



*The Gospel
according to
Superheroes*

Black Panther: Growing in Faith- Moving Beyond our Cultural Past with Killmonger

Purpose:

To show that sometimes growing in our faith means moving beyond the ways of the past that the cultures and others around us have tried to instill in us.

Scriptural Examples:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

- Jeremiah, writing as Israel is going into exile, speaks of a time in the future when God will make a new covenant with the Israelites.

Philippians 3:4b-16

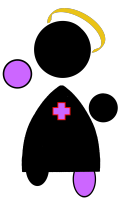
- Paul speaks of moving beyond his old cultural ways, the way of the Law, to embrace a new way: the way of Christ Jesus.

Supplies:

- + Computer or similar device
- + Means to project image and/or sound
- + Copy of *Black Panther* or access to stream movie/clips of film
 - + Clip of Nakia- “I can’t be happy here” conversation (optional)
 - + Clip of Zuri sharing the fate of N’Jobu
 - + Clip of Black Panther meeting Killmonger in throne room
 - + Clip of Black Panther in Ancestral Plane- “All of you were wrong”

Note: if you have younger viewers, make sure you get signed permission

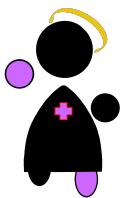
from parents. This film has a PG-13 rating.





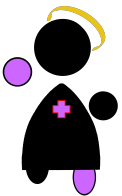
Procedure:

1. Begin with the clip of Nakia and Black Panther's first conversation after he is made king. If you have more time, you can use this lesson plan as you watch the entire movie. If you have time constraints, explain that in her time working in other nations, Nakia has become convinced that Wakanda can do a great deal to help other nations. Black Panther responds by saying, "we could lose our way of life" if they did so. Mention that this is in line with the thinking of past Wakandan kings, including Black Panther's father.
2. Mention how, when Klaue escapes Black Panther's grasp, Black Panther sees an individual with the same ring Black Panther wears as king. Then show the clip where Zuri tells Black Panther what happened to his uncle, N'Jobu. This is a very emotional scene, and it may be helpful to discuss how it makes the participants feel. Also discuss the negative impact of Wakanda's isolationist stance.
3. Show the clip where Black Panther meets Killmonger in the throne room. Of particular note is when Black Panther tells Killmonger he knows who he really is. After showing the clip, discuss Black Panther's reaction in the scene. Note that he is still struggling with what happened to Killmonger and his father's role in that event. Black Panther is trying to reconcile what has happened with what is right.





4. Discuss how, or show the clip of when, Black Panther loses to Killmonger. Mention that after this loss, Black Panther's family goes into exile. Thanks to Nakia, they are able to get the heart-shaped herb that can revive Black Panther from his loss. When Black Panther ingests the heart-shaped herb again, he is transported back to the Ancestral Plane.
5. Show the clip where Black Panther is back in the Ancestral Plane. Discuss how Black Panther is moving beyond the ways of his culture and past to forge a new and better path for Wakanda and the world.
6. Discuss Biblical examples of moving beyond past ways of doing things. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Philippians 3:4b-16, or if constrained by time, discuss what these passages say using the descriptions given above.
7. Point out that in listening to God, we are sometimes called to move beyond the norms of the societies and cultures we live in. Ask participants if they've ever had to do that. What was it like? If they haven't had to move beyond society's norms in order to better listen to God, ask what it would feel like for them to do that. Would it be difficult? How might it make them feel?





Questions for Further Thought:

+ What are ways you think your culture/society could/should change now?

What Biblical examples/quotes would you use to support your claim?

+ How do you/would you convince others in your culture/society to follow a different path? What are ways you have had success convincing others?

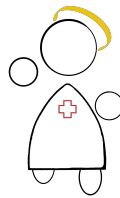
+ Note how there are 3 different views that are given in *Black Panther*. The extremes are the views of isolation coupled with the view of violent take-

over. The third view, somewhere in the middle (but not dead center)

between these two extremes is Nakia's view of humanitarian aid to other nations. What is it about violence that makes it seem like the way forward

for some? Can you see ways that these 3 views play out in society or in

Scripture?



Lesson Plan Written by The Rev. Trey Kennedy

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

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