

THE BOOK OF
JOSHUA

STENGTH. COURAGE. LEADERSHIP. FAITH.

Joshua 20 Is Christ our refuge?

Small group questions

Leaders: choose some, but not all of the following questions. Email me with any questions. Mark.

1. What does the word (and concept) of *refuge* mean to you? What do you think of? Have you ever needed a refuge of some description?
2. What was the idea of these cities of refuge in Joshua 20 and why were they needed?
3. What do we learn about God as we read of him providing these cities?
4. What great tendency in human kind were the cities of refuge to guard against?
5. Why don't we need such cities today?
6. Why do we even look at passages like this in our sermon times? Why spend time in the Old Testament?
7. We realise that the concept of the cities of refuge is part of the way in which the Old Testament points us to Jesus. There are very strong echoes in the cities of refuge which point to Jesus our refuge
 - a. Refuge *from* wrath – how is Jesus' death a refuge from God's wrath? Why was God angry?
 - b. Refuge *for* justice – in what way is Jesus' death a place where justice is found?
 - c. The cities of refuge were entirely of God's grace – as it the work of Jesus at the cross. Why does God lavish this love upon us who are completely undeserving?
 - d. The death of the high priest brought freedom – as does the death of Jesus our great high priest!! So Christians are now and forever acquitted. The verdict of our trial has been announced. And we are free! How good is this!!!
8. A non-Christian friend shares with you that they are burdened by their sin and fearful of God's judgment. What would you say to them?
9. A Christian friend facing death has some doubts about whether God will welcome them. How do you encourage them?
10. Is there something that has stood out for you from this passage and sermon which you could share with the group? Any changes you need to make – any action point which has arisen?

Take some time to pray that we will be people who revel in Jesus our refuge and that we will be able to urge many others to find refuge in him.

Dear Father, we thank you for your Word and the reminder that Jesus is our refuge from your wrath and our sin. Help us to revel in your love and grace, and to find rest in Jesus' finished work on the cross.

May we be people who eagerly share the amazing nature of Jesus our refuge with others, and may our lives be a testament to the freedom and justice found in Jesus. We pray this in His precious name, Amen.