

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 Ephesians 4:26-27

Being “Unoffendable” might be the toughest challenge to live out because we all have a crucial need that God designed us with – **unfailing love**, but we live in a broken world. The truth is that if we look to the world to meet our need for **unfailing love**, we will be disappointed, let down, angry, or **offended**. Some of us know this and some of us don’t, but either way, it doesn’t take away the shock factor when we are surprised by hurting people who try to hurt us. It might be impossible to live completely unoffended, but we are called in Ephesians 4:27 to not give the devil a foothold when (not if) we become angry.

Pray

Dear heavenly Father, we give you the glory by giving you our anger. Your word says the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God (James 1:20). Help us daily to recognize the weakness of our anger, and the ask you for the strength to extend grace and gentleness to the world around us. Remind us that your grace and gentleness cover all of our offenses. We don’t deserve your love, so we thank you for the opportunity to love those who need it. Amen.

Digging Deeper

Getting Started

- Describe a scene from a book, show, movie, or real-life experience in which anger was celebrated.
- If you can, share a time when you realized that the world can’t meet your needs. Maybe you had a great epiphany all at once, or maybe you had to learn over a long period of time. Share your story.

Digging Deeper

1. It’s hard to recognize initially, but what is the underlying problem or issue that anger is trying to solve? Can you find what’s hidden deeper in those moments? What need isn’t being met?
2. We all have this God shaped hole in our heart that only He can fill. The world gives us so many other options to choose for temporary comfort or satisfaction. What are some alternatives to God that people try to use to meet their need for unfailing love? Are there any that you have struggles with letting go of in your walk with God?
3. Hurt people hurt people. Can you think of a time when someone tried to hurt you because of their brokenness?
4. Can you remember a time when you thought you were just angry, but you were afraid of something that was the bigger stressor?
5. Read Romans 12:14-21. Paul in this letter rejects living in comfort by asking the Roman church to act contrary to their gut reactions. Through these verses, God is calling us to live different, mature, peaceful, and not according to our flesh. What are some ways we can reject anger?
6. Read Romans 12:21 again and compare that to Proverbs 15:1. Can you explain how this would apply to your life?

Living Jesus

The first offensive, hurtful action happened in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Yet he never abandoned us and even let his Son, Jesus Christ, die on the cross so that we could be free of sin. We can also choose daily to be free of offenses and anger if we choose God instead. It’s not natural, but it is **supernatural** to tap into God’s awesome power and accept His sovereignty over our circumstances, emotions, and choices. God’s grace is new every day (Lamentations 2:22-23). Stop the vicious cycle of anger daily by choosing the Father over our emotions. Reject anger and choose love.

What’s Your Story?

Who in your life is angry (or is it you)? What are they masking or hiding by choosing anger? Can you work with them (or yourself) to bring God into their life to meet their needs? Share how God is working in your life at SevernRunner.info/stories.

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