

SERIES: LESSONS FOR LIFE FROM GOD'S SERVANT, JOSHUA

Lesson #10: "We are Our Brother's Keeper"

Joshua 22

Announcements and opening prayer



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** Can you think of a time when you did something with great intentions and it was misunderstood? What happened?

Transition: We are our brother's keeper. Our ultimate goal is to please God by always thinking carefully before we take action against other believers. We may be misinterpreting whatever they are doing. Remember, Jesus is the Prince of Peace and to follow Jesus is to walk in peace. Jesus tells us there are blessings in being peacemakers.

The Bottom Line: Godly correction brings about the blessings of God.

LESSON PLAN



"Denotes "Apply"

Read Joshua 22:1-9



1. Notice the map of the division of the 12 lands. What had the tribes of Reuben, Gad and half the Manasseh tribe done before this final home was established for all 12 tribes?

Can you imagine leaving your families behind to fight beside the other tribes to aid them in being God's faithful army to conquer all the lands He had promised to them? It would have been very hard to cross over, leave your families and risk your lives.



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2. They entered the land somewhere around 1406 B.C. Joshua died in 1390 B.C. So, it has been somewhere around 15-16 years these men have been at war. Think how hard this must have been on the families left behind to try to survive on the east side of the Jordan while their men are off fighting some other tribe's war. How does that same challenge of survival affect God's people today?

3. What does Joshua tell them to take home with them?

Notice it is not a sin at this point. They have been faithful to God and God rewards their faithfulness. They were allowed to take spoils from every city except Jericho. Everyone was to share in this property. No one was to hoard it. It's pretty amazing to see there was no greed at this point.

Read Joshua 22:10-20

4. Why were the other Israelites about to go to war against the 2 1/2 tribes who had just risked their lives and left their lands and families to help them?

5. What do the Israelite tribes do before actually going to war against the eastern tribes?

⌚ What critical lesson do we learn from this example of confronting apparent sin?

Read Joshua 22:21-29

SERIES: LESSONS FOR LIFE FROM GOD'S SERVANT, JOSHUA
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6. Why did they build this altar?

⌚ How does time become a barrier to truth and divide people?

There was a time when people believed that all Bibles were evil corruptions except the King James Bible that was authorized. However, people did not realize that it was not God, but King James who authorized that particular English translation 1600 after Christ. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek. Jesus did not know English! Yet, the lack of teaching and time combined to divide people over the Bible! Another division from time is an understanding on what constitutes true worship. True worship transcends cultures and time; it's adoring our God, declaring His praises, growing in understanding and application of His Word, sharing in the Lord's Supper, growing in our community with the people who love and serve Jesus. It is living a life of loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and loving our neighbor, anyone in need, as ourselves. That is true worship. Everything else we do is cultural and should never, never cause division.



This is a picture of the modern day excavations of Shiloh. The tabernacle Moses built was located here and all Israel was to worship God at the tabernacle. That is why the other tribes were quick to be ready to fight and kill their brothers. They thought they were setting up their own place of worship and disobeying God's instructions.

7. What who was at fault?

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Read Joshua 22:30-34

8. What do Phinehas and the 10 leaders do when they get the rest of the story?

9. What did the eastern tribes call this altar that almost got them killed?



Interactive Teaching Ideas: ideas for learner-focused teaching. Ask the class to discuss at each table the following assignment and then share the results from each table. If you don't have tables, simply divide into groups for this part of the lesson. **What are some of the ways we could establish a witness between us that the Lord is God?**



Going Deeper/Homework:

Memory Verse: "Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord" (Psalm 119:1).