

## ***Ghosts of Christmas Past ~ Week 1*** ***Overcoming Offenses***

Think back to the message. What sticks out?

### Key Scripture

*A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense.* Proverbs 19:11 NIV

### Key Points

- Your life is too short and your calling is too great to live offended.
- I'm getting over being easily offended.

*Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.* Ephesians 4:2 NLT

- I'm getting over the big offenses.

*Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.* Colossians 3:13 NLT

### More Scripture

Ecclesiastes 7:21-22, Matthew 18:15-17, James 1:19, Luke 6:22-23

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Do you ever totally offend people without knowing it? Stories, please.
- On a scale of 1-10, how easily are you offended? What's something minor that offends you?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- What do you think is at the root of most offenses?
- We talked about how we judge others by their actions while judging ourselves by our intentions. What do you think?

Start sharing. Choose questions that create openness.

- Read Colossians 3:13. What are some of your most typical barriers to forgiving others?
- Have you ever had to get over a big offense? What worked for you? How did you do it?
- Have you ever been on the side of the offender? What did forgiveness feel like?
- Who is someone you need to forgive? How will you do it?

Start praying. Be bold, and pray with power.

- Jesus, You once said we should consider it a blessing to be hated or excluded on Your behalf. Will You give us the power and wisdom to live this way? Holy Spirit, nudge us to release people from how they've wronged us. Heavenly Father, thank You for forgiving us. Amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Choose one person or experience to release this week. Create a plan for how you'll do it, and ask someone to hold you to it.
- Set a daily or weekly reminder in your phone to live free by releasing offenses instead of rehearsing them.