



**Worship Illustration: Script
Commander Cosmos
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts - Revelation
Unit 4, Lesson 21**

Paul Imprisoned in Rome

Acts 28:16-31

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. Lieutenant Ruby Starlight is the first mate. She is young and bubbly and always ready to learn. Admiral Angel is the Star Fleet Commander. He wears a gold robe and appears only on video.

Plot: Skylab is commissioned for two more years in space. Ruby feels like she is in prison. Commander Cosmos shares how God used Paul even in prison. We learn it is our privilege to spread God's Word, but it is the Holy Spirit who leads people to Jesus.

Costumes: Commander Cosmos and Ruby wear space suits and boots.

Props: Bible, remote control

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro/outro music suggestion: Space-themed songs
2. Computer Voiceover: Voice with echo
3. Teleport sounds and fanfare
4. 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.
4. Scripture Slide (on Virtual Bible): ***Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. Acts 28:24***
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

Commander Cosmos
Unit 4, Lesson 21
Paul Imprisoned in Rome
Acts 28:16-31

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 A deck)

Hello, Space Cadets! Lt. Ruby Starlight reporting for duty! This is the last week of our mission. We have been through the entire book of Acts, spreading God's Word to every major planet in the galaxy, so Star Command is bringing us home. Oh, I can't wait to see the earth again and to be able to go outside and see grass and trees. I love my job but sometimes being cooped up in a spaceship can feel like being in prison. (SFX: Fanfare) Oh, all hands on deck for Commander Cosmos! (salutes)

Cosmos (enters to fanfare)

Thank you, thank you! (trips) I meant to do that! At ease, crew. Good news, Space Cadets, Admiral Angel has called this the most successful mission in Skylab history!

Computer V.O.

Incoming message! Incoming message!

Admiral (appears on video or side stage)
Greetings Skylab Omega!

Cosmos

Admiral Angel! What a surprise.

Admiral

Congratulations, Skylab, your mission is accomplished! Great work!

Ruby

So, I guess we'll be coming home.

Admiral

Yes! Some of you...

Ruby

Some of us? What does that mean?

Admiral

We're sending a transport ship to pick up Professor von Himmel and Dr. Sominex. We need them back on earth to start work on a time travel project.

Cosmos

Time Travel! What will they think of next?

Ruby

Wait a minute! What about the rest of us?

Admiral

This is a historic day. Captain Yago has decided he would like to visit other planets and share God's Word. You are going to be a part of the first Interplanetary Gospel Mission. Captain Yago and Ambassador Nofutu will be beaming aboard to join you on this historic two-year journey!

Ruby

Two years!

Admiral

I know. We're as excited as you are. The transport will meet you in three days to pick up the scientists and bring you supplies. Let us know if you need anything special.

Cosmos

I could use a few cases of chocolate chip cookies. They are my favorite.

Admiral

We will get right on that. Good luck! Over and out! (Video ends.)

Cosmos

Over and out, sir! Ah, Lieutenant Ruby, we're going to be a part of history! Do you know what this means?

Ruby

Yes, it means two more years in space! I don't think I can last!

Cosmos

Don't worry! We'll have plenty of chocolate chip cookies!

Ruby

I'm not worried about chocolate chip cookies!

Cosmos

You don't have to! They're on the way!

Ruby

I'm worried about the fact that I might go crazy locked up in this floating prison for another two years!

Cosmos

Oh, Ruby Starlight. Don't look at it as a prison. Look at it as an opportunity to answer God's call.

Ruby

Well, it feels like a prison to me.

Cosmos

God can use us even in prison.

Ruby

What are you talking about? How can God use us in prison?

Cosmos

He used Paul. I'll get the Bible and show you, right now! (Opens window, SFX: "Hallelujah Chorus," VFX: Beam of light shines from window.) **Well, look at that, Paul was imprisoned in Rome for two years!**

Ruby

He was? That must have been awful!

Cosmos

Actually, it wasn't bad. You see, Paul was not considered dangerous, so he got to stay in his house with just one guard to watch him.

Ruby

Could he have visitors?

Cosmos

Oh yes, and Paul invited all the Jewish leaders in Rome to his house because he hoped to convince them Jesus was the Savior according to their Scriptures.

Ruby

Wow, Paul was pretty bold.

Cosmos

That's right. The Bible says, "Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God..."

Ruby

Do you think the people listened?

Cosmos

Let's see what the Virtual Bible says. (SFX: Virtual Bible Theme, VFX: Scripture Slide) *Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe.*****

Ruby

Well, look at that! If Paul couldn't convince everyone, how are we supposed to?

Cosmos

We're not.

Ruby

We're not? But, Admiral Angel said we had to save the universe!

Cosmos

No, he said he wants us to spread God's Word across the universe.

Ruby

What's the difference?

Cosmos

The difference is it's not our job to save the universe. The Holy Spirit is the one who leads people to Jesus.

Ruby

So, it's our job to deliver the message. In fact, it's our privilege to spread His message.

Cosmos

You've got it! That's why Paul went to the Gentiles.

Ruby

When the Jews did not accept Jesus as God's Son, Paul went to others that *would* listen.

Cosmos

And now we are going to go to all who will listen.

Ruby

Just like Paul did in Rome, we will spend two years teaching people about Jesus! You're right, Sir. This is the greatest mission ever!

Cosmos

That's the spirit! Well, so long kids! It's been great!

Ruby

Maybe we'll stop by your planet for a visit once in a while. In the meantime, let's all say it together!

Both

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

(exit)