



Journey with the Avengers Vacation Bible School:

Black Widow's Ledger Lesson Plan

Purpose:

Discuss Black Widow's transition from doing bad to becoming a superhero, especially the help provided by Hawkeye believing in her. Compare Black Widow's transformation to that of the thief crucified with Jesus.

Scripture Reading:

Luke 23:[32-38,] 39-43: The Two Thieves Crucified with Jesus

- One of the thieves crucified with Jesus chastises the other for mocking Jesus, admitting his own sins and asking Jesus to pray for him when Jesus comes into His Kingdom. Jesus says that this thief will be with him in Paradise.

Supplies:

- + Computer/Device to Stream (Something else to project to, depending on group size)
- + Bible
- + Clip from *The Avengers*. Black Widow is talking with Loki about her past and how Clint Barton, Hawkeye, saved her (time stamp 1:04:16-1:05:22).
- + 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 in *The Avengers* when Black Widow talks with Loki. This is the scene where she talks about her past as a Russian spy/assassin and how Clint chose to have mercy on her and bring her in to work as a S.H.I.E.L.D. agent.
2. Ask participants to think about a time they have done something wrong (they do not have to saw what they did out load). If this lesson comes after the one on Wanda in *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, you can simply review that discussion.





3. Point out how Black Widow was once a bad guy, but she ended up becoming a good guy. Read through Luke's account of the Passion of our Lord, specifically the story of the Penitent Thief. Point out how this thief was a bad person, but in recognizing his faults, he asks Jesus to remember him. Jesus says the thief will be with him in Paradise.
4. Ask participants to compare these two stories. Point out that both show that someone who is bad can transform with help. Tell participants that the same is true for us. With Jesus' help, we too can transform from bad to good.
5. Close by discussing Clint Barton's role. He was the one who helped Natasha, Black Widow, become good. He believed in her, and so he spared her and led to her transformation. Ask participants how Jesus might do the same thing for us.



Example of Opening Prayer Session

+ Opening Prayer: “Almighty God, who restored all things in Your Son Jesus: Grant that all on earth, being divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.” *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

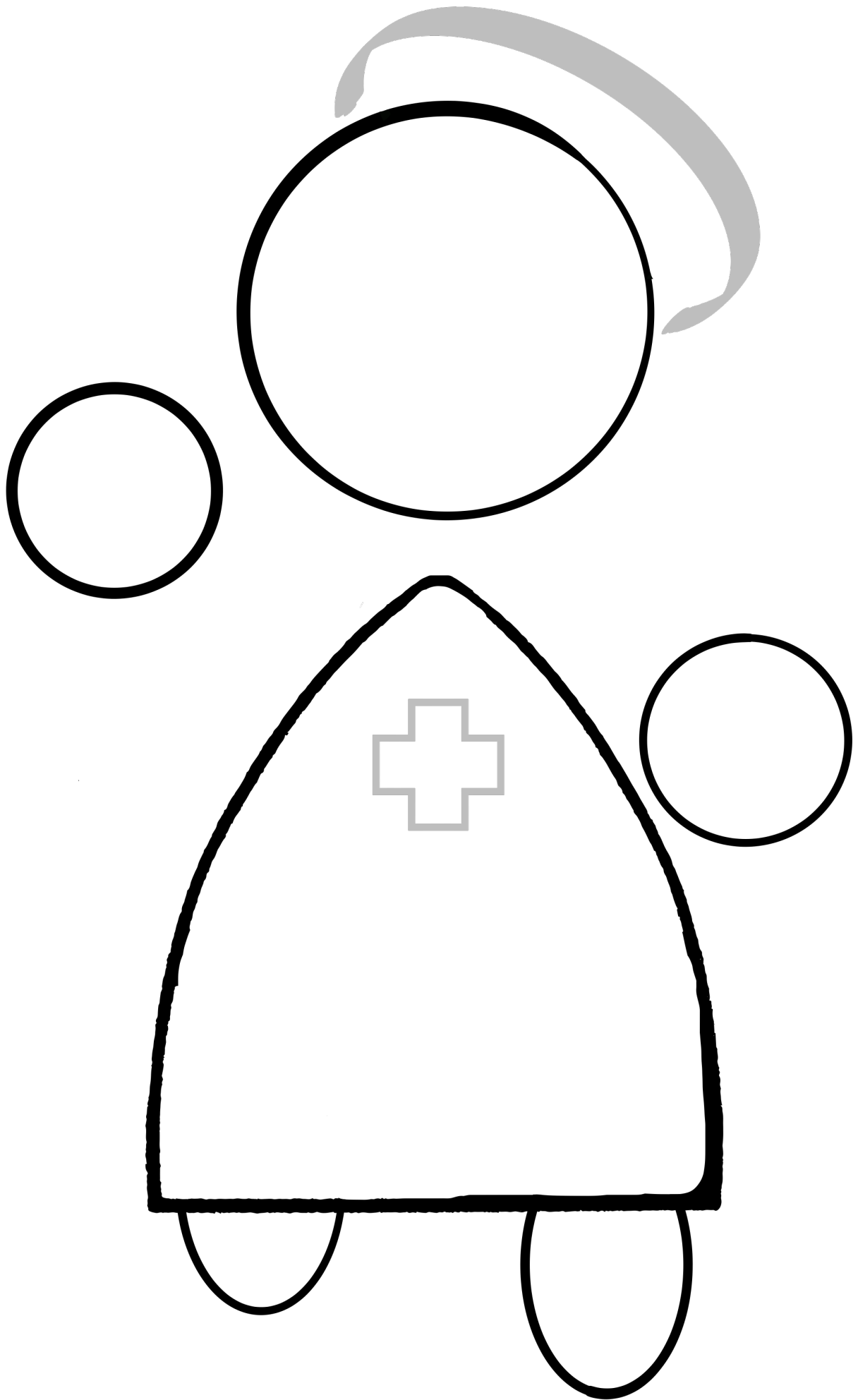
+Brief overview of the day

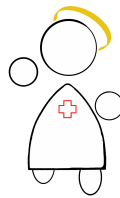
+Singing

+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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