



HOME GROUP GUIDE

November 3, 2019

The Witness — Joshua 22

About this guide: This guide is provided to assist your Home Group in discussion and application of the most recent sermon. This guide provides direction for application-based discussion within a small group as well as discussion material. **Please know that the guide is not designed with the intent that every question be answered systematically.** Feel free to pick and choose the questions that fit your group and structure your time together using the guide to maximize your group's benefit.

Notice organization of the guide: Looking Back, Looking Up and Looking Forward. "Looking Back" is the time for the group to consider how the last week or two has gone, to share about struggles and victories. Consider choosing one or two items from this section to answer.

"Looking Up and Looking Forward" is a time to discuss the sermon and how the group might further apply the truth of God's Word, making specific plans individually and as a group to walk by faith in the week to come. This is also a time to encourage each other, minister to each other and pray for each other. Try to choose a couple elements from this section.

The guide also contains a family discipleship section with a few ideas on how to intentionally engage in following the Lord as a family.

Looking Back:

- Share how you have been doing since you last met:
 - What biblical truths have been shaping your life and heart over the last week or so?
 - What has dominated your prayer life this week?
 - What was a "win" in your life this last week (something that happened that resulted in thankfulness, a moment of spiritual growth or victory, an answered prayer, etc.)?
 - What was the biggest challenge in your life this last week? Is there anything that you need to share with your Home Group in the form of confession?
- With whom were you able to begin to build a gospel bridge of conversation since the last time we met? With whom were you able to share the gospel message?
- How can the group help you this next week?

Looking Up and Looking Forward (specific, realistic, measurable, personal): Read Joshua 22.

1. In Joshua 22:10–34, we see that when the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh return to their land on the other side of the Jordan, they immediately built an altar.
 - From the text, what was their motivation for building this altar?
 - What was the response of the other tribes to the building of the altar? What do you think the response of the other tribes was motivated from?
 - The rest of the Israelites misunderstood what was happening with the altar. Their minds filled in the motivation of the other tribes for building the altar without actual knowledge. When was a time your mind filled in the gaps and created a false narrative of what someone else was doing/had done? How did that affect your relationship with that person?

2. Frequently, our personal experiences and history impacts the lens through which we view life, experiences, relationships and the stories we tell ourselves about the motivations and actions of others. And, depending on the lens we are looking through, this will greatly impact our response when conflict arises.
 - At the point of confrontation in Joshua 22, how did the tribes respond to one another?
 - Within both families and within the church family, there are regularly threats to unity. Too often, it is easy to allow our initial emotional reaction to direct our response. What's a time you have emotionally reacted and learned that your initial reaction did not align with what was true about the situation?
 - What can we learn from how the tribes interacted at the point of confrontation about how we, as a church family, should respond to one another when conflict and disunity arise?
3. How does approaching a conflict with humility contrast to approaching the same situation from fear or anger? When was a time you responded out of fear or anger? When was a time you responded out of humility? What was the difference between the two situations?
 - How does John 13:35 impact our responses to conflict?
 - When we respond in humility to one another in the midst of conflict or misunderstanding, what results? (Hint: look at Joshua 22:31–34.)
 - How can your Home Group help each other move toward responding in obedience out of humility instead of disobedience out of fear?

Don't forget:

1. Pray for one another. Share one specific prayer request you need your group to pray each day until you meet again.
2. Pray for each of our campuses: the Georgetown Campus — Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and the Liberty Hill Campus at 11:00 a.m.
3. Pray that the group's fellowship with God and one another would become enriched by the study of how God wants us to surrender to His will for our lives.

Family Discipleship Ideas (Deuteronomy 6:5–7):

When you wake: Ask each family member if there is anything causing disunity between them and another family member. Pray about it together as a family and ask the Lord to give each of you an attitude of humility and obedience today.

Before you sleep: Ask your kids if they operated out of fear or humility today. Give examples of how you have operated out of fear or humility recently and help them understand the difference. Pray together to seek to live your lives out of humility and not fear.

When you sit down: Find a small ball and gather your family together in a circle. Tell your family that if you can toss the ball around the circle, everyone catches the ball and you get 10 catches in a row without it dropping (make a hard but attainable goal for your family), then you will all get (name a prize). As you do this, if everyone is catching it, then you as the parent make sure it falls a few times. You want everyone to feel the results of everybody else's actions. Once you finally get through the 10 catches and enjoy your prize, then ask the family a few questions. How did it feel when everyone had to start over because I kept missing the ball? Did it have an effect on just the person who dropped it or the whole family? When the last person caught the last ball, did just that person get the prize or did the whole family?

As a family, we want to know that our choices don't just affect us; they affect the entire family. When we live in obedience to the Lord, the whole family gets to experience the wonderful results of that. Likewise, when we disobey, the consequences reach to the entire family and not just ourselves. Give examples of how each person's decisions affect everyone in the family.

Pray together and ask the Lord to help you make obedient and humble decisions together, as a family, and that each person would be able to think about the whole family when they make decisions.

Along the way: When you have a moment where you fill in the gaps of a story in your mind about someone else's actions, motives or thoughts; stop and pray and ask the Lord to help you seek what is right, true and noble and not fill in the blanks that you don't know for sure.