

WARM-UP

- What do you do when you want to relax?
- Describe a place that makes you feel safe. How did you learn about it?
- Have you ever experienced being brought to a place of safety after being in danger? Tell us what happened.

WORD *He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in.* **PSALM 107:7**

This psalm was written about the group of Jews that Ezra brought back to Israel from their exile in Babylon. In Babylon, the Israelites were foreigners and strangers, vulnerable in a different country. When they were led back to the city of Jerusalem, they were once again in a secure place. Historically, cities are places where people go for food, water, shelter, and livelihood. Because people gather in cities, it is the best location where the gospel can be preached. And this is not accidental. We will see in Psalm 107 that God designed cities this way for His purpose to spread throughout the world.

1 | The city represents a place of refuge.

²Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble ³and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. PSALM 107:2,3

In the Old Testament, the walled city of Jerusalem was the most important city to the Jews, God's chosen people. At the time, cities were built on high ground, had high walls, and were located near sources of water. They represented safety and security. How has God shown Himself as your refuge even in a challenging situation?

2 | God wants to bring people to a place of refuge.

⁶Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ⁷He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in. PSALM 107:6,7

Before the Lord redeemed His people from Babylon back to Jerusalem, they were wanderers, *finding no way to a city to dwell in; hungry and thirsty* (Psalm 107:4,5). But He heard their cry, *delivered them*, and *led them* to a place of refuge. God's heart is to redeem all people and bring them to a place of refuge. How are we part of God's plan, according to Matthew 28:19?

3 | Jesus Christ is our way to the place of refuge.

²Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble . . . ⁶they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. PSALM 107:2,6

After Jerusalem was conquered by Babylon, the Jews were exiled and scattered. The *redeemed of the Lord* were those whom He had gathered back to the city, the place of refuge. For us today, we are redeemed through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:7). He not only redeemed us from our sins, but He is also our place of refuge. Share your personal testimony of how you encountered Jesus.

APPLICATION

- Have you experienced redemption through the blood of Christ? Ask your leader to pray with you about this.
- God hears our cries and desires to bring us to a place of refuge. How will this truth change your perspective of God? How will it affect your life? Are there areas in your life where you need to remember that you can trust God?
- How will you respond to God's command to make disciples of all nations? Share one thing you can do this week.

PRAYER

- Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, to redeem you through the shedding of His blood. Pray that you will always remember what He has done for you.
- Ask God to show you how He is your refuge and ever-present help in whatever challenges you might be facing.
- Pray for more opportunities and open doors to share your story of God's redemption with your family and friends this week.

NOTES