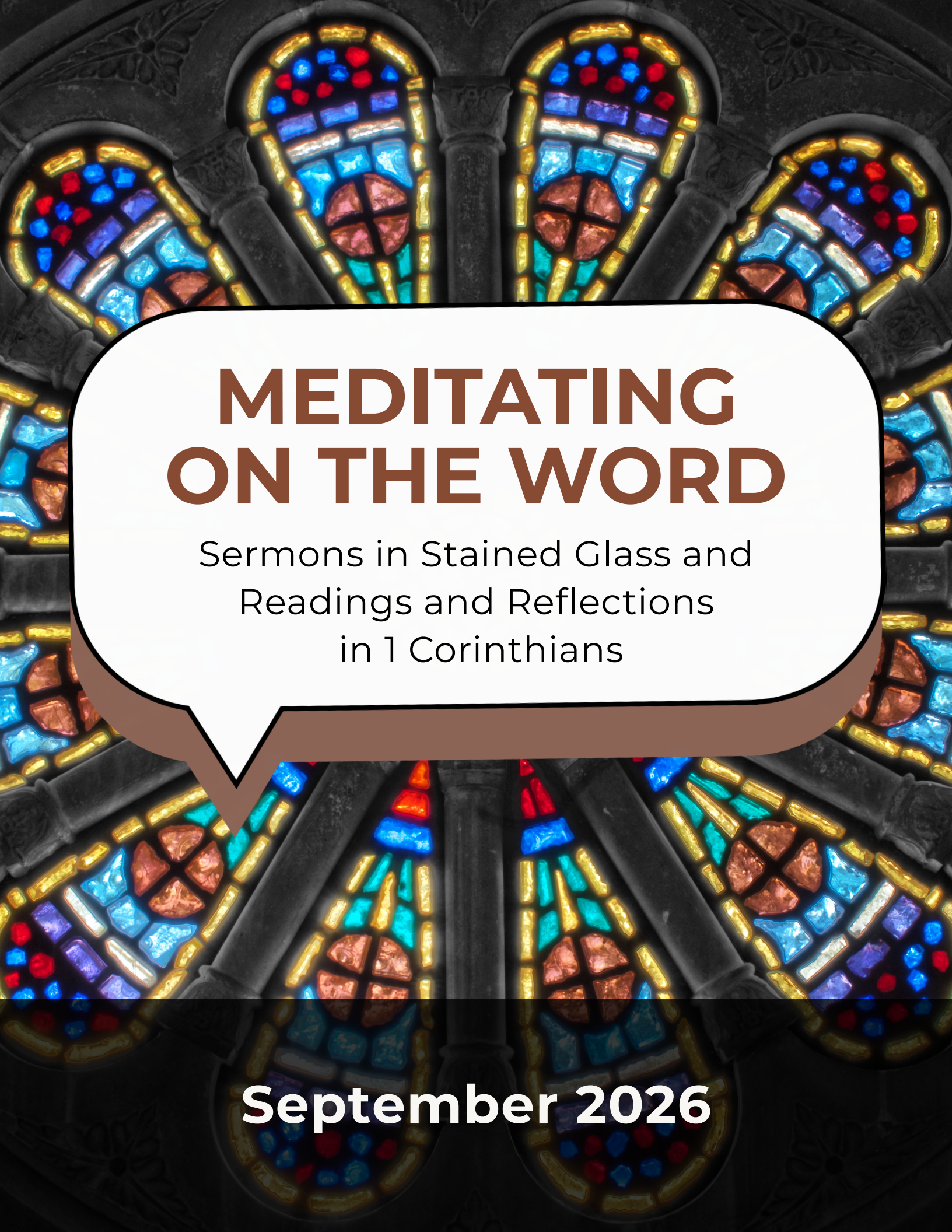


The background of the entire image is a close-up, high-contrast photograph of a stained glass window. It features several arched openings filled with colorful glass in shades of blue, red, yellow, and green, held together by dark lead lines. The lighting creates a shimmering effect on the glass surfaces.

MEDITATING ON THE WORD

Sermons in Stained Glass and
Readings and Reflections
in 1 Corinthians

September 2026

Before You Begin:

Thank you for making a priority of “meditating on the Word.” The Bible reminds us that the Word is “living and effective” (Heb. 4:12). Each time we read a verse or a passage of Scripture, we encounter God as He reveals Himself to us, as He reminds us of what He has done for us, and as He shows us how we are to live. God does these for us because He loves us!

As you read through the passages this month, find time to set aside moments to read and then to reflect. Read with care and note what is being said. Each one is inspired by God for us so receive it as a gift.

This month we will be focusing on various subjects. We begin with looking at Matthew as we continue our emphasis on “Sermons in Stained Glass.” Then we focus on what it means to be called as we prepare for the ordination of one of our staff. Afterwards we return to complete the series of New Testament characters as seen in the stained glass by focusing on John the Baptist.

The last weeks begin a look at 1 Corinthians which we will focus on throughout the remainder of the year. Paul founded the church in Corinth on his second missionary journey as recorded in Acts 18. Paul wrote this letter to help them answer questions they asked regarding how to live a Christ centered life.

Reading Tracker

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- ☐ September 1
- ☐ September 2
- ☐ September 3
- ☐ September 4
- ☐ September 7
- ☐ September 8
- ☐ September 9
- ☐ September 10
- ☐ September 11
- ☐ September 14
- ☐ Septmeber 15

- ☐ September 16
- ☐ September 17
- ☐ September 18
- ☐ September 21
- ☐ September 22
- ☐ September 23
- ☐ September 24
- ☐ September 25
- ☐ September 28
- ☐ September 29
- ☐ September 30

September 1st

Matthew

Matthew 5:13-16

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It’s no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Reflect

Jesus is the light of the world. He reminds his followers that they too are the light. What does it mean to be the light? What is one tangible way this week you can “shine the light”?

Prayer

Pray that God would help you to let your light shine through your words, actions, and attitudes.

September 2nd

Matthew

Matthew 6:25, 33-34

25 “Therefore I tell you: Don’t worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Isn’t life more than food and the body more than clothing? 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you. 34 Therefore don’t worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Reflect

What causes you to worry and why? What does it mean to seek first God’s kingdom? How can you do this? How does it shift your attention away from your needs?

Prayer

Request that God would guide you to seek Him first. Ask Him to help you trust and not worry.

September 3rd

Matthew

Matthew 22:37-40

37 He said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. 38 This is the greatest and most important command. 39 The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. 40 All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."

Reflect

What is the greatest commandment? What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind? Who needs to know of God's love and your love this week? How can you show them?

Prayer

Ask God to fill your heart and minds with a deeper understanding of His love for you. Then express your love to God!

September 4th

Matthew

Matthew 28:19-20

19 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

Jesus reminds that His mission on earth continues. What does it mean to “make disciples”? Who is God calling you to disciple and to help grow? How do you get over the fear of “not being able” to make disciples?

Prayer

Pray that God would reveal at least one person that you can encourage to grow in Christlikeness this week – and ask God to guide you to make specific plans.

September 5th

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

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September 6th

Sermon Notes

Title:

Passage:

Preacher:

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September 7th

Chosen for a task

Exodus 3:7-12

7 Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people in Egypt, and have heard them crying out because of their oppressors. I know about their sufferings, 8 and I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and to bring them from that land to a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey 9 So because the Israelites' cry for help has come to me, and I have also seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them, 10 therefore, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh so that you may lead my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." 11 But Moses asked God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt? " 12 He answered, "I will certainly be with you, and this will be the sign to you that I am the one who sent you: when you bring the people out of Egypt, you will all worship God at this mountain."

Reflect

God calls and uses ordinary people. Do you tend to focus more on your abilities or on God's calling? In verse 12, what did God say to Moses to provide encouragement/strength to him? What is God challenging you to do?

Prayer

Thank God that He uses ordinary people. Ask Him to make clear His desire for your life and submit yourself to obedience.

September 8th

Chosen for a task

Jeremiah 1:4-10

4 The word of the Lord came to me: 5 I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born. I appointed you a prophet to the nations. 6 But I protested, "Oh no, Lord God! Look, I don't know how to speak since I am only a youth." 7 Then the Lord said to me: Do not say, "I am only a youth," for you will go to everyone I send you to and speak whatever I tell you. 8 Do not be afraid of anyone, for I will be with you to rescue you. This is the Lord's declaration. 9 Then the Lord reached out his hand, touched my mouth, and told me: I have now filled your mouth with my words. 10 See, I have appointed you today over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and demolish, to build and plant.

Reflect

Jeremiah was reminded that God had been preparing him and working within him. What excuses do you make when being asked to serve? How does God's preparatory work in your life change your excuse?

Prayer

Confess that you too often think of what we are incapable of doing rather than trust in God's work. Ask God to help you trust Him more.

September 9th

Chosen for a task

1 Samuel 16:1, 12-13

1 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long are you going to mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem because I have selected for myself a king from his sons." 12 So Jesse sent for him. He had beautiful eyes and a healthy, handsome appearance. Then the Lord said, "Anoint him, for he is the one." 13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully on David from that day forward. Then Samuel set out and went to Ramah.

Reflect

What does it mean to be chosen by God for a task? We often see this as a chore, but how do we see this as a privilege? What does it mean to be empowered by God's Spirit? How does this provide comfort and cause you to be ready to obey?

Prayer

Thank God that He never calls you to accomplish His purposes without first empowering you and providing what is needed.

September 10th

Chosen for a task

Esther 4:13-16

13 Mordecai told the messenger to reply to Esther, “Don’t think that you will escape the fate of all the Jews because you are in the king’s palace.

14 If you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will come to the Jewish people from another place, but you and your father’s family will be destroyed. Who knows, perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this.” 15 Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 16 “Go and assemble all the Jews who can be found in Susa and fast for me. Don’t eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my female servants will also fast in the same way. After that, I will go to the king even if it is against the law. If I perish, I perish.”

Reflect

Esther never anticipated being a leader, yet God put her in just the right place at just the right time. She was warned that if she refused to do God’s work that there were consequences. Think of your life – where has God strategically placed you? What are potential opportunities for ministry?

Prayer

Seek for God to help you see what God is doing around you and ask God to use you in that context.

September 11th

Chosen for a task

Acts 20:22-24

²² “And now I am on my way to Jerusalem, compelled by the Spirit,^[d] not knowing what I will encounter there, ²³ except that in every town the Holy Spirit warns me that chains and afflictions are waiting for me. ²⁴ But I consider my life of no value to myself; my purpose is to finish my course^[e] and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God’s grace.

Reflect

Paul knew that life was ultimately about being completely faithful to God’s call. What is one step of obedience you need to take today? What assignment had God entrusted to you?

Prayer

Thank God for entrusting you with His work. Pray for clarity of direction and for eagerness to respond.

September 12th

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

[illegible]

September 13th

Sermon Notes

Title:

Passage:

Preacher:

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September 14th

John the Baptist

Luke 1:13-17

13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. 14 There will be joy and delight for you, and many will rejoice at his birth. 15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord and will never drink wine or beer. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit while still in his mother's womb. 16 He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 And he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to make ready for the Lord a prepared people."

Reflect

What do you think is God's purpose for you? Have you embraced God's purpose for your life? How can your life point others to Christ?

Prayer

Thank God for giving your life purpose; pray that He continues to make that purpose clear and that you follow obediently.

September 15th

John the Baptist

Matthew 3:1-6

1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea 2 and saying, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near!" 3 For he is the one spoken of through the prophet Isaiah, who said: A voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight! 4 Now John had a camel-hair garment with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then people from Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the vicinity of the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

Reflect

John's ministry began in the wilderness, somewhat in obscurity at first. How do you see God using your current situation to prepare you for the future? Are you genuinely satisfied with being used in obscurity? What happens when our focus is personal recognition?

Prayer

Pray for God to continue to work in your life and for your heart to be humble to accept His calling regardless of whether it is public and everyone notices or behind the scenes.

September 16th

John the Baptist

John 1:29-34

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is the one I told you about: ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me, because he existed before me.’ 31 I didn’t know him, but I came baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel.” 32 And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and he rested on him. 33 I didn’t know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The one you see the Spirit descending and resting on – he is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

Reflect

John’s life focused on Jesus. If someone listened to your conversations or watched your life closely, who/what would they say you are pointing towards? What changes need to be made so that your life clearly points others to Jesus?

Prayer

Ask God to help you be a clear representative of Him and His love – and to point others to Him!

September 17th

John the Baptist

John 3:27-30

27 John responded, “No one can receive anything unless it has been given to him from heaven. 28 You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am not the Messiah, but I’ve been sent ahead of him.’ 29 He who has the bride is the groom. But the groom’s friend, who stands by and listens for him, rejoices greatly at the groom’s voice. So this joy of mine is complete. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease.”

Reflect

Humility is found in recognizing Jesus’ greatness. Is pride a struggle in life? How can you make certain that Jesus “increases” and you “decrease?”

Prayer

Seek a clear vision of Jesus and His greatness, as well as His great works. Ask God to help you live a life of humility.

September 18th

John the Baptist

Luke 3:15-20

¹⁵ Now the people were waiting expectantly, and all of them were questioning in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I am is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing shovel is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with fire that never goes out.” ¹⁸ Then, along with many other exhortations, he proclaimed good news to the people. ¹⁹ But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and all the evil things he had done, ²⁰ Herod added this to everything else—he locked up John in prison.

Reflect

John refused to compromise truth. Are there areas in your life where Jesus would say you are compromising? He was also willing to stand publicly against sin, even if it was costly to him. How can you stand for God?

Prayer

Ask for God’s strength to live completely a life of conviction based upon the Bible.

September 19th

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

[illegible]

September 20th

Sermon Notes

Title:

Passage:

Preacher:

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September 21st

1 Peter 4:10-11

10 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

Everyone has gifts – what gifts has God given you? How are you using them and how can you use them more in the church setting? To whom do you need to talk?

Prayer

Thank God for the gifts He has given to you. Confess that you need His power and wisdom to use them well.

September 22nd

Acts 1:8

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

Who has God placed around you that needs to hear about Christ or need to be cared for? How?

Prayer

Ask God to reveal to you those people who cross your paths and to help you see the ministry that is needed in their lives.

September 23rd

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Paul, called as an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will, and Sosthenes our brother: 2 To the church of God at Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called as saints, with all those in every place who call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord – both their Lord and ours. 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflect

How does Paul identify himself? Paul also reminds the church who they are – their identity in Christ. How does Paul identify the church? What does it mean to be called a "saint"?

Prayer

Express joy that your identity is found in what Christ has done for you. Seek wisdom to live well as a saint!

September 24th

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

4 I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus, 5 that you were enriched in him in every way, in all speech and all knowledge. 6 In this way, the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you, 7 so that you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you will be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful; you were called by him into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reflect

What does it mean that you are called to “fellowship with Jesus”?
How do you strengthen that fellowship?

Prayer

Rejoice that God desires a relationship with you. Ask God for wisdom how to strengthen that relationship and seek to prioritize time with Him.

September 25th

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

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. 11 For it has been reported to me about you, my brothers and sisters, by members of Chloe's people, that there is rivalry among you. 12 What I am saying is this: One of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in Paul's name? 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel — not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ will not be emptied of its effect.

Reflect

Is Jesus the center of the church? Is church unity found in Him rather than in other things? What is the danger of centering on other things or other people?

Prayer

Ask for forgiveness for those days when personal preferences became our priority. Seek for God to help you focus on Jesus as the center of the church.

September 26th

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

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September 27th

Sermon Notes

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Passage:

Preacher:

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September 28th

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

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. 22 For the Jews ask for signs and the Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles. 24 Yet to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, 25 because God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Reflect

What does the cross mean to you personally? How can you keep the meaning of the cross central in your daily life?

Prayer

Thank God for the cross and ask for a deeper understanding of the meaning of your salvation.

September 29th

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

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. 28 God has chosen what is insignificant and despised in the world – what is viewed as nothing – to bring to nothing what is viewed as something, 29 so that no one may boast in his presence. 30 It is from him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom from God for us – our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption,— 31 in order that, as it is written: Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.

Reflect

God doesn't need impressive people, just obedient ones. What abilities have you been given? How do you remember your need for God's help in using your gifts?

Prayer

Rejoice that God uses ordinary people. Seek for God to strengthen you to be obedient in all He calls you to do and to rely upon Him.

September 30th

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

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.

4 My speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not be based on human wisdom but on God's power.

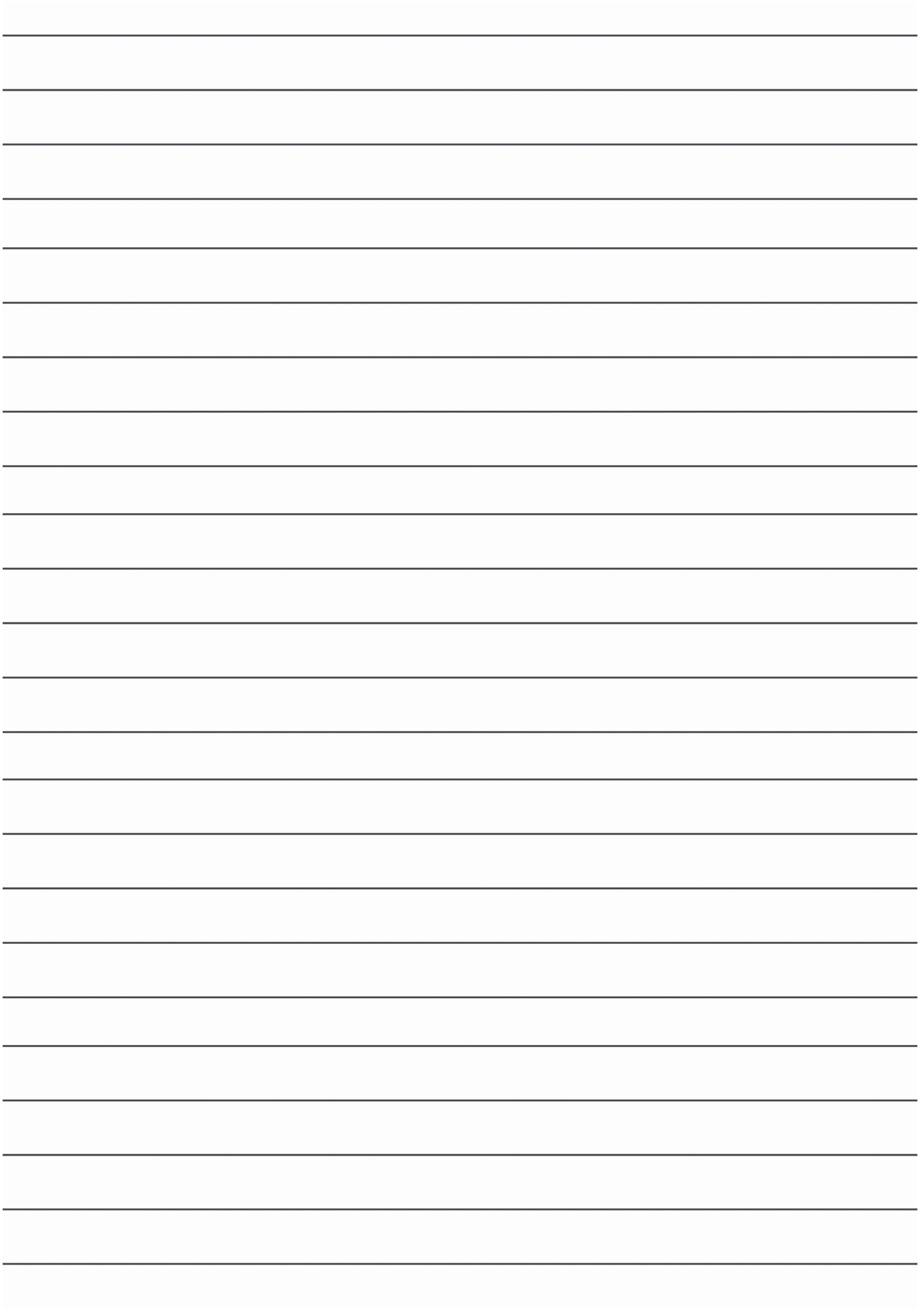
Reflect

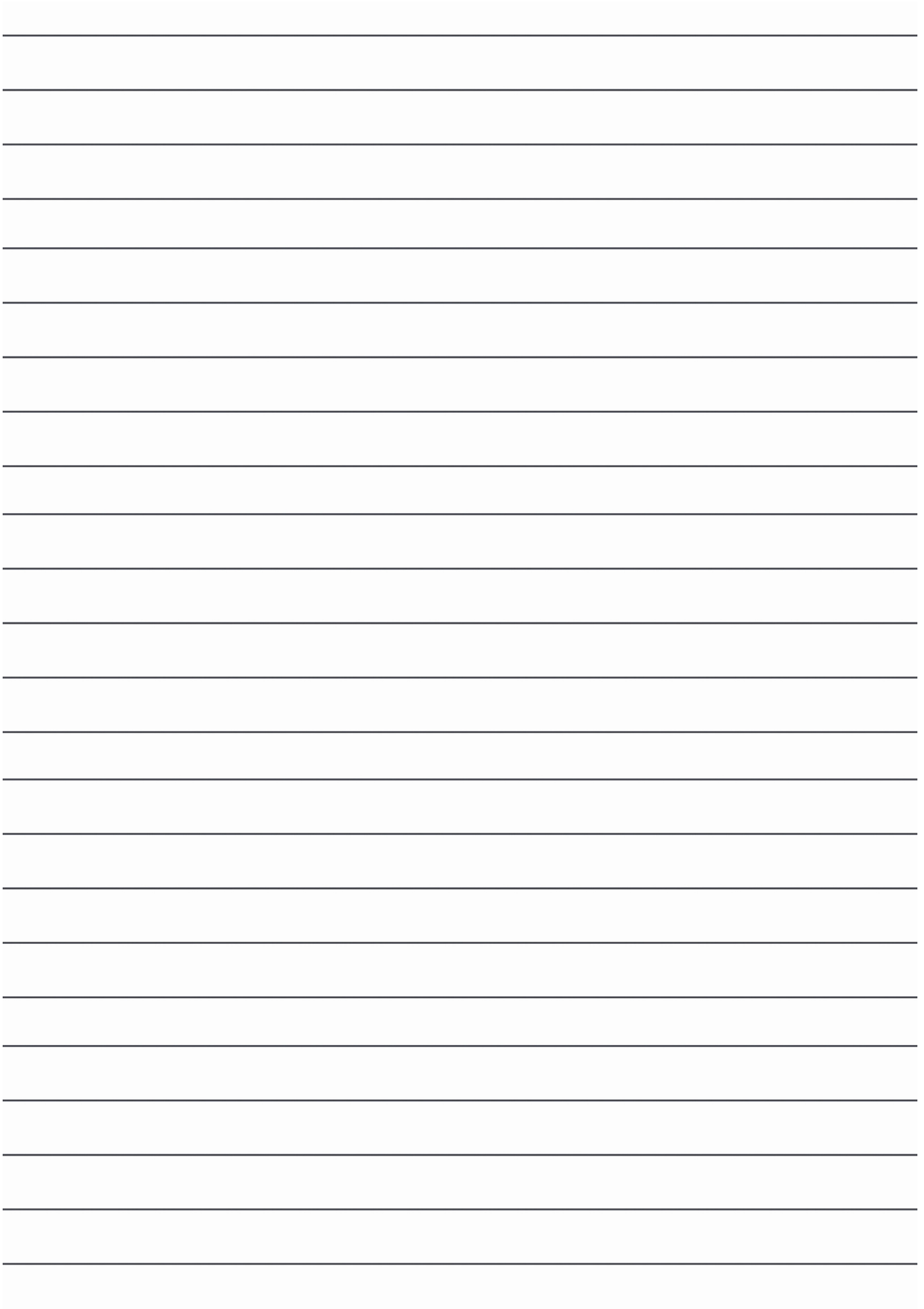
Paul was not opposed to wisdom or good communication. He knew, though, that only the gospel changes lives. How does this truth encourage you? With whom do you need to talk about Jesus this week?

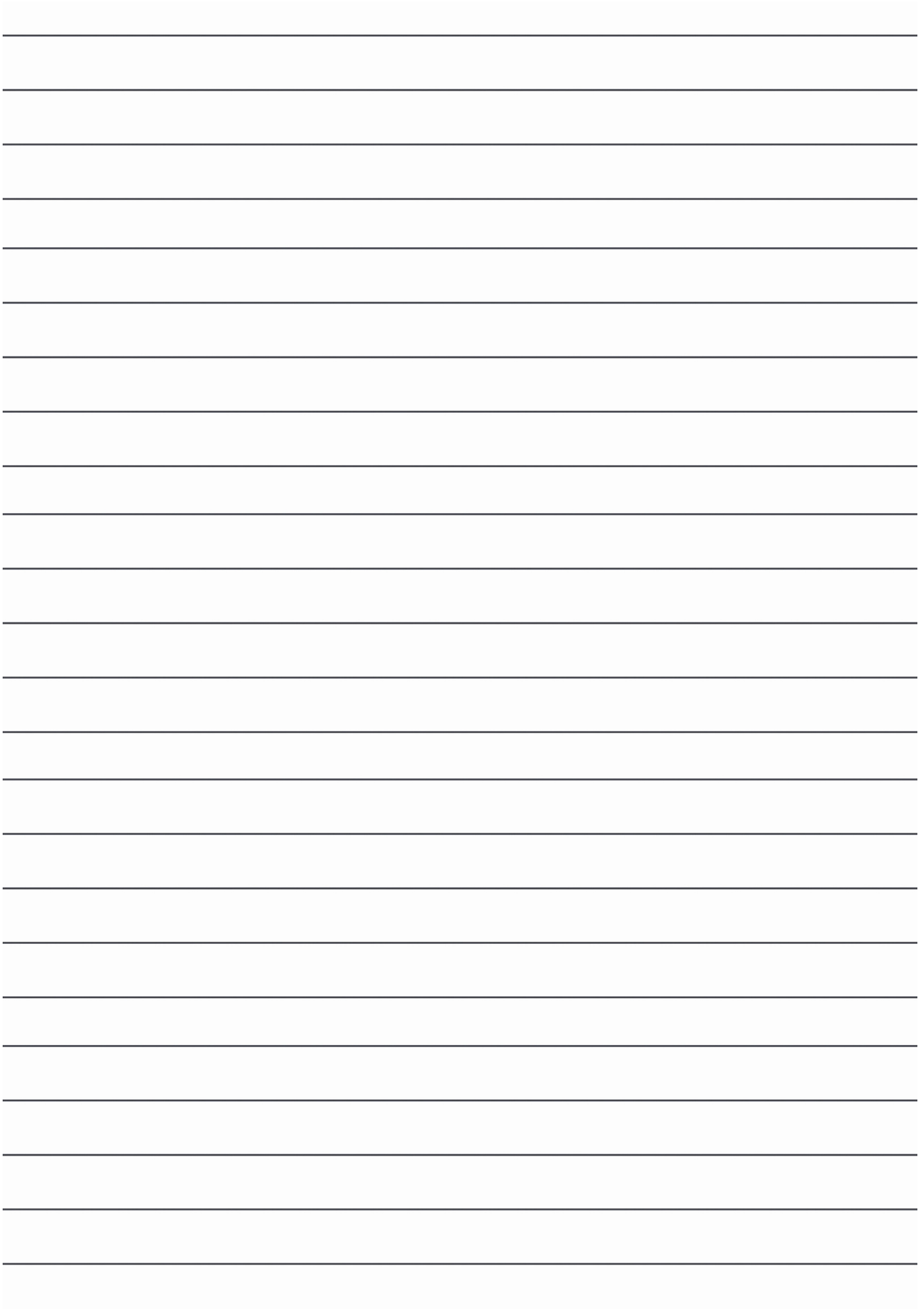
Prayer

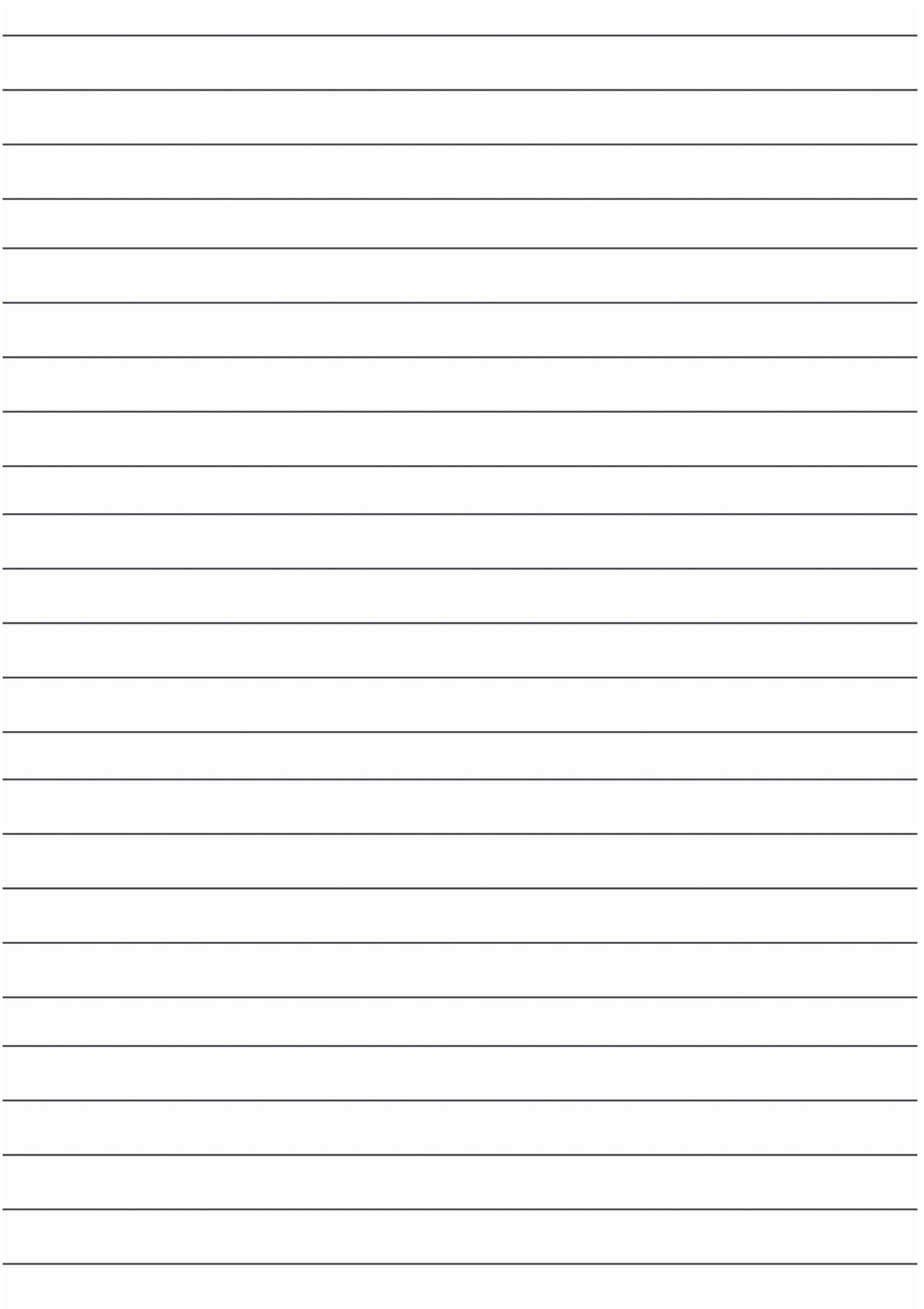
Ask for forgiveness when placing confidence in self. Seek for the gospel to be a part of all your conversations and relationships.

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METAIRIE

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Bible Study: 9:15 AM Worship Service: 10:30 AM