

GROUPS

sermon guide

JOSHUA: 08/02/2026 - PASTOR MIKE WILSON

MAIN IDEA

FIND REFUGE IN THE LORD'S ALLOTMENT

TALK ABOUT IT

Ice Breaker: Have you ever had a place where you immediately felt safe? What made it feel like a refuge?

1. What stood out to you most from Sunday's message or from Joshua 20?
2. What surprised you about the cities of refuge?
3. Why do you think God made sure these cities were spread throughout the land instead of putting them all in one place?
4. What does Joshua 20 teach us about God's heart?
5. The person who needed refuge had to actually run to the city. Why do you think that's significant?
6. Have there been times when you knew what God wanted you to do but hesitated to actually take the step?
7. The cities were open to Israelites and foreigners alike. What does that tell us about God's grace?
8. The person found safety by staying inside the city. What does it look like to "remain" in Christ instead of just turning to Him occasionally?
9. What are some modern "refuges" people run to instead of Jesus?
10. Which is easier for you: trusting that Jesus is your refuge or actually running to Him when life gets difficult? Why?
11. Of the five truths from Sunday's sermon, which one do you need to remember most right now?
 - Jesus is near.
 - Jesus is open to all.
 - Jesus is our dwelling place.
 - Jesus is the only safe place.
 - Jesus is our High Priest whose death brings freedom.
12. One of the biggest differences between Joshua's cities and Jesus is that the cities protected the innocent, while Jesus receives the guilty. How does that truth deepen your appreciation of the Gospel?

KEY SCRIPTURES

JOSHUA 20 (READ CHAPTER)

TALK ABOUT IT (CONT.)

13. When life becomes difficult, what do you naturally run to first?

Read:

- John 6:37, John 15:4, Acts 4:12, Hebrews 6:18 & Hebrews 9:11-12

- How does each passage expand your understanding of why Jesus is a better refuge?

14. Is there an area of your life (fear, burden, or struggle etc.) where you've been standing outside the refuge instead of living within it?

15. What would it look like to trust Jesus there this week?

16. Who in your life needs to hear that there is a refuge available in Christ?

17. How could you encourage or pray for that person this week?

CLOSING & APPLICATION

18. After studying Joshua 20, how would you finish this sentence? "Because Jesus is my refuge..."

19. What is one practical step you can take this week to abide in Christ rather than rely on yourself?

NEXT STEPS

• ENCOUNTER:

- River Baptisms - August 16, 2026 5:30-7:30pm
 - Sign Up [HERE](#)

• EXPERIENCE:

- Child Dedications - 8/30/2026 during all of our Sunday services. [REGISTER HERE](#)

• EXPAND

- Back to School Blessings - Aug. 2- Aug. 16. Checkout the Amazon wish list: [WESTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL LIST](#)

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