



Meditating on the Word



Reading and Reflections
in 1 Corinthians

October 2026

Before You Begin:

On Paul's second missionary journey, he came to the city of Corinth. The year was approximately 51-52 AD. Corinth was a busy, metropolitan center. Commerce and trade were key to the economy. The city was a major port on the Mediterranean Sea. As a result, the city was a melting pot – full of different people groups and religious beliefs. Most of those religious beliefs were pagan. The goddess of love, Aphrodite, was considered the protector of the city – and high atop the acropolis, overlooking the city, was the temple where she was worshipped. This would not have been an easy place to establish a church or to share the good news about Jesus.

However, Paul was determined to share the gospel where it was needed, not just where it was easy. And the gospel was definitely needed in Corinth. He preached and some came to know Christ personally – and a church was formed.

As the months passed, the new Christians had questions about how to live as a follower of Christ in a pagan city. They sent a letter asking Paul questions. In return, Paul wrote what we refer to as 1 Corinthians to answer those questions.

As you study through 1 Corinthians, listen to God instructing you how to live for Him in our world today!

Reading Tracker

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☐ October 1

☐ October 2

☐ October 5

☐ October 6

☐ October 7

☐ October 8

☐ October 9

☐ October 12

☐ October 13

☐ October 14

☐ October 15

☐ October 16

☐ October 19

☐ October 20

☐ October 21

☐ October 22

☐ October 23

☐ October 26

☐ October 27

☐ October 28

☐ October 29

☐ October 30

October 1st

1 Corinthians 2:6-13

6 We do, however, speak a wisdom among the mature, but not a wisdom of this age, or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 On the contrary, we speak God's hidden wisdom in a mystery, a wisdom God predestined before the ages for our glory. 8 None of the rulers of this age knew this wisdom, because if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written, What no eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no human heart has conceived — God has prepared these things for those who love him. 10 Now God has revealed these things to us by the Spirit, since the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except his spirit within him? In the same way, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who comes from God, so that we may understand what has been freely given to us by God. 13 We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual things to spiritual people.

Reflect

How do these verses encourage you to approach scripture? Is there a danger of seeking information over encountering God?

Prayer

Humbly ask God to open your mind daily to understand clearly His word and to apply it to your life.

October 2nd

1 Corinthians 2:14-16

14 But the person without the Spirit does not receive what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to understand it since it is evaluated spiritually. 15 The spiritual person, however, can evaluate everything, and yet he himself cannot be evaluated by anyone. 16 For who has known the Lord's mind, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Reflect

Paul says, "We have the mind of Christ." What does this mean? Are your attitudes toward others becoming more like Christ?

Prayer

Seek for God to transform your mind and thoughts to those of Christ.

October 3rd

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

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October 4th

Sermon Notes

Title:

Passage:

Preacher:

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October 5th

1 Corinthians 1:10

Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, that there be no divisions among you, and that you be united with the same understanding and the same conviction.

Reflect

Where are you allowing personal preferences, personalities, or divisions to become more important than unity in Christ? What are possible areas in the church that could cause fractures? How can you contribute to greater unity in your church?

Prayer

Pray that God would help you to value the unity of your church more than your own preferences, help you guard your heart from pride, division, and personality-centered Christianity, and make you a peacemaker who points people to Christ.

October 6th

Philippians 2:3-5

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. 4 Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others. 5 Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus,

Reflect

Why are people tempted to put themselves and their opinions before anyone else? Where are you putting your interests ahead of others?

Prayer

Ask God to work within your life so that you have the mind of Christ and think like Christ.

October 7th

Galatians 2:19-20

19 For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live for God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Reflect

What does it mean to die to your old self? What are you struggling with that is not a part of God's new life which He gave you? Are you living for yourself or allowing Christ to live through you?

Prayer

Surrender total control of your life to Him. Pray for wisdom to see those things in your life that should be surrendered.

October 8th

Luke 9:23-24

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.

Reflect

What does denying yourself look like today? What is the greatest obstacle to your total commitment to Christ?

Prayer

Pray for grace and help to surrender control of your life. Seek to make this a daily commitment.

October 9th

Philippians 2:6-8

6 who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. 7 Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, 8 he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death – even to death on a cross.

Reflect

How did Jesus deny himself? Why did He deny himself? What does it mean for you to deny yourself?

Prayer

Pray for wisdom to follow the example of Jesus and deny/humble yourself.

October 10th

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

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October 11th

Sermon Notes

Title:

Passage:

Preacher:

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October 12th

1 Corinthians 1:18-21

18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is the power of God to us who are being saved. 19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will set aside the intelligence of the intelligent. 20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the debater of this age? Hasn't God made the world's wisdom foolish? 21 For since, in God's wisdom, the world did not know God through wisdom, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of what is preached.

Reflect

Paul explained that those who aren't followers of Christ see the cross as making no sense. What does the cross mean to you?

Prayer

Thank God for the cross. Ask for God to reveal more fully to you the meaning and the purpose of the cross.

October 13th

1 Corinthians 1:25-27, 31

25 because God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. 26 Brothers and sisters, consider your calling: Not many were wise from a human perspective, not many powerful, not many of noble birth. 27 Instead, God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong. 31 in order that, as it is written: Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.

Reflect

Paul recognized that God has chosen to use ordinary people in this world. Why do you think God uses ordinary people? What has God chosen you to do?

Prayer

Give thanks that God uses ordinary people and commit yourself to listen carefully for His calling – and then pray for courage to respond.

October 14th

1 Corinthians 2:1-3, 5

1 When I came to you, brothers and sisters, announcing the mystery of God to you, I did not come with brilliance of speech or wisdom.

2 I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 I came to you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.

5 so that your faith might not be based on human wisdom but on God's power.

Reflect

How did Paul depend upon God to accomplish what God called him to do? How do these verses help you move beyond thinking you have to be "sufficient in yourself" to accomplish God's tasks?

Prayer

Pray that you would be obedient to His calling on your life. Seek to remove from your life those personal insecurities that prevent you from embracing God's call.

October 15th

Hebrews 5:11-12

11 We have a great deal to say about this, and it is difficult to explain, since you have become too lazy to understand. 12 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.

Reflect

What does growing in your walk with Christ mean? Where have you stopped growing spiritually? What commitments do you need to make to grow more?

Prayer

Pray for God to awaken in you a desire to grow and pray that He shows you specific steps to take.

October 16th

Colossians 1:9-10

9 For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, 10 so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God,

Reflect

What evidence of spiritual growth is visible in your life? What does it mean to "walk worthy"?

Prayer

Ask God for strength to live in such a way that you are a clear representative of a changed life.

October 17th

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

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October 18th

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October 19th

1 Corinthians 3:6-9

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So, then, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's coworkers. You are God's field, God's building.

Reflect

How do these verses remind you of your part in God's work? What are the implications of being God's "fellow workers"?

Prayer

Pray for God to remind you daily of His work in you and through your life. Thank God for the privilege of being a "fellow worker."

October 20th

1 Corinthians 3:12-15

12 If anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, 13 each one's work will become obvious. For the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire; the fire will test the quality of each one's work. 14 If anyone's work that he has built survives, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned up, he will experience loss, but he himself will be saved – but only as through fire.

Reflect

What are you doing that will make a difference in eternity – something that will last? What are you spending much time on that will not last?

Prayer

Seek for God's wisdom to know what you should invest your time and effort in that would make a lasting difference.

October 21st

1 Corinthians 3:16, 23

16 Don't you yourselves know that you are God's temple and that the Spirit of God lives in you? 23 and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

Reflect

How does knowing that you are a temple of God and that you belong to Christ impact your living? What adjustments do you need to make?

Prayer

Appeal to God for help to honor Him with your life, your choices, and your relationships

October 22nd

1 Thessalonians 4:1-3a

1 Additionally then, brothers and sisters, we ask and encourage you in the Lord Jesus, that as you have received instruction from us on how you should live and please God – as you are doing – do this even more. 2 For you know what commands we gave you through the Lord Jesus. 3 For this is God's will, your sanctification:

Reflect

Sanctification means to grow daily to be more holy as Christ is holy. What is found in your life that is not holy and doesn't reflect Christ? How can you prevent a lack of holiness?

Prayer

Confess anything in your life that is not a clear reflection of God. Request that God would help you pursue holiness as a way to be thankful for all He has done.

October 23rd

Galatians 5:16, 22-23

16 I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things.

Reflect

What fruit of the Spirit most needs to grow in you? How can you allow the Spirit to produce this within you?

Prayer

Pray that God would produce His spiritual fruit within your life.

October 24th

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

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October 25th

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October 26th

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

1 A person should think of us in this way: as servants of Christ and managers of the mysteries of God. 2 In this regard, it is required that managers be found faithful.

Reflect

Why is it important to realize that we are called to be servants?
Whose approval matters most to you? Would God consider you
“trustworthy”?

Prayer

Pray for God to remind you daily that the example He set for us is to live a life of servanthood. Ask Him to work in you so that you embrace a life as a “servant of Christ.”

October 27th

1 Corinthians 4:5

5 So don't judge anything prematurely, before the Lord comes, who will both bring to light what is hidden in darkness and reveal the intentions of the hearts. And then praise will come to each one from God.

Reflect

How judgmental would you consider yourself? How quick are you to dismiss someone and consider them beyond hope? How does the promise of a future judgment provide direction for you?

Prayer

Seek to remain focused on God's task and to not be dismissive or judgmental of others.

October 28th

1 Corinthians 4:15-16

15 For you may have countless instructors in Christ, but you don't have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 16 Therefore I urge you to imitate me.

Reflect

In what way do you need to adjust your life as you seek to imitate Christ? What type of example are you setting for other followers?

Prayer

Ask for God's power to live well and to set an example for those who follow you.

October 29th

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

6 The point is this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each person should do as he has decided in his heart – not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work.

Reflect

What does your generosity say about my heart condition? What prevents you from giving or from giving more?

Prayer

Ask God to make your heart more like His and as a result make you more generous.

October 30th

Luke 16:10-13

10 Whoever is faithful in very little is also faithful in much, and whoever is unrighteous in very little is also unrighteous in much. 11 So if you have not been faithful with worldly wealth, who will trust you with what is genuine? 12 And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to someone else, who will give you what is your own? 13 No servant can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Reflect

Does God consider you trustworthy in the “little things” of life? What does it mean to be faithful with our wealth and with our lives?

Prayer

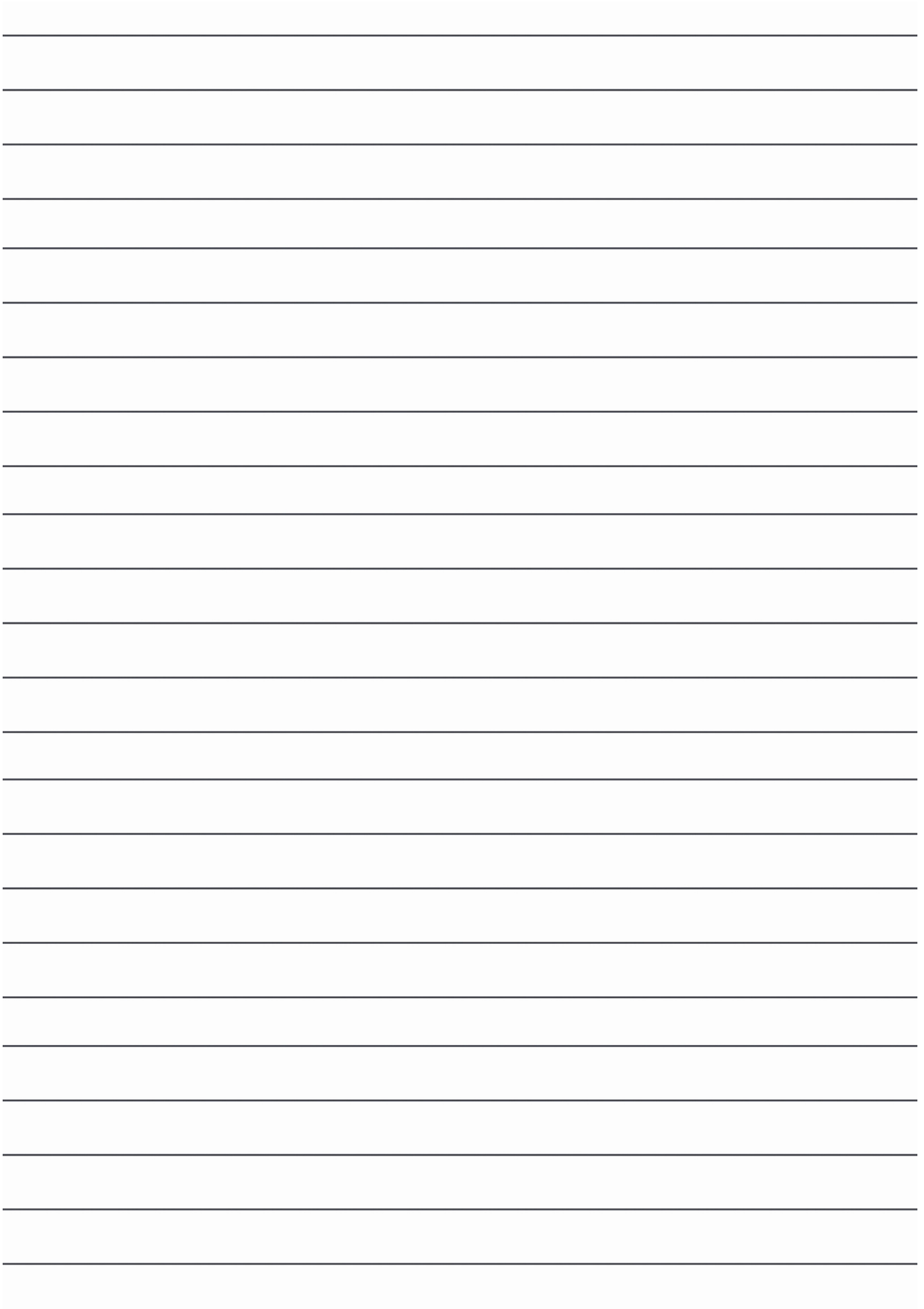
Pray that God would help you be faithful in all the things you have been called to do.

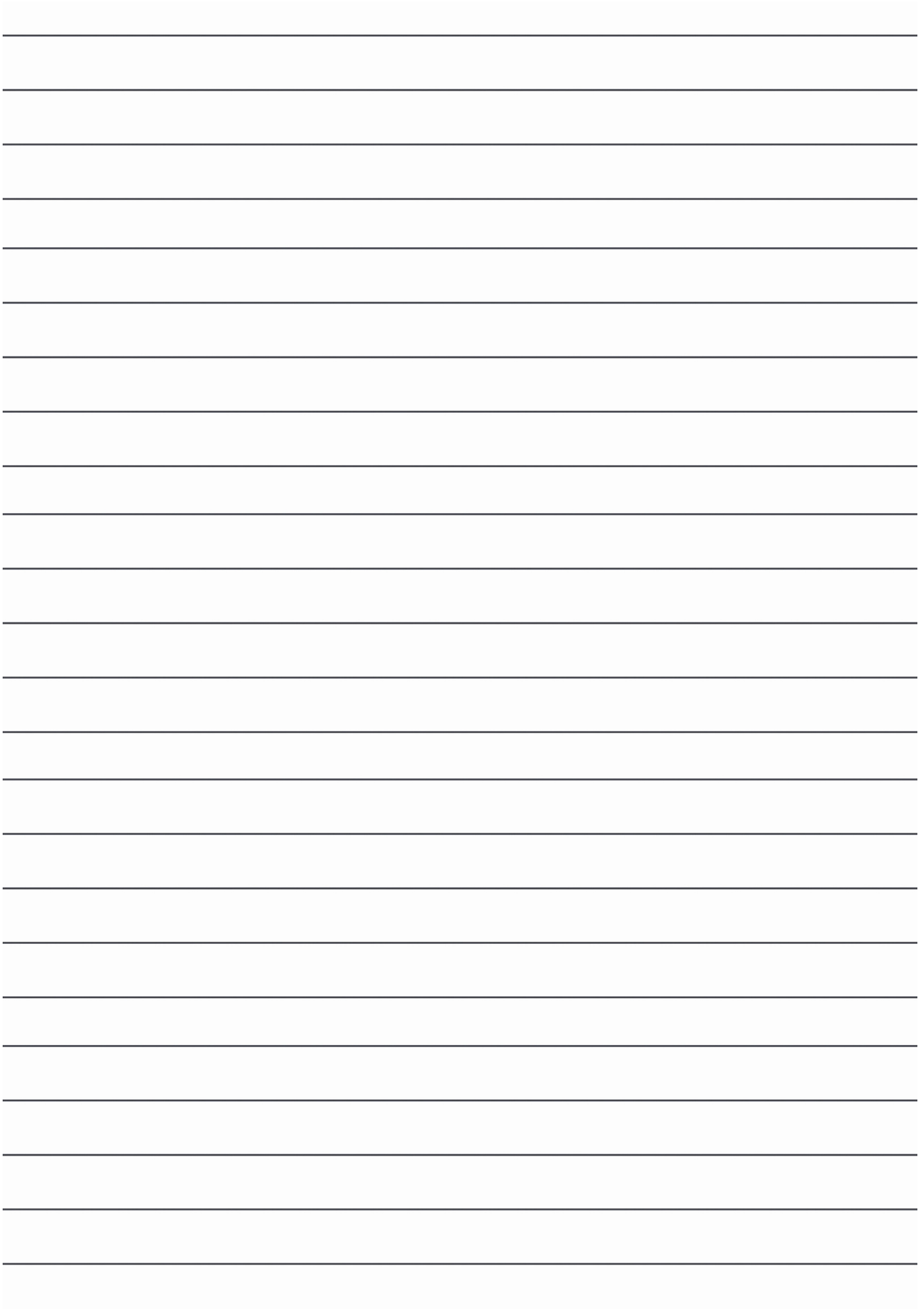
October 31st

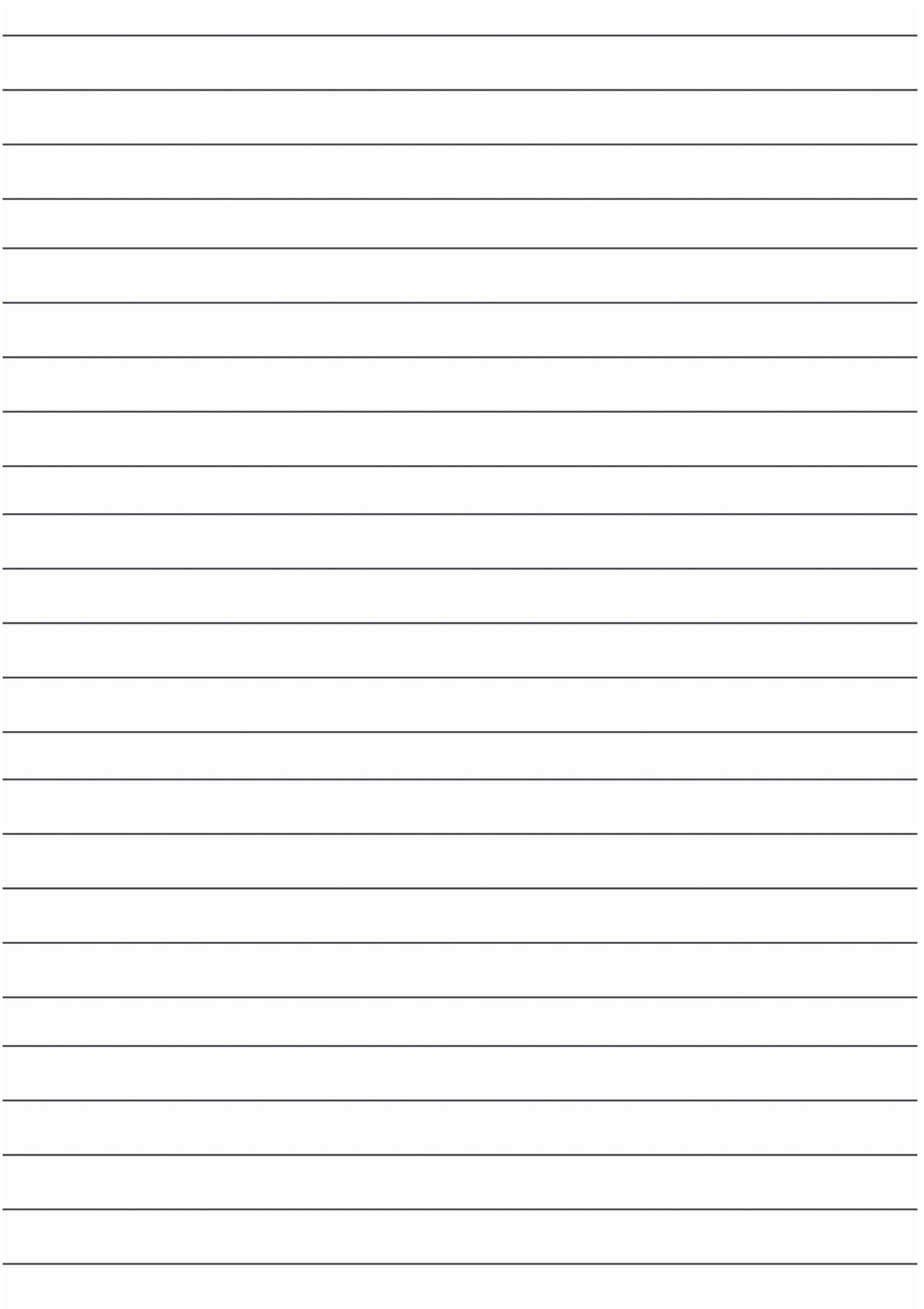
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