



Worship Illustration: Script
Commander Cosmos
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts - Revelation
Unit 2, Lesson 11

Barnabas Encourages the Church

Acts 9:26-28; 11:22-26; 14:19-23

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. Scooby Starlight is a young cadet. Like her big sister, Ruby, she is bubbly and always ready to learn.

Characters: Lieutenant Ruby Starlight is the first mate. She is young and bubbly and always ready to learn. Ambassador Nofutu is the quirky, child-like representative from Planet Jerusalem. He is very silly, high energy, and full of curiosity. For fun, add an unusual accent.

Plot: Ruby is sad because she has to go all by herself to the scary Planet Pharis to share the Gospel. Nofutu appears and tells how God used Barnabas to encourage people. They decide to go together. We learn God can use us to encourage others just like He used Barnabas!

Costumes: Ruby wears a space suit and boots. Nofutu wears a crazy patterned shirt, shiny tunic, silk pantaloons, silly hat, and clogs.

Props: Bible, remote control, toy bus, Barney the Dinosaur doll (or any doll), pom-poms

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro/outro music suggestion: Space-themed songs
2. Computer Voiceover: Voice with echo that recites scripture
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
3. Sliding Plexiglas window holds the Bible. When opened, light shines out and music plays.
4. Scripture Slide (on Virtual Bible): ***When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. Acts 11:23***
4. Closing Slide: "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever!"
5. 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 2, Lesson 11
Barnabas Encourages the Church
Acts 9:26-28; 11:22-26; 14:19-23

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)

Oh, hello there. I'm feeling sad. Captain Yago asked that one of us visit his home planet to explain our faith to his people and I have to go. Those Pharisees are scary. Planet Pharis is the last place I want to go alone.

Computer V.O.

Visitor arriving! Visitor arriving! In 5-4-3-2-1!

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

Nofutu

Merry Easter! Happy Christmas, Lieutenant Ruby! Boogah, boogah, Kong-a-loosh!

Ruby

Ambassador Nofutu! What are you doing here?

Nofutu

I heard you were feeling sad, so I am here to cheer you up.

Ruby

Thanks, but I've got orders to go to Planet Pharis. I don't think anyone could cheer me up.

Nofutu

Aw, then I will be sad with you. (sits for a while then begins to sing) Sunny day, sweeping the clouds away. On my way to where the air is sweet...

Both (singing)

Can you tell me how to get, how to get to Sesame Street?

Ruby

Oh Ambassador Nofutu, I don't think anyone can be upset when you're around!

Nofutu

You and what army! Oh, I almost forgot! I brought you something. (takes props out of teleport) Here!

Ruby

Uh...thanks? What is this?

Nofutu

It is to encourage you. To help you be the best you can be!

Ruby

How are these toys supposed to encourage me?

Nofutu

I have been reading the music Bible and it says Saul was encouraged by a bus full of Barney.

Ruby

Are you sure?

Nofutu

No, but thanks for asking! Let's get out the music Bible and check. (Opens window, SFX: "Hallelujah Chorus," VFX: Beam of light shines from window.) Aha! Here it is! When Saul first became a follower of Jesus, the other disciples were afraid of him. They did not believe he had really changed! Read what's next!

Ruby

But, Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles, you know, the very first disciples.

Nofutu (holds up toys)

See! Barney. Bus. Barney-bus!

Ruby

Oh no, Nofutu, you've got it mixed up.
Barnabas was a man, not a toy.

Nofutu

I beg your pardon, there are two toys.

Ruby

But Barnabas was one man, a very godly man who encouraged Saul. He told the others God changed Saul's heart. Now, Saul followed Jesus!

Nofutu

Did they invite Saul to stay?

Ruby

Yes, and he lead a great number of people to follow Jesus!

Nofutu (picks up pom-poms)

Hooray! Saul, Saul, he's our man. If he can't do it no one can, go Saul!

Ruby

You know, Barnabas was kind of like a cheerleader.

Nofutu

You mean, he had pom-poms?

Ruby

No, I mean, he encouraged Saul. He encouraged everyone who followed Jesus. That's why they sent him to visit Antioch.

Nofutu

Did he also visit Uncle Och?

Ruby

No, Antioch was a city where some of God's followers lived.

Nofutu

Did he bring his pom-poms?

Ruby

Let's check the Virtual Bible.

Nofutu

Ooh, let me do the beepity-boops!

Ruby (hands him the remote)

Sure. (SFX: Virtual Bible Theme)

Nofutu (VFX: Scripture Slide)

When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

Ruby

See that? Once again Barnabas was encouraging others.

Nofutu

What did Barney do next?

Ruby

He went to find Saul and brought him to Antioch.

Nofutu

And Uncle Och!

Ruby

No! They stayed in Antioch for a year and encouraged the new church. That's where they first got the name Christians.

Nofutu

Hooray! They are Christians! What does that mean?

Ruby

Well, a Christian is someone who believes in Jesus and follows Him.

Nofutu

Where did they follow him?

Ruby

They followed the Holy Spirit and preached His Word in many cities, like Lystra and Iconium and Derbe.

Nofutu

Derby? Is that in Kentucky?

Ruby

No, but Saul and Barnabas started many churches in many places, so on their way back to Antioch, they went back to visit and encourage them.

Nofutu

What a guy! I want to be a cheerleader like Barnabas!

Ruby

I think you already are. You certainly cheered me up.

Nofutu

So, you are no longer nervous about going to the scariest planet in the galaxy all by yourself?

Ruby

Well, no. I'm still worried about that.

Nofutu

Then, I will go with you and encourage you!

Ruby

What? You will? No, I couldn't ask you to do that.

Nofutu

You don't have to ask; I want to. I am your friend and friends are faithful to the end!

Ruby

I don't know what to say.

Nofutu

Say what Barney would say! (cheer) Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

Ruby

Nofutu! You finally got it right!

Nofutu

Thanks for the encouragement! Let's go! (they exit through teleport)

Computer V.O.

Teleporting to Planet Pharis! In 5-4-3-2-1!

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

(SFX: Outro music, VFX: Fallback slide)

(exit)