

## No Offense Part 1

### Stop Being Offended

# TALK IT OVER

#### Key Scriptures

*My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.* James 1:19-20 NIV

*Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew 22:37-39 NIV*

*People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God ...* 2 Timothy 3:2-4 NIV

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.* Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV

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**Start talking.** Find a conversation starter for your group.

- On a scale of 1–10, how easy is it for you to be offended?

**Start thinking.** Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Which part of this message was most impactful for you and why?
- Read **James 1:19-20**. Which do you struggle with the most: being quick to listen, slow to speak, or slow to become angry? Why do you think that is?
- How do you typically let go of anger? How effective is this?

**Start sharing.** Choose a question to create openness.

- Share about a time when you chose to make a difference instead of making a point. What did you learn about Jesus through that experience?
- What can you do to begin raising your gratitude for God's grace? How will this impact your relationship with God and others?

**Start praying.** Be bold and pray with power.

*Father, we need Your help and Your guidance so that we can stop being offended. We know that making a difference is more important than making a point. Thank You for Your endless grace. Please help us share Your grace with those around us. In Jesus' name, amen.*

**Start doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- **Remember: Your anger will justify your right to hold the stone. So practice being slow to anger this week by dropping the stone of offense and choosing to be loving instead.**
- Start the *No Offense* Bible Plan using Plans With Friends: [www.go2.lc/nooffense](http://www.go2.lc/nooffense)
- Consider how you could love others by serving on the weekend or with a Local Mission Partner.