

SLAYING GIANTS

UNFORGIVENESS VS FREEDOM

INTRODUCTION

"When someone hurts you, do you pretend it never happened or silently plot your revenge? Maybe you hold a grudge ""to teach 'em a lesson."" Bitterness can creep into all of our lives. But instead of punishing our offender, bitterness punishes us. It holds us hostage to the past and destroys relationships in the process. Bitterness doesn't have to hold you back. Slaying the giant of bitterness starts with understanding the power of forgiveness. "

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **ICEBREAKER:** On a scale of 1-10 (1=unoffendable, 10=offended you asked) how easily offended are you? (Different phrasing: How often do outside influences derail your day or upset your mood?)
2. We have all struggled with bitterness/unforgiveness. What has bitterness/unforgiveness caused you to miss out on? What has it stolen from you?
3. How often do we find ourselves trapped in an argument trying to win to make a point, instead of offering forgiveness and instead making a difference? How can we change our mindset to focus on making a difference more often?
4. Which seems to be the most difficult: **seeing** the giant of bitterness in our own life, **slaying** the giant of bitterness by not retaliating or making the giant of bitterness **stay** away by living a life defined by our forgiveness?
5. Would anyone be willing to share (if they haven't already) with the group who or what situation you are struggling to forgive? (pray specifically for anything shared or wrap up with a general pray if no one is ready to share)