

### Key Scripture

Matthew 15:21-28 (NLT) Then Jesus left Galilee and went north to the region of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>A Gentile woman who lived there came to him, pleading, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! For my daughter is possessed by a demon that torments her severely." <sup>23</sup>But Jesus gave her no reply, not even a word. Then his disciples urged him to send her away. "Tell her to go away," they said. "She is bothering us with all her begging." <sup>24</sup>Then Jesus said to the woman, "I was sent only to help God's lost sheep—the people of Israel." <sup>25</sup>But she came and worshiped him, pleading again, "Lord, help me!" <sup>26</sup>Jesus responded, "It isn't right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs." <sup>27</sup>She replied, "That's true, Lord, but even dogs are allowed to eat the scraps that fall beneath their masters' table." <sup>28</sup>"Dear woman," Jesus said to her, "your faith is great. Your request is granted." And her daughter was instantly healed.

### Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What is the dumbest thing you have ever gotten offended over? How did you overcome that offense?
- How do you respond to Pastor Lane's comment from the message that there is no one that can offend us like Jesus? Has Jesus ever offended you?

### Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- What do you think is the biggest contributing factor to creating a culture of offended people?
- What is the hardest part of getting over or letting go of an offense?
- Why does God often put our miracle on the other side of an offense? Can you think of any other miracles in the Bible that happened when someone overcame an offense (stumbling block)?

### Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- What is your current level of offend-ability?
- Of the four offenses we see in our text, being ignored, being hurt by the institution, being made to feel insignificant, being insulted: which one has been the hardest for you to overcome? How did you finally do it?
- How can we worship God when we feel like He is insulting us by our current circumstances? How does choosing to worship anyway contribute to our ability to GET OVER IT?

### Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

*Father, I thank You that you already have our miracle ready for us, that everything we need is ours if we belong to you. Help us to see clearly, walk in humility, and not give up too early or walk away because of an offense and miss out on what you have for us. In Jesus' name, amen.*

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

- Turn up the volume and passion of your worship. If you don't already have one, create a worship playlist on your favorite music app. Every time you want to rehearse the offense, chose to worship instead.
- Talk to somebody. Find someone you trust to talk to and help you process your offense. Sometimes just getting it off your chest is all you need.
- Pray! Pray for clarity and humility every time the opportunity for offense comes.