

PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE



Sermon Date: 10/05/2020

Text(s): Psalm 46:1–2, 18:2, 91:2, 7:1;

Numbers 35:1–15, 25–28; Joshua 20:1–2, 7–8;

Title: Cities of Refuge

Preacher: Rev Dr Jonathan Seet

(The sermon recording and slides are available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

READ (5 mins)

(Read the Bible texts, quietly or aloud)

Psalm 46:1–2 (ESV)

1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

Psalm 18:2 (ESV)

2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Numbers 35:1–15 (ESV)

1 The LORD spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, saying,

2 “Command the people of Israel to give to the Levites some of the inheritance of their possession as cities for them to dwell in. And you shall give to the Levites pasturelands around the cities.

3 The cities shall be theirs to dwell in, and their pasturelands shall be for their cattle and for their livestock and for all their beasts. **4** The pasturelands of the cities, which you shall give to the Levites, shall reach from the wall of the city outward a thousand cubits all around. **5** And you shall measure, outside the city, on the east side two thousand cubits, and on the south side two thousand cubits, and on the west side two thousand cubits, and on the north side two thousand cubits, the city being in the middle. This shall belong to them as pastureland for their cities. **6** “The cities that you give to the Levites shall be the six cities of refuge, where you shall permit the manslayer to flee, and in addition to them you shall give forty-two cities. **7** All the cities that you give to the Levites shall be forty-eight, with their pasturelands. **8** And as for the cities that you shall give from the possession of the people of Israel, from the larger tribes you shall take many, and from the smaller tribes you shall take few; each, in proportion to the inheritance that it inherits, shall give of its cities to the Levites.”

9 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **10** “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, **11** then you shall select cities to be cities of refuge for you, that the manslayer who kills any person without intent may flee there. **12** The cities shall be for you a refuge from the avenger, that the manslayer may not die until he stands before the congregation for judgment. **13** And the cities that you give shall be your six cities of refuge. **14** You shall give three cities beyond the Jordan, and three cities in the land of Canaan, to be cities of refuge. **15** These six cities shall be for refuge for the people of Israel, and for the stranger and for the sojourner among them, that anyone who kills any person without intent may flee there.



Numbers 35:25–28 (ESV)

25 And the congregation shall rescue the manslayer from the hand of the avenger of blood, and the congregation shall restore him to his city of refuge to which he had fled, and he shall live in it until the death of the high priest who was anointed with the holy oil. **26** But if the manslayer shall at any time go beyond the boundaries of his city of refuge to which he fled, **27** and the avenger of blood finds him outside the boundaries of his city of refuge, and the avenger of blood kills the manslayer, he shall not be guilty of blood. **28** For he must remain in his city of refuge until the death of the high priest, but after the death of the high priest the manslayer may return to the land of his possession.

Joshua 20:1–2 (ESV)

1 Then the LORD said to Joshua, **2** “Say to the people of Israel, ‘Appoint the cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you through Moses,

Joshua 20:7–8 (ESV)

7 So they set apart Kedesh in Galilee in the hill country of Naphtali, and Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the hill country of Judah.

8 And beyond the Jordan east of Jericho, they appointed Bezer in the wilderness on the tableland, from the tribe of Reuben, and Ramoth in Gilead, from the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan, from the tribe of Manasseh.

REFLECT (30 mins)

(Reflect on key themes and questions in the text)

- 1. God commanded Moses, and later reminded Joshua, to build six cities of refuge for those who killed someone by mistake. They were found on both sides of the Jordan, 3 on each side. No place in Israel is more than 1 day’s journey from one of the cities. The gates of these cities were to remain open always and the roads leading to them kept in good condition at all times. From these observations, how serious is God in His desire to see the cities of refuge set up, and why do you think this is so important to Him?**
- 2. The names of the six cities of refuge and their meanings are as follows: Kedesh (Holy, righteous), Shechem (Shoulder), Hebron (Fellowship), Bezer (Fortress, stronghold), Ramoth (Raised on high), Golan (Rejoicing, separated). Do any of these names and their meanings stand out to you? Is there one particular name that stands out for you?**
- 3. In Luke 24:27 and John 5:39 Jesus said the Old Testament pointed to Him. We learn that Jesus is our Rock, our City of Refuge, our Help in every need. It was our sins that put Jesus on the Cross. But now we can run to Jesus and hide in Him, our Rock and our City of Refuge. In what way have you made Jesus Christ your Rock? How have you made Christ your City of Refuge?**

RELATE (30 mins)

(Relate and apply God's word to our daily lives)



- 1. The preacher said The Gospel of Christ is simple: Believe. Accept. Repent. Just as God instructed that the 6 cities of refuge be easily accessible, He has made salvation in Christ easily accessible. We only need to believe. Would someone like to share how you came to receive Christ as your Lord and Saviour? Would someone like to share how you led a friend to receive Christ in a simple way?**

- 2. The Church today, as the Body of Christ, is called to be a City of Refuge. Right now, how can Pentecost Methodist Church be a city of refuge? How can your Life Group be a city of refuge? And how can you as an individual be a city of refuge to someone you know personally?**

REST (15 mins)

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for weekly guide)

- Pray for our church and for one another to be a city of refuge to people around us as a Body of Christ and as individuals.
- Pray for others in your family or circle of friends who need prayer support. Let us continue to pray for the migrant workers for healing and restoration.
- Remember to pray for the churches in Singapore to continue as godly witnesses to Singapore and beyond.