

UNDER THE SURFACE

UNOFFENDABLE

- In 2020 the average # of investigated incidents of unruly airline passengers = _____.
- In 2021, _____ unruly airline passenger reports.
- In 2022, the FAA had _____ unruly passenger reports and proposed just short of _____ of fines for unruly passengers.

We're navigating a different kind of _____ = bitterness and anger. Is it actually possible to live an unoffendable _____?

Today we're going to focus on something that is so much a part of the struggle in experiencing a more unoffendable life = _____.

1. Bitterness is a Concealed _____ (Hebrews 12:14-15 NIV)

Wild fig tree in South Africa = taproot _____ feet deep!
Scriptures make it clear that what is beneath the surface of our soul that gets left unchecked is not going to either go away or remain _____, but it will slowly keep growing and eventually starts causing _____.

All bitterness starts out as _____. And your emotional pain may well relate to viewing whoever (or whatever) provoked this hurt as having malicious intent: As committing a grave injustice toward you; as gratuitously wronging you and causing you _____. _____ - and resentment - is what we're all likely to experience whenever we conclude that another has seriously abused us. Left to fester, that righteous anger eventually becomes the corrosive _____ that is bitterness. (Seltzer, Psychology Today)

- Bitterness is like a slow-growing _____ that can cause so many problems before it becomes evident.
- Bitterness is like a _____ that robs you of the life Jesus died for you to experience.
- Bitterness always _____ us first and the most.
- But it also will _____ others (*corrupting...defiling...pollute...contaminates...causing trouble..._____ many...*)
- Bitterness is something people almost celebrate and usually _____.
- We let our lives be _____ by bitterness, and then we invite as many people to join us in our misery as possible.
- Hebrews 12:14 = hatred and holiness cannot _____ in the same heart.
- When we invite others into our bitterness, we become a _____.

So what can kill a root of bitterness?

2. Bring It Into the _____ (Ephesians 5:8-11)

_____ them...
Have you been willing to name what has emotionally/mentally _____ you?

The problem is you cannot _____ from that you are unwilling to admit (Ephesians 5:12-16).

CAN I LIVE AN UNOFFENDABLE LIFE?

- The time has come to ask the Holy Spirit to turn His searchlight into the deepest region of our _____ and name any bitterness that's there.
- This is the pathway toward freedom from the _____ of bitterness. Begin to experience Jesus' promise of peace, hope, and joy
- Psalm 36:9; 43:3a; 56:13; 119:105; Ephesians 4:31-32

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

You have won an all-expense paid trip to the place of your choice anywhere in the world! (Lucky you!) Where will you go and why?

1. This week's reading included injustice, stress, fear, and God's incredible love for us. What did God point out as you read through chs. 13-16?
2. Throughout the book, the author indicates that being offendable is often related to our attributing intent or motive to another person who has hurt us. Pastor Mark pointed out that left unchecked, the resentment that forms in us can metastasize into a "cancer of bitterness". Knowing this, what can you do to stop bitterness taking root in your life?
3. In what ways has bitterness both poisoned your own soul and corrupted those around you?
4. Read Ephesians 5:8-14. Pastor Mark said that the first step in overcoming a root of bitterness already present in your life is to expose it and admit that it's there. Why is it so hard for you to see bitterness as sin and accept that it must be removed?
5. Read Psalm 36:9, 43:3a, 56:13, 119:105. The metaphor of "light" is often used in Scripture to illustrate how God illuminates to us what is real, true, and life-giving. What does it mean to walk in His light and how can that help to expose our bitterness and remove it from our lives?
6. How might the Holy Spirit use your small group or other Christ followers in the process of revealing and uprooting bitterness; will you allow it? How can we pray for you as you work on discovering and removing bitterness from your life?

THE HOMEWORK

Read chapters 17-20 of *Unoffendable* before your next community group.

message notes

NAME _____
PHONE _____
EMAIL _____
I AM ☐ AN ADULT ☐ A STUDENT
☐ I LOVE WHERE I'M SERVING: _____

- ☐ PARKING LOT
- ☐ FINAL TOUCHES
- ☐ TECH
- ☐ CAFE
- ☐ SECURITY

- ☐ USHER
- ☐ GREETER
- ☐ NEXT STEP

- ☐ ELEMENTARY
- ☐ EARLY CHILDHOOD
- ☐ NURSERY
- ☐ CHECK-IN DESK

- ☐ CARE TEAM
- ☐ GROUNDS
- ☐ DESIGN + ORGANIZE
- ☐ DATA ENTRY / OFFICE SUPPORT
- ☐ CONTENT CREATION
- ☐ PRAYER TEAM
- ☐ YOUTH LEADER
- ☐ WOMEN'S MINISTRY TUES KIDS TEAM
- ☐ CRESTVIEW READING BUDDY

- ☐ NO IDEA, HELP ME!
(We'll contact you to find your best fit)
- ☐ I'D LIKE TO SWITCH IT UP!
(I'm looking to serve on a different team)

connect card

Fill this out and place it in the offering
or feel free to scan the QR code to fill it
out online!



Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How did you hear about us?

This is my/our:

- ☐ first visit ☐ second visit
☐ visit often ☐ attend regularly

Share a need, praise or prayer request:

- ☐ this is for staff only
☐ send this on Hope text alerts

what's happening at HOPE?

NEIGHBORHOOD EASTER EGG HUNT | SCHEDULE BETWEEN MAR 31 - APR 8

This Easter, we want to reach the Cottage Grove area by hosting Easter egg hunts throughout the city. Sign up to host with your family or your Community Group to share the love of Christ in your area! You can sign up to host, assist with funding, or purchase pre-filled eggs from Amazon. You can also purchase pre-filled eggs from a store and drop them off to Pastor Mark or put in the lobby from February 12–March 19. got-hope.org/egg-hunt

WOMEN'S MINISTRY RETREAT | MAY 5 - 7

Ladies, come away from daily life to be refreshed in relationships, refocused in worship and prayer, and renewed as we experience the transformative truths from Christ alone. All women 18 and up are welcome to come! The cost is \$119 if sharing a bed, \$149 if want your own bed. For more info and to register by April 11, visit got-hope.org/womens-retreat.

Looking for a typical week or more events? Visit got-hope.org/events.

we're all about doing life together. got-hope.org/CG

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUNS | BIRTH - GRADE 5

While children are always welcome in our services, we have an interactive program for kids to learn about God and apply His truth to their lives downstairs called Discovery Land and a staffed nursery on this level.
got-hope.org/children

MEN'S MINISTRY

WEDS @ 7 AM (HYVEE)
& THURS @ 6:30 PM
got-hope.org/men

YOUNG ADULTS

2ND SATS @ 7 PM
4TH SATS @ 5:30 PM
got-hope.org/young-adults

GRIEF GROUP

TUES @ 6:30 PM
got-hope.org/grief

STUDENT MINISTRIES

WEDS @ 6:30 PM | GRADES 6-12

The night consists of a game/hangout time, break-out groups, and biblical, relevant, age-appropriate messages. Friends are always welcome! Make sure to sign up online for text alerts.
got-hope.org/students

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

MONS @ 6:30 PM (9244 HALE AVE S IN CG) & TUES @ 9 AM
got-hope.org/women

FAMILIES

1ST SUN @ 4 PM
got-hope.org/families

GRANDPARENTS

3RD SUNS @ 4 PM
got-hope.org/grandparents

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you're welcome here!



UNOFFENDABLE