

(un)offended

WEEK 3
THE OTHER SIDE
DANNY ANDERSON

Sensible people control their temper; they earn respect by **overlooking** wrongs. *Proverbs 19:11*

“Anger and rest are always at odds. You can’t have both at once.”
Brant Hansen

There is always another **side** to the story.

The one who states his case first seems right, until the **other** comes and examines him. *Proverbs 18:17*

You don’t have all the **facts**.

There are **reasons** why people do what they do.

“Instead of putting people in their place, put yourself in their place.”
John Maxwell

1. Don’t **rush** to judgment.

Fools vent their anger, but the **wise** quietly hold it back.
Proverbs 29:11

2. Seek first to **understand**.

Spouting off before listening to the facts is both **shameful** and **foolish**. *Proverbs 18:13*

Help me understand.

3. Get insight from **others**.

Without counsel plans fail, but with **many advisers** they succeed.
Proverbs 15:22

“When the Lord has fulfilled for my lord every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him ruler over Israel, my lord will not have on his conscience the **staggering burden** of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself...” David replied to Abigail, “Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you to meet me today! Thank God for your **good sense!** Bless you for keeping me from murder and from carrying out vengeance with my own hands.” *1 Samuel 25:30-33*

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For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Introduction

In order to live (un)offended; we must learn to press pause before rushing to judgment. When we do, we have time to seek understanding of the situation, and to get insight from others. With a better understanding of the situation we will be well on our way to becoming (un)offended.

Discussion Questions

1. Read Proverbs 18:17. There are always two sides to every story. Share a time from your life when someone rushed to judgment without having all of the information about something you said or did.

How did it make you feel?

2. When you don’t have all the facts it’s easy to get offended. What are some examples from your environments or relationships where you feel this happens the most?

Share a time when you rushed to judgment without all of the facts and then discovered the other side of the story. How could you have benefited from “pressing pause” in this situation?

3. “Pressing pause” gives us a chance to seek to understand (Proverbs 18:13), and to get insight from others (Proverbs 15:22). Why is it so hard to admit we might not have all the facts, or that we need guidance or information from others?

Why are understanding and insight from others so important in helping you become a person that is (un)offended?

4. John Maxwell said, “Instead of putting people in their place, put yourself in their place.” Danny shared some ways to avoid becoming offended – (admit there is another side to the story, recognize you don’t have all the facts, understand there is a reason, decide not to rush to judgment, seek first to understand, and get insight from

others). Which of these do you find yourself needing to work on the most?

What practical steps could you take this week to become a person who is (un)offended?

OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION

The organization, Adult and Child, needs your support. When children are placed in foster care, Adult and Child provides the foster family with a backpack full of items to help get the child settled – toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, and maybe something small but special to show the child they are loved. As a group or family, purchase and supply the backpacks with the items mentioned. Stocked backpacks can be brought to the Info Desk during weekend service at any campus or dropped off to the Greenwood/Banta campus offices during the week. If you have any questions, contact Kerry Carmichael at kcarmichael@eclife.org.

Do you have a passion or skill? Maybe you like to repair cars, do plumbing or electrical work, sew or cook. If you want to put your skills and passions to use for someone in need let us know! As we hear of needs throughout our church and community we can connect you to help with the solution. Email Kerry Carmichael to learn more about how you can help at kcarmichael@eclife.org.

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____

I’m accountable for _____, and their action steps are _____

My memory verse is _____

This coming week, I’m praying for: _____