

## Eastern Tribes Return Home - Joshua 22:1-34

**Topics:** Accusation, Advice, Answers, Assumptions, Blessing, Criticism, Denial, Disagreements, Judging Others, Obedience, Rebellion, Reputation, Rewards, Unfairness

### Open It

1. To the best of your knowledge, why is our legal system based on the concept of “innocent until proven guilty”?
- \* 2. How do you think you would feel if you were falsely accused of a crime?
3. How can the average person protect himself or herself against false accusations?

### Explore It

4. Why did Joshua summon the Reubenites, Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh? (22:1)
5. How had the eastern tribes been obedient? (22:2)
6. What was the mission that the Lord had given the eastern tribes? (22:3)
7. Why did Joshua encourage the eastern tribes to return home? (22:4)
8. What did the eastern tribes receive from Joshua before he sent them on their way? (22:5-6)
- \* 9. How had the eastern tribes been blessed by their obedience to the Lord? (22:8)
10. What did the eastern tribes build near the Jordan River? (22:10)
11. Why did the Israelites plan to go to war against the eastern tribes? (22:11-12)
12. What assumptions did the Israelites make about the eastern tribes’ behavior? (22:12)
- \* 13. How did the Israelites resolve their dispute with the eastern tribes? (22:13-14)
14. Why did the Israelites think that the eastern tribes were rebelling against the Lord? (22:16)
15. What did the Israelites believe would be the consequences of the eastern tribes’ rebellion? (22:18)
16. How did the eastern tribes respond to the accusations of the Israelites? (22:22-23)
17. What were the intentions of the eastern tribes when they built the altar on the Jordan River? (22:24-28)
18. How did the leaders of Israel respond to the eastern tribes’ defense of their actions? (22:30)
- \* 19. How did the Israelites react to the news that the eastern tribes were not rebellious toward the Lord? (22:33)

### Get It

20. What does this story teach us about obedience?
21. Why do we need to “be very careful” to obey God, as Joshua advised Israel?
22. What does it mean to serve the Lord “with all your heart and all your soul”?
23. How do you think the eastern tribes felt when they heard the false accusations of the Israelites?
24. When have you ever been falsely accused? What happened?
- \* 25. What lessons can this story teach us about resolving conflicts?
26. How should we respond to false accusations?
- \* 27. What does this passage reveal about the consequences of one person’s sin on others?
28. How do you think your own actions and attitudes affect the reputation of the church and of Christ?

### Apply It

- \* 29. What could you do to resolve the conflict peacefully the next time you have a misunderstanding with a friend or family member?
30. What is one “extra precaution” you can take to ensure your loyalty and obedience to the Lord?