

The Cities of Refuge

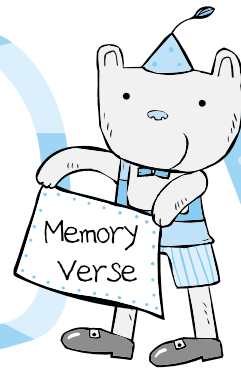
Numbers 35, Deuteronomy 19:1-13, Joshua 20

After the Israelites divided the land of Canaan among themselves, God ordered them to designate cities of refuge for certain people. The people who were to stay in the cities of refuge were those who accidentally killed someone with no intention of harm. So if someone accidentally killed someone else, he or she would go to one of these cities.

The high priest at the city of refuge would take these people into the city and protect them from the family members or relatives of the person who died, incase they may want to take revenge on the killer. Later on, if it was proven that the killer killed the person completely by accident, the killer would be able to stay in the city of refuge with complete protection until the high priest of the city of refuge passed away. This was a very fortunate thing, because those who actually committed murder, with intent to kill, could not receive any protection whatsoever. God ordered the cities of refuge to be made so that those people who may have killed someone else by mistake could be protected. God did this because of His love for people.



Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)



36

There were a total of six cities of refuge, three on each side of the Jordan River. Because broad roads were connected to these cities and there were signposts that indicate the way to these cities, it was easy for all people to go there incase they accidentally killed someone. In metaphorical terms, these cities of refuge are actually like Jesus. Jesus became a city of refuge for us people born as sinners. Because we are sinners, we live our whole lives committing countless numbers of sins. But if sinners believe in Jesus and get saved, they receive protection from God and are able to live eternally in heaven.





Today's Study

Let's Go to the City of Refuge

This is a story that occurred some time after the Israelites were led into the land of Canaan.



One day, there were two people cutting down a tree.



While one of them was chopping the tree with his ax, the head of the ax suddenly flew off of the handle and flew to the other guy's head.



The guy who got hit started bleeding really bad and ended up dying after a few seconds.



Now, the family members and relatives of the person who died are chasing the guy who killed him.

What can this woodcutter do to survive now?

What would've happened to the woodcutter if there was no such thing as a city of refuge?

"Then you shall appoint cities to be cities of refuge for you, that the who kills any person may flee there." (Numbers 35:11)



Today's Study

Jesus, the City of Refuge

1. Because we are all sinners, there's no choice for us but to go to hell. But there's actually a way for even sinners not to go to hell. What is that way?

2. Jesus is like a strong city. The devil cannot break it down no matter how hard he tries. What is the only way for a born-again person to receive protection from the devil?

“Preserve me, O God, for I take refuge in You.” (Psalms 16:1)



3. The following are the lyrics of the hymn “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” (hymn 384 of the Korean hymnal). Sing the hymn and fill in the blanks.

1. A _____ is our God, a Bulwark never failing;
_____. He amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing. For still
our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe, His craft and pow'r are great; and,
armed with cruel hate, On earth is not His equal.
2. Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be _____;
Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choosing. Dost ask
who that may be? _____, it is He, Lord Sabaoth His Name,
From age to age the same, And He must win the battle.



Today's Lesson

A similar thing happened to Tim and Jay, but they acted differently about it. Read the following and answer the questions below.



Some bully in Tim's class kept on making fun of him.



Some bully in Jay's class kept on making fun of him.



So Tim brought his older brother and made fun of the bully back.



Jay prayed to God and said, "Jesus, a person in my class keeps on making fun of me way too much. All I have is You, Jesus. Please help me!"



The bully then brought his older brother, who was much bigger and stronger. So Tim and his older brother were humiliated very badly.



A little later, the bully moved to another school. Jay didn't know what happened, but he realized the fact that Jesus helped him and gave thanks to the God above.



Today's Lesson

1. What did Tim do wrong?

2. How was Jay's problem solved?

3. If you remember a time when God protected you from something because you prayed about it, write it down and try sharing it with the rest of your class.

"Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah." (Psalms 62:8)

Parents

Teacher