

**Theme:**

ENEMIES OF THE SOUL

**Title:**

OFFENSE

**Desired Outcomes:**

Participants will learn about four enemies of the soul which can pass as friends, but are actually destructive enemies of the soul. These four adversaries can destroy your faith, confidence, and especially your relationships. They may masquerade as protective walls or defense mechanisms we think we need in life. They can make you doubt yourself, others, your dreams, and even the purpose God has placed on your life.

**Core Scripture:**

Matthew 24:10 (For context read 24:1-11); John 16:1 (for context John 15:1 thru 16:1)

**Introduction:**

This week we will discuss the third enemy of the soul which is OFFENSE. We live in a time when people are easily, frequently and deeply offended. As I observe my own life and the lives of others, I've noticed that sometimes people can get stuck or hindered in their progress. Many times the reason why they don't advance or go forward is because of offense. When we don't overcome offenses we get caught in cycles of failure, self-pity, rejection, depression.

**Word:****1) Stumbling Blocks**

An offense can create a stumbling block or impediment in the way, causing another to trip and fall

- A. Some people fall and never get up -lose their ability to recover
- B. Some people fall and get injured and develop a limp (twisted ankle) or an open wound
  - If not cleaned out it can get infected. It can also draw other things
  - The enemy is always drawn to your pain and the unhealed areas in your life
- C. The enemy can also keep putting stumbling blocks in your way
  - The blocks are tied to the same issues and unresolved pain
- D. Some people start carrying the offense and develop a spirit of offense

**YOU GOT TO STOP TRIPPIN**

**II) Two Principles on Offense**

- A. Offense is unproductive
- B. Offense is an act, being offended is a choice
  - You have to learn to step over or sidestep the offense

**YOU HAVE TO STOP TRIPPIN**

*1. David could have been offended. I Samuel 17:17-30 NKJV*

- a. Growing up in his dad's house and being overlooked when Samuel came to anoint the next king
- b. Treated him like he didn't belong there
- c. Diminished his mission
- d. Questioned his motives

***i. Champions refuse to let offense keep them from being Great***

2. *Woman of Canaan could have been offended. Mathew 15:21-28 NKJV*

- a. Over being made to feel different
- b. Being disrespected

***i. Worshippers refuse to let offense mess up their Miracle***

3. *The Blind Man could have been offended. Mark 8: 22-26 NKJ V*

- a. Being asked to do something uncomfortable
- b. Feeling like you have been taken advantage of
- c. You only see the offense

***i. Destiny walkers refuse to let offense rob them of being able to see***

**III) People Who Are Easily Offended Are:**

- A. Selfish- got to have things their way
- B. Insecure- the offense makes them feel rejected
- C. Negative- become pessimistic, woe is me
- D. Miserable- Offense steals your joy peace appreciation grace mercy
- E. Stuck- can't move forward in Purpose
- F. Unwise- contradict Jesus teachings
- G. Not Free

**STOP TRIPPIN !!**

**IV) Take Care of Offenses**

- A. Mathew 5:23-24
  - a. Don't try to offer your gift and you have unresolved issues
- B. Mathew 18:15
  - a. Go to your brother! Don't talk about your brother
  - b. Either repent or forgive
  - c. We can forgive others because Jesus forgave us while hanging on Calvary's Cross
- C. Psalm 119:165
  - a. Nothing offends those who love God's law

**The following could be relevant questions to ask:**

1. Has anyone ever been offended? If so, what did you do about it?
2. Has anyone ever offended someone else? If so, when the person let you know, what did you do?

**Worship:** Music of your choice. Might choose songs that encourage love for one another

**Works:**

Pray for our ability to be obedient to the word of God by showing love one for another. If we offend our neighbor, to have the courage to acknowledge it and ask for forgiveness. Also pray for discernment to not let offense be a stumbling block that holds us back from what God has for us.