

ANCHOR.

THE LORD IS A REFUGE FOR THE
OPPRESSED, A STRONGHOLD IN
TIMES OF TROUBLE.

PSALM 9:9

We live in a world of **brokenness**.
There is **oppression** all around
because of the brokenness of **sin**.
When it feels like you are trapped or
alone, we can find **refuge** in a God who
is our **stronghold**.

No matter where you find yourself in
life, we know that when we place our
trust in God, we have an anchor that
holds in the storm.

What storm do you find yourself in?

Through this week of Journey Camp,
you are going to be challenged to face
the storms and trust in God. **He alone
is our refuge. He alone can save.**

devo¹

REFUGE

A photograph of a mountain refuge building perched on a steep, rocky cliff. The cliff face is dark and rugged, with patches of snow clinging to its surface. The building is a multi-story structure with a grey upper section and a white lower section. It has several windows, some with red shutters, and a small staircase leading up to it. The sky is a pale, clear blue.

"There is nothing beyond that reef but storm and rough sea. As long as we stay on our very safe island, we'll be fine."

You see, Chief Tui (from the movie Moana) experienced danger and pain when he left the safety of the reef and entered into the open sea. The island became a place of refuge for their people.

Refuge is defined as a condition of being safe or sheltered from pursuit, danger, or trouble. A refuge can take the form of many things.

What is something you would consider a refuge in your life?

For most of us, we would consider our house or the place where we live a refuge. Zoom in and maybe it's your room that is a place of refuge when there's a storm in your house. Take it one step further, perhaps your bed or closet is a refuge when the world seems to be crashing down around you.

Our refuge is the place we feel safest when there is trouble around us. Sometimes we find ourselves in a situation where we cannot provide refuge on our own. We must turn to someone to provide it for us. Chief Tui provided refuge for his whole tribe by creating a safe island for them to live and protected them from venturing out into the dangerous sea.

Who is someone that you turn to to provide refuge for you?

We put a lot of faith in people or things to provide safety or refuge. But are we putting faith in the right things?

"The Lord will be a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble." Psalm 9:9

You see, off all the things or people offering refuge, we know that God is one that we can always count on to protect us. The Psalmist in Psalm 41 understood this when he penned the words *"God is my refuge and strength, an ever present help in times of trouble..."*

EVER PRESENT.

What does it mean to be ever present? What does it mean for GOD to be ever present in your life?

To recognize that God is our safety, our refuge is one thing. To remember that He remains our refuge in all times of trouble is another. This means that in the times you hurt, **He is there**. In the times you are sad, **He is there**. When you are scared, **He is there**. When you have nowhere else to go, **He is there**. God does not abandon us or ignore us.

Dueteronomy 31:6 instructs us to “be strong and courageous... for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you or forsake you.”

If God will never leave you, why do you still worry or fear? What keeps us from recognizing God in our lives?

Take some time this morning and pray asking God to remind you of His refuge. Seek your heart and determine what it is that is keeping you from fully relying on His strength and safety in your life. Remember, when people let you down, God will not. He is and will always be your refuge.

Devo Notes: