



# **Saul Escapes from Damascus**

**Acts 9:19b-25**

**Lieutenant Ruby Starlight poked her head into the officer's lounge and scanned the empty room. In a flash, she dropped a large laundry basket on the floor, lifted the lid, jumped in, and pulled herself into a tight ball inside the basket.**

**Just then, the door slid open and Commander Cosmos strode in. "Ah, a nice cup of coffee will do me good!" he announced. He looked down at his previously injured leg and flexed it. "I am so grateful my leg is healed. It's such a joy to walk around the ship again!" He took one step forward and tripped over the laundry basket. "What is this? Someone left a huge basket of laundry right in the middle of B Deck. I'll just take this down to the laundry room." He leaned over and groaned as he barely raised it an inch off the floor. "Ooh, this is heavy! Wow! What are they washing, cinder blocks?" As he set it back down, he gave it a kick.**

**"Ouch!" Ruby yelped from inside the basket.**

**"What was that?!" Cosmos quickly grabbed his light saber. "It must be a spy from the planet Pharis! I've got you, spy! Take that and that!" he cried, smacking the basket several times.**

**"Ow, you stop that!" Ruby cried.**

**"Come out with your hands up, spy!" he commanded. Ruby lifted the lid and stepped out. "Ruby Starlight? What are you doing in the laundry? That's no way to clean your uniform!"**

**"I wasn't putting my uniform in the wash. I was hiding," Ruby admitted.**

**Commander Cosmos raised his eyebrows. "Hiding? From what?"**

**"From Ambassador Nofutu," said Ruby.**

**Commander Cosmos' eyes lit up. "Oh, are we playing Hide and Go Seek? I'll hide in the teleport!" He rushed toward the door.**

**"No," Ruby called after him. "I'm hiding from him because he keeps asking me questions about the Bible. I'm happy he prayed for God to change His heart last week, but I'm afraid I won't know the answers to his questions!"**

**Commander Cosmos turned and laughed. "Is that all? Lieutenant Starlight, you have nothing to fear! The Holy Spirit lives in your heart. You can boldly share God's Word because the Holy Spirit will help you. Looking at you standing in that basket reminds me of Saul."**

**Ruby stared at the basket, "Saul hid in a laundry basket?"**

**"Actually, his friends hid him in the basket," Commander Cosmos explained. "It's quite a wild story. Let me get the flight manual and I'll read it to you." He opened the clear Bible Box and removed the Bible from inside. "Saul was in Damascus."**

**"Isn't that where he went after he was blinded by the light from heaven?" asked Ruby.**

**"Yes." Commander Cosmos opened the Bible to Acts 9. "After God restored his sight the Bible says, 'At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.'"**

**"Wow, Saul sure was a bold believer!" Ruby exclaimed.**

**"Saul was always a believer in God the Father, but now he knew the truth that Jesus was God's Son, and he just couldn't hold it inside! Read what the Virtual Bible says," Commander Cosmos requested.**

**Ruby sat down at the computer console and tapped a few keys. She read the words on the screen. "'Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.'" She looked up and asked, "So, did the Holy Spirit give him courage?"**

**"He did!" Commander Cosmos declared.**

**"And, did the people in Damascus see how much he had changed?" Ruby asked.**

**"They did!" Commander Cosmos replied with excitement.**

**"And, did he tell them all that Jesus is God's Son?" Ruby getting equally excited.**

**"He did!" Commander Cosmos exclaimed, nearly yelling.**

**"And did they love him for it?" Ruby asked loudly.**

**"No. They wanted to kill him," Commander Cosmos said sadly.**

**"What? That's not right!" Ruby complained.**

**Commander Cosmos sat down on the couch next to the computer. "Well, don't forget there were still plenty of Jewish leaders who believed what Saul used to believe before God changed his heart: that Jesus was not God's Son and so His followers should be stopped."**

**Ruby nodded. "Yeah, especially when the followers were great at preaching like Saul was. I bet he was convincing everyone to follow Jesus."**

**"They watched the city gates, waiting for a chance to get him," Commander Cosmos said, crouching low to the ground as if waiting to pounce.**

**"Did they get him?" Ruby asked worriedly.**

**"Nope! Saul found out about their evil plan. His followers hid him in a basket and lowered it through an opening in the wall," Commander Cosmos said triumphantly.**

**"Wow! I know how that feels!" Ruby looked at the laundry basket and then at Commander Cosmos. "What did Saul do after he escaped?"**

**"He did what the Holy Spirit had called him to do," Commander Cosmos answered. "He headed straight for Jerusalem and boldly spread the Word of God everywhere he went!"**

**Lieutenant Ruby Starlight stood up. "Wow! Hearing that story makes me feel like boldly sharing my faith! Where is Ambassador Nofutu?"**

**"Oh, he left," Commander Cosmos stated.**

**"He did?" said a surprised Ruby.**

**"Yes, he said he was going back to Planet Jerusalem to spread God's Word, but he left you a message." The commander turned to the computer. "Computer, access message, please."**

**"Aye, aye, Commander," the computer voice replied.**

**Nofutu appeared on the big screen. "Hello Lieutenant Ruby Flashlight! I'm sorry I could not find you to say goodbye. Thank you for telling me so much about the Holy Bible. I am going back to Jerusalem to tell my people they can invite the wonderful Savior, Jesus into their hearts, too. I feel like a new man and it is all because of you! You taught me that Jesus is the same forever and tomorrow and yesterday and all those days! You will always be my special friend. God bless you! Bye-bye!"**

**Ruby frowned and turned away from the screen as the video ended. "Wow! Now I feel just awful!"**

**Commander Cosmos was confused. "Why? You told Nofutu about Jesus!"**

**"I guess, but today I hid when I should have been boldly telling everyone about Jesus like Saul did," Ruby said with a sad sigh.**

**Commander Cosmos smiled assuredly. "Never fear. We've got a whole galaxy ahead of us. On every part of our journey, you'll have a chance to boldly share God's Word where no man has gone before!"**

**"How can you be so sure?" asked Ruby.**

**Commander Cosmos stood up and patted her on the back. "Well God made Saul bold and He can do the same for you because Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever!"**