



Week of October 15
Unoffendable: The Difference it Makes¹

Overview:

Would it surprise you to hear someone say, “We are not entitled to get offended or stay angry at other people”? That’s the premise of Brant Hansen’s book “Unoffendable.” Not only will you be challenged to love and forgive in ways you never imagined, you’ll also learn how Jesus’ teaching leads us toward a life of peace, justice, and flourishing. When you understand some of the physiological effects of anger, you’ll be more convinced that living “unoffendable” is not only possible, but desired.

Group Objectives:

Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purpose of community groups.

- Reflect on this past Sunday’s message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members.
- Pray for someone who has hurt you and discern whether God may be calling you to **reconcile** or **reinstate** them in your life.

DNA statement(s) tie-in:

- *We are Empowered by the Holy Spirit.* The Holy Spirit within us enables us to live a life beyond belief – a life filled with joy, purpose, and power. We are empowered to live “unoffendable.”

Conversation Starters:

- What stood out to you from this week’s sermon?
- What has been the most helpful practice or takeaway from this series (and/or the book)?

Listening to God

- Where did you experience God last week? How were you able to join God on mission?

Learning from God’s Word: Bible Study Discussion

Choosing to be “unoffendable” includes learning to practice forgiveness. While there are different levels of response (*release, reconcile, restore*), when we decide to forgive someone else, Jesus heals and restores **us**. When we focus on seeing others as God sees them, we can let go of the “right” to be offended at every person (or ideology) that differs from our own. As we allow the Holy Spirit to sanctify us, we will display God’s character in our own actions and words. Our choice to obey God and walk in the Spirit helps us to partner in our sanctification.

¹ This study guide is adapted from Brant Hansen’s Bible Study Guide *Unoffendable* and written by Dawn Gentry.

Read Galatians 5:13-23

- What stood out to you from these verses as you read them?
- Note which words in the passage connect with the theme of anger. How do those words or phrases support the themes we've explored in this study?
- Who in your life has been a model of loving others as Jesus taught us? What makes that person stand out in your mind?
- Look at the "acts of the flesh" Paul mentions in verses 19-21. Which have been struggles for you in the past?
- Now look at the "fruits of the Spirit" listed in verses 22-23. Which "fruits" show the most connection with choosing to live "unoffendable"?

Leaning into Obedience:

- How do you sense God calling you to respond to these passages?
 - Is there an example to follow? A command to obey?
- How can the group encourage you this week as you respond?
- One of the promises in this "Unoffendable" study is that choosing humility and forgiveness will produce freedom. What are two steps you can take this week to intentionally move **away from** the "acts of the flesh" and move instead **toward freedom** in Christ?

Prayer Prompts:

- Invite members of the group to share requests.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following prompts.
 - *God, what would you have me release? What would you have me turn toward?*
- Pray through the "fruits of the Spirit" word by word, asking God to grow these as evidence of the Spirit in your own life.

For further study:

- Brant Hansen, *Unoffendable*. Brant has lots of online content available [here](#) and his podcast is available at <https://www.iheart.com/podcast/263-brant-sherri-oddcas-29945421/>
- Timothy Keller, *Forgive: Why Should I and How Can I?*
- Thomas A Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*
- Bible Project videos: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/slow-to-anger/> and <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/gospel-kingdom/>