

- Song 33 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (1 min.)

TREASURES FROM GOD'S WORD

“Take Refuge in Jehovah”: (10 min.)

Six cities of refuge were provided in Israel for unintentional manslaughter (Nu 35:15; w17.11 9 ¶4)

(Numbers 35:15) 15 These six cities will serve as a refuge for the Israelites, for the foreign resident, and for the settler among them, for anyone to flee there who unintentionally kills someone.

*** w17 November p. 9 par. 4 Are You Taking Refuge in Jehovah? ***

4 How, though, did the Israelites handle cases of accidental bloodshed? Although his deed was accidental, an unintentional manslayer was still guilty of shedding innocent blood. (Gen. 9:5) Mercifully, however, he was allowed to flee from the avenger of blood to one of the six cities of refuge. There, he could find protection. The unintentional manslayer had to remain in the city of refuge until the high priest's death.—Num. 35:15, 28.

- (Genesis 9:5) Besides that, I will demand an accounting for your lifeblood. I will demand an accounting from every living creature; and from each man I will demand an accounting for the life of his brother.
- (Numbers 35:15) These six cities will serve as a refuge for the Israelites, for the foreign resident, and for the settler among them, for anyone to flee there who unintentionally kills someone.
- (Numbers 35:28) For he must dwell in his city of refuge until the high priest's death. But after the high priest's death, the manslayer may return to the land that he owns.

The elders in Israel judged each case (Nu 35:24; w17.11 9 ¶6)

(Numbers 35:24) 24 the assembly should then judge between the one who struck him and the avenger of blood, in harmony with these judgments.

*** w17 November p. 9 par. 6 Are You Taking Refuge in Jehovah? ***

6 After he accidentally killed someone, a fugitive first had to “present his case in the hearing of the elders” at the gate of the city of refuge to which he had fled. He was to be received hospitably. (Josh. 20:4) Some time later, he was sent back to the elders of the city where the killing had occurred, and those elders judged the case. (Read Numbers 35:24, 25.) Only after they had declared the killing accidental would the fugitive be returned to the city of refuge.

- (Joshua 20:4) He must flee to one of these cities and stand at the entrance of the city gate and present his case in the hearing of the elders of that city. Then they must receive him into the city and give him a place and he will live with them.
- (Numbers 35:24, 25) the assembly should then judge between the one who struck him and the avenger of blood, in harmony with these judgments. 25 The assembly should then save the manslayer from the hand of the avenger of blood and return him to his city of refuge to which he had fled, and he must dwell in it until the death of the high priest who was anointed with the holy oil.

The cities of refuge provided safety and security (Nu 35:25; w17.11 11 ¶13)

(Numbers 35:25) 25 The assembly should then save the manslayer from the hand of the avenger of blood and return him to his city of refuge to which he had fled, and he must dwell in it until the death of the high priest who was anointed with the holy oil.

*** w17 November p. 11 par. 13 Are You Taking Refuge in Jehovah? ***

13 Once inside a city of refuge, the fugitive was safe. Regarding those cities, Jehovah said: "They will serve as a refuge for you." (Josh. 20:2, 3) Jehovah did not require the manslayer to be judged again for the same case; nor was the avenger of blood permitted to enter the city and take the fugitive's life. The fugitive thus never had to fear reprisal. While in the city, he was safe and secure under Jehovah's protection. This was not a prison of refuge. The city offered him an opportunity to work, to help others, and to serve Jehovah in peace. Yes, a happy and fulfilling life was possible!

- (Joshua 20:2, 3) 2 "Tell the Israelites, 'Select for yourselves the cities of refuge about which I spoke to you through Moses, 3 so that the manslayer who unintentionally or accidentally kills someone may flee there. And they will serve as a refuge for you from the avenger of blood.



Just as the unintentional manslayer had to make sacrifices in order to enjoy the protection of the cities of refuge, we make sacrifices in order to benefit from God's mercy and forgiveness.

Digging for Spiritual Gems:

Nu 35:31—Why will Adam and Eve not benefit from the ransom sacrifice of Jesus? (w91 2/15 13 ¶13)

(Numbers 35:31) 31 You must take no ransom for the life of a murderer who is deserving to die, for he should be put to death without fail.

*** w91 2/15 p. 13 par. 13 A Corresponding Ransom for All ***

13 Neither Adam nor Eve, however, benefit from the ransom. The Mosaic Law contained this principle: "You must take no ransom for the soul of a murderer who is deserving to die." (Numbers 35:31) Adam was not deceived, so his sin was willful, deliberate. (1 Timothy 2:14) It amounted to the murder of his offspring, for they now inherited his imperfection, thus coming under sentence of death. Clearly, Adam deserved to die, for as a perfect man, he had willfully chosen to disobey God's law. It would have been contrary to Jehovah's righteous principles for him to apply the ransom in Adam's behalf. Paying the wage for Adam's sin, however, does provide for the nullifying of the death sentence upon Adam's offspring! (Romans 5:16) In a legal sense, the destructive power of sin is cut off right at its source. The ransomer 'tastes death for every man,' bearing the consequences of sin for all of Adam's children.—Hebrews 2:9; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24.

- (Numbers 35:31) You must take no ransom for the life of a murderer who is deserving to die, for he should be put to death without fail.
- (1 Timothy 2:14) Also, Adam was not deceived, but the woman was thoroughly deceived and became a transgressor.
- (Romans 5:16) Also, it is not the same with the free gift as with the way things worked through the one man who sinned. For the judgment after one trespass was condemnation, but the gift after many trespasses was a declaration of righteousness.
- (Hebrews 2:9) But we do see Jesus, who was made a little lower than angels, now crowned with glory and honor for having suffered death, so that by God's undeserved kindness he might taste death for everyone.
- (2 Corinthians 5:21) The one who did not know sin, he made to be sin for us, so that by means of him we might become God's righteousness.
- (1 Peter 2:24) He himself bore our sins in his own body on the stake, so that we might die to sins and live to righteousness. And "by his wounds you were healed."

border will extend from the wilderness of Zin alongside E'dom, and your south boundary on the east will be from the extremity of the Salt Sea. 4 Your boundary will change direction to pass south of the ascent of A·krab'bim and continue to Zin, and its end will be south of Ka'desh-bar'ne·a. Then it will extend to Ha'zar-ad'dar and continue to Az'mon. 5 The boundary will change direction at Az'mon to the Wadi of Egypt, and its end will be at the Sea. 6 "Your western boundary will be the Great Sea and the coast. This will become your western boundary. 7 "Now this will be your northern boundary: From the Great Sea you will mark your boundary out to Mount Hor. 8 From Mount Hor you will mark out the boundary to Le'bo-ha'math, and the end of the boundary will be at Ze'dad. 9 And the boundary will extend to Ziph'ron, and its end will be Ha'zar-e'nan. This will become your northern boundary. 10 "Then you should mark as your boundary on the east from Ha'zar-e'nan to She'pham. 11 The boundary will extend from She'pham to Rib'lah on the east of A'in, and the border will go down and cross the eastern slope of the Sea of Chin'ne-reth. 12 The border will extend to the Jordan, and its end will be the Salt Sea. This will be your land and the boundaries surrounding it." 13 So Moses instructed the Israelites, saying: "This is the land that you will apportion as your possession by lot, just as Jehovah has commanded to give to the nine and a half tribes. 14 For the tribe of the Reu'ben-ites by their paternal house, the tribe of the Gad'ites by their paternal house, and the half tribe of Ma·nas'seh have already taken their inheritance. 15 The two and a half tribes have already taken their inheritance east of the region of the Jordan by Jer'i·cho, toward the sunrising."

Bible Reading:) (4 min.)
Nu 34:1-15 (th study 10)

(Numbers 34:1-15) 34 And Jehovah spoke further to Moses, saying: 2 "Give these instructions to the Israelites: 'When you go into the land of Ca'naan, this is the land that will fall to you as an inheritance, the land of Ca'naan according to its boundaries. 3 "Your southern

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

Initial Call: (3 min.) Use the sample conversation. Overcome a common objection. (th study 12)

Initial Call

Question: What is God’s purpose for humans?

Scripture: Ge 1:28

- (Genesis 1:28) 28 Further, God blessed them, and God said to them: “Be fruitful and become many, fill the earth and subdue it, and have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and every living creature that is moving on the earth.”

Link: How do we know that God will accomplish his purpose for humans?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

- bhs 29 ¶1

Return Visit: (4 min.) Begin with the sample conversation. Introduce (but do not play) the video Why Study the Bible? (th study 9)

Return Visit

Question: How do we know that God will accomplish his purpose for humans?

Scripture: Isa 55:11

- (Isaiah 55:11) 11 So my word that goes out of my mouth will be. It will not return to me without results, But it will certainly accomplish whatever is my delight, And it will have sure success in what I send it to do.

Link: What will life be like when God fulfills his purpose?

FIND THIS SCRIPTURE IN THE TEACHING TOOLBOX:

- bhs 29 ¶2

Bible Study: (5 min.) fg lesson 2 ¶9-10 (th study 19)

*** fg lesson 2 ques. 5 ***

5. How can we draw closer to God?

Jehovah invites us to draw close to him by speaking to him in prayer. He is interested in us individually. (Psalm 65:2; 145:18) He is willing to forgive. He recognizes our efforts to please him, even if we sometimes fail. So despite our imperfection, we really can enjoy a close relationship with God.—Read Psalm 103:12-14; James 4:8.

Since Jehovah has given us life, we should love him more than we love anyone else. (Mark 12:30) As you express your love for God by learning more about him and doing as he asks, you will draw ever closer to him.—Read 1 Timothy 2:4; 1 John 5:3.

- (Psalm 65:2) O Hearer of prayer, to you people of all sorts will come.
- (Psalm 145:18) Jehovah is near to all those calling on him, To all who call on him in truth.
- (Psalm 103:12-14) As far off as the sunrise is from the sunset, So far off from us he has put our transgressions. 13 As a father shows mercy to his sons, Jehovah has shown mercy to those who fear him. 14 For he well knows how we are formed, Remembering that we are dust.
- (James 4:8) Draw close to God, and he will draw close to you. Cleanse your



• How did Canon's life start out, and how did it change?

• What lessons does his experience teach us?



• What loving discipline did he receive from Jehovah?

- (Romans 12:1) Therefore, I appeal to you by the compassions of God, brothers, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, a sacred service with your power of reason.
- (Hebrews 12:10, 11) For they disciplined us for a short time according to what seemed good to them, but he does so for our benefit so that we may partake of his holiness. 11 True, no discipline seems for the present to be joyous, but it is painful; yet afterward, it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.
- (Proverbs 10:7) The memory of the righteous one is due for a blessing, But the name of the wicked will rot.
- (Jeremiah 46:28) So do not be afraid, my servant Jacob,' declares Jehovah, 'for I am with you. I will make an extermination among all the nations where I dispersed you, But you I will not exterminate. I will discipline you to the proper degree, But I will by no means leave you unpunished.'"
- (Titus 1:13) This witness is true. For this very reason, keep on reproving them

with severity so that they may be healthy in the faith,

- (Proverbs 3:11, 12) My son, do not reject the discipline of Jehovah, And do not loathe his reproof, 12 For those whom Jehovah loves he reproves, Just as a father does a son in whom he delights.
- (Proverbs 10:17) The one who heeds discipline is a path to life, But the one who ignores reproof leads others astray.

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.) rr chap. 9
¶1-9, intro video

(Ezekiel 11:19) And I will give them a unified heart, and I will put a new spirit in them; and I will remove the heart of stone from their bodies and give them a heart of flesh,

Paragraph 3

(Psalm 137:3) For there our captors asked us for a song, Those mocking us wanted amusement: "Sing for us one of the songs of Zion."

(Psalm 79:1) O God, the nations have invaded your inheritance; They have defiled your holy temple; They have turned Jerusalem into a heap of ruins.

(Psalm 79:3, 4) They have poured out their blood like water around Jerusalem, And no one is left to bury them. 4 We have become an object of reproach to our neighbors; Those around us ridicule and jeer us.

Paragraph 4

(Psalm 94:19) When anxieties overwhelmed me, You comforted and soothed me.

(Romans 15:4) For all the things that were written beforehand were written for our instruction, so that through our endurance and

through the comfort from the Scriptures we might have hope.

Paragraph 6

(Ezekiel 12:11) "Say, 'I am a sign for you. Just as I have done, that is what will be done to them. They will go into exile, into captivity.

(Deuteronomy 28:36, 37) Jehovah will drive you and the king whom you set up over yourself to a nation that you and your forefathers have not known, and there you will serve other gods, gods of wood and of stone. 37 And you will become an object of horror and of scorn, and a cause for ridicule among all the peoples to whom Jehovah drives you.

(Isaiah 39:5-7) Isaiah now said to Hez·e·ki'ah: "Hear the word of Jehovah of armies, 6 'Look! Days are coming, and all that is in your house and all that your forefathers have stored up to this day will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left,' says Jehovah. 7 'And some of your own sons to whom you will become father will be taken and will become court officials in the palace of the king of Babylon.'"

(Jeremiah 20:3-6) But on the following day when Pash'hur released Jeremiah from the stocks, Jeremiah said to him: "Jehovah has named you, not Pash'hur, but Terror All Around. 4 For this is what Jehovah says, 'I will make you an object of terror to yourself and to all your friends, and they will fall by the sword of their enemies while your eyes are looking on; and I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will take them into exile in Babylon and put them to death by the sword. 5 And I will give all the wealth of this city, all its resources, all its precious things, and all the treasures of the kings of Judah into the hand of their enemies. And they will plunder them and seize them and take them to Babylon. 6 And as for you, Pash'hur, and all who live in your house, you will go into captivity. You will go off to Babylon and die there, and you will be buried there with all your friends, because you have prophesied lies to them.'"

Paragraph 7

(Ezekiel 20:6, 7) In that day I swore that I would bring them out of the land of Egypt to a land that I had searched out for them, one flowing with milk and honey. It was the most beautiful of all the lands. 7 I then said to them, 'Each of you must throw away the detestable things that are before your eyes; do not defile yourselves with the disgusting idols of Egypt. I am Jehovah your God.'

Paragraph 8

(Matthew 7:15) "Be on the watch for the false prophets who come to you in sheep's covering, but inside they are ravenous wolves.

(Acts 20:29, 30) I know that after my going away oppressive wolves will enter in among you and will not treat the flock with tenderness, 30 and from among you yourselves men will rise and speak twisted things to draw away the disciples after themselves.

Paragraph 9

(1 Timothy 1:19) holding faith and a good conscience, which some have thrust aside, resulting in the shipwreck of their faith.

(2 Timothy 2:16-19) But reject empty speeches that violate what is holy, for they will lead to more and more ungodliness, 17 and their word will spread like gangrene. Hy·me·nae'us and Phi·le'tus are among them. 18 These men have deviated from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already occurred, and they are subverting the faith of some. 19 Despite that, the solid foundation of God remains standing, having this seal, "Jehovah knows those who belong to him," and, "Let everyone calling on the name of Jehovah renounce unrighteousness."

(2 Peter 2:1-3) However, there also came to be false prophets among the people, as there will also be false teachers among you. These will quietly bring in destructive sects, and they will even disown the owner who bought them, bringing speedy destruction upon themselves.

2 Furthermore, many will follow their brazen conduct, and because of them the way of the truth will be spoken of abusively. 3 Also, they will greedily exploit you with counterfeit words. But their judgment, decided long ago, is not moving slowly, and their destruction is not sleeping.

(2 John 10) If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your homes or say a greeting to him.

(2 Thessalonians 2:6-8) And now you know what is acting as a restraint, so that he will be revealed in his own due time. 7 True, the mystery of this lawlessness is already at work, but only until the one who is right now acting as a restraint is out of the way. 8 Then, indeed, the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will do away with by the spirit of his mouth and bring to nothing by the manifestation of his presence.

(1 John 2:18) Young children, it is the last hour, and just as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared, from which fact we know that it is the last hour.

- Concluding Comments (3 min.)

- Song 93 and Prayer