

Sermon Study Guide



#11: Where the Soul Finds Refuge

Series: *Courage in the Crucible*

April 25, 2021 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

In this study on the book of Joshua, we learn how we can stand courageous when trials, difficult situations, opposition, and inevitable changes surround us.

Reflect

During this pandemic, what place do you consider the safest for you so that you will avoid being infected by the coronavirus?

Read and Discuss

Scripture

Joshua 20-21

Discussion Questions

Divine protection is not the absence of problems, challenges, or physical threats. It is knowing that our God provides refuge for our tired, scared, and weary souls. It is in God's protective hands where our souls find refuge. Read Joshua 20-21.

- Principle #1: Finding Refuge - A Place of Salvation for People Who Make Mistakes (v. 20:1-3).** What were the six cities of refuge designated for? Why did God set up these cities? How do you feel that God welcomes all, and provides a place of protection and salvation for those who have made terrible mistakes? Is there any sin that God cannot forgive? As a Christian, what do you do when you fall back into sin?
- Principle #2: Reason For Refuge - A Place of Hope for People Looking for Justice (v. 20:4-6).** What happens when someone arrives at these cities of refuge? Is there real justice in our present society? Explain why you think so. Why should you be hopeful that a time will come that true and right justice will prevail? In the meantime, what should you do to people who have been unfair and unjust to you?
- Principle #3: Reason For Refuge - A Place of Access for All People Who Want to Come (v. 20:7-9).** Which part of the passage indicates that these places of refuge were accessible to all people? How is it fair to everyone that Jesus Christ died for

all sins? As a Christian, when do you feel that your soul is weary? What is His promise in Psalm 46:1? As a church, how should we provide refuge not only for Christians, but for non-Christians as well?

- Principle #4: Reason For Refuge - A Place of Grace for Undeserving People (v. 20:9).** How was grace shown in the Cities of Refuge? What is the difference between how the world defines you and how God sees you? What is shame? Why does the cultural mindset of shame weary one's soul? What does it mean to you that in spite of all the shame that you may be keeping to yourself, God's grace welcomes you?
- Principle #5: Reason For Refuge - A Place of Restoration for People Willing to Change (v. 21:1-45).** Who is the tribe of Levi? How did God provide for their needs, enabling them to minister to God's people? During this pandemic when the church is closed, how do you continue to be nourished with God's Word and godly counsel? How do you make God part of your daily life?

Respond

In Walk: Jesus said in Matthew 11, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Is there anything that makes your soul weary and troubled? What should you do so that you can find rest for you tired souls in the Lord?

In Prayer: Heavenly Father, with everything going on in this world right now, I feel tired. My heart is so weary for the many uncertainties this pandemic brings. Thank You that You have provided a "City of Refuge" for me, and that is Your protective hands. Thank You that through Jesus, I have a place of salvation and hope, access to come to You anytime, and grace and restoration when I fail and want to change. Lord, may You continue to help me to draw closer to You each day. In Jesus' name, Amen.