In high school, I had a lot of friends of circumstance: my math friends, my track friends, my band friends, etc. My only genuine friend was my best friend Ivy. I shared everything with Ivy, and after some time, I began to rely on her for my happiness. I was convinced that if this person who knew everything about me couldn’t love me, then how could I be lovable? Despair would overtake me whenever it seemed that her love for me had waned, whether it was her becoming closer to other people, or just her being to busy to talk to me. Finally, being too tired of her never being enough for me, I stopped talking to her in the summer before freshman year, convinced that she never cared enough for me.

I came to college hopeful that here, I would find someone who would care for me the way I wanted. Here, I would finally be happy. A person in my first college lecture invited me to JCA. Through bible study and sermons, I learned about a loving God. In His love, I saw how imperfect mine was. Where I only loved “deserving” people, God loved indiscriminately. Where I loved because of what people did, God loved because of who He is. Where I turned away from the people that hurt me, God loved us so much that He sent His son down so that we could have victory through Jesus.

After months of the spirit working in me, I was finally able to forgive Ivy. In seeing her again, the insecurity that used to scream in my ear about how I was unlovable became a whisper, and for the first time in our relationship, I felt free.

Some of you guys might have come to college with the same mindset that I had: that here, you’ll finally be happy. Maybe it’s the right friends, the right job, the right girlfriend or boyfriend, or simply the freedom of being away from your parents. While you might find those things here, I’d like to tell you that the happiness you’re looking for is found at the cross, where by the blood of Christ, we’ve be promised a life eternal by a God who’ll never leave us alone.