



Courage to Conquer Conflict
(Joshua 22:10-32)

Main Idea: Israel's wise actions provide a pattern for overcoming conflict.

Communicate what you are doing
Don't assume you know more than you do
Ask questions
Respond in humility
Listen to reason
Tell others of the resolution

Connect: If you could have one super power, what would you choose?

Discuss

1. The tribes living on the eastern side of the Jordan River begin building an altar (v10).
 - As believers we are expected to live our lives in community and relationship with others. Often conflict and difficulty arise from either miscommunication or no communication, as the tribes of Israel experienced in our text. What is your typical response when confronted with conflict?
 - Is there an area of your life that is prone to miscommunication?
 - How can you protect, or change this situation to enhance your communication with others?
2. The rest of Israel reacts to the news of the eastern altar and prepares to go to war with them (v11-12).
 - The Israelites assume that they understand the situation and they choose to believe the worst about their brethren. What if they had chosen to believe the best? How would that have impacted their next move?
 - What situations in your life are you choosing to believe the worst when you could be choosing to believe the best?
 - Could choosing to think positively about the motives of others change your course of action?
3. The western Israelites send a delegation, led by a priest, to the eastern tribes to figure out what they were doing (v13-20)
 - A delegation travels to talk with the eastern tribes. These people were offended, confused, and angry. They were also concerned for their wellbeing. It is in these situations where we are most likely to react based off of our feelings rather than the facts. Can you identify a situation or relationship where you frequently react before finding facts?

4. The eastern tribes explain why they are building an altar (v21-23)
 - They wisely respond to the delegation's questions honestly and with humility, setting a precedence for us to follow when we are confronted with conflict. What specific attribute about their response can you use when you are confronted with conflict?
 - It is difficult to receive conflict or criticism positively, particularly in areas where we have been hurt in the past. Is there a relationship where you need to press pause, call a time out or a truce in order to get back to a place of constructive criticism and positive communication? How can you press reset and begin to overcome conflict using the Israelites wise actions as a pattern for resolution?

5. The delegation listens as the eastern tribes explain their actions (v24-31)
 - Our actions almost always have an impact on others – large or small, good or bad. Likewise, our actions often have consequences that we don't expect. The response of the eastern tribes showed that their motives were not rooted in division but in future inclusion, an admirable motive. What is at the heart of most of your conflicts?
 - The delegation LISTENS as they explain their action. What hinders us from actively listening as others explain their actions?

6. The delegation returns home and tells everyone about what had happened (v32-34)
 - The entirety of Israel is left "satisfied and praised God" when they learn what occurred.
 - Oftentimes it is easy to seek support when conflict occurs, but we don't take the time to discuss what happens when conflict is resolved. What happens after you have a conflict?
 - How could sharing the outcome of conflicts help others in their walk with God?

Live it Out

- Examine the pattern God reveals in this section of scripture for overcoming conflict. Which area is most difficult for you? Ask God to help you move toward healthy conflict resolution.
- Think of a relationship in your life that is prone to conflict. Ask God to show you decisions that you are making that could be better communicated.
- The next time you are about to react, ask yourself if you are reacting to your feelings or preconceived ideas about the situation. Allow God to lead you in your next step.