



Worship Illustration: Script
Commander Cosmos
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts - Revelation
Unit 3, Lesson 14

Paul and Silas in Prison

Acts 16:16-40

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: 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. He speaks with an unusual accent.

Plot: Nofutu shows up to help Yago fix the engine. He tells Yago how Paul and Silas even praised God in prison. We learn we can praise God everywhere and every day.

Costumes: Yago wears a shiny tunic, satin pants, boots, and helmet. Nofutu wears a crazy patterned shirt, shiny tunic, silk pantaloons, silly hat, and clogs.

Props: Bible, remote control, tool kit, duct tape, engine part

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro/outro music suggestion: Space-themed songs
2. Plexiglas window suggestion: Handel's Messiah "Hallelujah Chorus." Music plays when window is opened to reveal Bible.
3. Virtual Bible theme suggestion: "Close Encounters" Theme
4. Earthquake rumble

Visual effects (VFX):

1. Video Intro featuring space ships and rockets available at ResourceWell.org
2. Sliding Plexiglas window holds the Bible. When opened, light shines out and music plays.
3. Scripture Slide (on Virtual Bible): ***They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."* Acts 16:31**
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

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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 Yago (enters with tool kit)

Hello, Earthlings! It is I, Captain Yago. We have docked the Skylab Omega on the service barge so that I may repair her properly.

Nofutu (enters through teleport with engine part) **Kong-a-loosh! The new part has arrived! I want to help you put it in! Where is the Commander Cosmos?**

Yago

I told him and his crew to take leave on Planet Philippi. That way, I can work without being interrupted with all of this talk of Bibles and apostles and hallelujah, praise the Jesus.

Nofutu

Hallelujah, praise Jesus! Can I help?

Yago

Do you know anything about engines?

Nofutu

No, but thanks for asking!

Yago (climbs into hole)

No matter, you can hand me tools!

Nofutu

I've got a better idea! I can hand you tools and sing to you!

Yago

How about just the tools!

Nofutu (sings while handing tools)
Jesus loves me this I know...

Yago

Screwdriver.

Nofutu

For the Bible tells me so...

Yago

Wrench.

Nofutu

Little ones to Him belong...

Yago

Tape.

Nofutu

They are weak, but He is strong! Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves meeeeeee!

Yago (puts tape over Nofutu's mouth)

That's one problem fixed!

Nofutu (removes tape)

Oh you, you are a funky, junky, joker monkey!

Yago

Don't sing that song anymore.

Nofutu

Okay... (sings) My God is so big, so strong, and so mighty there's nothing that He cannot do! My God is so big, so strong, and so mighty, there's nothing that He cannot do!

Yago

Maybe, your God can loosen this fitting because it is too tight for me.

Nofutu

I shall ask Him! Oh great and powerful Lord...

Yago

I'll tell you what. You talk to your God while I go get some grease to loosen the fitting. (begins to exit but comes back) **And whatever you do, don't touch anything!**
(exits)

Nofutu

Okie, dokie, karaoke! Poor Captain Yago; he is so uptight. I know what I will do! I will help him by taking apart his fitting, (puts head in hole) **whatever a fitting is.** (sings) **My God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing that He cannot do!** (stops singing) **Uh-oh! I think I am stuck! Help! Help! Help me Jesus!**

Yago (re-enters)

Nofutu! Did you get yourself stuck?

Nofutu

Yes. Is that you, Jesus?

Yago

No, it is I, Yago. Didn't I tell you not to touch anything?

Nofutu

Yes.

Yago

And did you listen?

Nofutu

Nope!

Yago

At least you're honest. I suppose you expect me to help you.

Nofutu

That's what friends are for! (sings) **Friends are friends forever when the Lord's the Lord of them.**

Yago

Wow, you are really stuck!

Nofutu (continues singing)

And a friend will not say "never," though the welcome will not end...

Yago

Must you keep singing?!

Nofutu

I can't help it. I love to sing and praise. I am so filled with joy!

Yago

But, your head is stuck in the engine. How can you have joy?

Nofutu

My joy comes from Jesus. That is why I sing no matter what. Paul and Silas sang even when they were in prison.

Yago

Who are Paul and Silas?

Nofutu

If you get out the music Bible, I will show you.

Yago

Very well, I shall get it. (Opens window, SFX: "Hallelujah Chorus," VFX: Beam of light shines from window.)

Nofutu (sings along)

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Yago

The Bible says Paul and Silas were stripped and beaten, had their feet put in stocks, and they were thrown into a jail cell.

Nofutu

Yes. But, in the middle of the night, they were praying and singing to God.

Yago

Christians, you praise your God at the craziest times.

Nofutu

That's true! And God does miracles at the craziest times! God caused an earthquake that shook open the doors and everybody's chains fell off!

Yago

I don't believe God could do such a thing.
(SFX: Earthquake rumble)

Nofutu (shaken free)

Ha-ha! God has sent another earthquake to set me free!

Yago

That was no earthquake. How can there be an earthquake in space?

Nofutu

God did a miracle!

Yago

It was probably just the thruster engines.

Nofutu

Did you start the engines?

Yago

No...

Nofutu

Hm, I wonder who set me free?

Yago

I'm sure there is an explanation.

Nofutu

Yes. The explanation is God loves me just like He loved Paul and Silas and the jailer.

Yago

The jailer? Wait, what jailer?

Nofutu

There was a jailer in charge of the prison. When it fell apart, he was going to kill himself.

Yago

Of course, because he knew that he would be in trouble for letting the prisoners escape.

Nofutu

Yes! But, Paul said, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

Yago

What did the jailer say?

Nofutu

He fell before them and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Yago

He wanted to be saved? Maybe the earthquake scared him.

Nofutu

Or, maybe he was touched by all the beautiful singing! (sings) Jesus loves me this I know...

Yago

Don't sing! Tell me what they said!

Nofutu (picks up controller)

Let's look it up with the Beepity beeps!

(SFX: Virtual Bible theme, VFX: Scripture Slide)

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."

Yago

They invited the very man who put them in prison to believe in their Jesus?

Nofutu

Yes! And he did! That's how it is when you love Jesus—you want to tell people about Him and praise Him everywhere, every day! That is why they could sing His praises even in prison, because they knew what these kids know. Say it with us kids!

(VFX: Closing slide) **Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever! Come and I will show you more great stories.** (SFX:

Outro music, VFX: Fallback slide)

(they exit)