



BITTERNESS

- Characters:** Giant of Bitterness (stand on small stool to appear as a giant)
 Bitter Brenda (carrying a heavy stack of books- may be labeled "God," "brother," etc.)
 Helpful Holly (off-stage, phone voice)
 Narrator (optional)
- Props:** stool, books, shovel, cell phone
- Theme:** Facing the giant of Bitterness
- Verse:** "...bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do." (Col. 3:13)

Script

Narrator: Tonight we will meet Bitter Brenda.

(Brenda walks in with difficulty; she is carrying a stack of heavy books, and is slowly making her way in with difficulty)

Brenda *(startled upon seeing the giant)*: Who-who-who are you?

Giant: Today my name is BITTERNESS.

Brenda: What do you mean "today"?

Giant: Well I have different names on different days and with different people. Today, for you, my name is BITTERNESS.

Brenda: I've heard of you. Oh! Are you the one who gave me my first journal?

Giant: That's right, little lady. I gave you a book and just encouraged your record keeping... You have been one of my best students... You caught on right away. And now look at you--looks like you've filled a lot of books. I'm so proud!

Brenda: Whenever someone hurts my feelings, or treats me wrong, falsely accuses me, or tells my age, I write it down. If someone ignores me, or gossips about me or eats the last cookie... I write it down. It's a good system. It helps me remember everything bad that has happened to me. At night, I reread and rehearse everything I have written down. It's my bedtime story, but it doesn't really help me sleep...

Giant: Good, good--You have excelled, my daughter!!

Brenda: Well, it seemed like a good idea at the time. I didn't know the book would be mine to carry everywhere I go. And the book has multiplied...now I have all these. They affect every day of my life.

Giant: According to plan, my daughter!

Brenda: But it hasn't made me happy, or even content. I am suspicious and I don't trust people, and I don't want to get too close to anyone, or I know that pretty soon they will have their own page in my book. Even God has His own pages. He's let me down more than once. He hasn't answered my prayers. He's allowed me to go through things that I didn't want to go through, and I can't help but hold it against Him. Not to mention *(name a personal characteristic appropriate... "this nose He gave me" or "this hair I can't do anything with!")*

Giant: He is truly the biggest Offender of all, Brenda!

(Brenda's cell phone rings)

Brenda: Hello?

Holly: Hi Brenda. We haven't talked in a while. Are you doing ok? I can't remember the last time I saw you....

Brenda: Well, I remember Holly. Let me see *(pages through one of the books)*...Oh, yes, the last time I saw you was on May 14 when I went to Chili's and you were there with a friend and you totally ignored me. Then I saw you laughing, and I know you were laughing at me.

Holly: What are you talking about? I didn't see you at Chili's. You are imagining things!

Brenda: Oh, and on May 1 I saw you at church and you were sitting in MY seat. You know I always sit in that seat!

Holly: Brenda, I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to do that. It sounds like you have been keeping records!

Brenda: I keep meticulous records of everyone who hurts me in some way.

Holly: And how's that going for you?

Brenda: Well.....

Holly: You know that is not the way God wants you to handle hurts.

Brenda: God? Well, He's the biggest Offender!! I'm just trying to avoid being hurt any more.

Holly: You can't mean that. God loves you. You were a sinner and He forgave you. Have you forgotten that?

Brenda: Well....

Holly: God's Word says to let all bitterness to be put away from you. Instead, you should be kind to one another, tender-hearted and forgiving each other, just as God has also forgiven you. You are supposed to forgive others the same way that Christ forgave you. Do you think He has a book he is keeping of everything that you have done wrong?

Brenda: I hope not. That book would be huge. I would never make it to heaven if He kept a book like that.

Holly: That's right. That is why Jesus died; He took all those sins that would be in that book, and He paid the penalty for them so that your book could be wiped clean. Now here you are, keeping books of offenses. Why don't you just wipe them clean, and offer forgiveness to those who have hurt you? You may have imagined a lot that you've written in those books. You wrote me down, and I never meant to ignore you, and I certainly wasn't laughing at you. I didn't even see you that day!

Giant: Yes she did...She laughed at you...You know she did....

Brenda: I've carried these books around for so long....

Holly: Let them go, Brenda. There is freedom in forgiveness. You've been in a prison of bitterness for too long, and it's hurting you.

Brenda: Some of these people, like my brother, have pages and pages of offenses in these books, and I didn't imagine those.

Holly: Well, Jesus said there was no limit to how often you must forgive a person.

Brenda: But I've been hurt!

Holly: Let God heal you. He knows, Brenda! HE KNOWS! His desire is to comfort you, to heal you and to restore.

Brenda: I know you're right, Holly. It will be hard, but I will forgive. God can help me! I will be very glad to lay these books down. I want to change my bedtime stories.

Giant: Oh no! My prize student...

Brenda: Bitterness, you no longer have a hold on me. I'm getting rid of these books!
(drops the books on the floor in front of the giant)

Giant: Aauugh! *(sigh of frustration)* Next time someone hurts you.....I'll be back!