

Sermon Discussion Questions

Grace For Bitterness – Grant Braaten
8 March 2026
Sermon Text: Exodus 15:22-27

AGENDA

- People arrive, talk, snack, and icebreaker – 5 min
- Worship – 5-10 min
- Prayer/Ministry Time – 20-30 min
- Discussion Questions – 35-45 min

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME (20-30 min)

Ask for prayer requests. Ask for specific needs of group members.

MESSAGE INTRODUCTION

In this week's message, **Grace For Bitterness**, Pastor Grant unpacks how a bitter situation can become a spirit of bitterness. In the message this week we see how the Israelites went from witnessing a great miracle at the Red Sea, to grumbling and complaining because they were thirsty - in only three days. Let's get going and see how this moment was more than just about water, but rather about their hearts.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-45 min)

1. Last week you were asked to take some time and think about how you might be tempted, or even trying, to bring things to the table to justify your righteousness before God. Did anything come to mind? How are you going to break those things off? Share with your group if this is something you struggle with.
2. What is something that stood out to you from Grant's message this week?
3. How might we find ourselves in a bitter situation? Is being in a bitter situation wrong? How does a bitter situation become a spirit of bitterness?
4. "Bitterness is the lingering condition of unresolved pain or betrayal in which a person willingly clings to anger, resentment, and offense, resisting reconciliation and forgiveness, ultimately corroding the individual and defiling those within their sphere of influence". (*Grant Braaten*) Is there anything that jumps out at you from this definition of bitterness?
5. Part of the book of Exodus is about God getting the Israelites out of Egypt. The rest of the book is about getting Egypt out of the Israelites. How do we see this being played out in Exodus chapters 14 and 15?

Icebreakers

Pick one of the icebreaker questions below and go around in a circle (starting with the leader) and have everyone answer. (If you have new members or guests have each person introduce themselves.)

1. With the nicer weather, have you spent time outside doing yard or garden work?
2. Who is your longest and dearest friend? How long have you known them?
3. What animal do you think captures who you are? Why?

6. How is the sermon text an object lesson for the Israelites? How can our bitterness keep us from moving into what God has planned for us?

7. Here are some ways to deal with bitterness:

- a. Acknowledge bitterness honestly.
- b. Choose forgiveness.
- c. Trust God's sovereignty.
- d. Thank God for what He's done.
- e. Practice empathy.
- f. Recognize that bitterness is hurting us and defiling others.

Take a few moments and talk about how all of these things can help keep from turning a bitter situation into a spirit of bitterness.

APPLICATION

Are there things in your life that have led you to a spirit of bitterness? Do you find yourself in a bitter situation right now? What steps can you take to deal with bitterness and get it away from you? Share with your group.

COMING UP

To join a small group or find out more about what is going on, click on the NWC App, the website <https://nwckc.com>, or the New Wine Church Community Group Facebook page. Sermon study questions can also be found in all three locations.

Easter At New Wine Church, 5 April at 9:00 and 11:00, Oak Park High School, 825 NE 79th Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64118. Invite your friends and family to attend with you as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

FINAL THOUGHT

When we hit a place of bitterness, God is ready to do a miracle.