



# I FORGIVE YOU.

***"Everyone thinks forgiveness is a lovely thought until he has something to forgive." - CS Lewis***

Forgiveness can be hard. It can be hard enough to come to a place of forgiveness, let alone saying the words, "I forgive you."

To save face or reduce awkwardness, we often replace that heavy phrase with things like, "It's okay," or, "Don't worry about it," or, "Oh, you have nothing to be sorry about."

But that's usually not the case, is it?

When we forgive, we get to remember that it is because of our sins that Jesus had to die. It wasn't "no big deal." It wasn't "okay." God didn't just write it off as nothing - He saw and acknowledged the gravity of our brokenness and said, "I still love you. I *forgive* you."

When we truly forgive, even if we've been hurt or betrayed heavily, we get a chance to remember how much we were forgiven and offer a tiny slice of that to the person in front of us.

It could be a game changer.

# IN THE BIBLE.

## **Matthew 6:9-12**

“This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

## **Ephesians 1:7-8**

He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

## **Matthew 18:32-35**

“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

***(Need a some context? The whole parable is Matthew 18:21-35)***

# QUESTIONS.

- 1.) When someone apologizes to you, what is your typical response?
- 2.) What are some reasons actually saying the words, "I forgive you," could be important?
- 3.) Unpack Matthew 18:32-35. How does that impact you?
- 4.) Where have you seen God at work this week?

**Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:**

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?