

Sermon Summary: When the children of Israel went into the promise land the Lord had the Nation of Israel establish 6 Cities of Refuge. These Cities of Refuge were established to protect someone who was accused of a crime that was caused by accident. At times, our homes can be a greater battlefield than what's happening out in the world. Jesus said, "A house divided cannot stand" (Mark 3:25). Today, the Lord is turning your house into a home and your home into a Refuge for everyone who dwells there.

Our Home; A Refuge

Joshua 20:1-6

3 WAYS TO TURN YOUR HOME INTO A CITY OF REFUGE:

1. **People BELIEVE in each other. v. 4**

1 Corinthians 13:7; Romans 15:1-3; Galatians 6:2

- **Create an atmosphere of unqualified love, acceptance and warmth.**

2. **Leadership must BUILD a sense of security. v. 5**

1John 4:18; Proverbs 22:15; Hebrews 12:5, 6

- **People don't rebel against authority as much as they rebel against inconsistent authority.**

3. **People intentionally LISTEN to each other. v. 4**

James 1:19, 20; Proverbs 18:13

- **Make time to listen and understand each other.**
- **Handle conflict properly.**
Mark 3:25 – "A house divided cannot stand"

A. Remember who the enemy is.
Ephesians 6:12

B. Be very slow to speak so you can understand the situation.

EFFECTS OF ANGER:

- Anger shuts down problem solving. James 1:19,20
 - Anger makes you lonely. Proverbs 11:29
- Anger blinds you to your own selfishness. James 4:1,2

C. Switch your focus toward others.
Philippians 2:4

D. Choose to bless and not to curse.
Matthew 5:43-45

E. Be willing to forgive quickly and ask for forgiveness even if you are responsible for only 10% of the blame. Luke 17:3, 4

LifeGroup QUESTIONS:

BEGIN IT – (5min) Sing praise to the Lord & pray that God leads the study.

OPEN IT- (10min) What is it about your home that makes it feel like home to you?

EXPLORE IT- (60min) Of the 3 areas for a OUR HOME: A REFUGE, which is your home's strongest area and weakest area?

- 1 How do you typically react when circumstances get out of control?
- 2 Who or what is most comforting to you when you are upset?
- 3 Why is it necessary for us to go through scary times in life?
- 4 How do the people you love (whether close friends, spouse, or family members) know that you love them?

APPLY IT- How can you be more open and loving to those who are close to you?