



# Luke Cage Baptism Lesson Plan

## **Purpose:**

To compare Luke Cage's experience receiving his powers to Baptism and how that experience helps us to move away from Spiritual Warfare in our lives and helps bring us to a fuller understanding of our role in serving God in our life.

## **Scriptural Examples:**

2 Corinthians 5:17: "If any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold the new has come."

- A helpful reflection on Baptism

Genesis 32:28: "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel"

- Jacob receives a new name.

Luke 4:18: Jesus reads from Isaiah 61:1 in the synagogue at the start of his ministry.

- The verse Luke Cage quotes before coming up with a new name.

## **Supplies:**

+ Computer/Device to Stream

+ Access to a Netflix account to view clips from *Luke Cage* Season 1 Ep. 4

*Note: This show is rated TV-MA, and thus may not be suitable to use with younger audiences.*

*This Lesson Plan can be used for 1 Christian Formation session or 2 as need be.*





## **Procedure:**

### **Part One:**

1. Begin with the clip from *Luke Cage* Season 1 Episode 4 where Albert Rackham introduces Carl Lucas to his first day in prison.
2. If there's time, show the two clips, one where Squabbles convinces Carl not to fight another inmate leading them to become friends and the other, immediately following, where Dr. Reva Connors and Carl Lucas have their first group session and their conversation afterwards. If you don't have time to show these clips, explain how, in spite of not trusting others, Carl becomes close to Squabbles and Reva.
3. Show the clip where Rackham attacks Squabbles to convince Carl to join his fight club. Discuss Spiritual Warfare, and how sometimes the forces of evil in the world conspire around us to bring us down.
4. If there's time, show the clip of Reva telling Carl she is concerned about him. Otherwise, explain how Carl is going in a downward spiral as he tries to separate himself from those he cares about to protect them from Rackham.
5. If there's time (and you have a suitably aged audience), show the clip of when Rackham discovers Carl's fondness of Reva, Carl's conversation with Reva about leaving, and Carl's fight with Shades and others that leave him in the prison hospital. Discuss Spiritual Warfare again and how the forces of evil in this world try to twist





those things we love to use them against us. Discuss the despair Carl finds himself in and how that affects him as a person.

6. Show the clip where Reva begs Dr. Noah Burstein to use Carl in his experiment in order to save his life. Continue with the clip to see the experiment, how Rackham tries to tamper with it to kill Carl, and how Carl gets his powers and uses them to escape. Discuss how this is similar to Baptism:
  - a. Carl is in need of healing, as we all are in our spiritual lives. He must go under the water to do so, as we do in Baptism.
  - b. Rackham is like the evil one, having his last go at Carl when he is under the water. Talk about how we reject the ways of evil in this world in our baptismal vows and take on service to Christ Jesus.
  - c. Discuss how sin imprisons us and how Baptism helps set us free, just as Carl punches his way out of Seagate.
  - d. Discuss how Carl now has new life, being healed and receiving new powers, just as we receive new life in Baptism and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
  - e. Use 2 Cor. 5:17 to frame the idea that Carl has now been made a new creation through his “baptism” of sorts in the Seagate experiment.





## Part Two:

1. Discuss Genesis 32:28 and the significance of name changes in Scripture. Discuss how there is a sense of renewal in those name changes, just as there is in Baptism. Explain that this is also the case for Carl Lucas as he gets ready to change his name after his super-powered “baptism.”
2. Show the clip where Reva and Carl talk about the new name he will give himself. In particular, discuss the quotation from Luke 4:18:
  - a. Note that Luke 4:18 comes after Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness at the start of the chapter. Compare this to Carl, now Luke, and his bouts with Spiritual Warfare before.
  - b. Also note that Jesus is quoting Isaiah 61:1 as he reads from the scroll in the synagogue at the start of His ministry in Luke 4:18.
  - c. Discuss how Luke 4:18 gets at our responsibility as Christians to help serve others. Discuss how Luke is being called to use his powers to help others and how his responsibility is similar to our responsibility as Christians.





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