



Worship Illustration: Script
Commander Cosmos
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts - Revelation
Unit 4, Lesson 17

Paul's Third Journey

Acts 18:23-21:26

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: Lieutenant Ruby Starlight is the first mate. She is young and bubbly and always ready to learn. Professor von Himmel is a wise but scatterbrained scientist who loves God. He has a German accent. Mommy, Ruby's mother, is a sweet older woman who loves her daughter but doesn't understand her career. She appears on video or can appear live on a side stage.

Plot: Ruby is homesick. Professor von Himmel tells her about Paul's third missionary journey. We learn the Holy Spirit can use us to help others connect to God.

Costumes: Ruby wears a space suit and boots. Professor von Himmel wears a lab coat, shorts, patterned shirt, slippers, white wig, and glasses. Ruby's Mom wears a pink wig and granny glasses.

Props: Bible, remote control

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro/outro music suggestion: Space-themed songs
2. Computer Voiceover: Voice with echo
3. 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. Pre-recorded video of Ruby's Mom
3. Sliding Plexiglas window holds the Bible. When opened, light shines out and music plays.
4. Scripture Slide (on Virtual Bible): **After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out from there and traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples. Acts 18:23**
5. Map of Paul's Third Missionary Journey (available on ResourceWell.org)
6. Closing Slide: "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever!"
7. 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!

Ruby (enters on B deck)

Hello, Space Cadets! We sure have covered a lot of the galaxy. This mission has taken us to places I never dreamed we'd go.

Computer V.O.

**Incoming message, incoming message!
Receiving transmission from Planet Earth.**

Mommy (VFX: on video screen)

Honey? Baby? Is that you?

Ruby

That sounds like my Mom! Mommy? Hi, Mommy!

Mommy

Oh, look at you in your uniform, so fancy. My little Cookie Puss is all grown up.

Ruby

Mom, you're embarrassing me.

Mommy

What? Are you afraid your friends will find out your Mommy loves her little astro-cutie?

Ruby

Mom! Stop! I'm on duty. You have to call me Lieutenant Ruby.

Mommy

Oh, please. I was the one who took you to tap dance classes every week. You'll always be my little Cookie Puss. So, when

are you coming home?

Ruby

Our tour is supposed to last for another two months.

Mommy

Two months? Your father's gonna have a cow. The dishes are piling up in the sink and he refuses to wash them when he's got a perfectly healthy kid who should be doing her chores.

Ruby

Mom, Dad does know I'm on a mission in space, doesn't he?

Mommy

Your father, he doesn't pay attention. Anyway, hurry home. I kept your room just like you left it. I even kept all your Star Wars toys.

Ruby

Mom! They're not toys! They're action figures!

Mommy

I kept your "action figures" and your "action" stuffed animals, too.

Ruby

Mommy! I've got to go.

Mommy

Okay. Stay safe. Over and out, my little Jedi Knight.

Ruby

Goodbye, Mommy. (SFX: Video out) Oh my mom, she still treats me like I'm five years old. I really do kind of miss her though. And I miss my dad and the earth and my action figures. I never thought space would be so lonely.

Professor (enters on A deck)

Hullo, hullo. Anybody on deck?

Ruby (sadly)

Down here, Professor von Himmel.

Professor (climbs down)
Oh, I'll come down! Hullo there, Lieutenant Ruby. How are you?

Ruby
Okay, I guess.

Professor
Your mouth says okay, but your eyes say something else. Are you sure you're all right?

Ruby
To be honest, I'm a little homesick.

Professor (lays her down)
Sick? Okay, lay down. Let me check your temperature.

Ruby
No, Professor, I'm fine.

Professor
Ah, ah, quiet. I'm checking your pulse.

Ruby
I'm not sick.

Professor
Who's the doctor here? Say, ah!

Ruby
Ahhh. Professor, I'm really fine.

Professor
I thought you said you were sick?

Ruby
I said I'm homesick.

Professor
Oh! Homesick! Get up. (Ruby rises.) Why don't you just call your Mommy?

Ruby
She called me. That's why I'm homesick. I feel so disconnected.

Professor
Disconnected? Oh no, Lieutenant Ruby, it's

just the opposite. God is using our mission to connect us, just like He did with Paul. Let me get out the Bible and show you. (Opens window, SFX: "Hallelujah Chorus," VFX: Beam of light shines from window.) I wonder if Paul felt a little homesick also when he went on his third missionary journey.

Ruby
His third journey? God sent him on three journeys?!

Professor
Actually, there were four. Each time, God sent him and each time Paul trusted God. Paul went wherever he was called to spread the news about Jesus and build churches. Computer, please show us the map of Paul's third journey. (VFX: Map of Paul's Third Journey)

Ruby
Wow, look at that, he started from Antioch, and visited places like Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, and Jerusalem.

Professor
Ah, but you see, Paul didn't want to just preach God's Word and then lose contact. He loved God's people.

Ruby
Is that why he always wrote so many letters to encourage God's followers?

Professor
Yes, and that's why he took the time to go back and visit them. Look what it says in the Virtual Bible. (SFX: Virtual Bible theme, VFX: Scripture Slide) *After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out from there and traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.*

Ruby
He went back to connect with his friends again?

Professor

And to connect them back to God!
Paul was always reminding the church
that nothing could separate them from the
love of God.

Ruby

That sounds familiar. Where have I heard
it before?

Professor

For I am convinced that neither...

Ruby

Neither death nor life, neither angels nor
demons, neither the present nor the
future...

Professor

Nor any power, neither height nor depth...

Ruby

Nor anything else in all creation will
separate us from the love...

Both

The love of God...that is in Christ Jesus our
Lord!

Ruby

That's our Bible Memory Verse Song!

Professor

The Apostle Paul wrote those words in his
letter to the Romans.

Ruby

I get it! Paul wrote all those letters to the
churches to help them grow in their faith
and love.

Professor

And to connect us all to God and to each
other. All these years later, we are still
spreading the same message about Jesus
that Paul spread thousands of years ago.

Ruby

We are?

Professor

Yes. That shouldn't surprise you, Cookie
Puss. After all...say it with us, kids!

All

Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and
forever! (VFX: Closing slide, SFX: Outro music)

(VFX: Fallback slide)

(exits)