

*Our Father in heaven, Your name be honored as holy. 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. **Matthew 6:9-12***

Forgiveness is foundational to our relationship with Jesus. In order to receive forgiveness, we must agree with God about our sin, be specific and confess our sins, turn away from our sin, turn to God in repentance, and ask for forgiveness. Jesus points His followers to the understanding that our need for forgiveness and our need to give forgiveness to others is a daily need! It is no mistake that our dependency on God for our daily needs and forgiveness are connected by the conjunction “and.” We need to be pointed to our need for Jesus and our need for the gospel on a daily basis. Take a moment to meditate on the following passage.

Ephesians 1:7-10 (HCSB)

⁷We have redemption in Him through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure that He planned in Him ¹⁰for the administration of the days of fulfillment —to bring everything together in the Messiah, both things in heaven and things on earth in Him.

Pray this with the body...

Ask your Heavenly Father to search your heart and show you any unconfessed sin. (Psalm 139:23-24) Agree with God by confessing any sin God brings to mind. Pray for a truly repentant heart and turn to Christ for forgiveness. Pray that our entire church family would seek to confess their sin for the sake of forgiveness and cleansing so that God would be glorified.

Ask the Lord to reveal any unforgiveness within your own heart. Confess your unforgiveness and repent by extending the same grace you have received from God.

Speak praises to your Heavenly Father by reading Ephesians 1 and specifically mention the riches of His grace you have experienced. He lavished grace upon you. Your Heavenly Father pursued you. He made known to you the mystery of His will, that through Jesus the Father would bring together both things in heaven and earth.

Pray that we, as a church, would understand the “hope of our calling.” (Ephesians 1:18-19) Pray that our hearts would be broken in worship of Jesus who shed His blood for our redemption. Ask God to grow our understanding of the gospel. Ask Him to enlighten you and others to what we have in Jesus, that we are now empowered by Christ to live out the gospel we have received.

