



**Worship Illustration: Storybook
Commander Cosmos
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts - Revelation
Unit 1, Lesson 5**

Philip and the Ethiopian

Acts 8:26-31; 34-35

Today is a very important day, Lieutenant Ruby Starlight thought to herself. Today, we make our first contact with the International Space Station on Planet Jerusalem!

"INCOMING MESSAGE" flashed on the large screen at the front of the control room. "Incoming message from planet Earth. Incoming message from planet Earth," the computer voice announced. A high-ranking officer in a blue uniform with several gold stars pinned on one shoulder appeared on the two-way video screen.

"Greetings, Skylab Omega," the officer announced.

Ruby smiled at the gray-haired gentleman, whom she recognized immediately. "Admiral Angel! We weren't expecting to hear from you."

"This is a historic day," Admiral Angel explained. "I have arranged a visit with Ambassador Nofutu from Planet Jerusalem. Where is Commander Cosmos?"

"He hurt his leg and today he is having laser surgery," said Ruby Starlight.

"Well then, it is up to you to make the ambassador feel welcome upon arrival, which should be in about 5 seconds. Over and out!" The video screen went black.

"Wait!" the lieutenant shouted. "I don't know anything about international relations!"

"Ambassador arriving in 5-4-3-2-1," the computer voice announced. Ruby whirled around just in time to see a man in a purple robe and a red hat shimmer into view.

"Hallo, hallo! Happy Christmas! Merry Easter to you," the man greeted, waving his arms. "You must be the Commander Cosmos!" the ambassador stated.

Ruby shook her head. "No, he's out today. I am the Lieutenant. Lieutenant Ruby Starlight!"

"Then, I salute you and bring you salutations!" The ambassador did a crazy dancing handshake. "Boogah, boogah, boogah! Konga-loosh!" he exclaimed.

"Yes, Konga-loosh and a big skidoosh to you, as well," said Ruby.

"I like you! I will call you my friend!" the ambassador announced. "You may call me Nofutu." Nofutu looked around. A remote control lying on the Commander's Chair caught his attention. He grabbed it and pushed several buttons. "What does this do?" he asked.

Lt. Ruby Starlight respectfully took the remote back from the ambassador. "You don't want to play with that! That's the ship's controller!"

"Hey, don't judge a book by its cover!" Nofutu's eyes moved in every direction, taking in everything he saw. He spied a ladder and began to climb. "Where does this go?"

"Ambassador!" Ruby Starlight cried, as she ran across the room. "That leads to the Command Center. It's not safe to touch things up there."

Nofutu hopped down, landing next to the clear box that held the Bible. "Hey, what is this?!"

Ruby smiled. "It's the Bible. Actually, it is God's Word."

Nofutu tapped the cover. "This is God's Word?!" Ruby nodded. "Outstanding! Who is God?"

"God is the King we worship!"

"I want to know about this King. Read me His book!" Nofutu twirled in a blinding circle and sat abruptly on the floor in front of the lieutenant.

"Well, I can't read you the whole thing, but I can explain what it means," said Ruby. She started to open the Bible then stopped. "Wait a minute. This reminds me of Phillip and the Ethiopian!"

"Who is Phillip?" Nofutu asked.

"He was a follower of Jesus," Ruby answered.

"Excellent! Who is Jesus?" Nofutu asked.

"You don't know Jesus? Jesus is the Son of God!" Ruby replied.

Nofutu pointed one of his hands at the Bible. "Is Jesus in this book?"

"Oh yes!" she exclaimed.

Nofutu snatched the Bible from the lieutenant's hands and shook it over his head. "Jesus! Jesus! Come out, come out wherever you are! I want to meet you!"

"No, no, you don't meet Jesus that way," Ruby said as she gently took back the Bible. "He lives in our hearts. We learn about Him through the Bible, but we know Him through the Holy Spirit. You don't know who the Holy Spirit is, do you?"

Nofutu looked confused. "How can I know unless someone explains it to me!"

Ruby smiled. "That's just what the Ethiopian said!"

"Hooray!" Nofutu waved his arms in the air as he cheered, "I am an Ethiopian!"

"No, you're not an Ethiopian, but I feel an awful lot like Phillip!" said Ruby. "The Ethiopian was sitting by the side of the road reading the Bible, but he didn't understand what it meant."

"What a coincidence! I don't understand anything!" Nofutu exclaimed. "What do we do now?"

"I should check the Virtual Bible and do just what Phillip did." Ruby tapped on the keyboard and the words of Acts 8:35 appeared on the screen. She read, "'Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.' That's it! God wants me to share the good news just like Phillip did!"

"There is good news?" asked Nofutu.

"Oh yes, the best news ever! God loved the world so much that He sent His Son Jesus to be our Savior!" Ruby Starlight exclaimed.

Nofutu waved his arms again. "Hooray! Jesus is the best savior in the whole universe ..." He froze and stared at Ruby. "What is a savior?"

"As our Savior, Jesus took away our sins!" Ruby said.

"Hooray! Thank You, Jesus!" Nofutu cheered, then he stopped again. "What is a sin?"

"Sin is doing wrong in God's eyes," explained Ruby.

"We don't want to do that!" Nofutu shook his head. "Take those sins away, Jesus!"

"He will do that," Ruby Starlight shivered with excitement, "and so much more through the power of the Holy Spirit! Oh, Ambassador Nofutu, I have so many wonderful things to teach you about Jesus. He will change your whole life!"

Nofutu jumped up and down. "Yes! Jesus changes!"

"Oh no! He changes us, but Jesus never changes," Ruby corrected. "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever!"

Nofutu stood still and proclaimed in a deep, diplomatic voice. "I like this; Jesus is the same next week, last Tuesday, and two days from now!"

"That's close," Lieutenant Ruby Starlight replied as she waved for Nofutu to follow her. "Let's go down to the Media Center and I'll tell you everything I know about Jesus."

"Good idea!" Nofutu zoomed to the lieutenant's side. "To the Media Sensor! What is a Media Sensor?"

Lieutenant Ruby Starlight smiled. She was thankful God helped her explain something about Jesus to her new friend, Ambassador Nofutu.