



## **Journey with the Avengers Vacation Bible School:**

### **Black Panther and Baptism Lesson Plan**

#### **Purpose:**

To use the scene in *Black Panther* where Black Panther takes the heart-shaped herb as a means to describe Baptism: what it is and how it begins our journey as Christians in this world.

#### **Scripture Reading:**

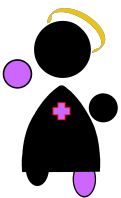
Romans 6:3-11: Dying to Sin and Being Raised in Christ Jesus

- This passage speaks of how we die to sin and our old self in Baptism, partaking in Jesus' death, and how we rise to new life through Jesus' Resurrection.

#### **Supplies:**

- + Computer/Device to Stream (Something else to project to, depending on group size)
- + Bible
- + Clip from *Black Panther* when Black Panther ingests the heart-shaped herb and meets his father again. (Roughly 30:05-33:09 for time stamp)
- + Paper and coloring utensils

*Note: if you have younger viewers, make sure you get signed permission from parents. This film has a PG-13 rating.*



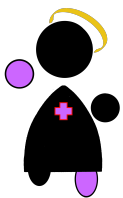


### **Pre-Presentation:**

1. Go over the Scripture reading for the day. This can be done with a prayer service (example listed in the pages below) or separately.
2. For an arts and craft project, have participants draw or write anything they like based on a word or phrase that pops out at them from the Scripture reading. You can read the lesson over again to help them. You can even have participants take turn reading. Alternatively, you can give them a template of the Gospel according to Superheroes icon (provided in the pages below) and ask participants to draw in the colors of the first hero that comes to mind when they think of the reading.
3. Snack or Game Time can come before the presentation.

### **Main Presentation:**

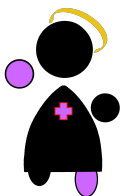
1. Show the clip from *Black Panther* where he ingests the heart-shaped, which gives him his powers, herb and sees his father again.
2. Ask participants if they've ever seen a baptism. What was that like for them? Ask what they think baptism is. (Don't look for any particular answer here, just how they feel. This can be lengthened or shortened as need be.)
3. First talk about the aspect of Black Panther being buried. Remind them of the reading from Romans 6:3-11. Talk about how just as Black Panther is buried, so we too are buried in Jesus' death in our Baptism. Talk about the use of water and how immersion can





symbolize drowning. Also discuss how Black Panther comes out from being buried. We are also baptized into Jesus' Resurrection, which is why we hope in a new life after this one.

4. Next, discuss Black Panther's conversation with his father. The panthers seen in the Ancestral Plane are like the Body of Christ, also known as the Communion of Saints. Explain how in Baptism, we are made members of the Body of Christ. These members are the saints of the church from beyond time and space. Like Black Panther with his father, our hope is that we too will meet these saints again in the Resurrected Life.
5. Close by asking participants what they think it means to live life in this world after baptism. Discuss this in light of T'Challa's conversation with his father, and how his father tells him he is a good man and "it's hard for a good man to be king." Ask them to think about this question over the rest of the week.



## Example of Opening Prayer Session

+ Opening Prayer: “Almighty Everlasting God, You have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with Your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by danger; and in all we do, direct us always to do Your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.” *Amen*.

+ *Invite participants to offer up their prayers with these words:*

Lord, You hear all our prayers. We offer up our prayers to You at this time either aloud or within the confines of our hearts...

*After some time has passed.*

... for these and all other things in our hearts and minds, we hold them up to You. We ask all this in Your Most Holy Name. *Amen*.

+ The Lord’s Prayer

+Reading from Scripture

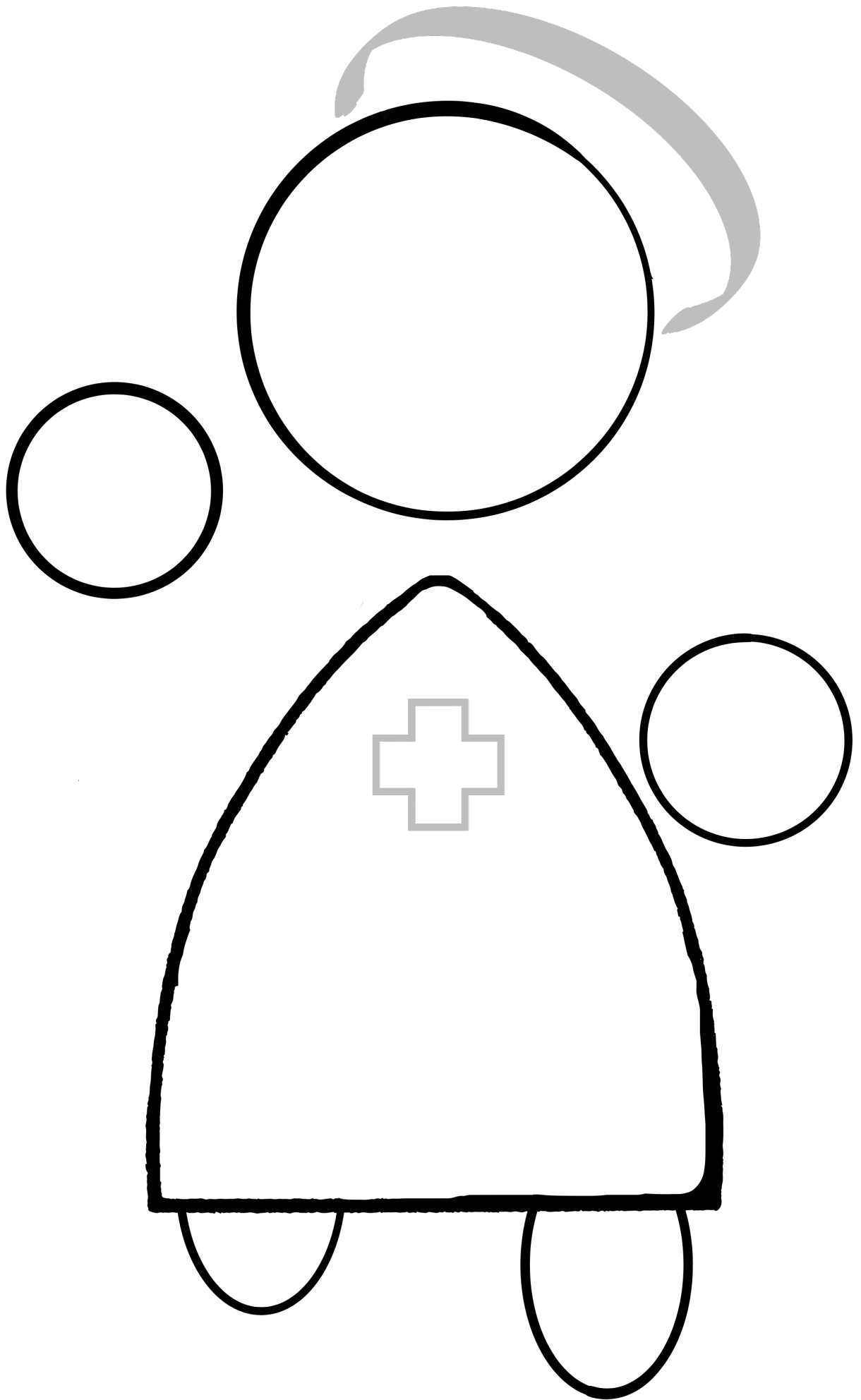
+Brief overview of the day

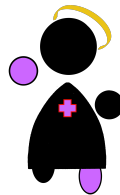
+Singing

+Final Prayer: “Give us, O Lord, the presence of Your Holy Spirit and an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love You, and the gift of joy and wonder in all Your Works.” *Amen*.

*Please note that all prayers in quotations are adapted from The Book of Common Prayer.*







Lesson Plan Written by The Rev. Trey Kennedy

Please use this lesson plan freely while giving credit to The Rev. Trey Kennedy

Check out <http://gospelaccordingtosuperheroes.weebly.com>

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