



A Pastor for Every Person!
ROCK GROUPS
(Evangelistic Care Groups)
ROCK GROUP DIRECTIVE

FREE FROM THE TRAP OF OFFENSE

ICE BREAKER... Are you a hunter? Ever been hunting?

Ever seen a hunter set an animal trap?

In **Luke 17:1**, Jesus said "It is impossible that no **offenses** should come"

There are lots of opportunities to be offended! We can't always control that. But, we can control our response, and whether we take the bait of the enemy!

The word offense in the New Testament comes from the Greek word *skandalon*. *Skandalon* is the part of a hunter's trap where the bait is attached – "**the bait stick**". In the trap of offense, Satan is the "hunter" and we are the "hunted." As long as we intentionally stay away from the baits of bitterness, resentment, and unforgiveness, we stay free. But the moment we begin to justify and hold on to those feelings, we are **TRAPPED!**

Proverbs 18 ¹⁹ A **brother offended** is harder to be won than a strong city NASB

Notice, it says a "brother" offended... the people who usually hurt us the most are those closest to us, because our expectations of them are higher. Usually, the greatest hatred is found between those who were once close.

Have you experienced this? (*the struggle of forgiving someone close to you*)

What are some of the symptoms, or fruit, of being offended?

What lies do we tell ourselves to justify being offended?

Luke 17 ³ "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, **forgive** him. ⁴ "And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' **forgive** him." ⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, "**Increase our faith!**" NASB

Why did the apostles ask for more faith?

Matthew 18 ²¹ Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, **how often** should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” ²² “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but **seventy times seven!**” NLT

Matthew 6 ¹⁴...**if** you **forgive** men when they **sin** against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But **if** you do **not forgive** men their sins, **your Father will not forgive your sins.**

How do we know if we have really forgiven? (*Love is evident*)

I Corinthians 13 ⁴ Love is patient and **kind**. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud. ⁵ Love is not rude, is **not selfish**, and does not get upset with others. Love **does not count up wrongs that have been done.** ⁶ Love takes **no pleasure in evil** but rejoices over the truth. ⁷ Love patiently accepts all things. It always **trusts**, always hopes, and always endures. ⁸ **Love never ends**...¹³...these three things **continue forever**: faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love. NCV

Proverbs 3 ²⁷ Do not **withhold good** from those who deserve it, when **it is in your power to act.** NIV

They “deserve” the same forgiveness and grace God extended to you!

Is God leading you to do good to someone who hurt you?

Let's **pray in groups of three** that we would walk in unconditional love and forgiveness, free from any offense!

- ✓ Did you share the vision and mission of COTR and the Rock Groups?
- ✓ Prayer, Ministry time, and Fellowship
- ✓ Prayer for COTR Leadership
- ✓ “Empty Chair” Prayer - encourage group to **invite someone new next time**
- ✓ Did everyone complete the sign-in form?

📌 Remember to complete the **online report** and **attendance** for the meeting soon