



# Our Refuge •

Numbers 35

Psalm 46 : 1-2



We are now speaking from the Psalms. I am not doing an expositing of a whole psalm for today. I want to bring us to understand this truth that is found very much in the book of Psalms that God is our rock and refuge and relate this to other part of the OT.

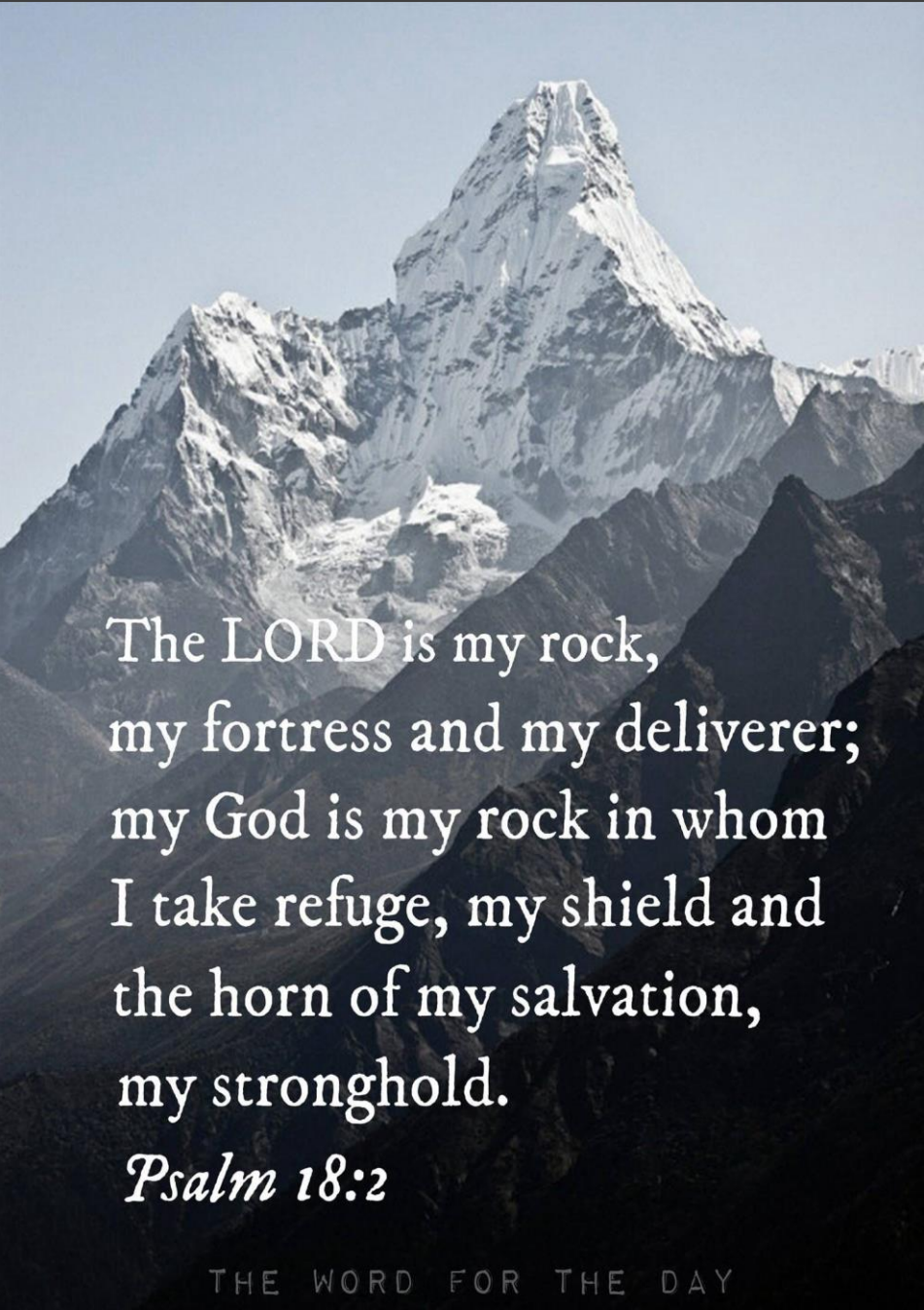
**God is our refuge and strength,  
A very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear**

**Even though the earth be removed,  
And though the mountains be  
carried**

**into the midst of the sea...**

**(Ps 46:1-2)**

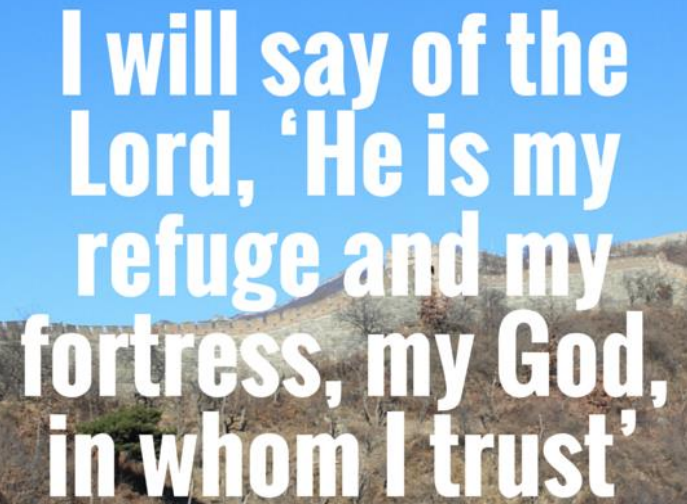




The LORD is my rock,  
my fortress and my deliverer;  
my God is my rock in whom  
I take refuge, my shield and  
the horn of my salvation,  
my stronghold.

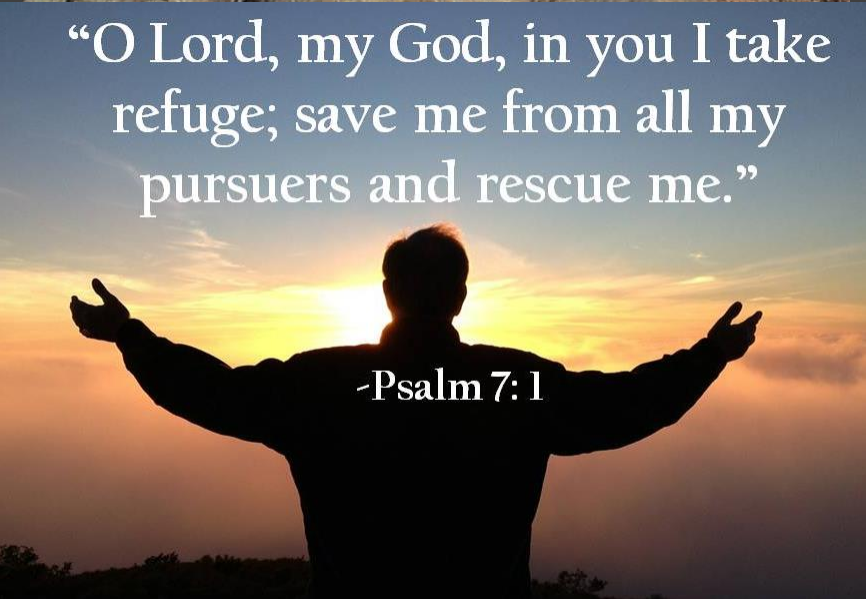
*Psalm 18:2*

THE WORD FOR THE DAY



I will say of the  
Lord, 'He is my  
refuge and my  
fortress, my God,  
in whom I trust'

PSALM 91:2



“O Lord, my God, in you I take  
refuge; save me from all my  
pursuers and rescue me.”

-Psalm 7: 1

I want to link this comforting truth that GOD IS OUR REFUGE with the 2<sup>nd</sup> last chapter of Book of Numbers – Numbers 35.

Numbers 35 has a very interesting section on God setting up Cities of Refuge.

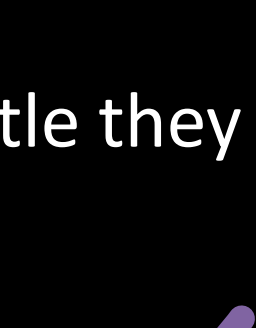


**CITIES** OF  
**REFUGE**

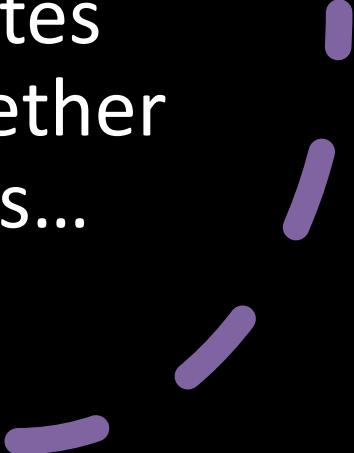
# Numbers

## 35

On the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho, the Lord said to Moses,  
**2** “Command the Israelites to give the Levites towns to live in from the inheritance the Israelites will possess. And give them pasturelands around the towns. **3** Then they will have towns to live in and pasturelands for the cattle they own and all their other animals...



# Numbers 35

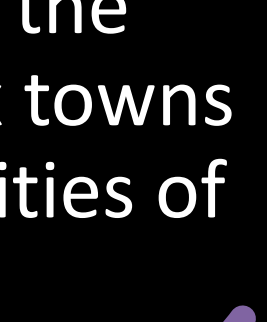
- **6** “Six of the towns you give the Levites will be cities of refuge, to which a person who has killed someone may flee. In addition, give them forty-two other towns. **7** In all you must give the Levites forty-eight towns, together with their pasturelands...
- 



# Numbers

## 35

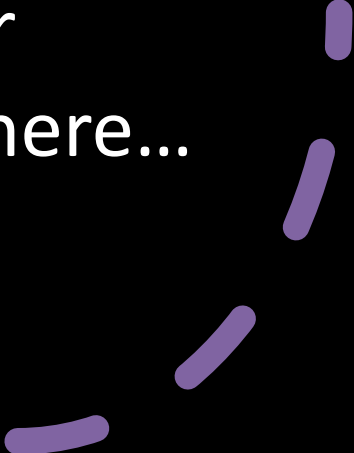
...**11** select some towns to be your cities of refuge, to which a person who has killed someone accidentally may flee. **12** They will be places of refuge from the avenger, so that anyone accused of murder may not die before they stand trial before the assembly. **13** These six towns you give will be your cities of refuge.



# Numbers 35

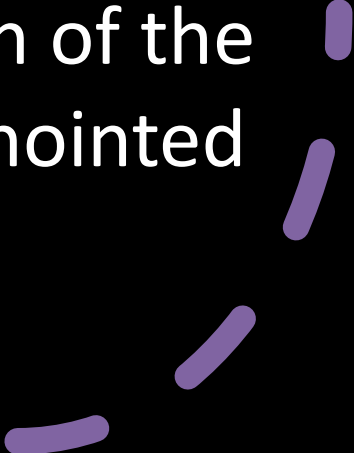
**14** Give three on this side of the Jordan and three in Canaan as cities of refuge.

**15** These six towns will be a place of refuge for Israelites and for foreigners residing among them, so that anyone who has killed another accidentally can flee there...




# Numbers 35

...25 The *people (of the city)* shall deliver the manslayer from the hand of the blood avenger, and the congregation shall restore him to his city of refuge to which he fled; and he shall live in it until the death of the high priest who was anointed with the holy oil.



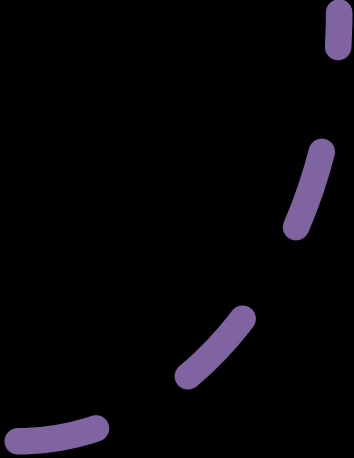
# Numbers 35

**26** But if the manslayer at any time goes beyond the border of his city of refuge to which he may flee, **27** and the blood avenger finds him outside the border of his city of refuge, and the blood avenger kills the manslayer, he will not be guilty of blood



# Numbers 35

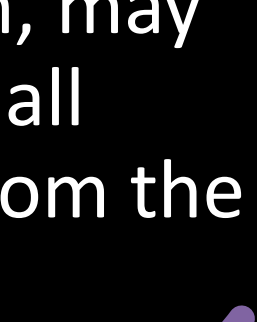
**28** because he should have remained in his city of refuge until the death of the high priest. But after the death of the high priest the manslayer shall return to the land of his possession...



When they moved into the promised land, God reminded Joshua of these cities...

# Joshua 20

Then the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying, **2** “Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘Designate the cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you through Moses, **3** that the manslayer who kills any person unintentionally, without premeditation, may flee there, and they shall become your refuge from the avenger of blood...



# Joshua 20

**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** Beyond the Jordan east of Jericho, they designated Bezer in the wilderness on the plain from the tribe of Reuben, and Ramoth in Gilead from the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan from the tribe of Manasseh.





God says: Establish Cities  
of Refuge

Numbers 35  
Joshua 20



# **CITIES** OF **REFUGE**

**What are these cities for?**



The one who murders purposely will be handed over to the avenger of blood but the one who did it mistakenly will find refuge in the 6 cities and saved from the avenger of blood.

When someone is killed – a male relative must pursue the killer and avenge the death. This is to keep the honour of the family. A person is not guilty of murder if the reason for the killing is to avenge a family member's death.

And so the one who has killed must flee to one of these cities of Refuge to take shelter... if not he will get killed by the avenger ...

- From both scripture and old Jewish writings and teachings, we learn these things about the Cities of Refuge.
- You will see the mercy, grace and goodness of God in not only providing for these cities but in every characteristic of the city.



**MERCY  
&  
GRACE**

When they came into the Promised Land, every tribe was given a piece of land except for the Levites. They were given 48 cities scattered across the land.



The key role of the Levites was to serve God and teach the people and they lived in these 48 cities. The other tribes would farm the land. The Levites were supported through the offerings the people gave to God. From the 48 cities, 6 cities were chosen to be Cities of Refuge.

These 6 cities were found on both sides of the Jordan



Found on  
both sides  
of the  
Jordan  
Jordan

No place in Israel  
is more than 1  
day's journey  
from one of the  
cities.



# Names of the Cities of Refuge

Kedesh – קדש Holy, righteous

Shechem – שכם Shoulder

Hebron – חברון Fellowship

Bezer – בצר Fortress, stronghold”

Ramoth – ראמת Raised on high

Golan – גולן Rejoicing, Separated.



The Gates  
are always  
kept  
open... not  
to be shut.



Roads leading to these cities must  
always be in good condition.  
Easy to reach the city!

They are to remain there and are safe until the High Priest dies.



*High Priest*

The OT is NT concealed

The NT is the OT revealed.

The Old Testament points to Jesus.

And beginning with **Moses** and all  
the Prophets, **Jesus** explained  
to them what was said in  
all the **Scriptures**  
that concerned  
**Himself**

**Luke 24:27**



# Jesus said

You search the **Scriptures** because you think  
that in them you have **Eternal Life** and

it is these that testify about **Me**

John 5:39

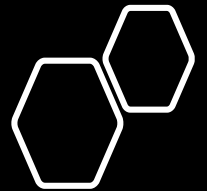


Jesus is  
the Rock,  
our  
Refuge –  
our City  
of Refuge





The City of Refuge is for those who  
killed/sinned unintentionally...



How and Why do we qualify to hide in  
the place of refuge?

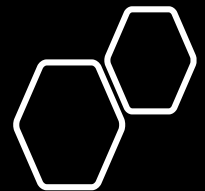
FOR ALL  
HAVE SINNED  
AND FALL  
SHORT OF  
THE GLORY  
OF GOD,  
ROMANS  
3:23

Behold, I was shaped in  
iniquity; and in sin did my  
mother conceive me.

—Psalm 51:5

Original  
Sin

We can't help but  
sin.



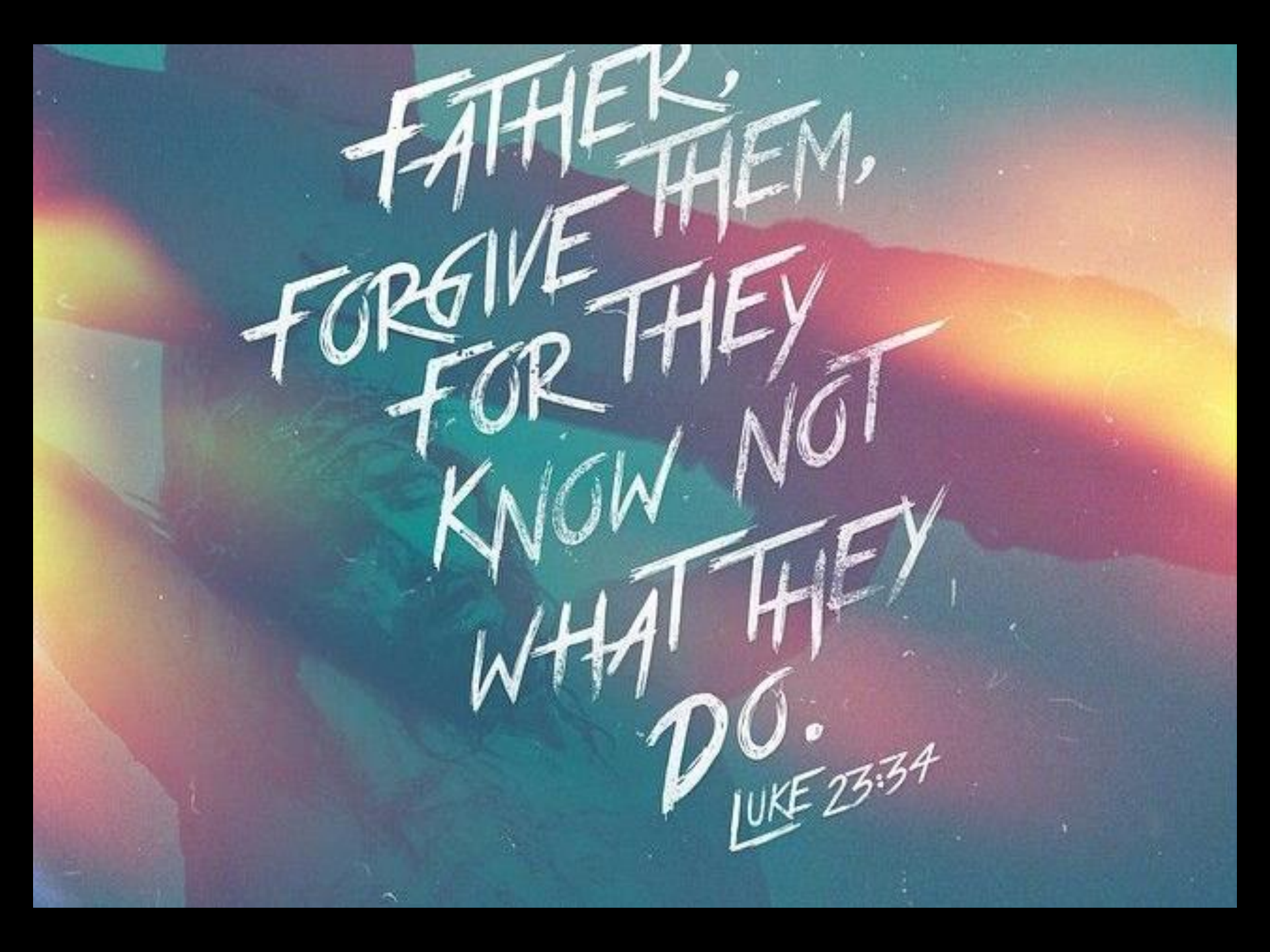
The penalty of killing is death by the avenger!

For us, the penalty of sin is death – the wages of sin is death.

Our sins put  
Jesus on  
the Cross...



Jesus recognized that we sin because we were born in sin and sin is in us. That is why he cried out...



FATHER,  
FORGIVE THEM,  
FOR THEY  
KNOW NOT  
WHAT THEY  
DO.

LUKE 23:34





We can  
run to Him  
and hide in  
the Rock



He is our  
Passover  
lamb.

“When I  
see the  
blood...”



...I will  
pass over  
you!



# Jesus is near when we need Him!



Found on  
both sides of  
the Jordan

No place in Israel  
is more than 1  
day's journey from  
one of the cities.

They remain safe  
there until the  
High Priest dies.

Jesus lives  
forever more!  
We are safe in  
Him forever.



And so if you do not know Jesus yet as your refuge... I want you to know that He loves you and He wants you to be in Him.

Just tell him in your own words now that

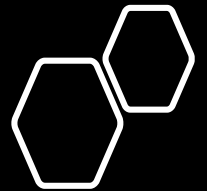
1. Lord I want to believe in you.
2. Tell Him that you want to acknowledge Him as your savior and Lord – Lord I accept and acknowledge you as my savior.
3. Tell Him – you agree to repent and that is to allow Him through the Holy Spirit to turn from sin and to walk in His ways.

If this is the first time that you have done it sincerely or you have more questions on making this prayer please write to us at the address found on your screen. We love to hear from you.

Let's move on this teaching!



Jesus – our City of Refuge





There are  
6 cities

Kedesh – קדש Holy, righteous

Shechem – שכם Shoulder

Hebron – חברון Fellowship

Bezer – בצר Fortress, stronghold”

Ramoth – ראמת Raised on high

Golan – גולן Rejoicing, Separated.

Whenever the Bible gives a listing, it is always in the perfect number of 7.

Not 6...

I believed that there is a 7<sup>th</sup> City...



The church is to be the 7th  
city of refuge.

# Names of the cities

Kedesh – קדש Holy, righteous

Shechem – שכם Shoulder

Hebron – חברון Fellowship

Bezer – בצר Fortress, stronghold”

Ramoth – ראמת Raised on high

Golan – גולן Rejoicing, Separated.

The church – the body of Christ

As a church how can we apply this?

The church is to also be a city of refuge.

The church is where people must be able to run to in order to find refuge...

In this COVID19 period, how can the church be a city of refuge for those who are fearful, for those in trouble...

I have shared that the leadership has been looking at how we can be a blessing to those who have been badly affected...



The Church  
is the Body  
of Christ



Project Koinonia

Community  
sharing  
contributing

## KOINONNOIA PROJECT

PURPOSE – To help those who are affected by the COVID19 pandemic beginning with our church members and worshippers. Help is beyond finances and will incorporate other forms like counselling and job matching.

(Those needy but not due to COVID19 situation to use other funds.)



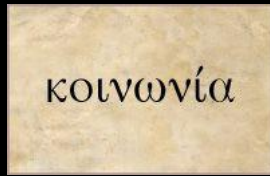
- More than 600k people have already applied for help.
- Some in the PMC family have also been badly affected. As a church, we are called to help the family and be that City of Refuge.



**DIGNITY**

**OF THE**

**HUMAN PERSON**



ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑ

Koinonia

- Target amount \$1M to be raised.
- Up to \$200k will come from Church Funds.

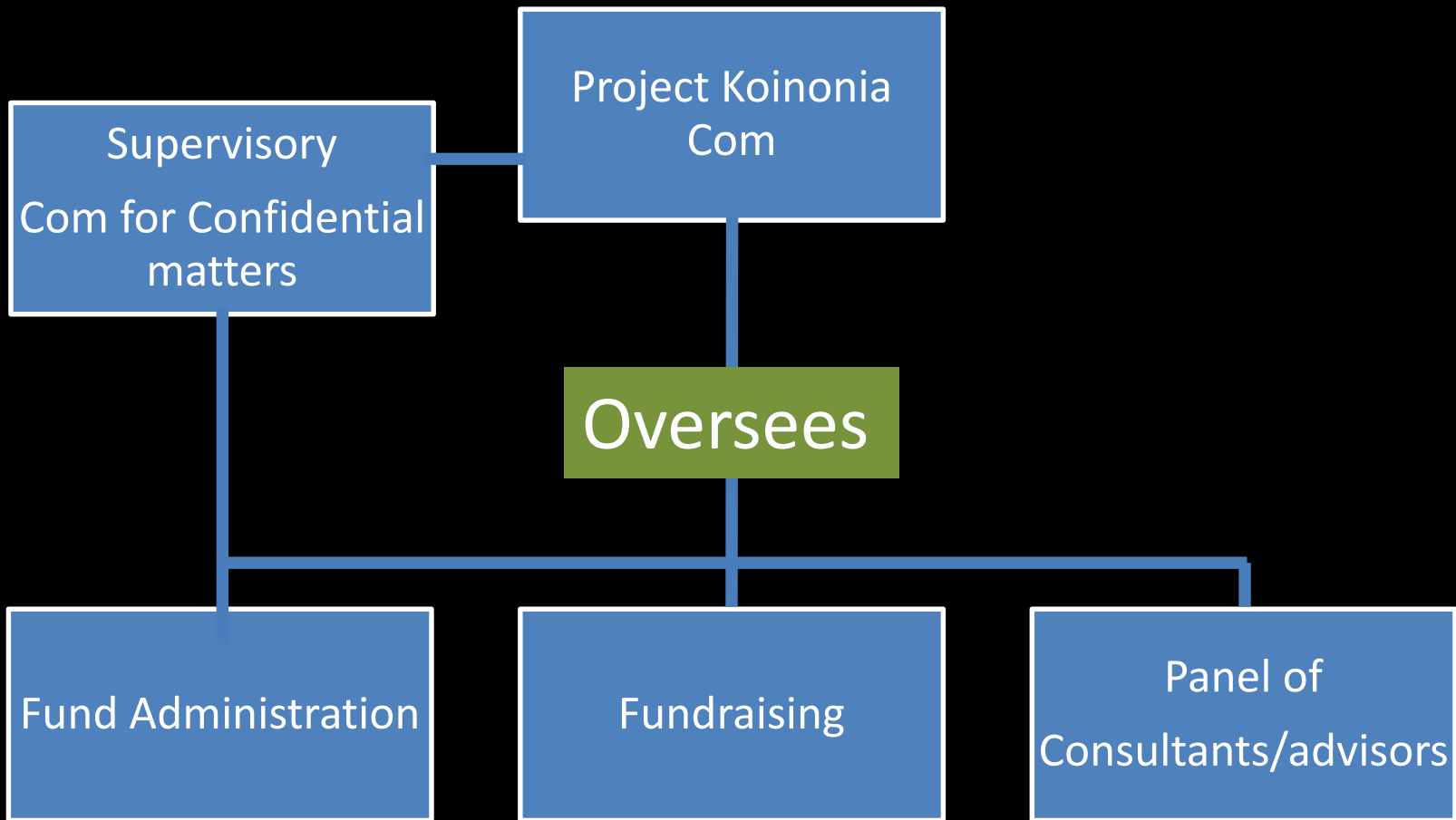


# Types of Assistance

- Cash Aid
- Food Aid
- Education Aid
- Household Aid
- Medical Aid

Besides  
financial  
help, to  
also offer

- Counselling
- Support Group/Mentoring
- Professional Help eg Legal and Financial advice
- Job Matching
- Coaching



# Terms of Reference for KPC

- propose to and guide the LCEC/church on the help (financial and other assistance) that can be offered to our worshippers and the community.
- Form and oversee the Fund Administration subcommittee, panel of consultants, Fund Raising and other subcommittees as it deems necessary and approve their terms of reference.
- Update and bring to the attention of the LCEC any significant decisions or developments.

# We will look at their needs:

Some factors that we will need to know will be

- Some financial details
- The prospect of re-employment; and
- whether applicant is able to receive other sources of help from welfare organizations.

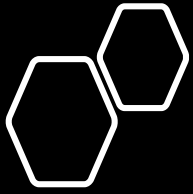
Our key concern is to help you ensure that there will be food on the table and your basic bills are paid for while we help you apply for help from government funds



# Fund Supervisory Committee

## small com for confidential matters

- the Pastor-in-charge,
- LCEC Chairman,
- Layleader
- KP Committee Chair.
- Rep from KP Com



# PANEL OF CONSULTANTS/ADVISORS



SOCIAL WORKERS



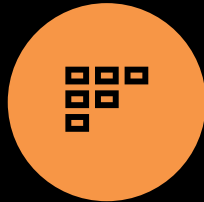
COUNSELORS/  
PSYCHOLOGISTS,



DOCTORS/  
PSYCHIATRISTS,



LAWYERS,



HUMAN  
RESOURCE



FINANCIAL  
ADVISERS



OTHERS INCLUDING  
COACHES

The background features a solid red field with various abstract geometric elements. On the left, there are two vertical dashed purple lines, a solid purple square outline, and a dashed purple line forming a partial path. In the upper center, a large solid purple circle is positioned. To its right, a purple triangle is partially visible. In the top right corner, a small solid purple circle is present. A large, solid black semi-circle occupies the right side of the frame, serving as a backdrop for the text.

# Dignity of the Person



The church – the body of Jesus is to be a City of Refuge.

- we need your partnership. Partnership in giving, in being one of the people who will support your expertise, being one of the life groups that will accept people in.
- It may not be that all who approach us need financial help but there will be help that we as the Body of Christ can provide... and sometimes it is just a listening ear.
- We are still in the process of planning. More details will be given in the coming weeks as to how you can help financially and in other areas.

Let us pray!

Stand and Sing – Rock of Ages!

# Prayer and Benediction

Lord you are our Rock of Ages...

The grace of the Lord JC

The love of God the Father

The Communion of the HS

Dear family in PMC – until we meet again in person,  
God be with you! In the meantime, see you next  
week over the internet!



End

Dear members of PMC

It has been quite a few weeks since we last met in person. We thank God for modern technology that allow us to be able to meet on line.

I hope that you have been doing so.

For those of you who do not have a group to connect with, can I encourage you to contact the staff at 62806762 6280 M(y)

PMC

This week we started a Zoom Prayer meeting and a number of you did join us for the Prayer Meeting. We trust that you were ministered and I believed that God has used you as part of the Body of Christ to pray for His people and for those who do not know Him yet. Continue to pray for the frontline workers and for leaders as they are in the forefront in this battle against COVID19.

- A few of our Life Groups have come together to further help the migrant workers.
- We found out that number of them need toiletries in the places that they have been sent to by their employers during this season.
- Our LGs have come up with and paid for 1000 Hygeine package costing about \$10 each for our migrant friends.

- The Hygiene pack. Some of the things that they are thinking of including are bars of soap, face towels (good morning), wet wipes. sanitizers, face masks, toothpaste ,tooth brushes , combs , shavers... they are still in the process of sourcing these items.
- As the need arises, we may need to get more packages.

- I am very encouraged by the willingness of the members of Life Groups to help.
- It is such a blessing to know that some are giving in spite of their own needs

Members of PMC – I thank God that you have been faithful in many ways and that we are blessing the community as lights and salt of the world.

Yes, we may not be able to meet every need but at least we are touching some.

So take care – continue to be an encouragement to those around you and at this time, let us prepare to worship the Lord our God this day...