



Bitterness “It’s not me, it’s you!”

Gather:

Take the time and ask these questions each week. They may be the same week to week, but we believe if truthfully answered, can reveal a lot about what God is doing in and through your lives.

- How am I doing loving the people God has given me to love?
- Why is God so good?

Change:

- Think back to the message and share what theme or verse or point stuck out the most? Why?
- Read Hebrews 12:14-15 using the “Paraphrase It” method. (Read the passage and then restate the passage in your own words.) After reading it in your own words answer the following questions
 1. What similarities and differences did your group have while paraphrasing?
 2. How did you describe “the root of bitterness?” Why might it be important to distinguish between the author using “root of bitterness” and not simply just using the word bitterness? (What is unique about roots?)
 3. Verse 15 encourages us to look after each other. Talk about ways your group is looking after one another, and/or how could you do an even better job?
- We talked a lot about the importance of forgiveness and how bitterness cannot be overcome without it. Read through the following verses about forgiveness and discuss your experience, thoughts, and struggles regarding it.
 1. Matthew 18:21-22 (what is Jesus saying about forgiveness here?)
 2. Luke 23:34 (After being tortured, betrayed, and abandoned what did He do?)
 3. Nehemiah 9:17 (How does Nehemiah characterize God?)
 4. Hebrews 12:24 (What does bitterness desire? What does forgiveness desire?)
 5. Act 2:38 (What is the ultimate expression of forgiveness?)
- **REMINDER:** Share about your current struggles with bitterness as well as forgiveness or asking for forgiveness. What is the next step for you to experience forgiveness and chop out bitterness at the root so it cannot grow or spread without us seeing it?

Serve:

- ***CURRENT OPPORTUNITY: Has your group signed up to serve at Family Fest??!! If not, please reach out to sign your group up to serve together. events@shift-church.com Serve the community together!***
- *How are you going to serve the people of Gainesville as a small group? Why would anyone be interested in the fact that you are a Christ-follower? If you are not meeting the needs of the community and adding value to the lives of the people around you, you are missing out on an enormous piece of the Gospel message*
- If you haven't gone through the Growth Track at Shift, you are missing out! It is a fantastic path to learn more about God, learn about the mission of Shift church, as well as discover truths about your personality, gifting, and purpose. Classes are held in the Treehouse Kidz building following the 2nd service. Childcare is provided.