

Numbers for grumblers



Materials for group meetings

12th Meeting THEME: A city of refuge

Prepare in prayer. Read Chapter 35.

Icebreaker In the Bible God makes himself known both as the God of righteousness, avenging himself and as the God of love, showing mercy. Someone says: the latter I do believe, the first I don't and I don't feel that I will miss much by leaving that part out of my faith. What would you say?

Pray Ask God for His Holy Spirit to speak to you through His Word today.

Bible passage

As God's people came nearer to the promised land, God prepared them for life in the land. Although the land would be paradise like, it would not yet be paradise. For instance, murder and manslaying would happen. And for God it matters how these things are dealt with. If such serious things are not dealt with in the right way, he cannot continue to dwell with his people.

Read 35:9-15

Avenger: Hebrew 'Goel': the person who has to look after the family affairs, elsewhere translated as 'redeemer'.

- Share observations, questions & lessons. What do you learn from verse 15?

Read 35:16-21

For judgement two things matter: a) the means (verses 16-19) and b) the motivation (verses 20-21).

Read 35:22-25

The manslayer found safety in the city of refuge. The death of the high priest counted as a substitutional death for the manslayer, so that after the death of the high priest he would be free of what he had done without intent.

- How do the city of refuge and the death of the high priest point to Christ?
- Which differences do you observe between the way the city of refuge & the death of the high priest redeemed and how Christ redeems?

If you have time: read and discuss 35:26-29 (rules concerning the manslayer) and 30-32 (rules concerning murder)

- Could you see a lesson for us in these verses?

Digging deeper

Read 35:33-34 The purpose of everything in this chapter was that there would be righteousness, so that God could continue to dwell with his people. Can God always continue his way with a) a country, b) a church, c) us? What is needed, so that God can continue with us? Take three minutes of silence, ask God whether he has a specific thing to say to you, related to this all. Share briefly.

End with prayer.