



GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK OF JANUARY 23 | I WILL CHOOSE NOT TO STAY OFFENDED

During this series, our prayer is that your group will identify and take tangible steps to grow in your faith. Be sure to save at least 15-20 minutes of your group time to walk through the TAKE ACTION portion of the message guide to create your own "I will" statements.

WARM-UP QUESTION

Think of a time that you were offended. How did you respond? Would you choose to respond the same way or change how you reacted?

DISCUSS

Start your discussion by sharing what stood out to you from Sunday's sermon. Were there any new insights or key takeaways for you?

Read Colossians 3:12-15

- Being holy means to be set apart. What do you imagine when you think of "a holy people"?
- How has your relationship with Christ changed your character?
- Look up verse 13 in several Bible translations (NLT, ESV, NIV, The Message). How does this help you understand how to react to other people's faults?
- Since we are called to forgive as Christ forgave us, what does Biblical forgiveness look like? How does it differ from our culture's idea of forgiveness? Where do boundaries come into play in Biblical forgiveness?
- Think of times in scripture where characters needed forgiveness. How did forgiveness play out in their stories? (Some examples might be Joseph and his brothers in Genesis chapters 37-50 or David's sinning against God with Bathsheba in 2 Samuel chapters 11 and 12).

Read Colossians 3:16-17

- What is the "message about Christ? How can that fill your life? What other narratives might that message replace?
- Paul's instruction to "Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts" feels out of left field. Why do you think he included this in a passage about forgiveness and fighting resentment?
- What patterns, themes, or repetitions do you see in Colossians 3: 12-17?

TAKE ACTION

Over and over in Scripture, we see the importance of knowing and doing. Take some time to make an individual commitment statement (I will...) based on what you've learned this week.

Who/What are you remaining offended by or harboring resentment toward?

What is God calling you to do in order to experience real change in your faith? Think through the following lenses:

Consistent: regular and daily

Actionable: I can see it and measure it

Behavior: more than a feeling or good intention

Over time: I am not going to give up

Spend a few minutes praying as a group, asking God to show you what He's saying and what you need to obey to help craft your "I will" statement. Then after praying, share your "I will" statements, keeping them as simple and practice as possible.