



# GEEKS UNDER GRACE

WWW.GEEKSUNDERGRACE.COM

**Black Panther (2018)** | *Son of the King* | BIBLE STUDY

Facilitator Note: We encourage facilitators to take this Bible study and expound on it throughout the week, allowing it to be a springboard for deeper conversation and personal meditation.

## PRESS START

**Black Panther**, the first Marvel movie to feature a nearly all-black cast, is a film celebrating African culture. The fighting was inspired by African martial arts, and the different tribes in the movie took inspiration from various African countries including Nigeria and Lesotho. **What are other films that were celebrations of culture?**

## EQUIP

Identity is something everyone struggles with. In the movie, **Black Panther**, we watch as T'challa tries to figure out who he is as a king and how his country, and in extension himself, should relate to the rest of the world. This becomes an increasingly difficult pursuit when he learns his father had not been the infallible king he had always looked up to. Different advisors pull him different directions and present various ideas of what they think he should be, but he himself is the only one who can truly make that decision. Should he continue to rule Wakanda as the previous kings had, keeping the country in seclusion and their technology a secret? Or should he use his new influence to reach out to the hurting in the world and help others, knowing it will make him and his country a target?

As Christians, and as human beings in general, we all struggle with the same questions of identity. We wonder who we are, how we should relate to the world around us, and what influences we should allow to define us. Everyone struggles with this, but the mystery of our identity can be found by looking no farther than scripture. We, like T'Challa, are children of the King and must learn our own place in His kingdom so we can impact the world and live the life we were created for. Discovering who we are and revealing that to others can leave us vulnerable, but only that discovery will allow us to be everything God has called us to be as His children.

## LEVEL UP

A clue to our identity can be found in the very first chapter of the Bible. **Genesis 1:27** says *"God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."* The last thing God created was humans, and He saw that it was "very good." He did not just create man like all the other animals, but created them in His own image, setting us apart and giving us authority over the rest of creation. Our purpose in creation is to glorify Him.

But God did not stop there. **John 1:12a** tells us *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.”* God is the king over all of creation, and He has given us the right to become His children. Christians are sons and daughters of the King of the Universe. T’Challa knew his actions as king would reflect on how people saw his country. We must remember our actions here on Earth will affect how people see our God and our true Kingdom, Heaven. Our role is not to wage war against others, but to defend the kingdom of heaven and fight against His enemies, even if it means sacrificing our lives. During the final battle of the movie, W’Kabi asks, “Would you kill me, my love?,” to which Okoye responds, “For Wakanda... without question.” She was willing to give up everything because she knew she was a Wakandan first and a lover second. We also must put everything else second to serving our King.

**Galatians 3:27-28** *“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*

God does not see race, gender, or status when He looks at us, but sees only the righteousness of Christ. We are all equal in His eyes. Racism, sexism, and any other form of favoritism and oppression is directly against God’s plan. T’Challa, who had been raised and trained as a king his whole life, treated others with respect, while Killmonger treated others with contempt. We cannot reject each other’s right to become God’s children while accepting it ourselves. A true child of the king will strive to see others as God sees them, and remember the identity of others as well as themselves.

## MOD

**How would you describe yourself to someone who had never met you? What is your identity?**

**What are different labels we use to identify other people? How should we identify others, according to Galatians 3:27-28?**

**If you suddenly found out you were royalty, how would your life change? If you lived every day as though you were a child of God (the King) what would change?**

## PRAY

**Does anyone have anything we need to pray about?**

Pray and thank God for giving us an unchanging identity as His children through His Son. Ask Him to help us live with this identity in mind and to look at others as God does.

## THE NEXT LEVEL

**Romans 8:17** *“The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.”*

**1 John 3:1-2** *“See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.”*

**1 Peter 2:9** *“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of the darkness into His marvelous light.”*

**Ephesians 1:5** *“He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of his will.”*

Author: Christina Graham | Editor: Lexi Tucker

---

These Bible Studies are completely free for you to print and use. They are funded by the gracious donations of people like you. If you are interested in donating, please check out **WWW.PATREON.COM/GEEKSUNDERGRACE** for more information. Your contribution helps us to further our mission to disciple Christians through pop culture and to tell the “geek” world that they deserve Christ just as much as the rest of us. Thank you for your consideration.

*Scripture taken from the [New American Standard Bible \(NASB\)](#).  
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by [The Lockman Foundation](#).*