

# TRAPS AND TROLS

## GROUP GUIDES WEEK TWO- TRAP OF OFFENSE



### Sentence

Safely sidestep the traps in your way by walking in grace and forgiveness.



### Story

Share a time when you put your foot in your mouth and how you tried to fix the situation.

"Talking about someone not realizing they could hear you..."  
"Texting the wrong number you didn't want them to read or see..."  
"Congratulating a woman you thought was pregnant..."



### Set-Up

1 Kings 21

Through this chapter we examine someone who is offended. The reactions of Ahab and his wife Jezebel cause dire consequences for everyone involved. We see that when we allow it, offense can bring on strong emotions and sinful responses. There is another option though, and that is to respond with grace.

Read 1 Kings 21:1-29

How do you respond to offense?



### Search

Read 2 Timothy 2:22-26



#### Verse 22

What are you pursuing in your relationships and daily encounters?  
(i.e. correctness, control, respect, peace, etc.)

How would others say you navigate conflict and offense?



#### Verse 23

What little things do you hold onto that you should let go?  
(i.e. small annoyances of a spouse or relative, comments from a co-worker)

➔ Verse 24

Does your advice on handling offense differ from your actions, how so?

➔ Verse 25

When conflicting with others, where is your focus? (i.e. on winning, being right, vengeance, or on grace)

➔ Verse 26

How will you shift your focus from fighting with people to fighting against the enemy?



### Solution

1. How will you watch where you step with your words starting this week?

Memorize **James 1:19-20**

Memorize **Ephesians 4:29-32**

Actively listen and pause to think before responding

Lead with grace and forgiveness (i.e. consider if what happened is truly an offense suffered, immediately forgive offenses, or let go of any past offenses)

Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. How will you watch where you step before you walk in worship this week?

When we have unsettled matters it puts a barrier between us and God. Which is why He instructs us (**Matthew 5:22-26**) to set things right with our brothers and sisters before coming to Him.

Read and pray through **Psalms 139:23-24**

Seek out reconciliation with someone you offended or someone who has offended you

Settle any spiritual, relational, or financial differences you are aware of with others

Other \_\_\_\_\_



### **Send Out**

Break into groups of 2-3 (same gender if a coed group), share of someone who you need to make amends with or forgive and decide how to contact them this week. Make a plan to connect with each other in-person, call, or text this week to see how it goes.

Pray together.