

Questions

1. Read John 1:14. What does it mean that Jesus is full of grace and truth?
2. What can we glean about the relationship between Israel's eastern and western tribes from Joshua 22:1-6?
3. What can we learn by way of example from how the tribes in Canaan responded to what appeared to be a breach of faith by their brethren? In what way(s) are you challenged to walk toward potential trouble and speak the truth in love to a brother or sister?
4. Read Deuteronomy 13:12-15. How did God establish a gracious pause in any efforts we might make to confront something that appears to be sinful in a brother or sister? How is a similar step included in the process outlined in Matthew 18:15-17?
5. After the confrontation of Joshua 22:13-20, what strikes you about the way in which the eastern tribes responded (22:21-29)? Are there insights about their response that you could better apply?
6. Read James 1:19-20. Is there an aspect of this instruction that you find difficult to follow?
7. Read Ephesians 4:1-5. What does this passage teach about how God views unity within the body of Christ? Does "make every effort" characterize your pursuit of this unity?

*Need prayer?
Someone will be up front by the piano
to pray with you after the 1st & 2nd services.*

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Joshua

The Story of The Promise-Keeping God **The Lord is Among Us** **Joshua 22**

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With the promised land distributed and in the process of being settled, a crisis erupts that nearly turns into civil war between Israelite tribes on the east side of the Jordan River and those on the west. However, as God's people apply principles found in God's Law, unity is restored.

God's people are to imitate Jesus Christ (John 1:14) by speaking God's truth with uncompromising loyalty, even as we extend His grace to those around us.



The tribes east of the Jordan River built a large altar on the border between east and west.

The altar provoked the western tribes, almost to the point of civil war. They thought the altar was an act of breaking faith with the Lord, so they sent a delegation to confront the eastern tribes.

The tribes in the east explained that it was not an altar for sacrifice, but was meant as a testimony to future generations that the eastern tribes also worshipped Yahweh.

With a clear understanding, both sides delighted in their unity, with the priest Phineas expressing, "The LORD is among us. "

1. They walked toward the potential trouble.

2. They did not act impulsively.

3. They held out a possible solution.

4. The eastern tribes answered with humility and transparency.

5. Everyone delighted in their unity.