

| APRIL 2022 | STUDENT MINISTRY PARENT CUE CARD | SERIES OVERVIEW |
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Theme

BITTERSWEET: A SERIES ABOUT FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness can be tricky because how can you really tell if it's working? The hurt, frustration, and confusion are still very real, especially when "they" never actually said or seem "sorry." We know that when the worst stuff happens to us, it can feel kind of sweet to stay bitter.

In this series, we are going to talk about why practicing forgiveness is the healthiest way forward by focusing on three truths: when you don't forgive, it hurts you; everybody needs forgiveness; and forgiveness takes time.

When we know God and experience God's forgiveness, we have what it takes to grow in our ability to forgive ourselves and others.

April 6

Small group parties and/or grade level get-togethers

Week One - April 13

I Thessalonians 5:15 NIV

The more you hold on to a grudge, the more it holds on to you.

Week Two - April 20

Romans 5:8 NIV, Colossians 3:13 NIV

Cancel the debt, not the person.

Week Three - April 27

Matthew 18:21-22 NLT

Healing takes time.

THEME VERSE

Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you.

Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

- Colossians 3:13 NLT

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**MORNING TIME**

Are you having a rough start to the day? Are you or the kids on edge or running late? Maybe a heated conversation from last night carried over to the new day. It happens.

Make some time today for apologies and reconciliation.

**THEIR TIME**

Empathy and compassion are key to understanding forgiveness and are two skills that take awareness and practice. To help your teen grow these skills, encourage them to start a conversation with a friend—in person or via text—using one of these questions:

- What was today like for you?
- What can I do to encourage or help you today?
- What was one good or bad thing that happened in your life today?
- What's one word you would use to describe how you are feeling right now?

**MEAL TIME**

At a meal this month, share about a time when someone said or did something to you that was difficult to forgive. How did you handle it?

**BED TIME**

Pray for your teen (and for you) to heal from past wounds in healthy ways—spiritually, emotionally, and mentally.

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