

MEDITATING ON THE WORD



Sermons in Stained Glass
August 2026

Before You Begin:

I greatly enjoy taking the time to think through the characters of the Old and New Testaments. They remind me of days when my parents and Sunday School teachers taught me the stories. I also am reminded of growing in my understanding to discover the truths of the stories that can be applied to our lives.

Last month we began looking at several Old Testament characters that are portrayed in the stained glass windows of our sanctuary. That journey continues as we look this month at some of the New Testament characters. As we do so, we are reminded that they are humans just like us whom God used to accomplish His plan upon the earth. You'll be encouraged as you take the time to reflect upon them throughout the week . You will also be challenged on Sunday morning during our worship time to apply these truths to life. Join us on the journey of daily looking into the Word and allowing God to speak to us.

Just a reminder – the goal is not to “finish” each day's assignment. The real goal is to slow down enough to encounter God's word – reading, reflecting, applying, and praying.

Press forward this month as we are “meditating upon the Word!”

Reading Tracker

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☐ August 3

☐ August 4

☐ August 5

☐ August 6

☐ August 7

☐ August 10

☐ August 11

☐ August 12

☐ August 13

☐ August 14

☐ August 17

☐ August 18

☐ August 19

☐ August 20

☐ August 21

☐ August 24

☐ August 25

☐ August 26

☐ August 27

☐ August 28

☐ August 31

August 2nd

Sermon Notes

Title:

Passage:

Preacher:

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August 3rd

Paul

Acts 9:3-9

3 As he traveled and was nearing Damascus, a light from heaven suddenly flashed around him. 4 Falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" 5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul said. "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting," he replied. 6 "But get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." 7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the sound but seeing no one. 8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing. So they took him by the hand and led him into Damascus. 9 He was unable to see for three days and did not eat or drink.

Reflect

Paul had a life-changing encounter with Christ – and he submitted everything to Him. What one word describes your first encounter with Christ? Have you surrendered every area of your life to Christ? Is there an area where you struggle to surrender totally?

Prayer

Pray that God would give you focus to see Him clearly for who He is and that you would submit to Him.

August 4th

Paul

Philippians 3:7-11

7 But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ. 8 More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ – the righteousness from God based on faith. 10 My goal is to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, 11 assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead.

Reflect

Paul once took pride in his accomplishments. After meeting Christ, everything became secondary to knowing Christ more. Honestly, what competes in your life for your attention and takes your focus off Christ? What hinders your surrender?

Prayer

Ask God to help you see those areas that cause you to take our focus off Him. Pray that God would help you place Him first in your life above all things – and find joy in Him.

August 5th

Paul

2 Corinthians 11:23-28

23 Are they servants of Christ? I'm talking like a madman – I'm a better one: with far more labors, many more imprisonments, far worse beatings, many times near death. 24 Five times I received the forty lashes minus one from the Jews. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked. I have spent a night and a day in the open sea. 26 On frequent journeys, I faced dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own people, dangers from Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, and dangers among false brothers; 27 toil and hardship, many sleepless nights, hunger and thirst, often without food, cold, and without clothing. 28 Not to mention other things, there is the daily pressure on me: my concern for all the churches.

Reflect

Paul endured many challenges, yet none of these caused him to abandon his relationship with Christ. How do you respond when difficulties happen? Why should you draw near to Christ in those moments?

Prayer

Pray that God would teach you to lean upon His might and to remain faithful in difficult times. Pray that God would give you strength, endurance, and courage to honor Him in every circumstance.

August 6th

Paul

2 Timothy 4:6-8

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time for my departure is close. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 There is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me, but to all those who have loved his appearing.

Reflect

As Paul's earthly life was coming to an end, he looked back over his life with confidence because of his faithful obedience. How do you think God views your life today and what changes do you need to make to remain faithful?

Prayer

Ask God to give you the perseverance to remain faithful to Him until your race is finished.

August 7th

Paul

Philippians 1:20-21

20 My eager expectation and hope is that I will not be ashamed about anything, but that now as always, with all courage, Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Reflect

Paul's desire whether he lived or died was to glorify Christ. His focus was always on Christ. How focused are you? What can you do to maintain your focus on Him? Think of practical steps and spiritual commitments.

Prayer

Pledge your unwavering devotion to Christ. Ask for your words, your actions, and your life to bring glory to Him.

August 8th

Pray and reflect on what the Lord has taught you this week.

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August 9th

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August 10th

John

John 1:14-18

14 The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified concerning him and exclaimed, "This was the one of whom I said, 'The one coming after me ranks ahead of me, because he existed before me.' ") 16 Indeed, we have all received grace upon grace from his fullness, 17 for the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. The one and only Son, who is himself God and is at the Father's side –he has revealed him.

Reflect

John explains Jesus as God who became flesh. As such, Jesus reveals clearly who God is. Think of the ways in which God reveals Jesus – what characteristics are revealed?

Prayer

Thank God for revealing Himself through Jesus and for the grace which has come through Him. Ask Him to help you know Him more deeply today so that you reflect His truth in your words and actions.

August 11th

John

John 3:14-17

14 “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. 16 For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Reflect

Jesus reminds Nicodemus that God did not send Jesus to condemn the world but to provide salvation. Have you experienced salvation? What does it mean to be born again/saved?

Prayer

Rejoice in God's provision of salvation. Thank God for being born again or ask God to help you come to a point where you believe/receive salvation.

August 12th

John

John 14:6-11

6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you know me, you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." 8 "Lord," said Philip, "show us the Father, and that's enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been among you all this time and you do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who lives in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Otherwise, believe because of the works themselves.

Reflect

Jesus is not simply teaching that He points humanity toward God but that by knowing the Son, you know the Father. Every word and act of Christ shows us what the Father is like. Why do you think God reveals himself to us? What characteristic of God do you find most encouraging in your life?

Prayer

Thank God for being a God who wants us to know Him and who reveals Himself. Commit yourself to seeking to understand God more each day.

August 13th

John

John 19:16-18, 30

16 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. 30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished." Then bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.

Reflect

Jesus died on the cross because He loves you. Describe His love demonstrated for you.

Prayer

Express gratitude to Jesus for the cross and for His love for you. Pledge yourself to live as one who is loved by Christ.

August 14th

John

John 20:30-31

30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Reflect

John wrote the Gospel to lead people to believe. He wants you to understand that it isn't enough to know facts, but to believe and to trust. Do you believe? How can you help others believe? Whom do you need to talk to about believing in Jesus?

Prayer

Pray that your trust in Christ would continue to grow. Be willing to pray, "I believe, help me when I don't." Pray specifically for those whom you need to tell about Jesus.

August 15th

Pray and reflect on what the Lord has taught you this week.

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August 16th

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August 17th

Luke

Luke 2:8-12

8 In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: 11 Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger.”

Reflect

Jesus is the promised Messiah and Lord. What does it mean to say that He is your Messiah, your deliverer? From what does He deliver you? What does it mean to call Him “Lord”?

Prayer

Thank God for sending Jesus as our Messiah. Seek to submit all of your life to Him as your Lord.

August 18th

Luke

Luke 8:22-25

22 And when the days of their purification according to the law of Moses were finished, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord) 24 and to offer a sacrifice (according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons). 25 There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, looking forward to Israel's consolation, and the Holy Spirit was on him.

Reflect

Jesus revealed his authority over the wind and the waves. What is one current fear with which you need to learn to trust Jesus?

Prayer

Ask God to remind you when life gets challenging that He can be trusted. Confess to Him that you are confident He will give you strength when you are challenged.

August 19th

Luke

Luke 9:23-26

23 Then he said to them all, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will save it. 25 For what does it benefit someone if he gains the whole world, and yet loses or forfeits himself? 26 For whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and that of the Father and the holy angels.

Reflect

Following Jesus is more than admiring Jesus! It is a total commitment to follow and obey. Identify an area in your life where self-interest has kept you from fully committing to Christ.

Prayer

Seek for Jesus to teach you to follow Him more closely each day and to surrender more fully to Him.

August 20th

Luke

Luke 19:1-5, 10

1 He entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 There was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. 3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but he was not able because of the crowd, since he was a short man. 4 So running ahead, he climbed up a sycamore tree to see Jesus, since he was about to pass that way. 5 When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down because today it is necessary for me to stay at your house." 10 For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost."

Reflect

Jesus is able to transform lives – He changed Zacchaeus' life!
How has Jesus changed your life? Who is someone that you can encourage to let Jesus change his/her life? How has Jesus changed your life?

Prayer

Give thanks to God for the change He has brought about in your life. Pray for that one who needs God's change.

August 21st

Luke

Luke 18:15-17

15 People were bringing infants to him so that he might touch them, but when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. 16 Jesus, however, invited them: "Let the little children come to me, and don't stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 17 Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Reflect

Jesus taught that faith is humble, dependent, and trusting. Where in your life do you need to trust Christ instead of trying to stay in control?

Prayer

Pray for God to develop in you a childlike faith so that you are truly dependent upon His promises.

August 22nd

Pray and reflect on what the Lord has taught you this week.

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August 23rd

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August 24th

Mark

Mark 1:14-15

14 After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God: 15 “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Reflect

This is Jesus' first sermon. He reminded them that now is the time to repent. Following Jesus involves turning from sin. Are there sins in your life that prevent you from following Him closely?

Prayer

Ask God to reveal any sin that is preventing you from following Him wholeheartedly. Repent of that sin directly and seek to follow God in truth and obedience today.

August 25th

Mark

Mark 1:35-39

35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he got up, went out, and made his way to a deserted place; and there he was praying. 36 Simon and his companions searched for him, 37 and when they found him they said, "Everyone is looking for you." 38 And he said to them, "Let's go on to the neighboring villages so that I may preach there too. This is why I have come." 39 He went into all of Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Reflect

Jesus made a priority of spending time with the Father. Describe His practice as seen in these verses. How do you avoid the pressure from others that take you away from time with God? What steps do you need to take to prioritize time with Him?

Prayer

Commit to God that you will spend quality time daily with Him. Ask God to help you avoid distractions and be focused on Him.

August 26th

Mark

Mark 6:30-34

30 The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all that they had done and taught. 31 He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a remote place and rest for a while." For many people were coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat. 32 So they went away in the boat by themselves to a remote place, 33 but many saw them leaving and recognized them, and they ran on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. 34 When he went ashore, he saw a large crowd and had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things.

Reflect

Jesus saw the crowd and had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. What does that description mean to you? Who is someone to whom you can be compassionate this week?

Prayer

Ask God to help you be compassionate towards others as He has been towards you. Specifically, ask Him to show you people today who are lost or weary and in need of His care.

August 27th

Mark

Mark 10:35-38, 45

35 James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached him and said, "Teacher, we want you to do whatever we ask you." 36 "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked them. 37 They answered him, "Allow us to sit at your right and at your left in your glory." 38 Jesus said to them, "You don't know what you're asking. Are you able to drink the cup I drink or to be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Reflect

The disciples were concerned about positions and recognition. What was Jesus' concern? Why are we so challenged to serve others?

Prayer

Pray that God would daily give you a servant's heart. Ask God to show you someone you can serve this week.

August 28th

Mark

Mark 16:5-7

5 When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side; they were alarmed. 6 “Don’t be alarmed,” he told them. “You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they put him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see him there just as he told you.’ ”

Reflect

The resurrection is the foundation of faith. The empty tomb allows one to live with hope of eternal life. What is it like to live without hope – and what does it mean to have hope?

Prayer

Thank God for hope we have because of the empty tomb. Pray that you will be one who helps others know of this hope.

August 29th

Pray and reflect on what the Lord has taught you this week.

[illegible]

August 30th

Sermon Notes

Title:

Passage:

Preacher:

[illegible]

August 31st

Matthew

Matthew 2:9-12

9 After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was — the star they had seen at its rising. It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and falling to their knees, they worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And being warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their own country by another route.

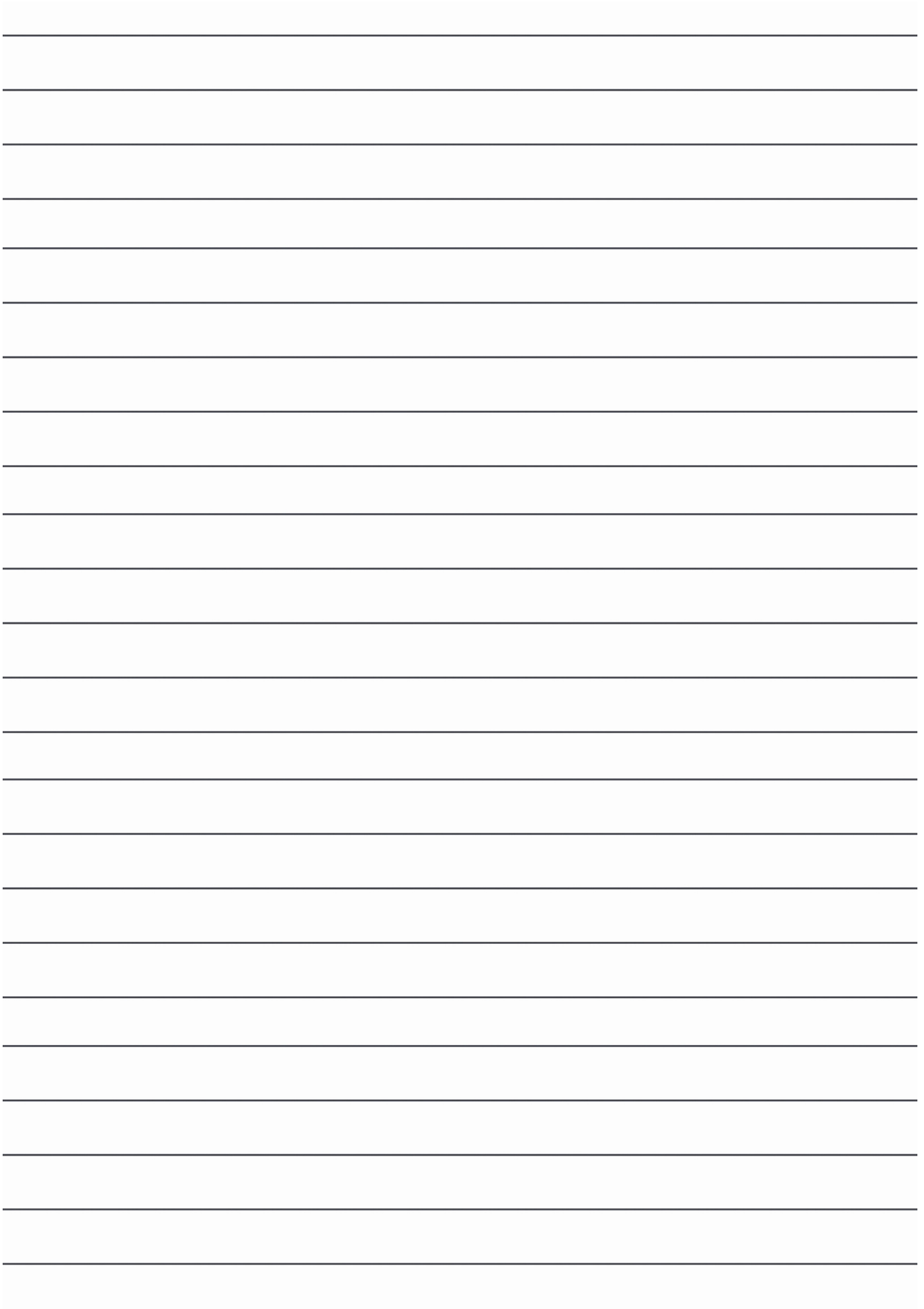
Reflect

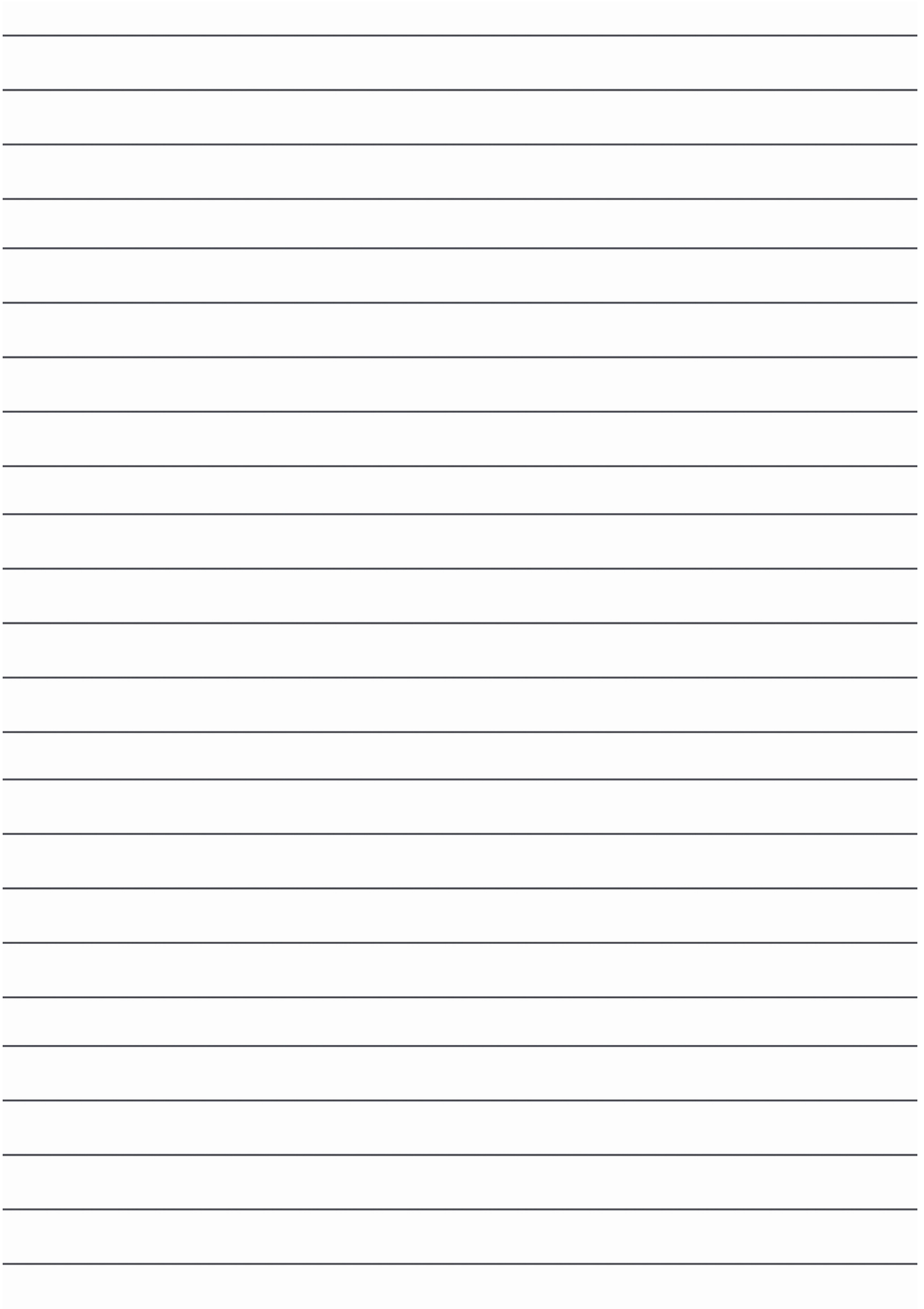
The wisemen discovered Jesus and immediately they worshipped him. How do we make certain that worship is an important practice in our lives? What does it mean to worship Jesus?

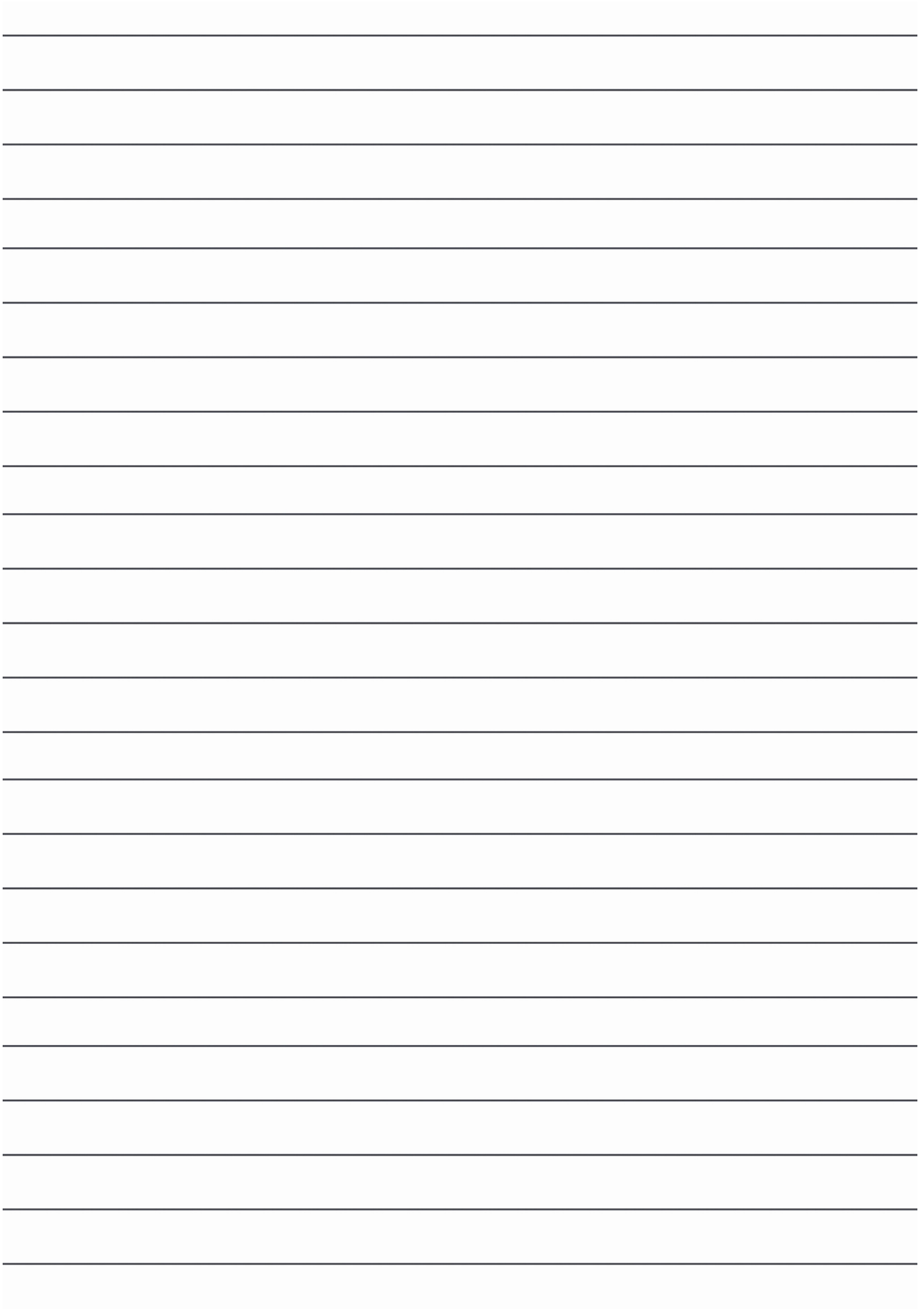
Prayer

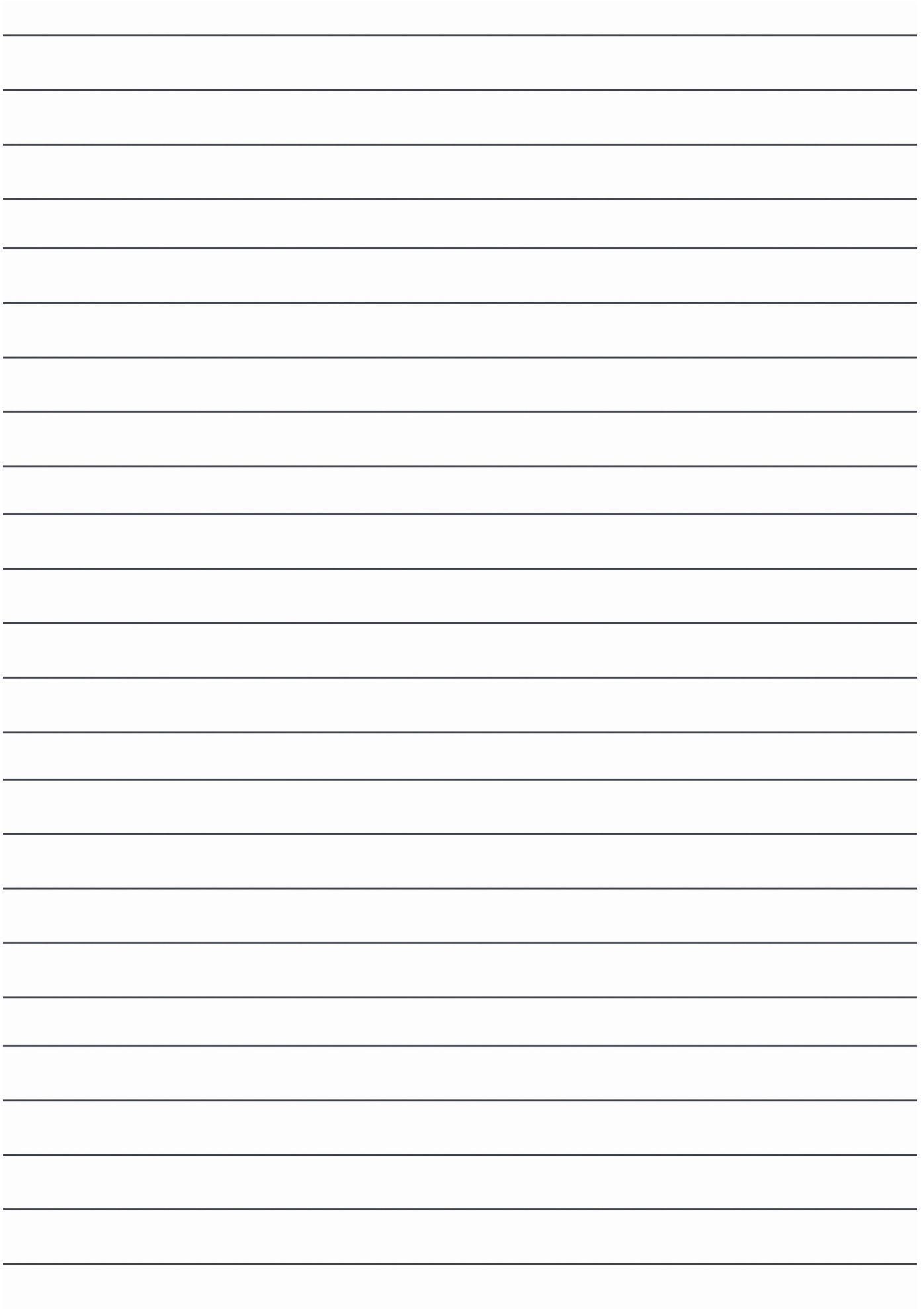
Remember that Jesus is worthy of worship. Worship Him through your prayers!

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