



Black Panther: Mercy on M'Baku Lesson Plan

Purpose:

To show the importance and life-changing affect that showing mercy on one's "enemies" can have.

Scriptural Examples:

Luke 10:36-37: "The one who showed mercy"

- These verses sum up the lesson from the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus asks which man was the neighbor, to which the lawyer states: "the one who showed mercy." Jesus then says, "Go and do likewise."

Matthew 5:43-45: "Love your enemies"

- Jesus' words on loving our enemies from the Sermon on the Mount

Acts 9:1-6, (7-19): The Road to Damascus

- Paul, though he has persecuted the church, is treated with mercy by Jesus (and Ananias).

Supplies:

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

+ Clips from *Black Panther* (and *Avengers: Infinity War*, time permitting).

If you don't have a physical copy/streaming service, you can find these clips online:

- *Black Panther* clip: Challenge Day- fight scene with M'Baku
- *Black Panther* clip: Black Panther thanking M'Baku
- (*Black Panther* clip: M'Baku saves the day)



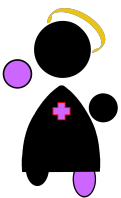


- (*Avengers: Infinity War* clip: Wakanda Forever scene with M'Baku)

Note: if you have younger viewers, make sure you get signed permission from parents. These films have a PG-13 rating.

Procedure:

1. Begin by explaining the following: there were 5 tribes, all of which, save one, formed the nation of Wakanda. The Jabari are the only tribe that remained separate. M'Baku is the leader of that tribe. Whenever the king dies, there is a ceremonial Challenge Day where anyone can challenge the new king for the throne. This is what is occurring when M'Baku shows up to issue his challenge.
2. Show clip of Challenge Day from *Black Panther*. If pressed for time, you can just show M'Baku's fight with T'Challa, The Black Panther.
3. Have a discussion about Black Panther showing mercy on M'Baku. Do you think he did the right thing? Would you have done the same thing in Black Panther's place? What does it mean that Black Panther has the good of the Jabari in mind, in addition to Wakanda?
4. Set up the next clip. Black Panther has just learned he has a cousin no one knew about, Killmonger. Killmonger challenges and defeats Black Panther, taking control of Wakanda. Though Killmonger and Black Panther's family believe he is dead, M'Baku has saved him and allows him to be brought back to life. Afterwards, Black Panther asks to speak with M'Baku alone to thank him and ask for more help.
5. Show clip of Black Panther thanking M'Baku.





6. Ask what participants think of this exchange. Do they *now* think that Black Panther sparing M'Baku was worth it? Did it change M'Baku?
7. Show clip of M'Baku changing his mind and helping Black Panther and friends take back Wakanda. If pressed for time, just mention that M'Baku comes back to help Black Panther.
8. Discuss how showing mercy has the power to change lives. If there's time, discuss the story of the Good Samaritan and read Luke 10:35-37, reflecting on the neighbor aspect with the Jabari and Wakanda. You could also read/discuss Matt. 5:43-45 and Acts 9:1-6,(7-19).
9. If you have additional time, you can show the clip from before the battle in Wakanda in *Avengers: Infinity War* when Black Panther greets M'Baku on the field. At least mention how M'Baku's friendship with Black Panther continues past *Black Panther*.
10. Ask participants what they think of the change that has happened thanks to Black Panther's mercy on M'Baku. Is this something you have ever witnessed? Does the fact that the Jabari and Wakanda can come together after centuries of disagreement give you hope that we could see people come together after long-time feuds in the real world? What is the power of God's mercy in our own lives?

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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