

**GGT Life Group Lessons**  
**May 23, 2017 and May 30, 2017**  
**It Won't Happen Until You Let It Go**

**Icebreaker:** Take some time in your group to discuss the definition of an offense. Then ask members to share about a time they were offended “in the world” and if they have ever been offended in “the church.” Lastly discuss whether or not they have been able to let the offense go, why or why not??

**Luke 17: 1-6** provides us with wise counsel from the master himself. While the scripture speaks of offenses it also addresses the offender. **Luke 17:1** says “woe unto him, through whom they come.” Verse 2 goes on to admonish the offender of even **these little ones**. So, if God has warned us that offenses will come and he has assured us that there will be consequences for the offender why is it so difficult for us to “let it go?” Are we not saved, sanctified and filled with the gift of the precious Holy Ghost? There are those who would suggest that if we possess all of these attributes of holiness then forgiveness and letting go should not be a problem for the saints of the most high God. Agree or disagree?

**Luke 17:5** suggests that the apostles recognized the challenge that the Lord had placed before them and asked God to increase their faith. Take time to discuss what faith has to do with forgiveness. Forgiveness, like moving on, involves making a choice...to forgive or not to forgive, to move on or remain in bitterness. When you have been offended the hurt will settle into the roots of your being and become “bitter roots.” It is by faith that you are able to pluck up the bitter roots, *by the roots*, and move on. There are some offenses in life such as rape and murder which seem impossible to overcome, but God tells us in **Jeremiah 32:27** "I am the LORD, the **God** of all humankind. **There** is, indeed, **nothing** too difficult for me. ... "I am the LORD **God** of all humanity. **Nothing** is too **hard** for me. ...and **Philippians 4:13** tells us that “I can do all things through Christ Jesus which strengthens me.” The question we must ask ourselves is do I really believe the word of God or is there a resounding YES BUT somewhere in your response? If this is the case with you, then you like the apostles, must ask God to increase your faith. Like the lepers, you must decide to get up from where you are and move on. Like the woman with an issue of blood you must chose to make your way through the press of hurt, pain, disappointment, bitterness, and doubt until you are able to receive the healing that you so desperately need.

Letting go is a choice, but unfortunately not everyone who has been offended chooses to let go of the offense. Do you believe that unresolved offenses can kill you both spiritually and physically? Why or why not? God is the answer to every offense that has ever occurred in your life; however, God can't fix what you don't confront. He is waiting for you to invite him into your heart so that he can mend it. As believers it is important that we avoid becoming self righteous and pretentious causing others to believe that we have arrived and no longer need God to heal our infirmities. If you have been offended it is imperative that you acknowledge the offense and then ask God to give you the faith to believe that he can heal the offense and enable you to let it go.

**You are encouraged to search the scriptures for greater understanding and attend bible study for clarification.**