Paul Is Arrested in Jerusalem

Acts 21:27-22:21

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: Dr. Helga Sominex is a quirky scientist who has a tendency to fall asleep mid-sentence. She has a German 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: Dr. Sominex teaches Ambassador Nofutu how Paul used his arrest to tell God's story. We learn God calls all of us to tell His story.

Costumes: Dr. Sominex wears a lab coat, skirt, blouse, pigtails, and glasses. Nofutu wears a crazy patterned shirt, shiny tunic, silk pantaloons, silly hat, and clogs.

Props: Bible, remote control

Sound effects (SFX):
1. Intro/outro music suggestion: Space-themed songs
2. Snoring
3. Computer Voiceover: Voice with echo
4. Teleport sounds and fanfare
5. 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 (teleport)
3. Sliding Plexiglas window holds the Bible. When opened, light shines out and music plays. Scripture Slide (on Virtual Bible): ***Having received the commander's permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned to the crowd. When they were all silent, he said to them in Aramaic: "Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense." Acts 21:40-22:1***
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 4, Lesson 18
Paul Is Arrested in Jerusalem
Acts 21:27-22:21

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!

Sominex (enters on A deck)
Hello Space Cadets! Dr. Sominex, here. Commander Cosmos and Lieutenant Ruby and Professor von Himmel and the rest of the crew are spreading God's Word on Planet Ephesus. So, I guess that means yours truly is in charge. (sits in command chair) **I'll have to keep a sharp eye on things and make sure I keep Skylab Omega safe and sss…** (SFX: Snoring)

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

Sominex (climbing down)
What? Who? What? I wasn't expecting any visitors! Did you kids order pizza?

Nofutu (enters through teleport)
Merry Easter! Happy Father's Day! Boogah, boogah, boogah, Kong-a-loosh!

Sominex
Ambassador Nofutu! What are you doing here?

Nofutu
What you don't know can't hurt you!

Sominex
I don't know what that means.

Nofutu
Of course, you don't, you silly coo-coo! Anyway, it is time! (sits)

Sominex (sits)
Of course! It's time! Time for what?

Nofutu
Time for my music Bible lesson! Every week, I come by and have a special music Bible study time with Lieutenant Ruby and Commander Cosmos.

Sominex
Oh! Well…they're both on a mission, sharing God's Word with others on Planet Ephesus. They must have forgotten.

Nofutu
Oh no! Say it isn't so! Woe is me! I am left, abandoned, without my music Bible time. This is a sad, sad day! Wahhhhh!

Sominex
There, there, it's all right. Maybe… maybe I could read to you.

Nofutu
You'd do that for me? Hooray! Music Bible time! Music Bible time!

Sominex
Sure, I'll just get it out, right now…
(Opens window, SFX: "Hallelujah Chorus," VFX: Beam of light shines from window.)

(SFX: Snoring)

Nofutu
Dr. Sominex? Yoo-hoo! Dr. Sominex!!

Sominex
Pi equals 3.14!

Nofutu
I'll have a slice of that pie!

Sominex
What was I talking about? Oh yeah, the Bible!

Nofutu
Yes! What is today's lesson?

Sominex
I don't know.

Nofutu
Commander Cosmos and Lieutenant Ruby always pick out a special lesson.

Sominex
Well, I wasn't prepared for this. Do you remember what you were studying last time?

Nofutu
Yes! We studied the Music Bible!

Sominex
That's not much help. I'll tell you what. We'll play Bible Bingo.

Nofutu
Hooray! Bible Bingo! I love Bible Bingo …what is Bible Bingo?

Sominex
It's when you open the Bible and whatever page you point to is the one you study… (SFX: Snoring)

Nofutu (in Dr. Sominex's ear)
BINGO!!

Sominex
Wah! You scared me! Oh, here we go. Today's lesson is about Paul being under arrest!

Nofutu
Oh no! Poor Paul! How did he get under arrested?

Sominex
He was in Jerusalem and some Jewish people recognized him and they shouted, "Hey, that's the guy who teaches others against our people and our law!"

Nofutu
But, I thought Paul was Jewish?

Sominex
He was.

Nofutu
Why would he teach people bad things about the Jews?

Sominex
He didn't. Paul loved everyone, including the Jewish people. He wanted all of them to give their hearts to the Messiah, Jesus.

Nofutu
Did they all decide to follow Jesus?

Sominex
Well, many did, but many more did not understand Jesus was God's Son who had come to save us.

Nofutu
Too bad! Is that why they wanted to under arrest him?

Sominex
Yes, in fact they dragged Paul out of the temple and tried to hurt him.

Nofutu
Poor Paul! Did God protect him?

Sominex
He did! God sent the commander of the Roman troops.

Nofutu
Was it Commander Cosmos?

Sominex
I don't think so! It doesn't say his name, 0but he arrested Paul to quiet the crowd. The soldiers even had to carry Paul to keep him from getting killed.

Nofutu
What did Paul do?

Sominex
He asked the commander if he could speak to the people.

Nofutu
He wanted to speak to the crowd that was trying to kill him? Do you think he told them about the Jesus?

Sominex
Yes, I think he wanted everyone, even his enemies, to know about Jesus.

Nofutu
Well, did Commander No Name let Paul speak?

Sominex
Let's ask the Virtual Bible.

Nofutu (pick up remote)
Hooray, the beepity beeps! The beepity beeps! My favorite part! (SFX: Virtual Bible Theme, VFX: Scripture Slide) *Having received the commander's permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned to the crowd. When they were all silent, he said to them in Aramaic: "Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense.*

Defense? I love Paul's defense! What was his defense?

Sominex
Paul told them his whole story.

Nofutu
You mean about how he used to be a naughty boo-boo!

Sominex
Yes!

Nofutu
And how the bright light blinded him on the road to Damascus?!

Sominex
Yes!

Nofutu
And how Jesus called him to spread the good news all over the world?!

Sominex
Yes, yes, yes!

Nofutu
Wow! I wish God would call me to tell people His story just like Paul!

Sominex
He did! He calls all of us to tell His story, even to this day!

Nofutu
Of course He does! After all, you kids know what to say...

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

Nofutu
So long, kids! Kong-a-loosh! (SFX: Outro music, VFX: Fallback slide)

(exits)