



## Cities of Refuge: A Type of Christ

Joshua 20: 2-4

### *Items Needed*

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Pencils/Crayons/Markers
- ✓ Copies of coloring sheet
- ✓ Copies of maze
- ✓ Copies of take home overview



## The Cities of Refuge: A Type of Christ

### Objective of Lesson

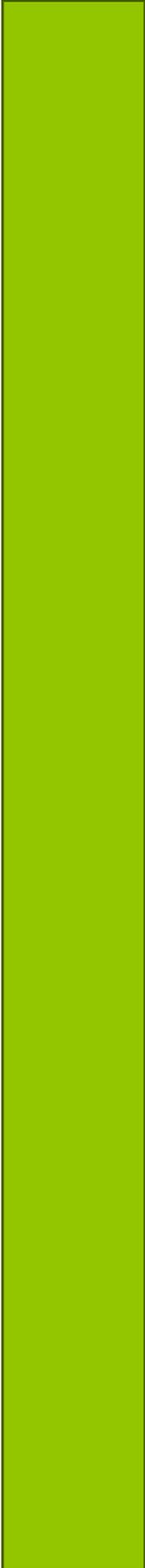
The word "refuge" carries with it the idea of hope. A refuge is a place to which or a person to whom we flee in times of danger or trouble - with the hope of safety and security. That is exactly what every believer has done. We have fled from the wrath and justice of God to Jesus Christ, our Refuge, in hope of safety and security. Christ was given by God so that we who justly deserve to die might never die - but have safety, security, and eternal life in Him.

### Scripture Reference

*Joshua 20:2-4 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying, Appoint out for you cities of refuge, whereof I spake unto you by the hand of Moses: (3) That the slayer that killeth any person unawares and unwittingly may flee thither: and they shall be your refuge from the avenger of blood. (4) And when he that doth flee unto one of those cities shall stand at the entering of the gate of the city, and shall declare his cause in the ears of the elders of that city, they shall take him into the city unto them, and give him a place, that he may dwell among them."*

### Lesson Instructions

1. According to the law of God, any man who killed another man must die. "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth," is the requirement of justice. When



a man's life was taken by another man, even when it was taken accidentally, without malice or purpose, the man who killed another man was, in the Old Testament, under the sentence of death. The dead man's next of kin had a legal right and obligation (they must) to avenge his brother's blood. For those who were guilty of such a crime, the crime of taking another man's life accidentally, without malice or intent, God mercifully provided cities of refuge where the man slayer might flee for safety from the avenger of blood. The cities of refuge were given to provide shelter, safety, and life for people who justly deserved to die.

2. A refuge is something we need when we are in trouble or sense that we are in danger. We have all taken refuge in a time of storm, but there is only one Refuge who can shelter our souls from the storm of God's wrath. The Lord Jesus Christ is that great friend to whom sinners may turn and in whom sinners find refuge alone.
3. Example: When the enemy comes to overtake you they cannot get to you because you are surrounded by a strong castle, a walled city or a high tower. Christ is our strong castle, our walled city, our mighty fortress, our high tower.
4. Example: Just as Noah fled into the ark and found refuge from the waters of the flood, we must flee to Christ. Christ is the ark of safety to shield us from the impending wrath of God. In Him alone we find refuge from the flood of God's wrath.
5. There were six cities of refuge. A person might be anywhere in the land of Israel, on either side of Jordan, and easily flee to one of these cities within just a half-a-day. The way to these cities of refuge was always kept clear, regularly repaired, so that the roads could be easily traveled and the cities of refuge always easily accessible. We are informed by the ancient Jewish rabbis that, at least once every year, the magistrates of each city were responsible to survey the road to their city, making certain that the road was clear of all debris and easily passable. There must be no obstacles in the



way that would hinder any who might flee to the cities of refuge. The magistrates would send out work crews to remove all large rocks and fallen trees from the road, taking the greatest possible care to remove every stumbling-block. Any low places in the road would be filled; any high places would be leveled.

6. All along the road they placed markers with the word 'refuge' written in bold letters. When the fugitive came to a crossroads, he need not hesitate for a moment. Upon seeing that blessed word, 'refuge', he kept on his breathless pace with relentless determination until he reached the place of merciful safety. Once he entered the gates of the city, he was secure.
7. Anyone guilty of manslaughter had a right to flee to the cities of refuge and was guaranteed safety for his life as long as he stayed in the city of his refuge.
8. Every story in the Bible teaches us and shows us Christ Jesus and how He has mercy on poor and needy sinners. How do these Cities of Refuge teach us about Christ? The Lord Jesus Christ is the refuge for sinners. All who come to Him are saved from the wrath of God. The way to Christ is plainly revealed: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Our Lord Jesus Christ, by doing everything God the Father asked perfectly, and by shedding His blood, has removed every obstacle that might keep the sinner who seeks Him from finding Him. He even sends His Spirit to reveal the way. Lead us in the way and bring us safely to our souls' refuge.

## Lesson Activities

- Coloring Page
- Maze



## Take Home Lesson Overview

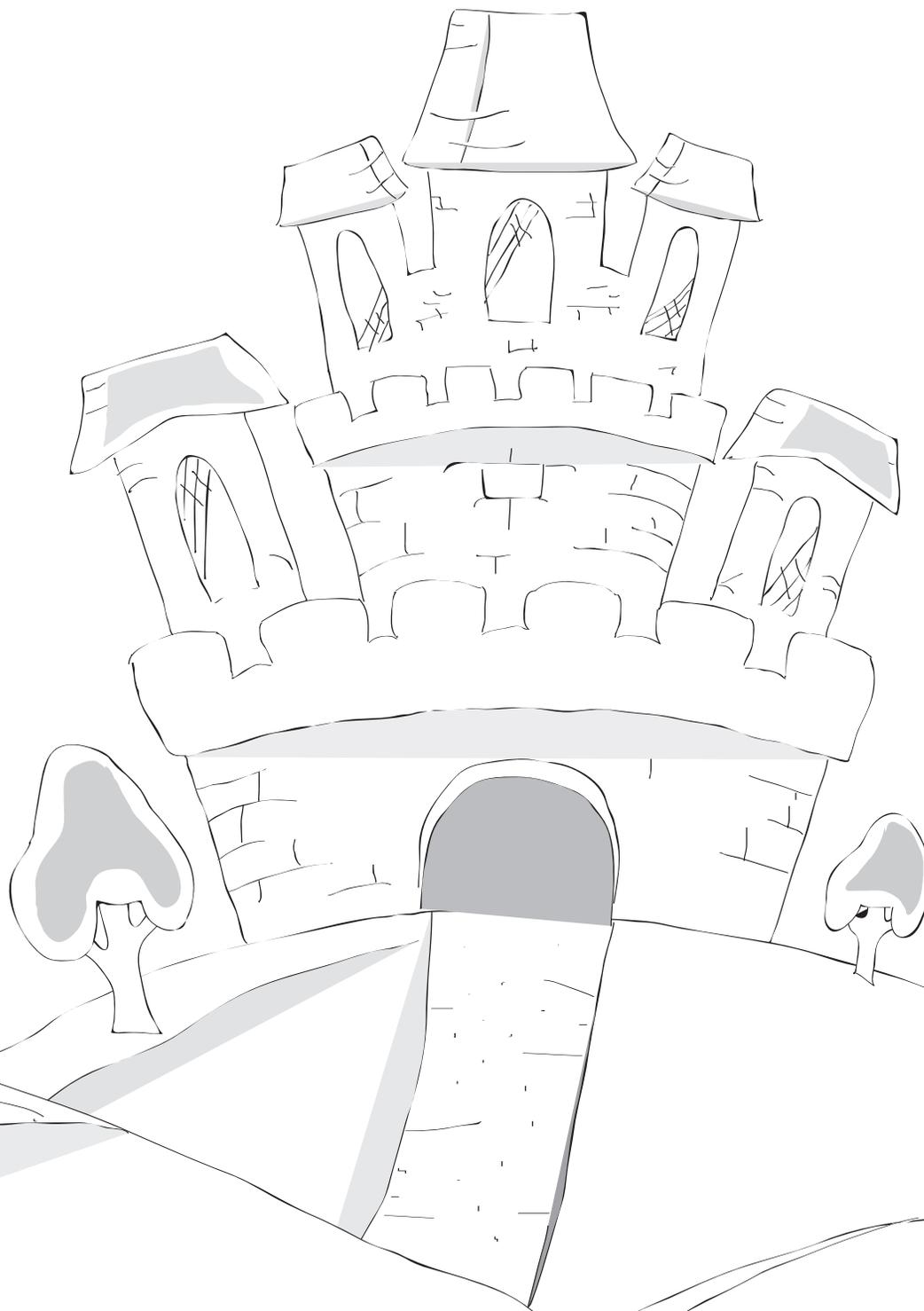
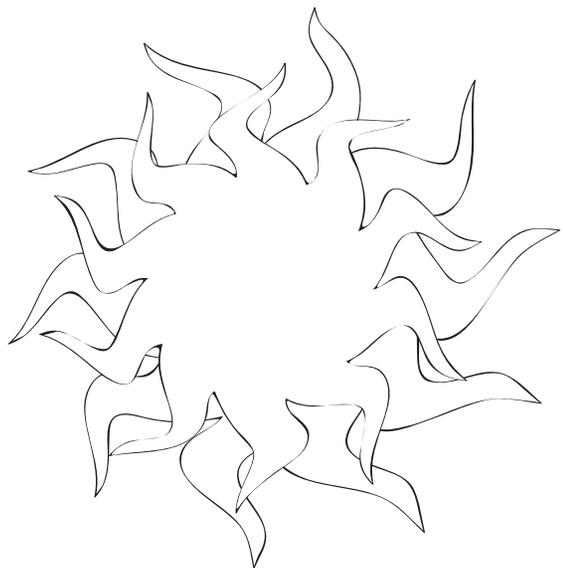
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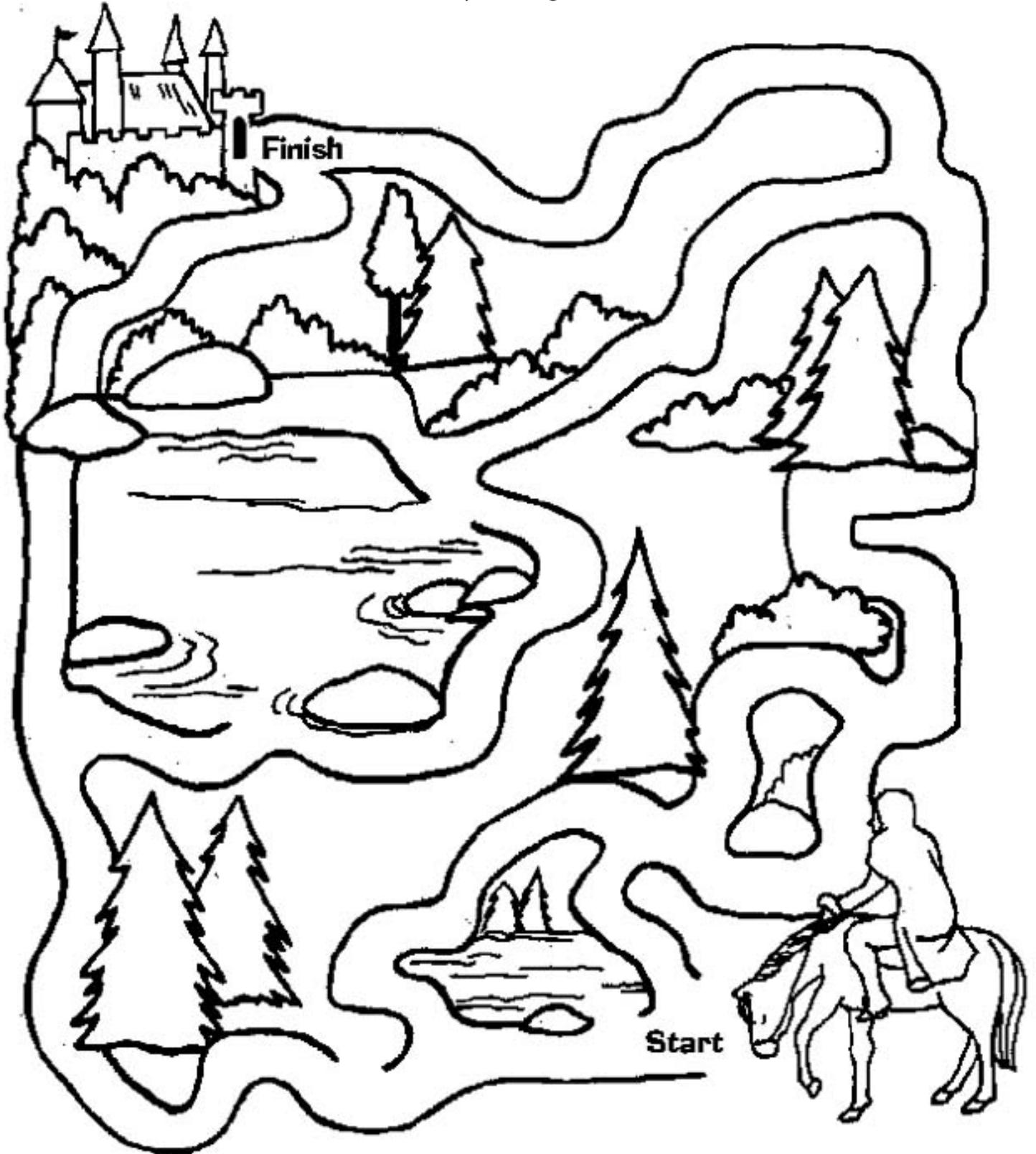
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RUFUGE



City of Refuge Maze



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