

BATTLE READY

STANDING FIRM IN JESUS' STRENGTH

HomeGroup Discussion Questions

Week 2: Mar 14th [Thornton Campus]

Week 3: Mar 21st [Boulder Campus]

Week 4: Mar 27th-Apr 2nd [Online & Erie Campus]

Bitterness...It starts small but turns into a big problem and, left unchecked, can lead to catastrophic failure. It infects our soul like a virus. It seeps into every aspect of life and sours our relationships. It pushes people away and isolates us. Satan wants to see us alone. He uses bitterness to separate the church. So what are we to do? God's Word gives us the remedy as we see what Jesus did for us. The forgiveness we've received is something we are called to give. As we learn to forgive, bitterness loses hold of our lives.

Main Text: 2 Corinthians 2:5-11

CONNECT

1. When was a recent time you needed to forgive someone? What happened and how did you respond?
2. What did you find most significant in this week's sermon? What questions did it leave in your mind?

LEARN

3. What is Paul asking of the church in Corinth in 2 Corinthians 2:5-11?
4. In 2 Corinthians 2:6-7 Paul says that the punishment inflicted is sufficient and now the church should move to forgiveness and love. In light of that, what does forgiveness mean?
5. Read the parable of the unmerciful servant in Matthew 18:21-35. What is Jesus trying to warn with this parable?
6. We are looking at different schemes of Satan in this series, with this week focusing on bitterness. What is Satan trying to accomplish with bitterness, and how are we to defend against it?

APPLY

7. Zack's addressed the question, *What is bitterness?* After listening, how would you describe it?
8. Bitterness festers in the soul, souring all aspects of our lives. Is there someone you need to forgive? What steps can you take to pursue it?

9. Sometimes our actions (or inaction) inspires bitterness in others. Is there someone in your life who you need to seek forgiveness from for a past issue?

GOING DEEPER (a.k.a., Extra Credit!)

Read Ann Peterson's quote, "Bitterness starts out small. An offense burrows its way into our hearts. We replay it in our minds, creating deep ruts that will be hard to build back up. We retell our hurts to any available listener, including each sordid detail. We enlist support, pushing us further into our resentment. We hear the offending person's name and cringe. We decipher the offense as intentional and our offender as full of spite. We look for other reasons, both real or imagined, to dislike our villain. With each new piece of information, we form another layer of bitterness. We fool ourselves into thinking no one will know, but anger and resentment have a way of seeping into everything. Resentment is like a beach ball we try to submerge in the water. No matter how valiant our efforts, it pops up with all its vitality, splashing everyone around."

Take time to examine how bitterness has impacted your own life. Think of the impact that it has had on those around you, on your job, activities, home life, family, and your faith. Write it down, and spend some time praying over the bitterness in your life.