

# SERMON OUTLINE

Speaker: Elder Dr Lee Soo Ann

**Text :** Joshua 22

**Title :** HOLDING THE FAMILY IN FAITH TOGETHER

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1. The temple at Jerusalem and an altar of witness

*the people of Reuben and the people of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh built (in the region of the Jordan that is in the land of Canaan) an altar of imposing size.*

Joshua 22:10

2. The fear of breaking up the family in its faith

*then the people of Israel sent to (them) ....and said to them, "Thus says the whole congregation of the Lord, "what is this breach of faith that you have committed against the God of Israel in turning away this day from following the Lord by building yourselves an altar this day in rebellion against the Lord"...*

Joshua 22:16

3. The assurance of continued unity in faith

*then the people of Reuben, the people of Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh said in answer to the heads of the families of Israel: the Mighty One, God, the Lord! ...He knows...we did it from fear that in time to come, your children might say to our children, "what have you to do with the Lord, the God of Israel? For the Lord has made the Jordan a boundary between us and you...Therefore we said, "let us now build an altar, not for burnt offering, nor for sacrifice, but to be a witness between us and you, and between our generations after us.....*

Joshua 22:21-26

4. Acceptance of the assurance

*when Phinehas the priest and the chiefs of the congregation, the heads of the families of Israel who were with him, heard the words that the people of Reuben and the people of God and the people of Manasseh spoke, it was good in their eyes.*

Joshua 22:30

5. Holding the family together in an act of witness

*The people of Reuben and the people of God called the altar Witness, "for", they said, "it is a witness between us that the Lord is God".*

Joshua 22:34

6. How do we hold together our family in the Christian faith in our acts of witness?

(a) in the home

(b) in our vocations

(c) in our leisure

(d) linking the past and the present?