



Don't Stumble on Jesus

We can become so easily offended, and sad to say....Christians can be some of the most easily offended! This shouldn't be since we have the key to unlocking the answers to the questions of how to handle situations, conversation and people.

- Circle Time: Share about a time that someone was offended by you but their offense was unfounded.
 - How was the situation resolved if it was?
- Last week we talked about not being offended by others. This week we are talking about not being offended by Jesus. What are some reasons people give that they are offended by Jesus?
 - Are these reasons founded? Do they make sense?
- In his teaching, Pastor Dave taught that there are 2 reasons that Jesus actually is offensive to people.
 - 1. He uncovers the part of the heart people want to keep covered.
 - Read Matthew 23:1-12. Who is the audience of Jesus' discourse concerning the religious leaders? How might what he says affect how this audience respects the authority of the religious leaders?
 - How would you respond if you were a pharisee hearing what Jesus said?
 - Have you ever experienced this? Jesus revealed something about you that you wanted to remain hidden. What were your emotional responses? How did you process?
 - What was the ultimate outcome?
 - 2. He wants your identity wrapped up in him.
 - How does taking on the identity of Christ offend people?
 - Read Luke 9:23. What does it mean to deny yourself?
 - What does it mean to take up your cross?
 - How do these 2 concepts identify the life Christ lived?
- The Greek word for offense is *skandalizo*. It means to stumble or fall away.
 - How does this inform you of what happens when you live offended?
- What is the key challenge you receive from this discussion?