**Offended**

**GOALS & GUIDELINES:**
**ICEBREAKER:**
**Worship**

**Scriptures: Luke 17:1-5**

According to John Bevere’s book “Bait of Satan” the greek word for offend in Luke 17:1 is “skandalon”. This word originally referred to the part of the trap to which the bait was attached. Offenses (i.e., hurt feelings, getting offended at someone, feelings of being wronged) will come, but that doesn’t mean that when the trap is set, that you have to take the bite. The Bible says that we must be aware of Satan’s devices (2 Corinthians 2:11). This is definitely one of his devices Christians should be aware of – remember…we are in a war!

Dealing with offense, what are some of the devil’s baits? (Hurt feelings, jealousies, envies, lusts)

Knowing offense is a trap of the devil, we can then come to the conclusion that we should never fall for this trap, or in other words, *never get offended*. (Psalms 119:165) I do not say this like this is something light or easy. Sometimes people can severely hurt you. I am not saying that one’s emotions are feelings are invalidated. What I am saying is that we have to get to a place where when people offend us we are able to forgive and be at peace – this comes through COMPLETELY submitting ourselves to Jesus Christ – including our feelings, our grievances, our vengeances.

What are some ways we can deal with offense? (Prayer, love, scriptural understanding, focusing on heaven, submitting whatever it is you are dealing with (feelings, desires) to Jesus – allowing yourself to just be wronged, not trying to be in control, letting God handle things

Exodus 14:14 – Hold your peace, let the Lord fight your battle

Love covers all sins (Proverbs 10:12)

1 Corinthians 6 lawsuits among believers

SURRENDERING CONTROL - Vengences is the Lord’s. don’t steal what is the Lord’s (Romans 12:19)

Some of the most difficult offenses come from friends and family – blood family and church family. The Lord doesn’t bring up the topic of forgiveness concerning an enemy in Luke 17, but that of forgiving a brother. Paul discusses lawsuits among the brethren in 1 Corinthians 6. The very first case of offense in the Bible in Genesis 4 involves two *brothers.*

The heart is the seat of our emotions…but we can’t let our emotions control us or our destiny. The Bible says that the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked …who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9) Cain allowed his emotions, his offense to turn into a horrible, sinful action…the slaying of his brother. God said that “sin lieth at the door” and that he had to be the master over it. (Genesis 4:3-8) But Cain took the bait of Satan, and because of it his life was forever altered for the worse and the life of his brother Abel destroyed. Cain had taken the bait, and got trapped in the snare of Satan. (2 Timothy 2:24)

**Vision** – keep a heart free from offense! Strive to love deeper, both our brothers and the Lord. Learn to recognize a favorite device of the enemy, and know to not fall for the bait!

**Prayer**

### Scriptures

# 2 Timothy 2:24-26King James Version (KJV)

**24**And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

**25**In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

**26**And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

[**Proverbs 19:11**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+19%3A11&version=NIV)[**[Full Chapter]**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+19&version=NIV) **NIV**

A person’s wisdom yields patience; it is to one’s glory to overlook an **offense**.

**1 Peter 4:8** [**New International Version**](http://biblehub.com/niv/1_peter/4.htm)
Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

**Proverbs 10:12** [**English Standard Version**](http://biblehub.com/esv/proverbs/10.htm)
Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.

Matthew 24:10 [**King James Bible**](http://biblehub.com/kjv/matthew/24.htm)
And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

Hebrews 12:15 [**King James Bible**](http://biblehub.com/kjv/hebrews/12.htm)
Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;

Psalms 119:165 KJV

Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

**KJV Luke 17**Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!

**2**It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

**3**Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

**4**And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

**5**And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

# Jeremiah 17:9King James Version (KJV)

**9**The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

KJV GENESIS 4:

**3**And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord.

**4**And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

**5**But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

**6**And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

**7**If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

**8**And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

NIV 1 Corinthians 6

**5**I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? **6**But instead, one brother takes another to court—and this in front of unbelievers!

**7**The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? **8**Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters.

**Exodus 14:14 -** [**King James Bible**](http://biblehub.com/kjv/exodus/14.htm)
The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.