



Sunday 10 March 2023
Sermon Series : Running Deep
Digging up the roots — Hebrews 12:14–17

- Most of us have done some weeding, gardening, or ground clearing — what stories have you about roots that were really difficult to get out?
- How do you feel about the image of having ‘bitter roots’ — roots of things like weeds — in our lives?
- Are you someone who likes to confront these, or like me is your instinct not to stir up muddy waters?
- Look up the Old Testament references — the bitter roots in Deuteronomy 29:16–18 & the story of Esau and Jacob in Genesis 25:27–34. How might the readers of Hebrews have responded to these references? There is no record that Esau was sexually immoral — why might he have been spoken about in the same sentence as sexual immorality? Why was he seen as ‘godless’?
- Apart from the bitter roots mentioned in the Hebrews passage, what other sorts of ‘bitter root’ might we have growing in us?
- ‘Make every effort to live in peace with all people and be holy’. Share some examples when you have been able to do this, and if you want to, some when you have failed to live in peace with people.
- What current tensions do you find it most difficult to ‘disagree well’ over?
- You may like to discuss some other examples of ‘bitter roots’ — unforgiveness, sexual immorality (thinking perhaps of the risks of the internet, pornography etc), and seeking — like Esau — to satisfy our own desires rather than doing God’s will.
- Think a bit about inheritance. What is our inheritance as God’s children? 1 Peter 1:3–5.
- Verse 15. What does ‘the grace of God’ mean to you?
- Finish praying with one another — you may like to use the image of God as ‘the gardener’ preparing and improving his garden and bringing us his wonderful grace.

Chris Absolon