



Life Groups 2018

NLC Life Group Through the Bible Study

Week of September 9, 2018
Sermon: Click Bait | OFFENDED

Life Group Schedule

15 MIN Eat, Meet & Greet

15 MIN Ice Breaker Game: **Fishbowl**. A fun-filled word and memory game!

Instructions: Separate the group into two teams. Give each person three pieces of paper and a pen or pencil, instructing them to write any word or short familiar phrase on each piece, fold it in half, and put their papers into a fish bowl, basket, or other container. The play occurs in 1-3 rounds, depending on how much time you want to take:

Round 1—Taboo. The first team selects a person to go first, grabbing a piece of paper from the container and using only words and sentences as hints. They have one minute to do so. They cannot use motions, “Sounds like...,” or spelling hints. If the person guessed the word, they continue with another slip of paper, with their team guessing as many words as they can within the one-minute time limit. If the team is unable to guess correctly, the person can pass and pull another slip of paper. However, a person can only pass once during his or her one minute. The second team then takes a turn, seeing how many words or phrases they can guess. If you run out of slips of paper, put them all back into the container for Round 2.

Round 2—Password. Played in the same manner as the first round, in this round, the hint can only be one word. After both teams take turns, put all the words back into the container for the third round.

Round 3—Charades. Again, the same sequence is played as in rounds one and two, however, this time, each person needs to act and use motions as hints for their team’s guesses. When all the words run out, tally all the points. The team with the most points wins the game.

NOTE: Use the study however it flows most naturally for your group. If you lead a small group, you may want to stay together and go straight through the study. If your group is larger, you may want a leader to take the group through the main points, then save the questions for small group breakouts. How you use the study is always up to your discretion as a leader.

CHALLENGE: Leaders, it’s important when you’re walking through the following content and asking your group members to share, that you also are willing and able to share from your own experiences. Your authenticity will bring a level of safety and trust that your members may have never experienced before.

OPENING PRAYER

45–60 MIN Click Bait: **OFFENDED**

TALK IT OUT

- Q1.** We all click on interesting things. What is the funniest click-bait you’ve ever seen?

Q2. Do you ever feel let down by click-bait?

- Most of the click bait is not nearly as good as the title!
- God's word is like the anti-click-bait a lot of times!

MATT 5:44 "But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you."

Q3. If someone hates you, curses you, despitefully uses you and then hurts you, how can you *pray* for them and do *good* to them?

- The toughest statements with Jesus are around the topic of being offended. But he brings it up because He loves you, and he knows what living offended can do to a soul.

Two stages of offense:

STAGE ONE: THE FEELING OF OFFENSE.

- **Definition of Offense:** When someone did something that made you feel: Overlooked, insulted, violated, taken advantage of, to be hurt, whether intentionally or unintentionally.
 - ř Everyone feels offended at some point or another. You can control the feeling.
- When someone presents you with an opportunity to be offended, its like be offered a glass of poison.
 - ř What that did wasn't right. It was hurtful! But the question really is: "Do I drink the cup of offense?"

STAGE TWO: THE CHOICE TO LIVE OR NOT LIVE OFFENDED.

- People who live offended compare their offended moments with others' offended moments.
 - ř Let's just agree that you are hurt. Even worse than that is living as a hurt, broken victim with open wounds. They are tough to be around.
- Jesus gave Peter a parable that essentially says you can't be forgiven of \$12 million if you don't forgive the \$12.

Living offended is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die.

- You also have hurt people who need to forgive you.
MATT 7:3 “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?”
- The plank in your eye may be the hurt, the poison you drank.
- The choice to **not be offended** is for a healthy soul and a blessed life. To not be offended means you may *want* to drink it, but you have chosen *not* to.
 - ř Some drink it, study it, refrigerate it, protect it, and share it with others. It becomes their favorite drink in the house.

Q4. Have you ever been offended? Were you able to handle it in a healthy way?

Q5. Have you ever drunk the poison of offense? What was the result?

Offense is certain to happen.

LUKE 17:1 “Offense will *certainly* come.”

- Jesus told His disciples, “Many of you will be offended because of me.” Yet He never did anything wrong. That is when offense hurts the most: “I didn’t do anything wrong!”
 - ř You will get hit where you don’t deserve it. You will be rejected, insulted, laughed at, looked over, lied about, intentionally hurt, misunderstood, hated and betrayed, excluded, misquoted and rejected. It happens everywhere. All it takes is another human.

Q6. Think for a minute. Have you noticed any offense happen in the culture around you this week? Anything directed at you?

Just because you have a right to do something, that doesn’t mean there’s not a cost of doing it.

1 COR. 10:23 “I have the right to do anything,” you say, but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything,” but not everything is constructive.

- Drinking the poison hurts you more than what happened to you.

DON’T EVER LOSE YOUR FREEDOM IN CHRIST. IT IS A FOOLISH WAY TO LIVE.

- In America, you have the freedom to speak your mind, but you are a fool if you live that way.

PROVERBS 29:11 “A fool utters all of his thoughts.”

GALATIANS 5:13 “You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

- Christians try to hurt each other sometimes, but use your freedom to serve each other.
- Freedom can lead to a choice that leads to bondage, like an addiction.

ř Being offended gives the controls to the offender.

GAL 5:1 “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”

BRING YOUR OFFENSE TO GOD IN PRAYER

EPH. 6:12 “For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.”

- If you’re aiming your swings at people, you’re aiming at the wrong target. The real fight is invisible.

ř When you forget this, you will spend your time protesting and picketing, but not praying.

- Some of you have been mistreated, experiencing injustice and racism.

GAL 3:28 “In here is neither Jew nor Greek...for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

REV 7:9 “After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.”

REMEMBER WHAT JESUS DID FOR YOU

- Jesus was abused—physically, verbally, sexually, and spiritually. But he did not retaliate, because he knew they needed him.

PRAYER ACTIVATION: SAY, “Tonight we will deal with offense in our lives. Let’s pray. “Holy Spirit, we invite you to bring to mind any offense we have been carrying, and ask You to examine our hearts and speak truth.”

- ř Close your eyes and ask the Holy Spirit to show you anyone who has offended you or that you have negative feelings towards. After doing this, ask “Is God asking you to forgive someone? Is there something you need to confess? Sometimes we develop sinful patterns to protect ourselves. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you.” [pause]
- ř Encourage the participants to confess to Jesus any offense they have been holding against [person’s or people’s name(s)], repent of holding offense, and receive his forgiveness. [pause]
- ř After doing this, invite the participants to pray in declaration, “God, because Jesus has forgiven me, I receive your forgiveness, and I release your forgiveness towards [this person].” [pause]
- ř Ask group members if anyone would like to share what they experienced.

Q7. Think about people in your life who may still be offensive. (*You* may have changed, but that doesn’t mean *they* have changed!) Practically speaking, what can you do, how can you demonstrate forgiveness and compassion towards them?

TAKE PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAY OVER NEEDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS