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**VIDEO LECTURE MODULE:**

**BIBLE FOR  
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

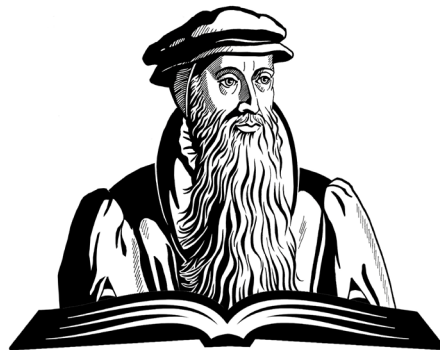
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**Old Testament**

**Lesson 43:**

**Cities of Refuge**

Lecture Presenter: Mr. Daniel Van Brugge



**The John Knox Institute**  
of Higher Education

*Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide*

**John Knox Institute of Higher Education**

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# Module

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## BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

### Old Testament

#### 113 LESSONS

*77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge*

*36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman*

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|--|---|
| 01. The Bible: The Word of God             | 26. Joseph and His Brethren                     |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God  | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph                       |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry                         |
| 04. A Gracious Promise                     | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush                  |
| 05. Cain and Abel                          | 30. Let My People God                           |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace                  | 31. Deliverance                                 |
| 07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape   | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People    |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant                    | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit /Thankfulness |
| 09. The Tower of Babel                     | 34. The Lord Dwells Among His People            |
| 10. Abram: Called by God                   | 35. A Priest for the People                     |
| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot               | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People    |
| 12. Melchizadek                            | 37. Worshiping God Rightly                      |
| 13. Righteous by Faith                     | 38. Walk Not According to the World             |
| 14. Two Sons                               | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude                       |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life                | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming                      |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God       | 41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up              |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision       | 42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath           |
| 18. Isaac and Rebekah                      | <b>43. Cities of Refuge</b>                     |
| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau       | 44. A New Generation                            |
| 20. Jacob the Deceiver                     | 45. Moses' Last Days                            |
| 21. God Preserves Jacob                    | 46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled              |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el               | 47. A Promise to Rahab                          |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated            | 48. The Rise of Judges                          |
| 24. An Eye upon God                        | 49. Gideon—God with Him                         |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison            | 50. Samson                                      |

51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
53. Israel's First King
54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
57. The Last Days of Saul
58. David, the Next King
59. Fetching the Ark
60. Thou Art the Man
61. David's Return to Jerusalem
62. Seven Sons of Saul Killed
63. Genealogies of Israel
64. David Appointed King
65. David's Kingdom Established
66. David Prepares for the Temple
67. David's Departing Instructions
68. Solomon Becomes King
69. Solomon Builds the House of God
70. The Kingdom is Rent
71. A Wicked Divided Kingdom
72. Ahab's Reign and Death
73. Elisha Begins his Work
74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
76. Ahaz and Hezekiah
77. The Captivity of Judah
78. Introduction to the Prophets
79. Isaiah's Vision & Song
80. Isaiah Prophecies about Christ
81. The Prophet Jeremiah Called and Sent
82. Jeremiah Opposed and Comforted
83. Ezekiel, the Captive Prophet
84. Ezekiel's Comforting Visions
85. Daniel and His Three Friends
86. Nebuchadnezzar's Forgotten Dream
87. Three Friends in the Fiery Furnace
88. Nebuchadnezzar's Madness
89. The Writing on the Wall
90. Daniel in the Lions' Den
91. Daniel's Visions and Dreams
92. Ezra—Return from Captivity
93. Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple
94. Ezra—The Scribe
95. Nehemiah—Rebuilding the Walls
96. Nehemiah—The Task Completed
97. Esther the Queen
98. Esther—Haman's Plot
99. Esther—The Jews Saved
100. Hosea—The Minor Prophets
101. Joel and the Day of the LORD
102. Amos the Fearless Herdsman
103. Obadiah Prophecies Edom's Fall
104. Jonah's Flight
105. Jonah's Mission
106. Micah Preaches Judgment & Mercy
107. Nahum—A Message for Nineveh
108. Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies
109. Zephaniah—Threatenings & Promises
110. Haggai Urges Building the Temple
111. Zechariah—The Night Visions
112. Zechariah Prophecies of Christ
113. Malachi—Last Old Testament Prophet

# Lesson 43

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## Cities of Refuge Numbers 32–36

### Memory Verse

*“Then ye shall appoint you cities to be cities of refuge for you; that the slayer may flee thither, which killeth any person unawares. And they shall be unto you cities for refuge from the avenger; that the manslayer die not, until he stand before the congregation in judgment.”*

Numbers 35:11–12

### Cities of Refuge

The forty years in the wilderness is almost accomplished. The children of Israel would soon cross into the land of Canaan—the land of promise. In preparation for the day that was fast approaching, God tells them that there are to be six cities that will be cities of refuge. These cities are a manifestation of God’s goodness.

### Why the Cities were Necessary

Created in the image of God, the life of man is precious. Jesus himself asked the question, “What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Mark 8:36). Man is of more value than the whole world. Therefore, to murder a man is to destroy something of great value. Murdering a man is an attack on the image of God.

Because murder was such a terrible crime, God declared “Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God made he man” (Genesis 9:6). According to the word of the Lord, the just punishment for a murder was death. During the Old Testament period, when a person was murdered, a close family member was to slay the murderer. But what if the murder was not intentional? Was there no place of safety for him? God, in his mercy, to protect those who killed a man unintentionally, told Israel to set up cities of refuge. A city of refuge was a place of safety, a place where one could escape the avenger of blood (Numbers 35:19).

### Why Six Cities?

The goodness of God is magnified in this, that there was not one city of refuge, but six. As the Israelites conquered the land, they would be spread out far and wide. To appoint one place would have meant a great distance for some. How difficult it would have been to reach that one city.

However, in mercy, God has six cities set apart—three on each side of the Jordan. The cities were located on both sides of the Jordan River.

### Cities of Refuge: A Type of Christ

The cities of refuge must have been a relief to those who were accused of murder but did not kill a person, or had killed a person accidentally. Remember, one who was indeed a murderer could not escape the punishment by entering the city. Here, however, the man who killed accidentally, would find refuge. Once having entered the city, he could not just leave. He had to stay in the city until the high priest died. Once the high priest died, he was free. Free to return to his own home.

All mankind has sinned. No one is excluded from this truth. The “wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). Like the man who was pursued by the avenger of blood, we may ask, “What am I to do? How can I escape?” God in his mercy has made a place of refuge from his wrath and hot displeasure. The refuge is not to be found in a city, but in a person—Jesus Christ. One does not come to Christ by walking many miles, but by believing. “Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:29–31).

According to the book of Numbers, the man had to remain in the city until the death of the high priest. If he left the city before that time, the avenger of blood could still overtake him. Jesus Christ is the great High Priest. He has paid the price for sin, one time for all time. In him, his people are secure—eternally secure: “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:36).

Christ is the greater refuge. A refuge from all our sins. If a man being pursued for murder made it to a city of refuge, it was not absolutely guaranteed that he would live. If he had indeed killed out of enmity, he would not have found refuge. Christ, however, turns none away that come with a broken heart and a contrite spirit (Psalm 51:17), none who repent and believe. The blood of Christ cleanses from all sins—sins in thought, word and deed.

### Questions

*Numbers 32*

1. Noticing that the land on the east side of Jordan was good for cattle, the children of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ requested that they stay on the east side and not cross the Jordan.
2. What did the Israelites, who desired to stay on the east side of Jordan, promise to do before they received the land? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Numbers 33*

3. When the Israelites went into Jordan to possess the land they were to destroy all of the following, except:
- a. Their pictures
  - b. Their molten images
  - c. Their high places
  - d. Their crops

*Numbers 35*

4. The six cities of refuge were to be among the:
- a. Gadites
  - b. Levites
  - c. Reubenites
  - d. Benjamites
5. The Levites were to receive \_\_\_\_\_ cities.
- a. Six
  - b. Twelve
  - c. Twenty-four
  - d. Forty-eight
6. After the Israelites crossed the Jordan to possess the land, they were to establish cities of refuge on both sides of the Jordan. Which statement best reflects the positioning of those cities of refuge, in relationship to the Jordan River?
- a. 1 on the east side – 5 on the west side
  - b. 3 on the east side – 3 on the west side
  - c. 0 on the east side – 6 on the west side
  - d. 5 on the east side – 1 on the west side
7. Read Numbers 35:20 and 35:22. What lies at the root of an intentional act of murder as opposed to an accidental killing?

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## Discussions

1. Paul, in Galatians 3:28, makes the following statement concerning the church—“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” Reflecting upon Paul’s statement concerning the body of the church, discuss the similarity between his statement and what is written in Numbers 33:54—“And ye shall divide the land by lot for an inheritance among your families: and to the more ye shall give the more inheritance, and to the fewer ye shall give the less inheritance: every man’s inheritance shall be in the place where his lot falleth; according to the tribes of your fathers ye shall inherit.”

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2. In Numbers 33:55, we read: “But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell.” How may this instruction apply in the life of a Christian?

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3. Discuss why all killing is not murder. Consider Numbers 35:22–24 and Genesis 9:6.

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4. The psalmist writes, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1) Thinking about this verse, show how the cities of refuge pointed to that greater refuge, Jesus Christ.

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