

COMMUNITY GROUP

DISCUSSION GUIDE

January 6/7, 2024

WELCOME/ OPENING PRAYER

PURPOSE: *We are here as a group to make and multiply disciples.*

DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

WARMUP: *Personal Testimony*

or

Question: What is a hope or a concern you have about 2024?

SET THE STAGE: *We live in a time when people seem to be increasingly offended by what others think, say, and do. We have all been victims of a sinful world and there are reasons to be offended, but it is hard to believe that God is honored by us adopting a victimhood mentality. Though we don't have the option of escaping the effects of an offensive world, we do have options in how we react and respond. In Mark 7, Jesus takes the opportunity to introduce a key principle: it isn't what is outside of us that defiles us but rather what is inside of us. If we are to move toward becoming more un-offendable, we must allow Jesus to evaluate what is in our own hearts.*

STORY or READ THE PASSAGE: *Mark 7:14-23*

HEAD QUESTIONS:

Do you agree that offense and outrage are on the rise in our culture? Why?

Why not? If so, what do you think is contributing to it?

The Pharisees often took offense on behalf of God. Is that right or wrong?

Do believers today do this, and if so, what does that look like?

HEART QUESTIONS:

On a scale from 1-10 (*10 being the highest*) how would you rate yourself when it comes to being easily offended? Why?

What are the types of things that offend you the most? How have those things changed over time in your life?

When you have been offended in the past, what are some of the reasons you have held on to that anger and not moved past it?

HANDS QUESTIONS:

BLESS

How can our ability to become more un-offendable serve in our work of sharing the gospel and leading people to Jesus?

TAKEAWAY

CLOSING PRAYER