby.

"No, it was a little more spectacular than that. Listen while I read what happened." Commander Cosmos read, "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

"Whoa! That was amazing!" Ruby exclaimed. "I can only imagine what it would have been like to actually be there! It must have been confusing to hear all those strange languages at once!"

"That's the miraculous thing," Commander Cosmos exclaimed, "the Bible says, '... each one heard them speaking in his own language."

"So, the Holy Spirit helped them understand each other?" Ruby asked.

"That's what happened!" Commander Cosmos agreed. "And, Peter used that special gift to tell everyone about how our Lord Jesus had died and come back to life to save us all from our sins!"

Ruby leaned forward. "Well, what did the crowd of people do?"

"They asked that same question," Commander Cosmos shared. "They said, 'Brothers, what shall we do?"

"And ... what did Peter tell them?!" Ruby asked impatiently.

"I'll open up the Virtual Bible and we can all read it together!" Commander Cosmos pushed a few buttons on the keyboard next to his chair. The verses appeared on the screen. He read aloud, "Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Ruby clapped her hand over her mouth. "So, the gift of the Holy Spirit is for everyone who follows Jesus!" she exclaimed in sudden realization.

Commander Cosmos looked pleased. "That's what I've been trying to tell you."

"No, I mean EVERYONE who follows Jesus!" she emphasized. "This verse says it was for them and their children ..."

"And for every generation that came after them," Commander Cosmos finished for her.

"That's us!" Ruby exclaimed, waving her hand around the room to include everyone. "And it also says for all who are far off, like the people living in space stations on other planets!" She pointed to the position map on the main screen.

"I think you're right," Commander Cosmos agreed.

Ruby excitedly waved her arms. "Well, what are we waiting for? There are people on planet Jerusalem waiting to hear about the Holy Spirit!"

"Amen! Lieutenant Starlight, full speed ahead!" Commander Cosmos ordered.

"Aye, aye, Commander!" Ruby saluted. She spun around in her chair and typed coordinates into the master computer. The crew around her jumped into action, preparing for the jump to warp speed.

A pleased smile spread across Commander Cosmos' face. "Remember crew, Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever!"