



I Know a Guy – Week 5 Group Guide – He Is Hard to Offend

Use this guide to reflect on Sunday's teaching with a few friends or a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about taking a next spiritual step, contact info@wschurch.org. Group leaders receive communication with specific instructions during this series. Have questions? Email DerekV@wschurch.org.

Introduction and Icebreaker (10 minutes) – Make sure you hear something from everyone.

- Quickly share: What's one thing you're grateful for from the past week?
- What's one topic that you are passionate about? Why?

Message and Scripture Discussion (30 minutes)

- **What stood out to you from Sunday's service?** How did you sense God at work in you through the songs, the message, and being together with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- Chip shared that being the right kind of unoffendable includes both caring about people and yet being unaffected by their criticisms. Jesus models this type of unoffendability, but it is difficult for us.
 - **Do you tend to be more easily offended and impacted by others or more unaffected, caring less about others' opinions?**
 - **What is the impact of either extreme on relationships?**
- **Read John 1:35-51.**
 - What do you notice about Jesus?
 - What is your reaction to this scene? How does it challenge you?
- Reflecting on this story, Chip shared, "Instead of focusing on the offense, Jesus saw through the offense to the whole person behind it." **What are some ways we could follow Jesus' example and see people through his eyes?**
- "Sometimes our being hurt is less caused by what someone else has said... and it's more caused by a voice INSIDE our heads." Chip shared some examples of identifying the half-truths that hurt us. **Do you have any half-truths that you are tempted to believe?**
- "If we always believed the whole truth about our inherent value, we'd be extremely hard to offend." **How does this challenge you?**
- Is there anything else from the message you want to explore this week?
- **Before you finish your discussion, ask everyone to identify one thing they've come to know about Jesus during this series.**

Daily Time With Jesus Debrief (40 minutes)

Invite your group to share about their time with Jesus from the past week and any notes they made in their book.

- **Open your book to page 53.**
Invite your group to share their observations and reflections on the questions:
 - **How did Jesus interact with people?**
 - **How did people interact with people?**
 - **How have I interacted with people this week?**
- **Open your book to the Life-Changing Friendships section on pages 17-24. Now is the time to discuss this with your group!**
 - What became clear to you in the reflection questions?
 - Is there a way that knowing Jesus more is challenging you relationally?

- Is there one next step you want to take?

Group Logistics (5 minutes)

- **Daily Time with Jesus:** There's one more week of devotions in your book/text messages. Keep going! If you'd like, share some ideas for resources or reading plans to keep the habit of regular time with Jesus.
- **What's Next?** Whether or not you're continuing as a group in some way, we hope the relationships made during this series can continue somehow! Talk about how you might do that. We've provided more guidance in your leader notes.

Prayer (5 minutes)

- Pray using the popcorn method – someone opens with a short prayer, then anyone can “pop” in with a short spoken prayer, and then someone closes. Another option is to go around the group and pray for the person next to you; ask God to bless them.

To find all of the series information, go to www.wschurch.org/iknowaguy.

You can sign up for daily text devotions by texting JESUS to 217217 or by going to www.wschurch.org/txtsignup. These devotions correspond with the daily time with Jesus in your book.

Message Main Points and Scripture:

- 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 – “We are afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed.”
- Romans 12:14-21 – “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but do what is noble in the sight of all. Never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God...Instead, ‘if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink’ ...Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”
- **It's hard to have a satisfying relationship with someone who's easily offended.**
- **Being offended often comes with some positional perks.**
- **When everyone in a culture is easily offended, relationships will suffer.**
- John 1:46 - “Nazareth!” Nathanael said. “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”
- John 1:47-49 - “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” “How do you know about me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus replied, “I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you.” Then Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!”
- **Jesus is hard to offend.**
- **Jesus saw through the offense to the whole person behind it.**
- **Hurt people hurt people.**
- **Getting offended is optional.**
- **Jesus believed the truth, not half-truths.**
- **A “half-truth” = a spoken truth + an unspoken lie.**
- **“Chip, I don't like you.” + [And you need me to like you.]**
- **“Chip, your message today was garbage.” + [And every message you deliver needs to be excellent.]**
- **If you tend to fully believe things about yourself that are only half true, you'll get hurt easily and often.**
- **“People from Nazareth are worthless.” + [A guy's hometown determines his worth.]**
- **If we always believed the whole truth about our inherent value, we'd be extremely hard to offend.**
- Luke 23:34 - Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”
- Luke 6:27-35 – “Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. Do to others as you would like them to do to you...Love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.