

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: Trapped by Offense

Devotional

We all get offended. Someone says something sharp, a friend lets you down, a relationship hits a wall. That is just life. But here is where things get dangerous: it is not the offense itself that does the most damage. It is staying offended.

Think about the last time something bothered you and you just held onto it. Maybe you replayed the moment over and over. Maybe you told a few people about it. Maybe you started avoiding that person altogether. What started as a small wound quietly grew into something much bigger.

Proverbs 19:11 tells us that wisdom brings patience, and there is real glory in overlooking an offense. That is not weakness. That is strength. But wisdom also knows the difference between something you can let go and something that is quietly damaging a relationship, a family, or your own faith.

God cares deeply about how we handle the hard moments between people. He does not want us to stuff things down or blow things up. He wants us to grow through them, together.

You are not alone in this. Every person reading these words has been hurt by someone. And every person reading these words has hurt someone else. That is what makes this so important. How we respond to offense shapes us, and it shapes the people around us.

Bible Verse

"A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense." - Proverbs 19:11

Reflection Question

Is there an offense you have been holding onto that has quietly grown bigger than it actually is?

Quote

"The trap really is an offense because we get offended regularly by many people. It just happens we're human. The trap really is staying offended, that we recognize the offense and then we stay offended."

Prayer

Lord, give me the wisdom to see my offenses clearly and the courage to handle them the way You would. Help me not to stay stuck in hurt when You are calling me forward. Amen.

Day 2: Only Two Options

Devotional

When someone hurts you, what do you do? If you are honest, the answer is probably somewhere between venting to a friend, replaying it in your head, or quietly pulling away. Those responses feel natural. But they are not the ones Jesus calls us to.

In Matthew 18:15, Jesus lays it out simply. If someone sins against you, go to them. Just the two of you. Talk it out privately and honestly. That is the starting point. And when you read it, you realize Jesus is not giving us a long list of options. He is giving us two: let it go, or address it.

That is it. No third option. No gathering people to your side. No passive silence that slowly poisons a relationship. Just the courage to either release it or face it.

This is actually good news. Because when the path is clear, the only question left is whether you are willing to walk it. And God does not leave you to walk it alone. He gives you His Spirit, His Word, and a community of people who are figuring this out right alongside you.

You do not have to be perfect at this. You just have to be willing. That willingness is where healing begins.

Bible Verse

"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over." - Matthew 18:15

Reflection Question

When you are offended, which of the two options do you tend to avoid, and why?

Quote

"As a follower of Jesus, when an offense comes, there's two responses to an offense. One is that we step over it, that we let it go. Two is that we address it. Church. There is no third option for what we do."

Prayer

Jesus, help me to be honest about the ways I avoid dealing with offense. Give me the courage to choose one of Your two paths and the wisdom to know which one fits. Amen.

Day 3: Running From What You Need to Face

Devotional

Elijah had just experienced one of the greatest spiritual victories in all of Scripture. Fire fell from heaven. The prophets of Baal were defeated. God showed up in a powerful way. And then one threatening message from Queen Jezebel sent him running into the wilderness.

He sat under a tree and asked God to let Him die. He was exhausted, isolated, and convinced he was the only faithful person left. Sound familiar?

Avoidance does that to us. When we run from something that needs to be addressed, we end up in a cave. We start to isolate. We begin to tell ourselves a story about the situation, and we tell it so many times that we stop being able to hear anything else, including the voice of God.

But here is what is beautiful about this story. God did not shame Elijah. He fed him, let him rest, and then gently asked, "What are you doing here?" And eventually, He redirected Elijah back to the very thing he had been running from.

Unaddressed offense does not disappear. It waits. But God is patient, and He will keep creating opportunities for you to deal with what you have been avoiding. That is not punishment. That is love.

Bible Verse

"And the word of the Lord came to Him: 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'" - 1 Kings 19:9

Reflection Question

Is there something you have been running from that God keeps bringing back across your path?

Quote

"When you run from an offense, you'll find yourself in a cave. You'll begin to avoid the circumstances, the situation. You'll begin to isolate."

Prayer

Father, I confess that I sometimes run from hard things instead of facing them. Redirect me with grace, and give me the strength to stop hiding and start healing. Amen.

Day 4: The Courage of an Honest Conversation

Devotional

Most of us dread hard conversations. We worry about saying the wrong thing, making it worse, or damaging the relationship beyond repair. So we stay quiet. And the silence slowly does the very damage we were trying to avoid.

But here is something worth holding onto: you do not have to say it perfectly. You just have to say it.

When you go to someone with humility and honesty, you are giving them something valuable. You are telling them that the relationship matters enough to have an uncomfortable conversation. That is a gift, even when it does not feel like one in the moment.

Jesus modeled this throughout His ministry. He did not avoid hard conversations. He walked toward them with truth and love together. He invited people in rather than pushing them away. And He calls us to do the same.

The encouraging reality is that most offenses, the vast majority of them, can be resolved with one honest conversation. Not a perfect one. Just an honest one. When you lead with care and humility, it opens a door that silence keeps shut.

You are not trying to win. You are trying to restore. And that changes everything about how you walk into the room.

Bible Verse

"But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses." - Matthew 18:16

Reflection Question

What is one relationship in your life where an honest conversation could open a door that silence has been keeping shut?

Quote

"It's not about putting someone in their place or giving them a beat down that they deserve. It's about lifting somebody up and giving them the opportunity and the dignity for an honest conversation about a hard subject."

Prayer

Lord, give me the words and the courage to speak truth with love. Help me to walk toward hard conversations instead of away from them, trusting that You go before me. Amen.

Day 5: Turn Your Offense Into Offense

Devotional

Here is a reframe worth sitting with. What if the offense you have been carrying is not just something that happened to you, but an opportunity to help someone else grow?

When you choose to address an offense with humility and love, you are not just protecting your own heart. You are stepping into a role God has given you in someone else's life. You are giving them the chance to see something they might not be able to see on their own. That is not confrontation. That is discipleship.

We cannot grow without conflict. That is just the truth. The hard conversations, the ones we receive and the ones we have to give, are often the moments that shape us most. They stretch us. They humble us. They make us more like Jesus.

This is not a solo journey. God designed us to need each other. You cannot fully become who He created you to be without the people around you, and they cannot either. That means the health of your relationships is not just personal. It is part of how the whole body grows.

So take the offense and turn it into something. Choose the awkward conversation. Lead with love. Trust that God can use your courage to bring healing, growth, and deeper connection to the people He has placed in your life.

Bible Verse

"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over." - Matthew 18:15

Reflection Question

How might the offense you have been avoiding actually be an invitation from God to play a meaningful role in someone else's growth?

Quote

"I want you to turn your offense into offense. I want you to take the offense and turn it into offense, meaning that you'll choose to have an awkward conversation that will help somebody else follow God with more understanding and dignity and humility and learning."

Prayer

Jesus, help me to see my offenses as opportunities rather than burdens. Give me the courage to turn hurt into healing and to trust that You can use my willingness to make a difference. Amen.