

Small Group Study Guide



June 30, 2019

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for being our creator, sustainer and redeemer. As we enter into this time together, give us wisdom to see how this movie points toward the gospel and then give us the courage to live out the gospel in our lives. We pray this in the matchless and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE:

James 1:27

27 True devotion, the kind that is pure and faultless before God the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their difficulties and to keep the world from contaminating us.

Matthew 7:24-27

24 “Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock. 25 The rain fell, the floods came, and the wind blew and beat against that house. It didn’t fall because it was firmly set on bedrock. 26 But everybody who hears these words of mine and doesn’t put them into practice will be like a fool who built a house on sand. 27 The rain fell, the floods came, and the wind blew and beat against that house. It fell and was completely destroyed.”

James 5:16

16 For this reason, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous person is powerful in what it can achieve.



INTRODUCTION

Black Panther is a 2018 superhero film based on the Marvel Comics character of the same name. The movie takes place in the fictional country of Wakanda. Wakanda is a rich nation whose technology surpasses all the other nations because they have a rare metal called Vibranium. A young man named T'Challa becomes king and the new Black Panther after the untimely death of his father. However, a family secret leads to his downfall and he must overthrow his cousin to reign again as the Black Panther. So where does this movie point us to the gospel?

The Black Panther reminds us of several things as Jesus followers. First, Jesus followers are not called to stay in the holy huddle but to be engaged in our communities, nation and the world. Second, in order to be salt and light in the world, our lives need to be built on the foundation of Jesus. Finally, when we mess up tell the truth and quickly repent and get back on the path God has for you.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Did you see the movie Black Panther? If yes, what do you think about the movie? If no, who is your favorite superhero?
- 2) At the end of Black Panther, T'Challa vowed eloquently that Wakanda would no longer isolate itself from the world and its problems. "In times of crisis," he said, "the wise build bridges, while the foolish build barriers." How can we build bridges and not barriers in our lives?
- 3) In Black Panther, everyone thought that T'Challa was killed by Killmonger so he could become king. But T'Challa returned to dramatically confront Killmonger, saying, "I never yielded! And as you can see, I am not dead!" Jesus' followers had an even more dramatic witness. Jesus was dead and buried—and then came to them, saying, "I am not dead!" Jesus' victory over evil, hatred and death is "our defining story." In what ways does the story of Jesus define your life?
- 4) As king, T'Challa learned that the father he had idolized had, in fact, made some serious mistakes. Rather than admit any fault, those involved continue to make excuses for their actions. Do you find it hard to admit your mistakes? If so, why?
- 5) In the Black Panther movie, the people of Wakanda make the metal Vibranium an idol in their lives. Are there Idols (anything, or anyone, that receives the primary focus of our energy and resources) in our lives?

FINAL APPLICATION

What is one thing you can do this week to be engaged in your community?