

# Give Up Your Right to be Offended

Week of June 9, 2019

# UNOFFENDABLE

HOW JUST ONE CHANGE CAN MAKE ALL OF LIFE BETTER

A SERIES BASED ON A BOOK BY BRANT HANSEN

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

## Message Recap:

Read Luke 23:34; Matthew 8:21-35

We all get offended. Jesus, however, did not bring any offense to anyone except to his Father. The message of Jesus was one of forgiveness and peace. He told stories to explain the extraordinary degree of forgiveness for which we are given and expected to give others. Even through his death on the cross, Jesus was not offended by those who crucified him. Instead he asked God to forgive for them acknowledging they didn't know what they were doing. (See Luke 23:24) Through the sacrifice of Christ, God gave up his right to be offended by our behaviors. Instead God's grace flows down and we are forgiven, We are called to do the same. How and who we forgive or do not forgive is what we will receive in return.

## Pray

Dear Jesus, you took to the cross all of the world's sin for us and did so out of love. In the same way you respond to our offenses with forgiveness, guide us to approach everyone and every situation in our lives with the same humility. Do not allow us to hold on to being offended, leading to a forfeiting of forgiveness. Make us grace dependent with hearts of gratitude, giving healing mercy to all. Amen

Digging Deeper

## Getting Started

- Our culture seems to thrive on being offended. What television shows are based on offending others and what draws the audience to these shows?
- When in the past week have you been offended and why?

## Digging Deeper

1. Read Luke 23:34. Jesus asked for forgiveness for those who crucified him. How difficult or easy would it be for you to do this when those around you are offensive?
2. Compare and contrast the suffering in your life with the suffering Jesus endured during his time on Earth.
3. Why does being offended require so much energy? How do you deal with the energy required?
4. In what ways can you have peace and love for the offender? What is required for this to happen in your life?
5. Agree or disagree: We destroy our enemies by loving them. Explain your answer.
6. Consider this statement: *If we hold onto our "right" to be offended, we let go of our "right" to be forgiven.* What are your thoughts about this?
7. Jesus explained the magnitude of our required forgiveness of others as seven times seven. What does this calculation mean for you personally?
8. Share how you have experienced this level of forgiveness in your life. What impact did this have on you and those around you?

## Living Jesus

The world's message when you are offended is to get even, but Jesus's message is to live a grace-dependent life (See Ephesians 1:7-8). You are to humble your heart in gratitude (See Philippians 4:4-8). Take the Unoffendable Pledge and say it out loud, "I recognize that: Jesus has every right to be offended by me. Yet, Jesus forgives all of my offenses, for love. Therefore, I have no right to be offended by anyone or anything." If you are a Christ follower, knowing that through Christ Jesus, God gave up his right to be offended by you, the only response you can have is to be unoffendable.

## What's Your Story?

What big and small ways do you see that you have been selfish or offended throughout your life? How will you have or demonstrate instead a spirit of generosity, starting today?

Share how God is working in your life at [SevernRunner.info/stories](http://SevernRunner.info/stories).

Share Your Experience on Social Media This Week #SevernRun #UnOffenble