



Mousetrap Part 2

August 23, 2026

Offense is a trap, and Scripture shows how costly it can become. People in the Bible who refused to deal with hurt became bitter and blinded, missed God's purpose and blessing, and even failed to enter the Promised Land.

Jesus experienced betrayal, rejection, and injustice, yet offense never stopped Him from fulfilling His calling.

In MOUSETRAP: How to Deal with Offense, we'll discover how God's Word gives us real answers for real hurts—helping us forgive, walk in unity, protect our hearts, and become a mature church that is healthy, growing, and full of love and truth.

Life Group Discussion — Processing Offense

1. **Why is offense such a dangerous trap?** How can holding onto hurt affect us spiritually, emotionally, and relationally?
2. **Offense often grows when we nurse it, rehearse it, and then disperse it to others.** Which of these do you think is easiest to fall into, and how can we stop the process before it grows?
3. **"Offense magnifies what they did. Forgiveness magnifies what Jesus did."** What does it look like practically to focus more on what Jesus has done for us than on what someone has done to us?
4. **Is there an offense you need to process differently this week?** What would it look like to forgive, release it to God, or lovingly address the person involved?

Key Takeaways

- Offense is not a matter of *if* but *when* -- Jesus himself said in Luke 17:1 that offenses are impossible to avoid.
- The enemy uses offense as a tool to pull believers away from their calling and to divide the body of Christ.
- The three stages of offense are nursing it, rehearsing it, and dispersing it -- each stage deepens the trap.
- Forgiveness magnifies what Jesus did. Offense magnifies what the offender did.
- Mature believers learn to process offense rather than be consumed by it.
- Unity in the church is a high priority to God and a primary target of the enemy.

Closing Prayer Focus

Close your group time by praying together over these areas:

- That God would protect your church and your group from the trap of offense
- That each member would grow in the ability to process hurt through the cross rather than holding onto it
- That God would give each person the grace to forgive quickly and love genuinely
- That the unity Jesus prayed for in John 17 would be evident in your church, your group, and your homes