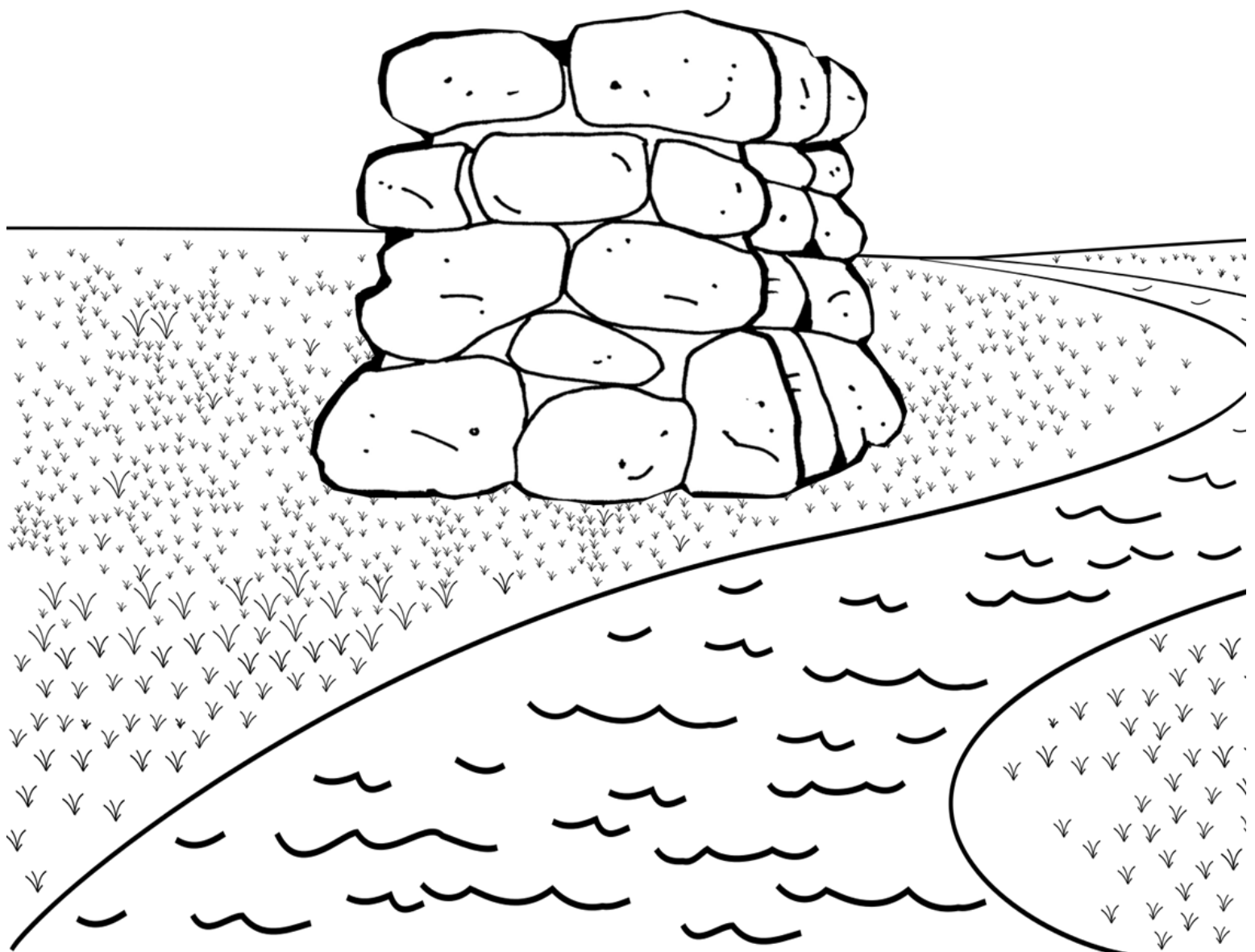


A Witness Between Us  
that THE LORD is GOD



Today we know that the LORD is with us.

Joshua 22:26

## Bible Study:



Read Joshua 22, and consider how what starts out as a conflict resolves as a **BIG GIANT Spiritual High-Five** BECAUSE all parties acknowledge and proclaim their allegiance to God, and a desire for them and their descendants, to Love God only, and walk with Him, to hold fast to Him and serve Him with all their heart and soul (Josh. 22:5).

## The gospel in the story:



The Eastern Tribes were right to FEAR the idea of LOSING their 'Share in the Lord;' there is nothing worse than separation from the Father! And the reality is that our earthly hearts are quick to forget (and therefore separate ourselves from) the Love, Power, Glory, Greatness and Generosity of God because we are so easily distracted into focusing on our own selfish desires. And the Eastern Tribes were right to choose the Alter as a symbol of the witness of their desire; altars were places where God and His people interacted, and sacrifices were the primary means by which humans expressed their trust in the LORD. And of course, the cross represents the ultimate altar upon which Jesus was sacrificed to give up his Perfection and take on our sin so that we might find the ultimate purification from sin!

## Application:

### Head: Q&A key points:

Q: Why was there a conflict between the Israelite assembly and the eastern tribes? A: The eastern tribes (Rueben, Gad and Manasseh) built an altar, and the Israelites thought it would be used to honor false gods.

Q: What was the true reason for the altar? A: to be a witness between the Eastern and Western tribes and future generations that the Eastern Tribes claim YHWH as their Lord.

### Heart: Memory Verse:

Today we know that the LORD is with us.  
Joshua 22:26

### Hands: How does this affect the way we live?

Though ultimately, the Israelites could not hold to their commitment to serve God only, WE HAVE THAT ability by the Power of the Holy Spirit through Faith in Jesus.

### Home: How does this affect our household?

As Moses mentioned in Deuteronomy 6, it's a great idea to have 'Witnesses' all over our house both physically and metaphorically. We need to constantly be reminded of our Share in the LORD.

### Heaven: How does this help us share our faith?

God's purpose in removing His enemies from Canaan was to replace them with a people who were '**blessed to be a blessing.**' And through Moses speech in Deuteronomy 6, God was careful to point out that He did all the heavy lifting to give them a land full of 'flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant' (Deut 6:10-11), and their job was to remember Him and proclaim Him as the gracious source of EVERYTHING GOOD IN THEIR LIVES to all the other nations. When we humbly acknowledge our dependence on, and love for God we will surely bless all those who God puts into our lives.