



**CAN I GET A WITNESS?**

**SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2016**

**KEY SCRIPTURE** | Joshua 22

### **DISCUSSION GUIDE**

If there's nothing better than returning home after a hard day's work, how good would it feel to return after a few hard years of war?! That's exactly what the eastern tribes of Israel experienced as they said farewell to their battle buddies and crossed the Jordan to go home. Afraid they would be separated from the rest of Israel because of the barrier between them (the Jordan River), they build a huge altar to show they were loyal to God and to Israel.

But the western tribes didn't see it that way. It reminded them of The Sin of Peor (Numbers 25), when the Israelite men were seduced by the Moabite women and began worshipping their gods. The Israelites on the west side of the Jordan assumed this altar was like that—for a different god and a sign that the Rubenites, Gadites, and half tribe of Manasseh were rebelling. It was time to go to war.

Where the eastern tribes were seeking unity, the western tribes were causing division by imposing past motives on the current situation. The leaders came together and realized what had happened and Israel learned an important lesson: boundaries (like the river) don't need to be barriers to unity.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's message?
2. Can you think of a time when you made a false assumption? What happened?
3. How should we respond to people who have misunderstood our actions?
4. What are some boundaries in your family or in our church? How can you make sure they don't become barriers?
5. Can you think of a time when you told yourself the wrong story? What happened?
6. Read Joshua 22:13–17. The leaders of the western tribes came ready to dredge up the past (Numbers 25). How did it affect their response to the situation?
7. What principles for restoring and maintaining family/church/Life Group unity can you find in Joshua 22?

### **IN ACTION**

Read 2 Timothy 2:8 and pray together.

God, we want unity in our group, church, families, and other relationships. Help us to recognize the ways we sabotage that unity without realizing it. Reveal barriers, help us to see where we're assigning motives to others, and show us what forgiveness really looks like. And if we've turned barriers into boundaries, help us to recognize them and work to repair any damage we may have caused.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen

