

What's the Motive? | Joshua 22

When the land of Canaan was conquered Joshua sent the Eastern Tribes home. On the way they built an impressive altar by the Jordan River. When other tribes heard about it they became angry and gathered for war, because they thought that the Eastern Tribes were disobeying the Lord. When Phineas the priest investigated he found the altar was not built to disobey the Lord, but to be a covenant witness. When the tribes in the land heard this, they blessed God and returned to their homes.

Place markers on a chart comparing the tribes' feelings about the altar. Discuss your choices. Use *What's the Motive? Discussion*, below, to look at examples of situations in which misunderstandings have happened when a person thought they knew another's motives. Think of similar situations, and discuss the importance of thinking before assuming others' motives.

Materials

Altar Markers

Feelings about the Altar

What's the Motive? Discussion, below.

scissors or paper cutter

Directions

1. Cut apart a the *Altar Markers* on the lines. (Use a paper cutter for faster results.)
2. Arrange the *Altar Markers* on *Feelings about the Altar* chart to show feelings reflecting the two groups. If both groups felt the same way, place two markers on a feeling. Think about the feelings through the end of the story. Discuss your choices.

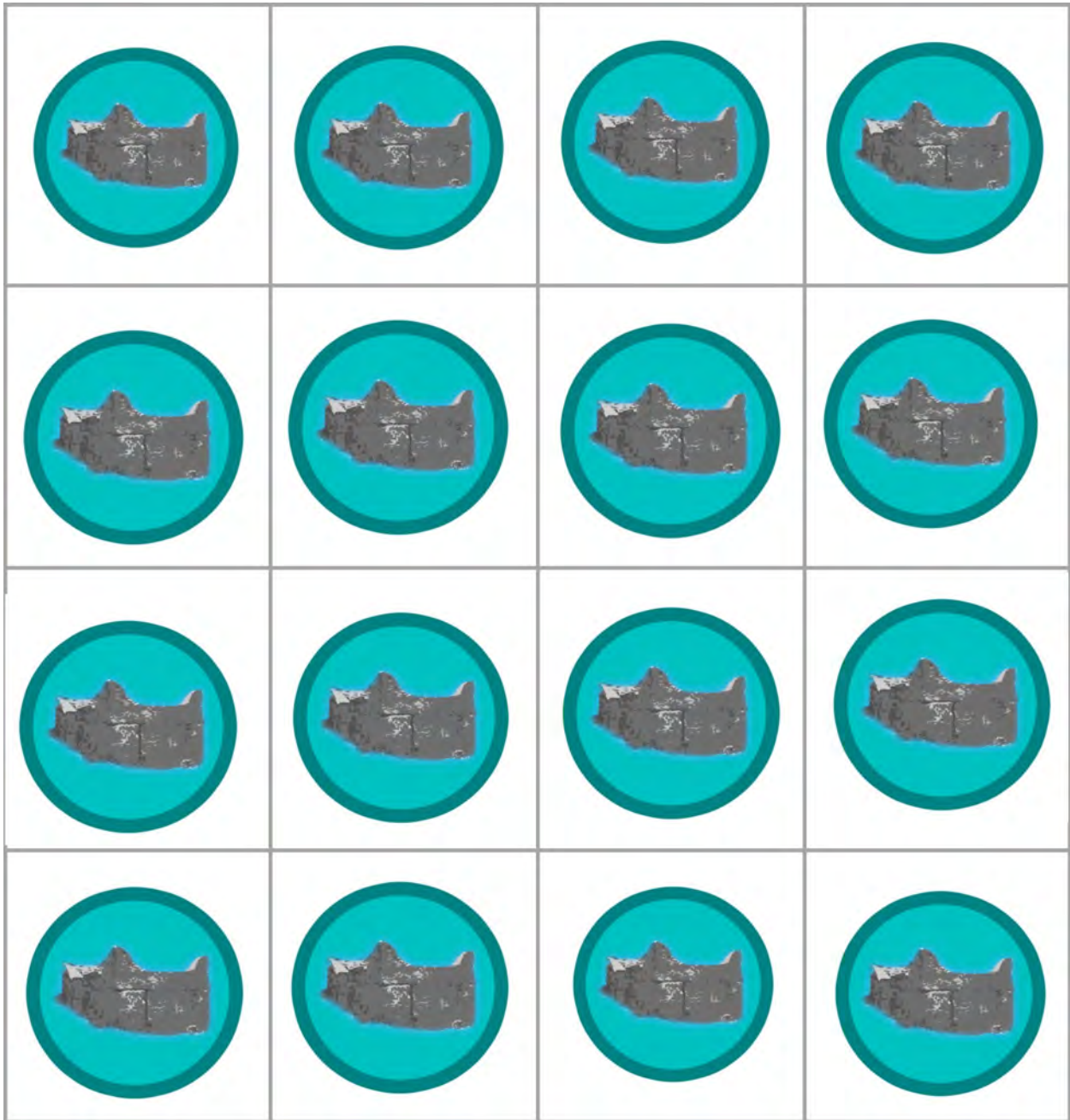
What's the Motive? Discussion

1. Read a situation, below:
 - Someone pokes the person sitting next to them.
 - A person cuts in front of someone as they're walking.
 - Someone helps themselves to a snack another person has been saving.
 - A person borrows someone's favorite clothing without asking.

What good motives might lie behind the person's actions? What selfish motivations might lie behind their actions? Can you know, for sure, why someone does something? What might help?

2. Share a time when you thought someone had done something for a selfish reason, when they intended to do something good. Discuss what made you feel that way, and why you changed your mind.
3. Did you notice that the priest in the story was able to help people discuss a misunderstanding that could have ended in disaster? What might help us see another person's motives or point of view?

Altar Markers for the Nine and a Half Tribes



Altar Markers for the Two and a Half Tribes



Feelings about the Altar

Place altar markers for the Nine and a Half Tribes and the Two and a Half Tribes on each square that describes the way the tribes felt. Some squares may have more than one marker on them. Think of all parts of the story—from when the tribes discover the altar, to when the problem is solved.

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Happy | Worried | Angry | Afraid |
| Sad | Afraid to hurt the Lord | Threatened | Relieved |
| Pleased | Hostile | Afraid of being forgotten | Shocked |
| Afraid of the Lord's Anger | Destructive | Wanting to serve the Lord | Afraid of Disobeying |