A special cheer. A new friend.
And one very big misunderstanding.

Ginger learns to share her feelings, listen with love, and make room for a new friend.

A story inspired by Ephesians 4:15.





Ginger Joy and the Missing Cheer

A story of friendship and God's love



Ginger Joy and the Missing Cheer

A Ginger Joy story

Illustrations created with AI assistance.

Scripture connections are paraphrases.

Ephesians 4:15



Ginger Joy loved three things: bouncing bows, peppermint pom-poms, and cheering with her best friend, Holly.
“Ready?” Ginger called.
“Ready!” Holly answered.

Together, they shook their pom-poms.
“A little kindness,
a little cheer—
God’s love gives us
joy to share!”



They had made up the cheer together for the Christmas celebration in Sugarplum Square.
Ginger had thought of the words.
Holly had thought of the hops.

The big peppermint twirl?
They had thought of that together.
“It’s our best cheer yet,” Ginger said.
“Our very best,” Holly agreed.



The next afternoon, Ginger hurried to practice. She couldn't wait to try their cheer again.
But when she reached the gumdrop gate, she stopped.

Holly was already cheering.
With someone else.
"A little kindness,
a little cheer—"
Beside Holly stood Coco, the newest girl on the team.



Coco shook her pom-poms. Holly showed her the hops.
Then they did the big peppermint twirl.
Our twirl, Ginger thought.
Her tummy felt tight beneath her icing buttons.

Holly waved. “Ginger! Come over!”
Ginger looked down at her shoes.
“I need to fix my ribbon.”
She pulled one end. Then the other.
Her ribbon had been perfectly fine.



At practice, Holly scooted over to make room.
Ginger stood on the other side.
Holly offered her a pom-pom.
Ginger took a different one.

“Is something wrong?” Holly whispered.
“No,” Ginger said.
But the tight feeling stayed.



When Coco missed a hop, Holly helped her try again.
Ginger shook her pom-poms harder.
When Holly laughed at something Coco said, Ginger stopped cheering altogether.

Maybe Holly didn’t need a best friend anymore.
Maybe she had found a new one.
At snack time, Holly sat beside her.
“Do you want to practice our twirl?”



“Why don’t you do it with Coco?” Ginger snapped.
Holly’s smile disappeared.
Ginger stared at her cookie crumbs.
That wasn’t what she had meant to say. But now Holly looked hurt, too.

Coach Merry sat down nearby.
“You two are awfully quiet.”
“We’re fine,” Ginger said quickly.
Holly picked at the corner of her napkin.
“I don’t think we are.”



Coach Merry waited.
Ginger took a breath. Then another.
“Holly taught Coco our cheer.”
Holly blinked. “I was going to tell you—”
“Let Ginger finish,” Coach Merry said gently.

Ginger twisted her napkin.
“When I saw you doing our special twirl with her, I thought…” Her voice grew small.
“I thought you wanted her to be your best friend instead.”



“Oh, Ginger.” Holly leaned closer. “Coco didn’t know any of the cheers. She was afraid she’d have to stand and watch at the celebration.”
“So you taught her ours?”
Holly nodded.
“I thought you’d want her to join us.”

Ginger looked across the room.
Coco sat at the end of a bench, smoothing the ribbon on her borrowed pom-pom.
Ginger remembered being new once.
She remembered hoping someone would make room.



“I still wish you’d told me,” Ginger said.
“I wish I had, too,” Holly answered. “I didn’t know our cheer was something you wanted to keep just for us.”
Coach Merry smiled gently.
“Ephesians 4:15 teaches us to speak the truth in love. That can sound like, ‘My feelings are hurt. Can we talk?’”

Ginger rubbed a crumb from her thumb.
“I said nothing was wrong.”
“But something was,” Holly said.
Ginger nodded. “I’m sorry I snapped at you.”
“I’m sorry I didn’t stop to ask how you felt,” Holly said.



For a moment, the girls sat quietly.
Then Ginger stood.
She walked to Coco's bench.
"Would you like to practice with us?"
Coco looked up. "Really?"

"Really," Ginger said. "The twirl is tricky. Sometimes we bump elbows."
"Sometimes?" Holly giggled.
Ginger giggled, too.



On the day of the celebration, three girls stood together in Sugarplum Square.
“Ready?” Ginger called.
“Ready!” answered Holly.
“Almost!” squeaked Coco.
Ginger reached for one friend’s hand. Then the other’s.

They tried again.
“A little kindness,
a little cheer—
God’s love gives us
joy to share!”
Hop. Hop. Peppermint twirl!



Their elbows bumped.
Their ribbons bounced.
And all three girls laughed.

Afterward, Holly squeezed Ginger's hand.
"Still our best cheer?"
Ginger smiled.
"Even better with room to share."

God’s Word for our friendships

Ephesians 4:15

Speak the truth in love.

Scripture connection, paraphrased.

Ginger did not have to hide her hurt. She could tell Holly what bothered her with honest, loving words. Holly could listen, explain, and help make things right.

Let’s talk and pray

What did Ginger think was happening?

What changed when she talked to Holly?

How can you tell a friend your feelings are hurt?

How can you make room for someone new?

Dear God, help us speak honestly, listen carefully, and treat our friends with love. Amen.


The End