

THE DIFFICULT PEOPLE

Lifegroups | Week 7 | FALL 2018

ICEBREAKER

Go around the group and asking each person if they need prayer about something and come together to lay hands on the person and pray for them!

OPEN IN PRAYER AND PLAY VIDEO

MESSAGE SUMMARY

God has stationed people in our lives to be with us through different seasons. We should be able to exit a seasonal friendship as gracefully as we enter into it. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 talks about how we should love, but it's not only about loving God, but also loving those that come and go in our lives.

SCRIPTURE *(do not read until prompted in the discussion questions)*

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 | Matthew 11:1-6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Over the years people come and go throughout our lives. Relationships shift with seasons and every season has a beginning and an end. You should exit the relationship as gracefully as you entered it. **Have you ever exited a friendship gracefully? What do you do when you see them? Have you ever exited a relationship in bitterness? What do you think when you see them?** *(ex. I always go up and say hi to them or every time I see them I think of how I was wronged and walk away from them.)*

- Once you understand the nature of thing its behavior will never surprise you. In friendships and relationships you have to set your expectations appropriately. If you meet someone and they are terrible at calling back, don't expect them to call you back. You can't get disappointed unless your expectations are misplaced. **What are your expectations when you meet someone and feel a connection? How do you feel when someone doesn't meet those expectations?**

- The only thing you can control is how you respond to offense. **Read Matthew 11:1-6.** In the beginning John the Baptist launched Jesus' ministry but years later when John was in jail and Jesus was in the midst of his ministry he was questioning Jesus. John was about to get bitter and offended but Jesus was saying, "don't take the bait". The Pharisees were constantly offended by Jesus but never received a miracle. We are the only ones who can control how we respond to offense. **What is your first response when you get offended? Can you let it go quickly or does it dwell over in your heart?** (ex. I give that person a nasty face or make up different scenarios in my head.)

- A relationship usually breaks because of offense. A mature person can navigate successfully through a change in relationships. Immature people don't understand that some relationships change. When we stay offended we become trapped in a bitter box that we stay in and get caught in it. **Are you still bitter about a past relationship/friendship that ended badly? How can you get outside of that box to be free?**

CONCLUSION

Offense will always happen in one way or another. It is up to us how we respond to how others offend us. Offense can build a box around us that binds us to bitterness and never lets us go. Don't let offense be the thing that keeps you a step away from your blessing.

OUR CHALLENGE

Take this week to ask God if you are still holding on to any offense from past friendships or relationships. Go down the list of 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, are you treating each and every person who has come into your life with that kind of love? And not just by actions but by thoughts as well.

GROUP REMINDERS

- **Fortnite Tournament:** November 17th Youth Building
- **Volunteer Rally for Kids/Youth:** November 18th 1:30pm, MPR
- **Young Adults Friendsgiving:** Tuesday November 20th 7:30pm, Youth Building