



MEDITATING ON THE WORD

Readings and Reflections
on the Purpose of the Church

May 2026

Before You Begin:

We have been taught since childhood that the church is not the building, but it is the people. The very word “church” in the Greek means “called out ones.” We who are a part of Metairie Baptist Church are ones who have been called out of darkness and have been given a new life. This new life was never designed to be lived alone. We are in need of community as humans and in need of the church community as followers of Christ. Community, though, is much more than just attendance. Community involves a gathering of like-minded people for the sake of a common purpose and goal. Ultimately, our purpose is to worship God. We do that through making certain that people “know God intimately, grow intentionally, and go missionally.”

This month we are going to explore what it means to be the church. Join us as we read each day a passage related to the meaning and the purpose of the church. This is a great time to reflect upon what Scripture says about the church, specifically Metairie Baptist Church, and our mission. Take time to reflect – and to pray.

Each month provides new opportunities for growing in our relationship with Christ. “Meditating on the Word” is a tool to encourage each one to live faithfully as a follower of Christ and be transformed daily into His image.

Reading Tracker

May 1

May 4

May 5

May 6

May 7

May 8

May 11

May 12

May 13

May 14

May 15

May 18

May 19

May 20

May 21

May 22

May 25

May 26

May 27

May 28

May 29

May 1st

2 Thessalonians 3:13-18

But as for you, brothers and sisters, do not grow weary in doing good. 14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take note of that person; don't associate with him, so that he may be ashamed. 15 Yet don't consider him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother. 16 May the Lord of peace himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with all of you. 17 I, Paul, am writing this greeting with my own hand, which is an authenticating mark in every letter; this is how I write. 18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Reflect

Reflect on what God has called you to accomplish today and note whether you are growing weary. How do you avoid being exhausted? Write your commitment to stay the course to be faithful to God's calling on your life.

Prayer

Pray for God's grace to keep doing the things He has called you to do and living the life He has called you to live.

May 4th

The Church is God's Church

Matthew 16:15-18

"But you," he asked them, "who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus responded, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Reflect

Peter confesses that Jesus is the Christ. Jesus says that this confession and truth is the foundation upon which the church is established. Jesus says: "I will build my church." How does this shape your view of the church?

Prayer

Thank Jesus for building His church on the truth of the gospel.

May 5th

The Church is God's Church

Acts 2:42-44

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. 44 Now all the believers were together and held all things in common.

Reflect

The early church was devoted to teaching, fellowship, and prayer. Which of these is most needed in your life and how do you see the church encouraging you in this area? How can you encourage others in these areas?

Prayer

Ask God to deepen your commitment to Him through teaching, fellowship, and prayer.

May 6th

The Church is God's Church

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body – so also is Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and we were all given one Spirit to drink.

Reflect

We are one body in Christ. Do you see yourself as connected to the body of Christ? What steps can you take to make the connection with the church stronger?

Prayer

Pray for unity and for a sense of belonging in your church.

May 7th

The Church is God's Church

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, 25 not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.

Reflect

Gathering matters. What competes with your commitment to gather? In this verse, "provoke" is a good thing – so how can we provoke others who are a part of the church to love more?

Prayer

Ask God to renew your desire to meet and encourage others.

May 8th

The Church is God's Church

Ephesians 2:19-22

So, then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building, being put together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you are also being built together for God's dwelling in the Spirit.

Reflect

We are being built into God's dwelling. What does it mean that God dwells among His people?

Prayer

Thank God that He is present in and among His church.

May 11th

We are called to help others
know God intimately

Luke 19:10 and John 3:14-17

For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.”

- Luke 19:10

“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.

- John 3:14-17

Reflect

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Do you share His heart?
How can you help those without Christ hear about Christ?

Prayer

Ask God to give you compassion for those who do not have an intimate relationship with Christ.

May 12th

We are called to help others
know God intimately

Romans 10:13-15

For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. 14 How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.

Reflect

People must hear to believe. What prevents you from being a messenger to others?

Prayer

Pray for God to help you rely upon Him for strength and for opportunities to speak about Christ this week.

May 13th

We are called to help others know God intimately

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, the new has come! 18 Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. 19 That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God."

Reflect

We are ambassadors for Christ. In what ways do you represent Him well? What changes do you need to make to represent Him better?

Prayer

Pray that your life clearly reflects Christ to others.

May 14th

We are called to help others
know God intimately

Matthew 28:19-20

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Reflect

The church is sent to make disciples. What does it mean to be a disciple? What changes do you need to make to be a faithful disciple? Who has God placed in your life to disciple?

Prayer

Ask God for boldness to share the Gospel and to make disciples.

May 15th

We are called to help others know God intimately

John 4:25-26, 28-30

The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will explain everything to us." 26 Jesus told her, "I, the one speaking to you, am he." 28 Then the woman left her water jar, went into town, and told the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" 30 They left the town and made their way to him.

Reflect

One encounter can lead many to Christ. List all those who come to mind that you know are in need of hearing about Jesus.

Prayer

Ask God to use you to draw those you listed to Him. Pray specifically for each one.

May 18th

We are called to grow intentionally

Colossians 2:6-7

So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him, 7 being rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude.

Reflect

Growth comes from “walking with Christ daily”. What does that phrase mean to you and how can you walk better?

Prayer

Ask God to deepen your spiritual foundation.

May 19th

We are called to grow intentionally

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.

Reflect

We are called to grow in grace and knowledge. Where do you need growth in your life with Christ? What steps do you need to take to grow? Who can help you grow more?

Prayer

Pray for spiritual maturity and understanding.

May 20th

We are called to grow intentionally

Ephesians 4:11-13

And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness.

Reflect

The church equips believers to accomplish God's calling. How are you being equipped and what areas in the church do you sense God calling you to invest your life? How can I encourage others who are serving at church?

Prayer

Ask God to use your church to strengthen your faith and for Him to use you to strengthen the ministry.

May 21st

We are called to grow intentionally

Psalm 1:1-3

How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers! 2 Instead, his delight is in the Lord's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams that bears its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Reflect

God's Word nourishes growth. How consistent are you in reading the Word? What do you need to do differently – what commitment do you need to make? What is best time for you to set aside to read the Word daily?

Prayer

Pray for a hunger and delight in Scripture. Pray for consistency in reading and studying Scripture.

May 22nd

We are called to grow intentionally

Hebrews 5:12-14

Although by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the basic principles of God's revelation again. You need milk, not solid food. 13 Now everyone who lives on milk is inexperienced with the message about righteousness, because he is an infant. 14 But solid food is for the mature – for those whose senses have been trained to distinguish between good and evil.

Reflect

Growth requires moving beyond spiritual infancy. Are you maturing? How would those who know you best evaluate your walk with Christ? What does God think of your walk – growing, stagnant, or something else? In what areas do you need to grow? How?

Prayer

Ask God to help you grow in discernment and obedience.

May 25th

We are called to go missionally

James 1:22-25

But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like someone looking at his own face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of person he was. 25 But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who works – this person will be blessed in what he does.

Reflect

We must be doers of the Word. What does that mean to you? What is the danger of just hearing the truth without acting upon it? How do you avoid this?

Prayer

Ask God for obedience, and not just knowledge.

May 26th

We are called to go missionally

Acts 1:7-8

He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Reflect

We are witnesses locally and globally. Describe the mission field in which God has placed you. How can you help people in your neighborhood know Christ? How can you help the world know Christ?

Prayer

Pray for courage to live as a witness for Christ.

May 27th

We are called to go missionally

Galatians 6:9-10

Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith.

Reflect

Life and ministry can be tiring. It is easy to get "weary." What causes you to want to quit? What is the motivation for not quitting? How can you focus on Christ and how can you make certain your work is a way to reflect your gratitude to Him?

Prayer

Ask God for perseverance and for strength to overcome that temptation to quit.

May 28th

We are called to go missionally

Micah 6:7-8

Would the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams or with ten thousand streams of oil? Should I give my firstborn for my transgression, the offspring of my body for my own sin? 8 Mankind, he has told each of you what is good and what it is the Lord requires of you: to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your God.

Reflect

God calls us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. Describe how each of these is found in your life.

Prayer

Pray for a life that reflects God's heart in action.

May 29th

We are called to go missionally

1 Peter 4:10-11

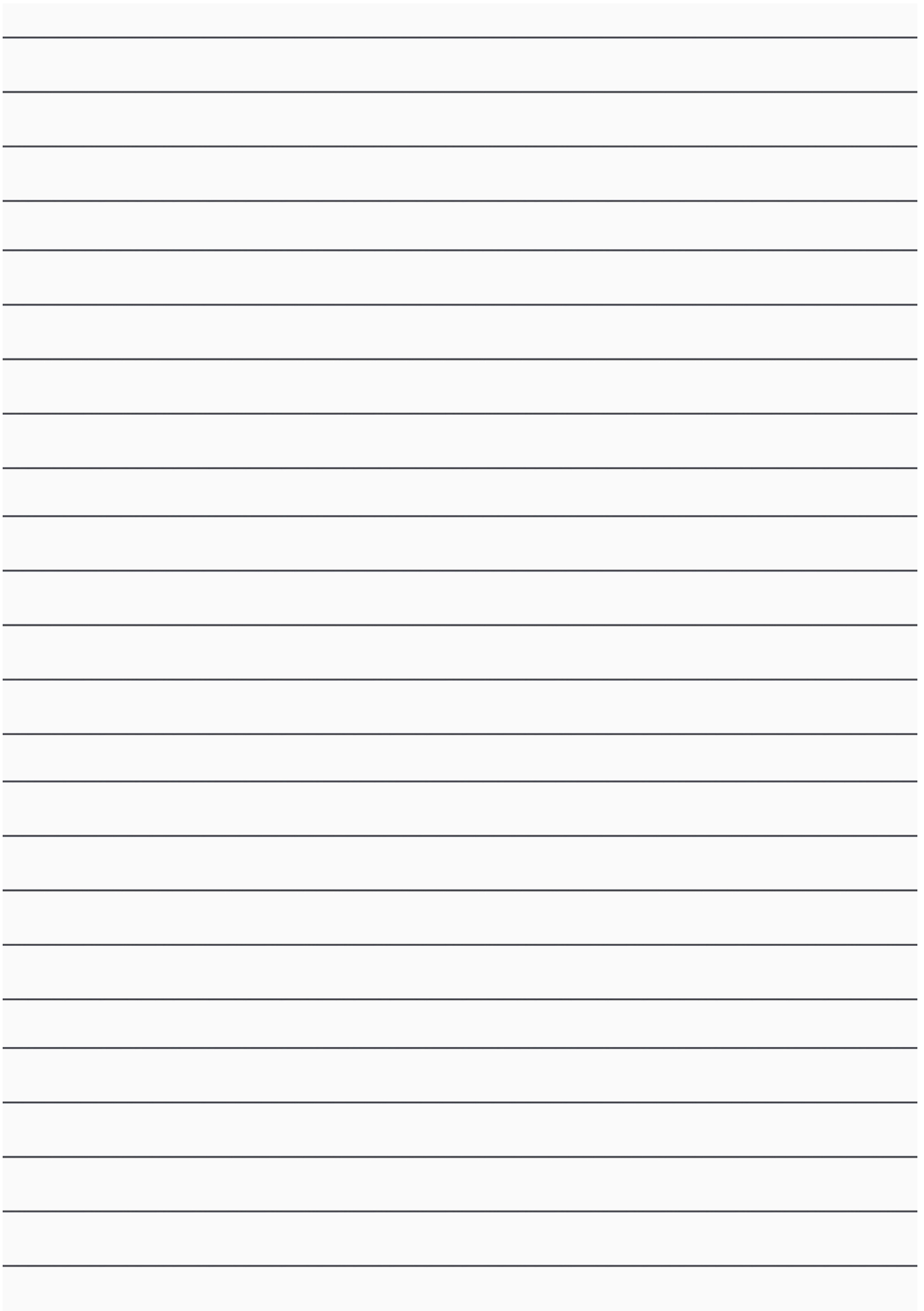
Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. 11 If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

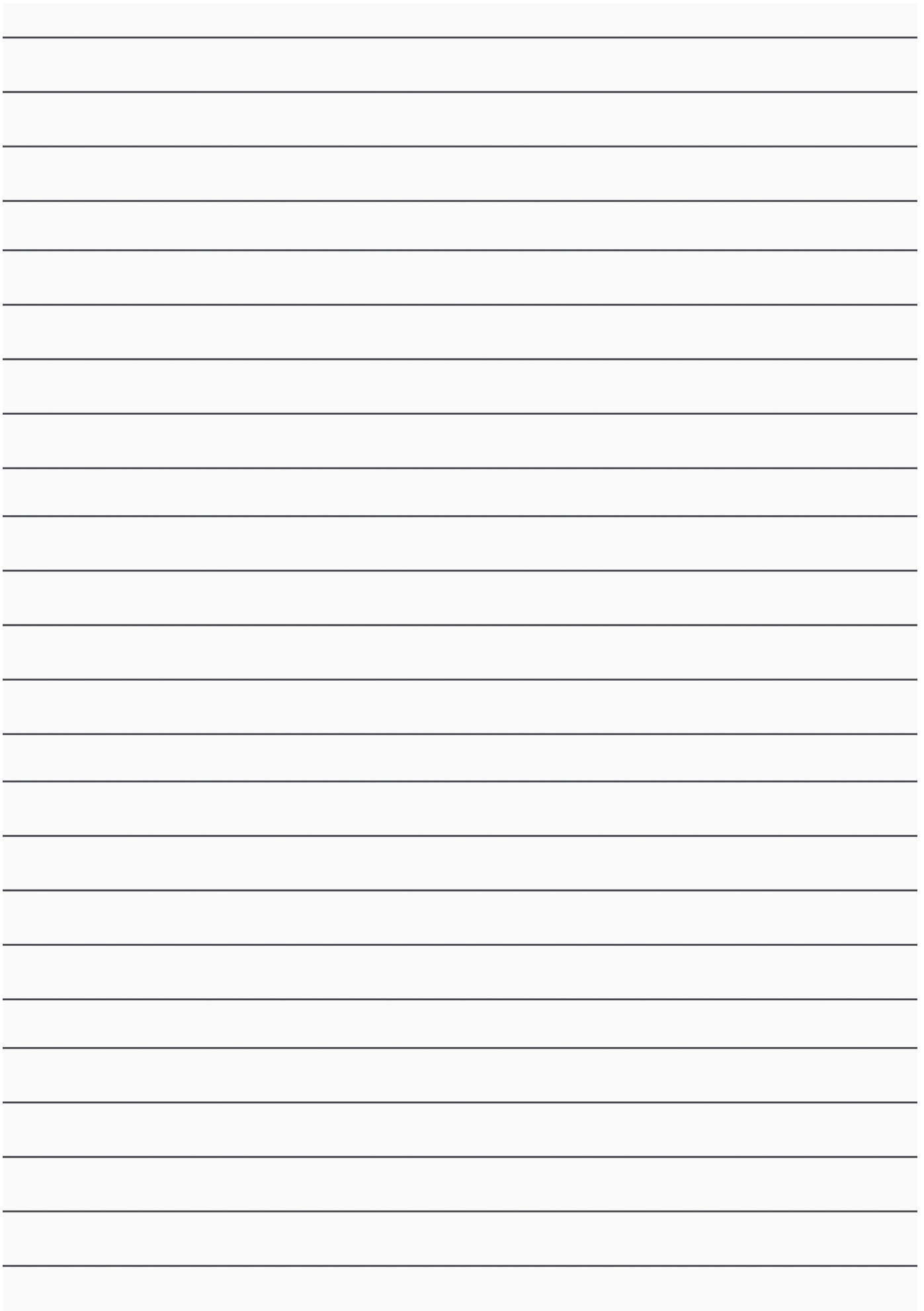
Reflect

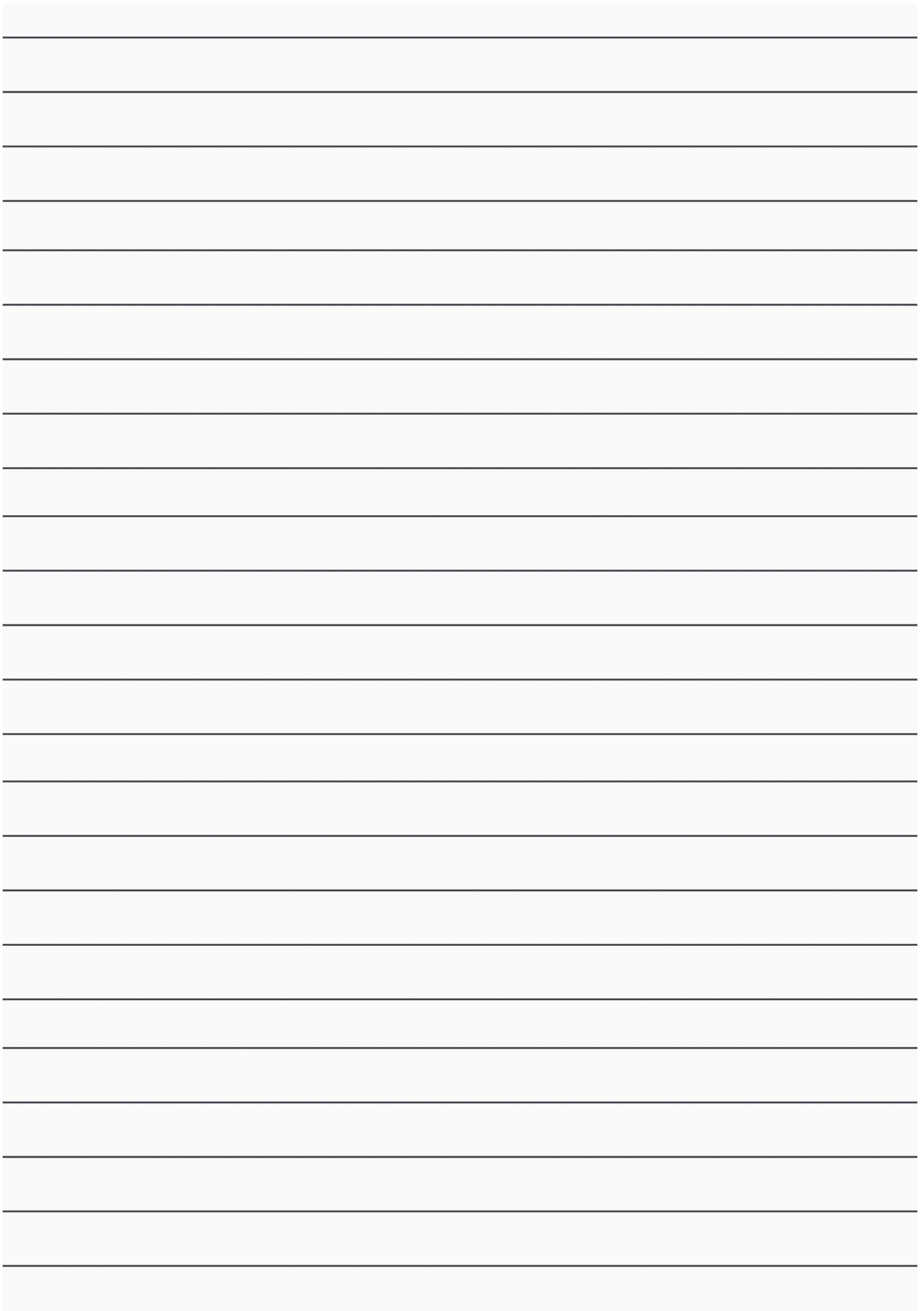
What are the gifts that God has given to you? How can you use your gifts to serve others. What gift can you use this week or this month to serve others?

Prayer

Ask God to show you how to serve faithfully.









METAIRIE

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