

Yet, you probably recall some knife-and-fork moments between you too. But even as you remember the very real hurts, thank God that he has provided a Savior. That Savior's love and forgiveness can now grace our relationships as mothers and daughters and granddaughters.

The Bible verse on this (*name the item you will give the group*) reads: "How sweet are your words to my taste" (Psalm 119:103). It makes me think that the psalmist knew all about scooping up God's love. As you leave today with (*name the item you will give the group*), take this spoon with you, too. Let it remind you that your Savior invites you to scoop up the sweetness of his love and forgiveness for you. Savoring that love, we can serve up the blessings of Christ-centered love and forgiveness to each other.

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# Are You a Fork, a Knife, or a Spoon?

## Getting Started

*As you begin, have several plastic spoons available—one for each participant. You will also need one plastic knife and one plastic fork. Place the plastic fork, knife, and one of the spoons nearby so you can pick each up at the appropriate place in the devotion.*

## Introduction

How did you learn to set a table? Did your mom or grandmother teach you? Or perhaps a homemaking teacher? Do you remember learning how to place the fork, the knife, and the spoon just so beside the plate? Some moms even taught their daughters to put the plate just one inch from the bottom of the table. Did yours?

Our moms teach us a lot. Yet, at times, daughters also teach their moms a thing or two. Take, for instance, the story of one little girl who was helping her mom set the table. "Mommy," she said, "if I had to choose which one of these eating things I'd like to be, I'd choose the spoon."

Mom paused and then asked, “Why would you want to be the spoon?”

“Because the fork is too pointy and the knife is too scary. But the spoon just scoops things up in such a nice way.”

## Getting to the Heart

What, you might ask, did this little girl teach her mom . . . and what can she teach us? Well, for starters, let’s focus on what the fork, the knife, and the spoon have to say about the way we go about day-to-day living.

**Consider the fork:** Simply put, we use it for jabbing. We jab at the morsels of food on our plates to make it possible to pick them up. (Think peas, in particular!)

Lots of people go about life in a similar way. They look at things they think they need. They consider the blessings God has given other people. And then they assume that if only they had more of this or that, life would taste so much sweeter. So they go around jabbing at the “stuff” of life, hoping to gather more and more and more . . . but often overlooking everything our heavenly Father has already heaped on their plate of blessings!

**Consider the knife:** All things considered, the sharper the better! We design knives precisely and exclusively for cutting.

Lots of people go about life using their words and actions to cut others down to size. Their sharp words slice tender hearts. Their cutting remarks wound others’ feelings. Often, they don’t even realize how much harm they have done—even to people they care deeply about.

I’m feeling a bit uncomfortable right now as I remember the many times I’ve jabbed around willy-nilly, dissatisfied with God’s wonderful blessings in my life and trying to put more and more on my overflowing plate. I’m embarrassed as I think about the many times I’ve chosen sharp words and thrown cutting remarks at others

in moments of exasperation or impatience. Maybe I’m not the only one here today who regrets thoughts, words, and actions that were less than loving, less than kind.

I’m so glad that at times when I must face up to the reality of the hurt I’ve caused, I do not need to bear the guilt and shame. I’m so glad that Scripture invites us to confess our sins to Christ, our Savior. I’m so glad he heaped our sins onto himself at Calvary. I’m so glad he took your place and mine on the cross so that we could be restored to a right relationship with God—and with other people.

**So now, consider the spoon:** By design, the spoon does not prick, point, jab, or cut. As it scoops food from your plate, it’s almost as if it embraces it. Because of what Christ did for us through his death and resurrection, we can now embrace his gift of forgiveness. We can scoop up and enjoy the many blessings he heaps upon us day by day. And we can serve others in thankfulness and kindness.

## Taking It Home

*(See also “Adaptation for Mother’s Day” on back)*

The Bible verse on this (*name the item you will give the group*) reads: “How sweet are your words to my taste” (Psalm 119:103). It makes me think that the psalmist knew all about scooping up God’s love. As you leave today with (*name the item you will give the group*), take this spoon with you, too. Let it remind you that God’s grace is yours for the scooping—and for the savoring!

## Adaptation for Mother’s Day

*(Use in place of “Taking It Home”)*

There is no better day than Mother’s Day to recall the warm arms of a mother or grandmother that hugged, the kisses that seemed miraculously to heal even the nastiest of scrapes, the enduring words of encouragement, the smiles of pride, and the tears that joined yours.