



Worship Illustration: Script
Commander Cosmos
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts - Revelation
Unit 3, Lesson 13

Paul and Lydia

Acts 16:11-15

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.

Characters: Commander Cosmos is the pilot of Skylab Omega. He is a strong, confident leader with a bit of a strut in his walk. Captain Yago is a "Klingon-like" soldier from Planet Pharis. He is very aggressive and always ready to battle. He speaks with a Russian accent. 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: Captain Yago comes to help Cosmos repair Skylab Omega. Cosmos tells him the story of how God opened Lydia's heart to respond to Paul's message. We learn the Holy Spirit can lead us to the right place to answer God's call.

Costumes: Cosmos wears a space suit and boots. Yago wears a shiny tunic, satin pants, boots, and a helmet.

Props: Bible, remote control, wrench, engine part, tool kit

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro/outro music suggestion: Space-themed songs
2. Nofutu Voiceover
3. Computer Voiceover: Voice with echo that recites scripture
4. Teleport sounds and fanfare
5. Plexiglas window suggestion: Handel's Messiah "Hallelujah Chorus." Music plays when window is opened to reveal Bible.
6. Computer keyboard typing sounds. (For more humorous elements, add SFX such as cowbell, foghorn, etc.)
7. 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 (at teleport)
3. Sliding Plexiglas window holds the Bible. When opened, light shines out and music plays.
4. Scripture Slide (on Virtual Bible): ***One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. Acts 16:14***
5. Closing Slide: "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever!"
6. 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

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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!

Cosmos (enters through hole in stage)
Hello, Space Cadets! Commander Cosmos: Space Ranger, at your service! We had a great visit to Planet Macedonia. Many Macedonians were saved from their sins and gave their hearts to Jesus. We were just on our way back to Planet Pharis to pick up Lieutenant Ruby when we had some engine trouble. I've diagnosed the problem and I think it's the solar focalizer. But the thing is you just can't get parts in space. I had the computer send out a distress signal, but we're in a remote part of the galaxy and so far we haven't had any response...except for this letter from Ambassador Nofutu.

Nofutu V.O. (reads)
Hello, Commander Cosmos! Boogah, boogah, Konga-loosh! I heard you were in trouble and I want to send you help.

Cosmos
Help? I wonder what kind of help?

Nofutu V.O.
You may be wondering what kind of help. I have a special friend who has agreed to let you dock on his service barge. He will help you repair Skylab Omega.

Cosmos
A floating service station in space? That's great! I wonder who his friend is?

Nofutu
Don't ask who my friend is; it's a surprise! I am sending him to you right away. Prepare your Teleport! Over and out! Konga-loosh!

Cosmos (climbs back in hole)
Okay, I'd better get that solar focalizer out before help arrives. Wow, this thing is really stuck tight. I've almost got it loose. Uh-oh, I'm stuck! (Commander's hips are stuck in the hole.) Help! Somebody help!

Computer V.O.
Visitor arriving in 5-4-3-2-1. (SFX: Teleport sounds and fanfare, VFX: Strobes and fog)

Cosmos
Oh no! This is a terrible position to be in!

Yago (enters through teleport)
Ah, Commander Cosmos. Hard at work as usual, I see.

Cosmos
A little help? (Yago helps him out.) Thank you. So, Captain Yago, what are you doing here? I thought Nofutu said he was sending a friend.

Yago
We have become good friends. Hand me that wrench.

Cosmos
I can't picture you and Nofutu being friends.

Yago
He makes me laugh.

Cosmos
But he's so outgoing and friendly and you're so...unpleasant.

Yago
That's a fine greeting for the man who came to rescue you. I'm a master mechanic and I can fix this ship.

Cosmos

But, I thought you didn't like foreign ships passing through your quadrant.

Yago (begins to work on engine)

All the more reason to get you fixed up so we can get rid of you.

Cosmos

Ah Yago, you sure know how to make a guy feel loved. But I'm so glad you responded to my message. That reminds me of something I just read about Lydia.

Yago

I'm afraid to ask. Who is Lydia?

Cosmos

I'm so glad you asked. Let me get the Bible and I will tell you all about her.
(Opens window, SFX: "Hallelujah Chorus," VFX: Beam of light shines from window.) **At this time, Paul and his friends were traveling to a colony named Philippi.**

Yago

That is where our service station is located. It orbits planet Philippi.

Cosmos

That was also the name of the place Lydia lived. Isn't it funny how God works?

Yago

It's probably just a coincidence.

Cosmos

I don't think so. You see, Paul and his friends went to a river just outside of town so they could pray and who do you think they met? Lydia! Lydia and a group of women who just so happened to be gathered at the river, and Paul began to speak to them.

Yago

So, what did this woman, Lydia do?

Cosmos

I'll let you read it in the Virtual Bible.

Yago

Ah yes, the beepity boops. (SFX: Virtual Bible theme, VFX: Scripture Slide) *One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.* Respond? How did she respond?

Cosmos

Well, it says she and her whole family were baptized. That means after hearing Paul's message, they believed in Jesus as Lord and wanted to be baptized. When someone is baptized, they are dipped under water or sprinkled with water as a sign they belong to Jesus.

Yago

But she already was a worshiper of God. What's the difference?

Cosmos

Paul's message was always about showing people that Jesus is God's Son, the Lord. Lydia did worship God, but now she made Jesus the Lord of her life. Now, she would live her life to serve Him.

Yago

God opened her heart to do that?

Cosmos

Yes, and there's more. She also responded by inviting Paul and his friends to stay in her home. This helped Paul in his mission to spread God's Word. All because God opened her heart when He had her in the right place at the right time!

Yago

That was just a coincidence. Perhaps, she had gone to the river to dye her sissy cloth purple.

Cosmos

You call it coincidence; I call it God's plan. God brought Lydia and Paul together and then opened Lydia's heart to Paul's message about Jesus.

Yago

God's plan. Don't make me laugh. Even so, I do like this Lydia. She was a doer, not just a listener. A woman of action!

Cosmos

That's right. The Lord opened her heart to respond and she did, just as you responded to my message for help.

Yago (threatens with wrench)

Are you calling me a frilly, fabric dealer!

Cosmos

No. I'm saying God is the one who opens our hearts to respond.

Yago

You have a problem!

Cosmos

Oh yeah?

Yago (hands him a part)

Yeah! Your solar focalizer is burned out. Fortunately, I have one on board the service barge.

Cosmos

Praise God!

Yago

You are always talking about this God.

Cosmos

Once you experience the love of God you can't help but talk about Him.

Yago

Love, love, love. God, God, God. That is all you humans ever speak of.

Cosmos

I notice you keep coming back to hear more.

Yago

I just...came to help.

Cosmos

Maybe. And maybe someday you'll respond.

Yago

Respond? How? By serving your Jesus?

Cosmos

It could happen. After all...say it with us, kids! Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever! (VFX: Closing slide, SFX: Outro music, VFX: Fallback slide)

(exit)