

## Q - How Do You Dig Up The Root Of Bitterness?

A - With The \_\_\_\_\_

### Memory Verse

“Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”

Ephesians 4:31-32

“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Matthew 6:14-15

### Personal Prayer

“God, I admit that I've allowed a root of bitterness to grow against \_\_\_\_\_. Please forgive me of this sin. By your power, give me a heart of compassion and forgiveness toward this person. I pray you would restore my wounded relationship(s).”

### MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .

- Commit my life to Jesus Christ for the first time
- Memorize Ephesians 4:31-32
- Ask God to reveal any 'root of bitterness' growing in me
- If I'm keeping score (1 Cor. 13:4-5) ask God to help me to surrender my scorecard to Him.
- Commit to attend, as much as possible, each weekend during the “Unshakeable” series
- Get the most out of this series by attending my LIFE group week.



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“Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord. Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.”

Hebrews 12:14-15

#### • Bitterness Has A Dangerous \_\_\_\_\_

“Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up. . .”

Hebrews 12:15

#### • Bitterness Produces A Poisonous \_\_\_\_\_

“whenever the (bitter root) springs up, many are corrupted by its poison”

Hebrews 12:15

### Characteristics Of Bitter People

1. \_\_\_\_\_ their bitterness
2. Become overly \_\_\_\_\_
3. Secretly \_\_\_\_\_ misfortunes
4. Write-off entire \_\_\_\_\_ of people
5. Struggle to see bitterness in the \_\_\_\_\_

### With Whom Or What Am I Bitter?

\_\_\_\_\_



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## Discussion Questions - Week #4

# LIFEGROUPS

### QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend "Facing Bitterness with Unshakeable Faith," in a sentence or two summarize the main point.

Looking at your notes from the weekend, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

### GETTING STARTED

1. Suppose you were made "Supreme Ruler of the World" for a day, what laws would you pass to eliminate your two biggest "pet peeves?"

2. From Oscar the Grouch on Sesame Street to Frank Costanza on Seinfeld, television shows, and movies are filled with notorious "grumps." Share with the group your favorite grumpy character and why.

### DIGGING DEEPER

3. The Apostle Paul wrote Ephesians chapter four as an encouragement to maintain unity in the body of Christ. Read Ephesians 4:20-32. How does bitterness poison the unity we experience as brothers and sisters in Christ?

How does it impact our witness to those who don't know Christ?

What does the Paul suggest as the antidote to bitterness?

How does the antidote work?

4. If anyone ever had a right to be bitter in life, it was Joseph, the son of Jacob whose story is told in the book of Genesis (Gen 37-50). Ask someone in your group briefly summarize Joseph's story.

Read Genesis 45:1-15. How would you have felt if you were in Joseph's shoes?

How do you think he was able to forgive his brothers instead of seeking revenge?

What would it take for you to let go of the bitterness you're holding on to and embrace the person that wronged you as Joseph embraced his brothers?

5. In the gospel of Matthew in the midst of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his disciples a model for prayer. Read Matthew 6:9-15. Why do you think that the petition to forgive others was the only one that Jesus commented on?

What do you think about Jesus' comment in v.15, "if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins"?

How do you reconcile this statement with God's grace?

Why do you think it's so important to Jesus that we extend forgiveness to others?

### TAKING IT HOME

6. What step can you commit to this week to pull up the root of bitterness in your life?

7. How can the group be praying for you to let go of the bitterness you hold towards others, and experience the freedom that God intends for you?

### PRAYER REQUESTS