



Black Panther: Forgiveness in War Lesson Plan

Purpose:

To have participants look at Black Panther as an example of the same forgiveness Jesus calls us to in the Gospel and to see him as an example of turning away from a cycle of violence to embrace a better way.

Scriptural Examples:

Matthew 18:21-35: The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

- This shows an example of a person unwilling to let go of the cycle of sin and violence in order to reflect Jesus' forgiving us, and the consequences of failing to forgive.

Luke 6:27-31: Turn the Other Cheek

- In Jesus' time, to rebuke a person perceived to be of a lower status, one would slap that person with the outside of the dominant hand. Turning the other cheek forces the other person to accept you as a human being and slap you with the inside of the hand. It also breaks the cycle of violence.

John 18:10-11: The Passion- Jesus rebukes Peter for drawing his sword

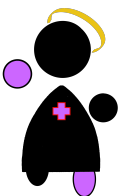
- Jesus does not fight against His fate on the Cross, but accepts it. He calls on Peter and the other Disciples to accept this path of Forgiveness, rejecting violence for a better way.

Supplies:

+ Computer/Device to Stream (Something else to project to, depending on group size)

+ Clips from film *Captain America: Civil War*.

- Black Panther introduction and death of father (UN Meeting Pt. 1)
- Black Panther talking to Black Widow (UN Meeting Pt. 2)



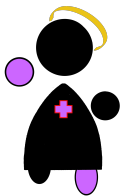


- Black Panther talking with Nemo
- Black Panther post-credits scene (optional)

Note: if you have younger viewers, make sure you get signed permission from parents. Captain America: Civil War has a PG-13 rating.

Procedure:

1. Begin by setting up the background for the first two clips: ‘Because of past events with the Avengers, the UN is demanding all superheroes sign the Sokovia Accords, which will require all heroes to report directly to the UN Council. Captain America and Iron Man disagree on the Accords, with Cap choosing not to sign them. Our clips will open up with Black Widow talking with Black Panther at the UN meeting where the Accords will be signed and ratified. Meanwhile, Cap’s friend Bucky has been on the run for many years, and will soon be blamed for an attack on the UN that kills Black Panther’s father.’
2. Show the first two clips: 1) Black Panther’s at the meeting leading up to the explosion that kills his father and 2) Black Panther talking with Black Widow in the aftermath. (You can find these clips online placed together.)
3. Discuss times where members of the group felt angry. What made them feel that way? How did they react?
4. Discuss background for the next clip (if you have time, you can just show snippets of these events, or even watch the movie in its entirety): ‘Near the end, it is revealed that it was another man,





Zemo, who set off the bomb that killed Black Panther's father. Zemo tells Captain America (Cap) and Iron Man that he is the reason behind their fighting for the entire movie. He then reveals a secret that causes Iron Man to attack Cap and Bucky in their last fight of the film. Meanwhile Black Panther, who has been following the other heroes the whole time, catches up to Zemo before he escapes.'

5. Show clip of Black Panther talking with Nemo.
6. Ask what they think of Black Panther's words "I am done letting [vengeance] consume me." How does it make you feel hearing these words? Do you think you would feel the same way if you were in Black Panther's shoes?
7. Ask if this scene reminds them of anything Jesus says. If needed, ask if this makes them think of Forgiveness.
8. Discuss how Black Panther's forgiveness illustrates what Jesus taught us. Connect Black Panther to the teachings of Jesus using the following points:
 - a. Vengeance leads to a cycle of violence, sin, and despair.
Forgiveness breaks that cycle.
 - b. Forgiveness leads us to a new path.
 - c. The journey is not always safe or easy, but it does help us become better people.





9. If there is time, show the post-credit scene. Discuss further how Black Panther's path of forgiveness has changed him and helped him become more sympathetic to others.

Questions for Further Thought:

- + Are we, in our daily lives, willing to forgive others like Black Panther did?

What does holding on to anger help us do? What does letting go of that anger help us do?

- + What are other examples we can think of, like Black Panther, that can help us navigate forgiving as Jesus taught us?



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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