

To be a true peacemaker, we have to be willing to disrupt false peace
*How do we do so?*¹

NewStory Ground Rule 1: We refuse to have a conversation ABOUT someone that we are not going to have WITH someone.

When you ARE offended...

1. Seek out a safe person
 - Someone you can vent to about what has happened, will hold your confidence, but also challenge you to have the hard conversation with the other person.
2. Seek to understand yourself
 - What happened? How do I feel? Why does this offend me? What do I want?
3. Ask for a conversation
 - Set a specific time and place
 - Thank them for meeting
 - Share what happened
 - Share how you felt
 - Share what you want
 - Give them a chance to respond

NewStory Ground Rule 2: If it's a big deal to YOU - It's a big deal.

When you HAVE offended...

1. Listen
 - Truly listen to how the other person has been offended. Do your best to not get defensive.
2. Apologize
 - Whether or not you believe you're in the wrong - apologize for what happened.
3. Restate what you have heard
 - Try to repeat exactly what was said
4. Ask clarifying questions
 - Make sure there is nothing you don't understand about how they are feeling or what happened
5. Consider what they are asking
 - If they are asking for a specific outcome moving forward, how do you feel about said outcome?
6. Negotiate
 - Negotiate the demands if necessary
7. Write out an agreement
 - Writing out specific next steps can help move the relationship forward

¹ This handout is adapted from Peter Scazzerro's Emotionally Healthy Spirituality (Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 2006). Check out this book and EHS Day by Day to grow as a follower of Jesus and peacemaker.