

# Freedom in Christ: Bitterness and Forgiveness | Matthew 18:21-35

Ohana Group Discussion Questions: Week of January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

## OVERVIEW

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We are called to be merciful just as our Heavenly Father is merciful and forgive others as we have been forgiven. Doing so sets us free from our past and does not allow bitterness to fester in our hearts.

## OHANA TIME!

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**Icebreaker:** When is your birthday? **Or** What is one of your favorite cuisines?

**Activity:** Plan a “serving outing” together as a group.

## PRAYER

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**Pray together:** “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9) Give praise to Jesus, who gives us the gift of forgiveness.

## BIBLE: READ MATTHEW 18:21-35

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1. Who does the master and the servants represent in this parable?
2. What is the primary principle of this parable?
3. Bitterness “is holding a grudge, resentment, and even feelings of anger and hatred, toward someone who hurt or offended you.”
  - a. What are the negative consequences of bitterness?
  - b. How can bitterness produce bondage?
  - c. How can bitterness give “the devil a foothold?”
4. How is forgiveness and unforgiveness conveyed in the parable?
5. Why is understanding your own personal forgiveness essential in choosing to forgive someone who hurt, disappointed, mistreated, “talked stink” about you, or betrayed you?
6. How does forgiveness unlock the chains of bitterness and lead us forward in faith?

## APPLICATION

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1. With groups of two or three, identify one area of bitterness/unforgiveness in your life. Ask God to bring to mind someone you need to forgive and pray the prayers below.

“Dear Heavenly Father, I choose to forgive [name the person] for [what they did or failed to do], because it made me feel [share the painful feelings, for example, rejected, dirty, worthless, or inferior].”

“Lord, I **confess** any bitterness and resentment I have held toward these I have forgiven, I **cancel** any legal ground in my life that Satan may claim because of this, I **command** any unclean spirits in my life because of my lack of forgiveness to leave and go to the place that Christ sends them, and I **commit** myself, with the Lord’s help, to not seek revenge or hold onto resentment; but to forgive and bless those who hurt or offend me.”

