

WEEK TWO



## Series Summary (For SGL)

It is splashed all over the news and displayed on posters throughout the schools. Bullying has been depicted on TV screens and written about in books, but few students have engaged in real conversations about the topic. Our goal is to make Transit the safest place to talk about anything, including bullying. It can take many forms at this age, and the high value on friendships heightens the impact of bullies during school. So, let's spend the next three weeks being open and honest about feeling intimidated in our series Sticks and Stones.



## Question from stage

Which would you rather do: apologize to everyone you've ever cut in front of in the tuckshop line, or be served last at the tuckshop for the next year?

## Discussion Guide

1. Have you ever received a really good apology? What makes it stick out in your mind? How can you tell if someone doesn't mean it when they say, "I'm sorry"?
2. Is there anyone in your life you are still waiting on an apology from?
3. Read Matthew 5:23-24 ~ What does it mean to be "at the altar"?
4. What does this verse say about God's priorities?
5. Has anyone ever experienced this? Have you ever been in Transit and remembered that you needed to work on a relationship with someone?
6. Why don't bullies feel like they need to apologize?
7. There are four parts to a good apology: express regret, take responsibility, offer to make it up to the other person, and promise it won't happen again. Which step is the hardest for you?
8. Is there anyone you need to apologize to? Maybe for being a bully and overusing your influence?

## **Bottom Line**

Now is the time to apologize

### **Matthew 5:23-24**

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.”

### **Message Summary**

There are times I love the saying “Let bygones be bygones,” and there are times I hate it. I tend to love it when I have done something wrong and don’t want to go through the embarrassment of having to apologize. Then there are times I totally disagree with that old saying usually because I have been hurt and I am still waiting for an apology from someone. In Matthew 5, Jesus gives us powerful advice when he tells us to “Leave your gift at the altar” and go reconcile a broken relationship. It seems he feels that right now is the best time to apologize.