

No Offense

When Bitterness Takes Over

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. Hebrews 12:14-15 NIV

Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. Ephesians 5:11 NIV

"... 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart." Matthew 18:32-35 NIV

"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." Luke 6:27-28 NIV

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:31-32 NIV

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Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- On a scale of 1–10, how much do you enjoy gardening or yard work?

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

- Which part of this message was most impactful for you and why?
- Read **Hebrews 12:14-15**. Why do you think Scripture compares bitterness to a root?
- All bitterness starts out as a hurt. The next time you feel angry or resentful, what can you do to prevent a seed of bitterness from being planted in your heart?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Hatred and holiness cannot coexist in the same heart. How could your bitterness be harming those around you? What can you do to let go of that bitterness and extend forgiveness instead?
- Do you have an offense that has unknowingly taken root? How can you begin extending grace? Talk about ways your LifeGroup can help you during this process.

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Father, we don't want bitterness to take over our lives. Please show us where an offense has taken root without us realizing it. Instead of canceling those who hurt us, we want to cancel the bitterness we hold against them. In Jesus' name, amen.

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

- [What would it look like to respond to offenses and bitterness with grace and forgiveness? If you're having a difficult time extending forgiveness, start by remembering the grace Jesus freely gives you.](#)
- Start the *No Offense* Bible Plan using Plans With Friends: www.go2.lc/nooffense
- Consider how you could love others by serving on the weekend or with a Local Mission Partner.