

# International Bible Lessons.

## FOURTH QUARTER.

### LESSON V. (November 2.)

#### CITIES OF REFUGE. Josh. 20. 1-9.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psa. 46. 1.

#### Primary Notes.

BY JULIA H. JOHNSTON.



this true story of long ago:

Once upon a time there were many Indians in this land, and some were very fierce and cruel. They often came suddenly upon the homes of the people and drove them away or killed them. People were much afraid of the Indians. Forts were built as places of safety where soldiers lived and fought or frightened away the Indians, and where people could come in danger. There was a soldier whose wife and little boy and girl had to stay in the little home while he was away. He said, "If you ever hear that the Indians are coming, hurry to the fort." One day a man came running by, saying, "The Indians are coming. Run for your life." The mother hurried to the stable, saddled the black horse, put little Reuben and Rachel in the big bags hanging from the saddle called saddle-bags, and rode off to the fort. There she was safe. It was a refuge for her. But she had to go, and she had to stay there a long time, to be safe indeed.

**Thought journey.** Now let our thoughts be like wings to carry us far back to the land of Israel and to the river Jordan. Some miles from the river is a place called Shiloh. Here we see the tabernacle set up. Here we see Joshua, and very busy he is. He has to divide the land, so that each family may have some. Now listen. We hear God speaking to Joshua and telling him something very important about

some cities. God says that three cities on each side of Jordan must be set apart as hiding places for the murderer in danger of their lives because of killing another accidentally. In those days the nearest relation of a murdered man tried to kill the murderer himself, without waiting to see whether he was to blame or not. Now God says that if one kills another by accident, through his ax slipping or anything like that, he may run to one of the cities of refuge and be safe.

Give further particulars, and picture a man in danger, running to the nearest refuge, starting instantly, never stopping, hurrying in through the city gate thrown open by the watchers. To be safe, he must go to the city and he must stay inside the walls, where he may have a home and live and work.

**Our refuge.** Question Golden Text into and out of the children's minds, thus: Who is the Refuge? Whose refuge? Refuge and what else? In what time? Far off? How near? A present what? Make clear the children's dangers from sin, temptation, sorrow, fear. Impress helplessness in ourselves, and certainty of safety with God.

**Guideboard thought: Run to the Refuge.** This means trust Jesus at once without waiting, as one would run to shelter. Ask him to help, and be sure that he will. Then don't be afraid one moment. But you must go and you must stay. Then you are safe.

**Thought for teachers.** Perhaps we make too little of childish fears. Sensitive little souls suffer from imaginary terrors. Be careful to suggest nothing of these, but fill the heart with sure confidence in the immediate presence of God. This will expel fears. Make the thought of God's nearness one of joy. A child



can understand taking refuge in father's arms, and can thus comprehend God's power and loving help.

## LESSON

### JOSHUA'S PA

**GOLDEN TEXT:**  
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