

MEDITATING ON THE WORD

The background of the entire page is a gradient from dark blue at the bottom to bright orange at the top. In the center, three dark brown crosses of varying heights stand on a dark silhouette of a hill. The largest cross is in the center, flanked by two smaller crosses. On the left side, a bright sun is rising, creating a lens flare effect. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

Readings and Reflections
for Easter and 2 Thessalonians

April 2026

Before You Begin:

Reading the Word on a daily basis is an incredible opportunity to hear from God. As we read and consider what we are reading, the comfort and direction that we are often seeking is provided to us. The Word also convicts us of those things that are keeping us from experiencing the life that God has called us to live. Also, the Word encourages us and reminds us of God's faithfulness! When you read the Word and meditate upon the Word, you'll find it refreshing and reinvigorating. Above all, you will have the chance to know God better!

The first of our reading this month is focused on the events prior to the resurrection and those immediately after the resurrection. As you read, ask God to use these passages as we prepare for Easter and resurrection Sunday. Ask that He would help us live daily in the victory of the resurrection.

Towards the middle of the month, we continue with our focus on 2 Thessalonians. Make the effort to read and to reflect upon God's word to us as we seek ways to apply those truths found in Scripture to our lives.

Finally, get ready! We are about to embark next month on a new adventure as we continue "Meditating on the Word" this year at MBC.

Reading Tracker

April 1

April 2

April 3

April 6

April 7

April 8

April 9

April 10

April 13

April 14

April 15

April 16

April 17

April 20

April 21

April 22

April 23

April 24

April 27

April 28

April 29

April 30

April 1st

The Last Supper and the Garden Matthew 26:17-30, 36-46

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?" 18 "Go into the city to a certain man," he said, "and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My time is near; I am celebrating the Passover at your place with my disciples.'" 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover. 20 When evening came, he was reclining at the table with the Twelve. 21 While they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." 22 Deeply distressed, each one began to say to him, "Surely not I, Lord?" 23 He replied, "The one who dipped his hand with me in the bowl – he will betray me. 24 The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for him if he had not been born." 25 Judas, his betrayer, replied, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" "You have said it," he told him. 26 As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take and eat it; this is my body." 27 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 But I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." 30 After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he told the disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." 37 Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 He said to them, "I am deeply grieved to the point of death. Remain here and stay awake with me." 39 Going a little farther, he fell facedown and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." 40 Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. He asked Peter, "So, couldn't you stay awake with me one hour? 41 Stay awake and pray, so that you won't enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." 42 Again, a second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." 43 And he came again and found them sleeping, because they could not keep their eyes open. 44 After leaving them, he went away again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more. 45 Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? See, the time is near. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Get up; let's go. See, my betrayer is near."

April 2nd

The Crucifixion John 19:16-30

Then he handed him over to be crucified. Then they took Jesus away. 17 Carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called Place of the Skull, which in Aramaic is called 'Golgotha'. 18 There they crucified him and two others with him, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. 19 Pilate also had a sign made and put on the cross. It said: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. 20 Many of the Jews read this sign, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. 21 So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Don't write, 'The king of the Jews,' but that he said, 'I am the king of the Jews.'" 22 Pilate replied, "What I have written, I have written." 23 When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, a part for each soldier. They also took the tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. 24 So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it, to see who gets it." This happened that the Scripture might be fulfilled that says: They divided my clothes among themselves, and they cast lots for my clothing. This is what the soldiers did. 25 Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." 27 Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. 28 After this, when Jesus knew that everything was now finished that the Scripture might be fulfilled, he said, "I'm thirsty." 29 A jar full of sour wine was sitting there; so they fixed a sponge full of sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it up to his mouth. 30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished." Then bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.

April 3rd

The Burial and the Silence Matthew 27:57-66 and Lamentations 3:22-26

When it was evening, a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph came, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. 58 He approached Pilate and asked for Jesus's body. Then Pilate ordered that it be released. 59 So Joseph took the body, wrapped it in clean, fine linen, 60 and placed it in his new tomb, which he had cut into the rock. He left after rolling a great stone against the entrance of the tomb. 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were seated there, facing the tomb. 62 The next day, which followed the preparation day, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate 63 and said, "Sir, we remember that while this deceiver was still alive he said, 'After three days I will rise again.' 64 So give orders that the tomb be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come, steal him, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first." 65 "Take guards," Pilate told them. "Go and make it as secure as you know how." 66 They went and secured the tomb by setting a seal on the stone and placing the guards.

-- Matthew 27:57-66

Because of the Lord's faithful love we do not perish, for his mercies never end. 23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness! 24 I say, "The Lord is my portion, therefore I will put my hope in him." 25 The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the person who seeks him. 26 It is good to wait quietly for salvation from the Lord. -- Lamentations 3:22-26

April 6th

The Resurrection

John 20:1-10

On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. 2 So she went running to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said to them, "They've taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him!" 3 At that, Peter and the other disciple went out, heading for the tomb. 4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and got to the tomb first. 5 Stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then, following him, Simon Peter also came. He entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. 7 The wrapping that had been on his head was not lying with the linen cloths but was folded up in a separate place by itself. 8 The other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, then also went in, saw, and believed. 9 For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

April 7th

Jesus Appears to Mary and the Disciples John 20:11-23

But Mary stood outside the tomb, crying. As she was crying, she stooped to look into the tomb. 12 She saw two angels in white sitting where Jesus's body had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. 13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "Because they've taken away my Lord," she told them, "and I don't know where they've put him." 14 Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know it was Jesus. 15 "Woman," Jesus said to her, "why are you crying? Who is it that you're seeking?" Supposing he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you've carried him away, tell me where you've put him, and I will take him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." Turning around, she said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" – which means "Teacher." 17 "Don't cling to me," Jesus told her, "since I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them that I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them what he had said to her. 19 When it was evening on that first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together with the doors locked because they feared the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you." 20 Having said this, he showed them his hands and his side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you." 22 After saying this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

April 8th

Jesus and Thomas John 20:24-29

But Thomas (called “Twin”), one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples were telling him, “We’ve seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “If I don’t see the mark of the nails in his hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe.” 26 A week later his disciples were indoors again, and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Don’t be faithless, but believe.” 28 Thomas responded to him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

April 9th

Jesus and Peter John 21:15-19

When they had eaten breakfast, Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said to him, "you know that I love you." "Feed my lambs," he told him. 16 A second time he asked him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," he said to him, "you know that I love you." "Shepherd my sheep," he told him. 17 He asked him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved that he asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." "Feed my sheep," Jesus said. 18 "Truly I tell you, when you were younger, you would tie your belt and walk wherever you wanted. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will tie you and carry you where you don't want to go." 19 He said this to indicate by what kind of death Peter would glorify God. After saying this, he told him, "Follow me."

April 10th

Ascension Luke 24:44-53

He told them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. 46 He also said to them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead the third day, 47 and repentance for forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And look, I am sending you what my Father promised. As for you, stay in the city until you are empowered from on high.” 50 Then he led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. 51 And while he was blessing them, he left them and was carried up into heaven. 52 After worshiping him, they returned to Jerusalem with great joy. 53 And they were continually in the temple praising God.

April 13th

2 Thessalonians 1:5-8

It is clear evidence of God's righteous judgment that you will be counted worthy of God's kingdom, for which you also are suffering, since it is just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you and to give relief to you who are afflicted, along with us. This will take place at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with his powerful angels, when he takes vengeance with flaming fire on those who don't know God and on those who don't obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Reflect

What is a challenge/trial you are facing that you need to trust God through. How do you persevere faithfully, knowing God will one day remove the trial?

Prayer

Pray for God's grace to live well in the midst of trials and challenges in life

April 14th

2 Thessalonians 1:9-10

They will pay the penalty of eternal destruction from the Lord's presence and from his glorious strength on that day when he comes to be glorified by his saints and to be marveled at by all those who have believed, because our testimony among you was believed.

Reflect

Consider how we should respond to those who oppose the gospel in light of their upcoming eternal punishment.

Prayer

Ask for grace to love all people, including those who oppose the gospel. Pray for their salvation.

April 15th

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

In view of this, we always pray for you that our God will make you worthy of his calling, and by his power fulfill your every desire to do good and your work produced by faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified by you, and you by him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflect

How have you seen God working in your life and is that work evident to others? How can you live so others see God's work in your life?

Prayer

Pray that God would make you worthy and continue His work within you.

April 17th

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

Don't let anyone deceive you in any way. For that day will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he sits in God's temple, proclaiming that he himself is God.

Reflect

How does it make you feel knowing that difficulties come in this world? How should you prepare for those times?

Prayer

Pray for protection and for wisdom as you walk through difficult times.

April 20th

2 Thessalonians 2:5-8

Don't you remember that when I was still with you I used to tell you about this? And you know what currently restrains him, so that he will be revealed in his time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but the one now restraining will do so until he is out of the way, and then the lawless one will be revealed.

Reflect

The affirmation that God is restraining evil reminds us that God is ultimately in control. How does that help you live well for Christ?

Prayer

Thank God for the restraint of evil; pray for His timing.

April 21st

2 Thessalonians 2:8-10

And then the lawless one will be revealed. The Lord Jesus will destroy him with the breath of his mouth and will bring him to nothing at the appearance of his coming. The coming of the lawless one is based on Satan's working, with every kind of miracle, both signs and wonders serving the lie, and with every wicked deception among those who are perishing. They perish because they did not accept the love of the truth and so be saved

Reflect

Think of those false teachings in the world that are luring people into a false sense of security. How you combat the lies of the enemy?

Prayer

Ask for God to help you keep a clear mind to know the truth and to live in light of that truth.

April 23rd

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

But we ought to thank God always for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God has chosen you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, so that you might obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflect

Write a thanksgiving for God taking the initiative to save you and call you into life with Him.

Prayer

Thank God for your salvation and for His love that caused Him to reach out to you.

April 24th

2 Thessalonians 2:15-17

So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold to the traditions you were taught, whether by what we said or what we wrote. May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal encouragement and good hope by grace, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good work and word.

Reflect

Consider what it means to stand firm. What does God use in your life to encourage you to stand firm?

Prayer

Pray to stand firm in your faith whether in good days or in difficult days.

April 28th

2 Thessalonians 3:3-5

But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one. We have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will continue to do what we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to God's love and Christ's endurance.

Reflect

Reflect on God's faithfulness. How have you seen God's faithfulness in your life?

Prayer

Thank God for His faithfulness and pray for steadfast a heart.

April 29th

2 Thessalonians 3:6-8

Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister who is idle and does not live according to the tradition received from us. For you yourselves know how you should imitate us: We were not idle among you; we did not eat anyone's food free of charge; instead, we labored and toiled, working night and day, so that we would not be a burden to any of you.

Reflect

Consider the influence of others on your life: who are individuals that God has used to influence you in Christlikeness, how did they do this?

Prayer

Ask for discipline against idleness in yourself and community. Seek to be influenced by godly individuals and to be a godly influence.

April 30th

2 Thessalonians 3:9-12

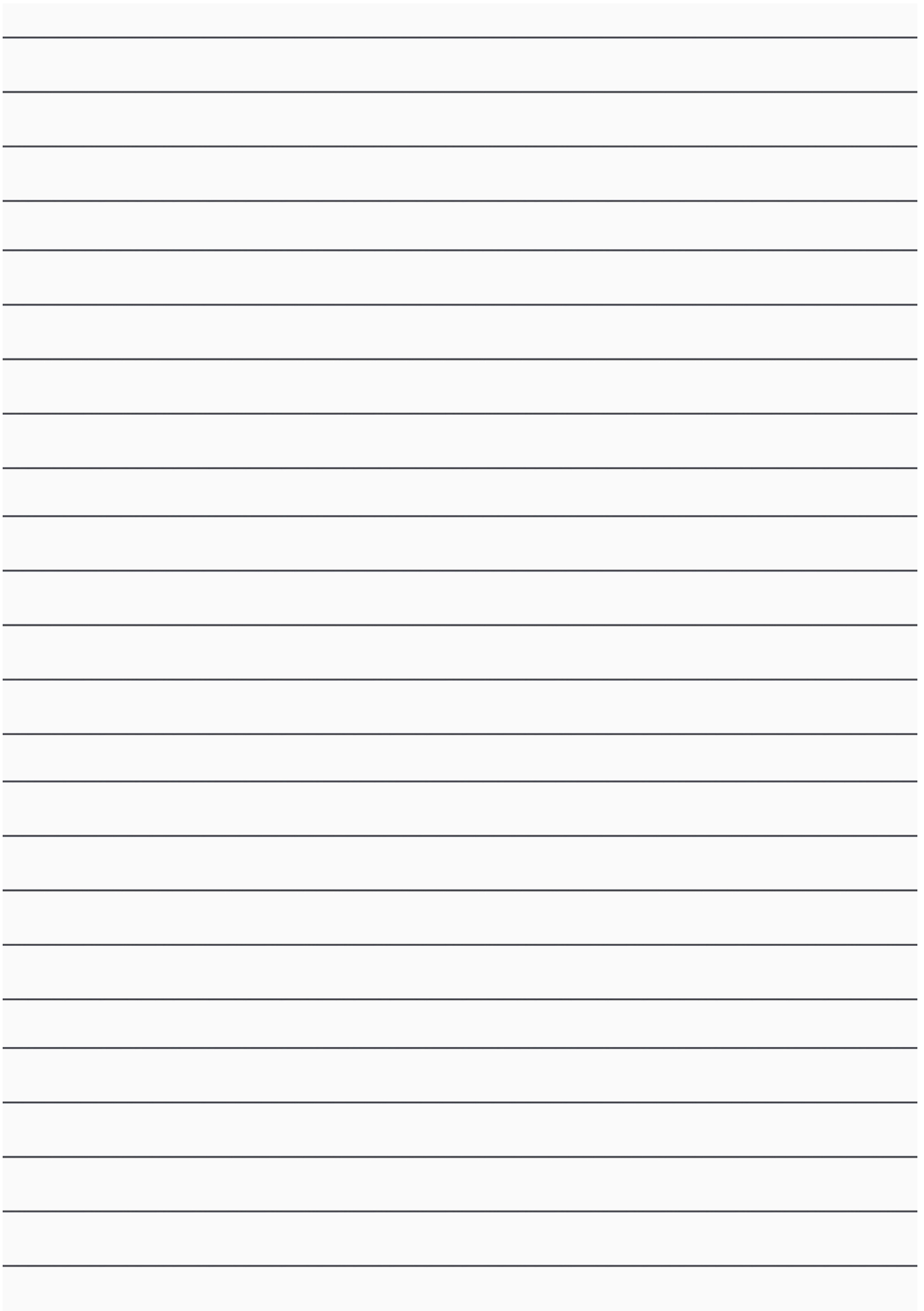
It is not that we don't have the right to support, but we did it to make ourselves an example to you so that you would imitate us. In fact, when we were with you, this is what we commanded you: "If anyone isn't willing to work, he should not eat." For we hear that there are some among you who are idle. They are not busy but busybodies. Now we command and exhort such people by the Lord Jesus Christ to work quietly and provide for themselves.

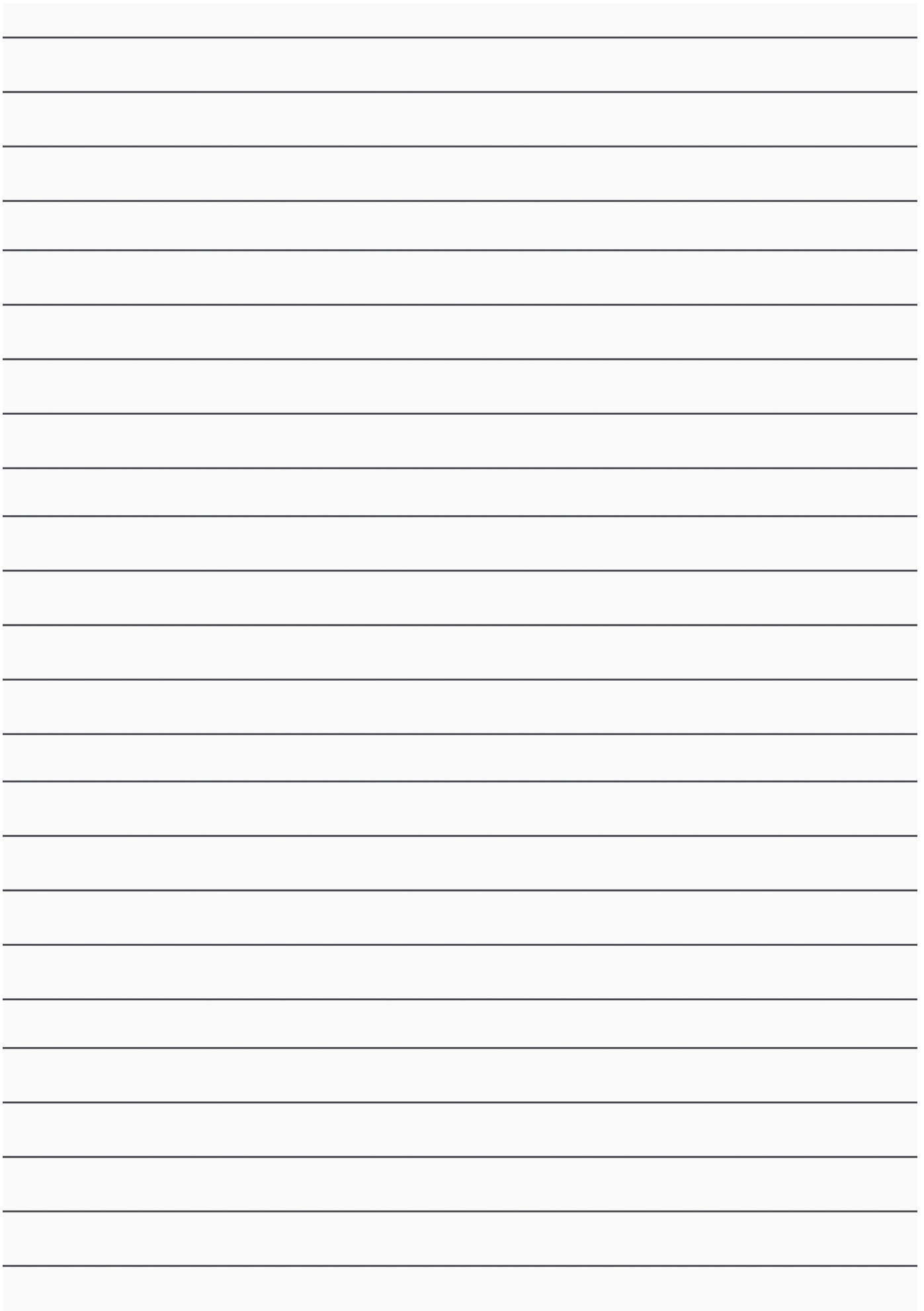
Reflect

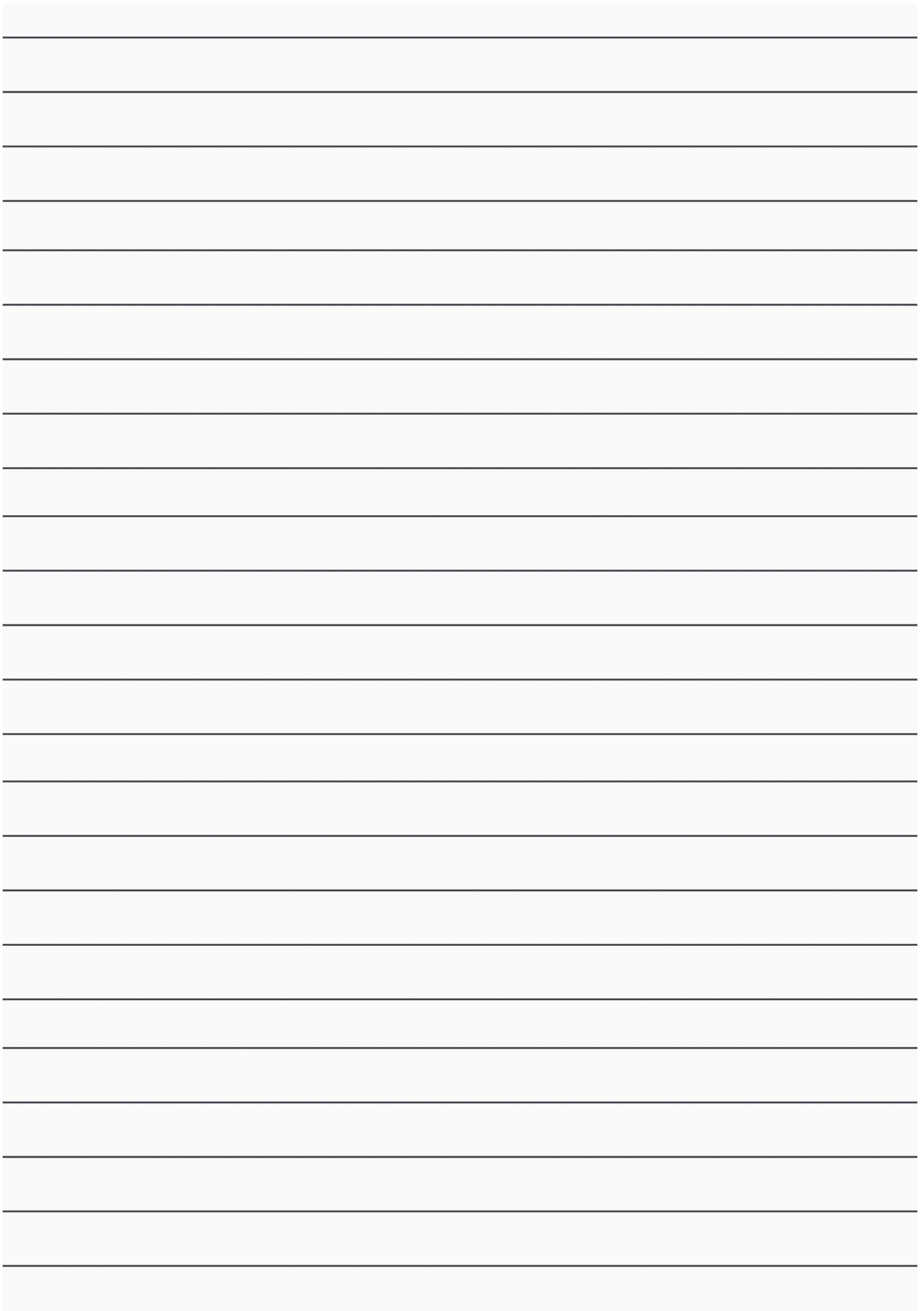
What is God calling you to do as you join the work of the church? How is God using you at MBC?

Prayer

Pray for a place of ministry and for God's working in your life.









METAIRIE

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