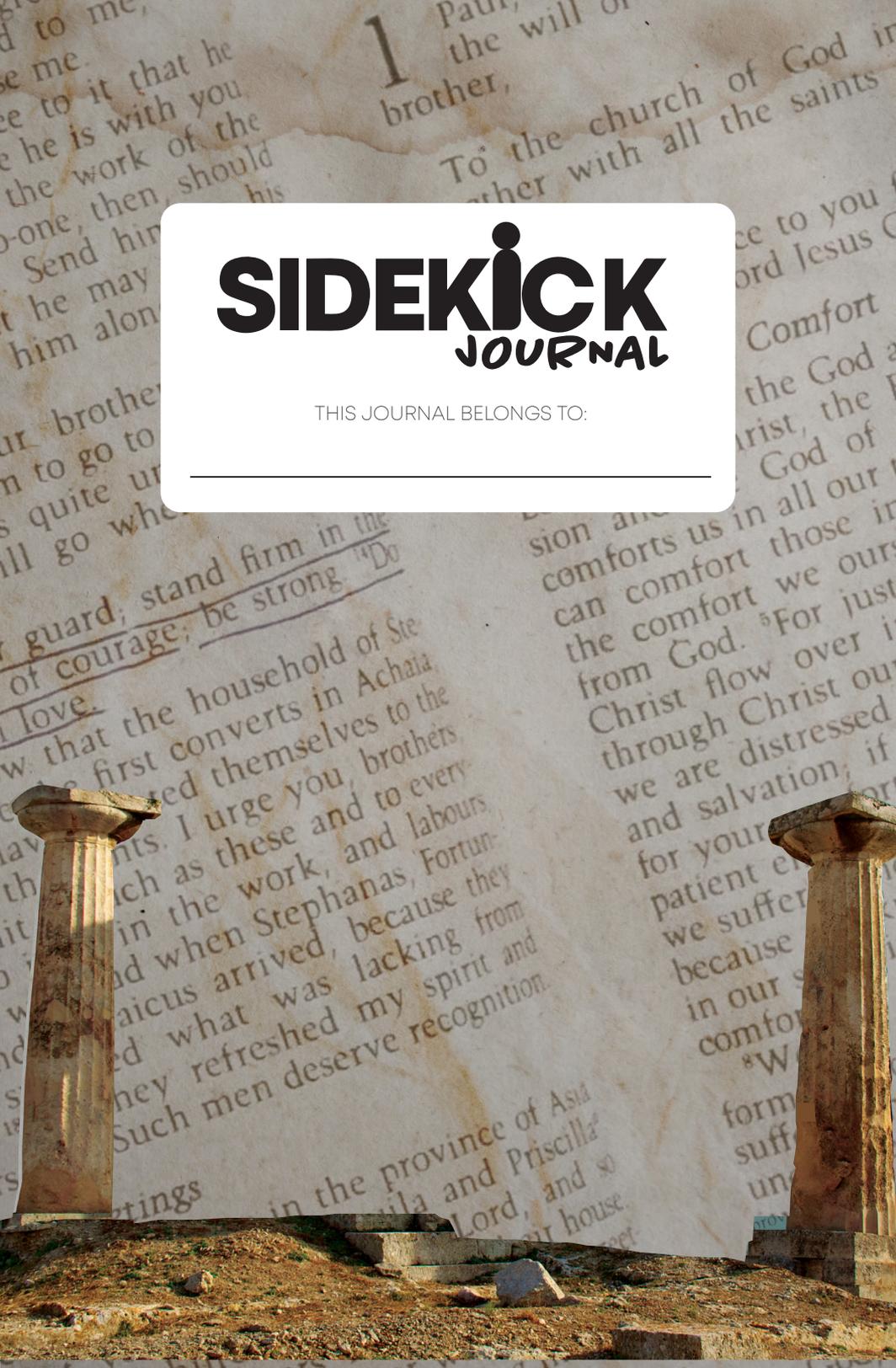


SIDEKICK JOURNAL

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO:



WELCOME

This is more than just a sermon notebook – it's a daily tool designed to help you **live and share the story of God**. We are confident that as you faithfully use these pages, a beautiful pattern of **God's grace, timing, and provision will emerge**. Let it nourish you so that you can nourish others in return. Live and share. It's what we were made for!

CONTENTS:

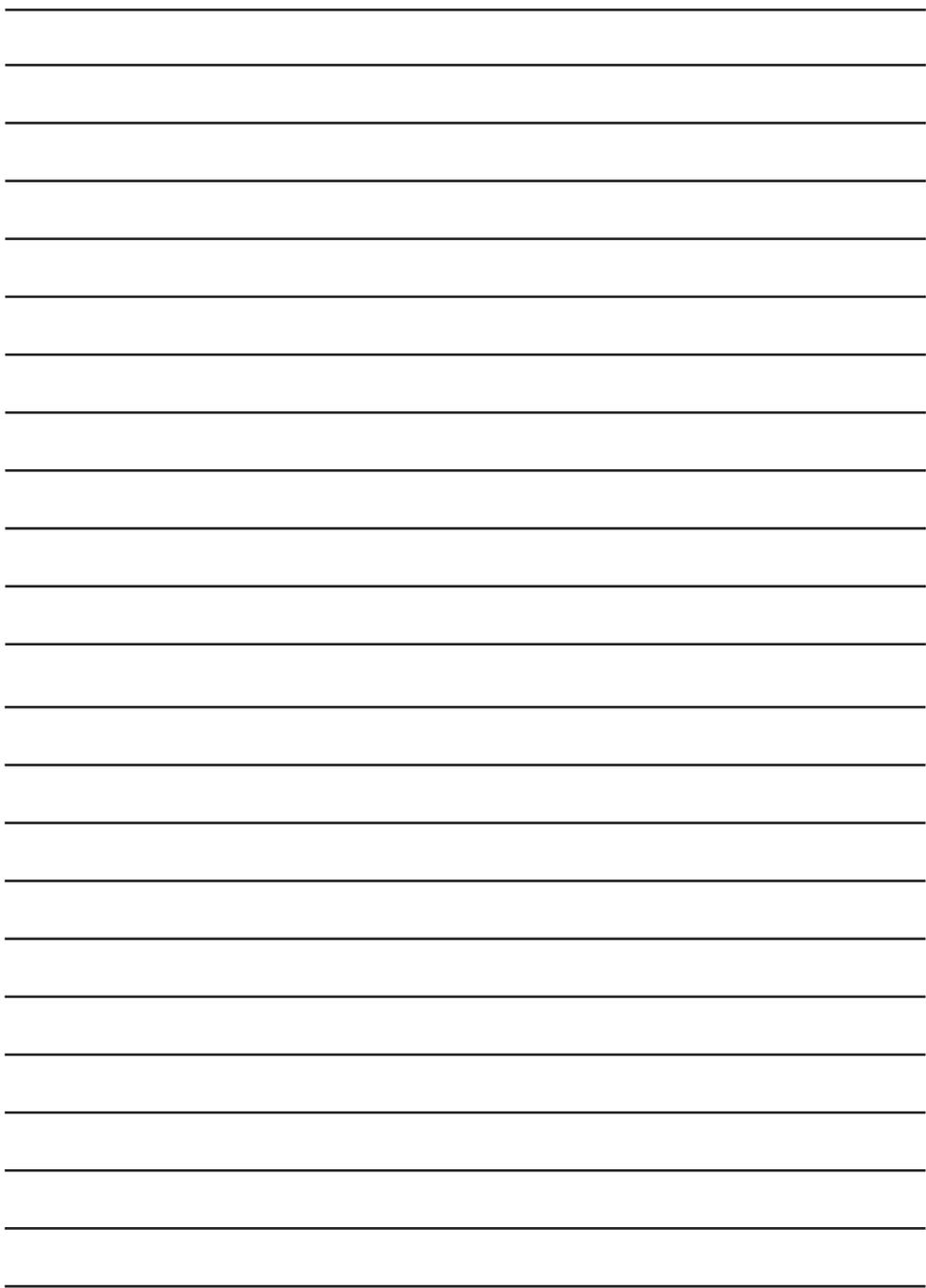
SERMON NOTES: take notes on that weekend's teaching

PRAYER & JOURNAL PAGES: pages to write about your daily walk with God, read His word, & pray

SERMON SIDEKICK VIDEO: 3-5 minute videos giving an additional focus on the teaching each week.

“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

John 7:37-38



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WORSHIP

Have you ever been a visitor at a worship service and left feeling you had been to a 3-ring circus? Everyone seemingly doing their own thing, without order or structure. Or have you ever been to a worship service that more closely resembled a funeral, devoid of joy or celebration? I have, and I couldn't wait to get out of either of them. Neither service felt like true worship.

So what exactly is worship then? Is it the songs we sing, or the teaching we hear? While you might say no, it is often these two things that we use to determine if a worship service was "good" or "bad". To help us decide what worship really is, let's look at a few examples of worship from the Bible.

Consider what King David did as the ark of the covenant, the symbol of God's presence among His chosen people, was returned to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6:14-15). As the ark neared the city, David leapt and danced around in an ephod (a priestly undergarment), caring nothing for how he looked or what others thought. For David, worship was being lost in giving God glory.

While on their missionary journeys, Paul and Silas were severely beaten and put into prison in the city of Philippi for freeing a slave girl from a demon. Despite their wounds and their situation, they sat in their prison cell singing psalms and praying to God throughout the night (Acts 16:25). Paul and Silas experienced true worship even in the midst of terrible circumstances.

So what is worship? David, Paul, and Silas' examples teach us that worship is giving glory to God when He is your only focus. It is losing yourself in God's presence regardless of your situation or circumstances.

SCRIPTURE:

2 SAMUEL 6:14-15
ACTS 16:25

QUESTIONS:

Describe the last time you felt you were truly worshipping. What was the circumstance and how did it help you worship?

Do you have a hard time expressing your feelings and emotions when it comes to worship? Why or why not?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

How can you worship God this week?

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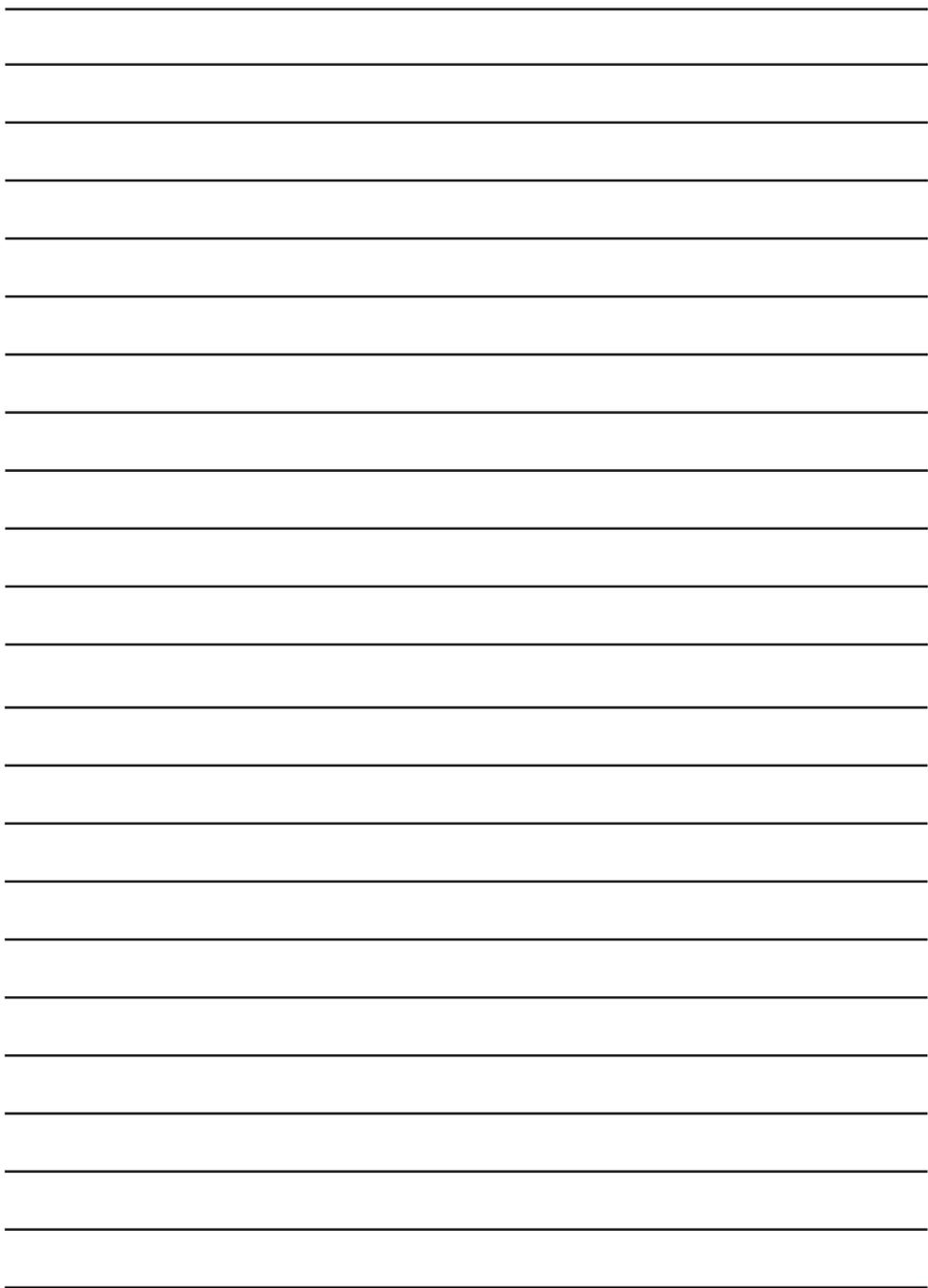
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God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in Spirit and in truth.”

JOHN 4:23

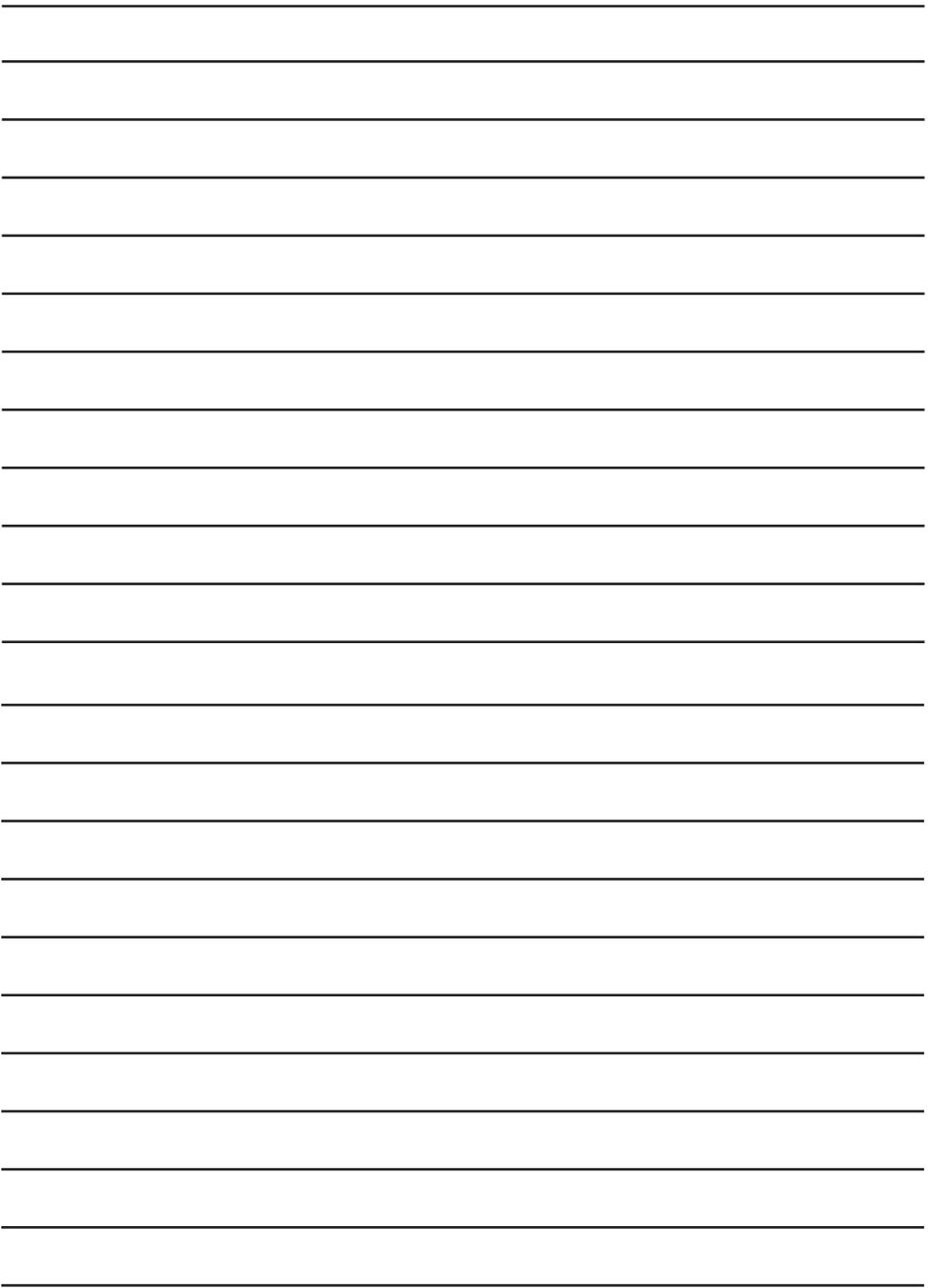
PRAYER:

LORD FILL ME WITH YOUR SPIRIT AND TEACH ME YOUR TRUTH. TEACH ME TO WORSHIP YOU WITH MY WHOLE LIFE.





REPENTANCE



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REPENTANCE

Have you ever heard someone caught in a sin say, “If I have hurt anyone I am sorry”. Really - “If”? That doesn’t sound like repentance, but like “I’m sorry I got caught”. So what is true repentance and how do we recognize it?

Both John the Baptizer and Jesus began their ministry with the words “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near” (Matthew 3:2 & 4:17). Repentance is the first step needed to enter the kingdom of God.

The Greek word *metanoēō* means to change the elements composing one’s life - attitude, thoughts, and actions - aligning them with God’s guidance for right living. Someone who does this might be described as “doing a 180”, turning their back on their former behaviors and moving in a new direction. But repentance goes even deeper. The Hebrew word *šūb*, while having the same base meaning of “turning back”, also means restoration with God. This restoration is the key to understanding repentance. Not only are you sorry for your sin and ready to turn away from it, you also have a deep longing to be forgiven by God and have a restored relationship with Him.

For an example of this kind of repentance, take a moment and read Psalm 51. As you read it, feel the depth of David’s sorrow, the emotion behind his repentance for sin and his longing for a restored relationship with God. It’s that same depth of repentance that we need today. Not just to feel sorry for our sins, but to want a restored relationship with God, our creator.

SCRIPTURE:

MATTHEW 3:2, 4:17

PSALM 51

QUESTIONS:

Thinking back, have you ever felt the depth of repentance that David expresses in Psalm 51?

Why do you feel repentance is so important to God?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

How can understanding the restorative nature of repentance help you in your Christian witness?

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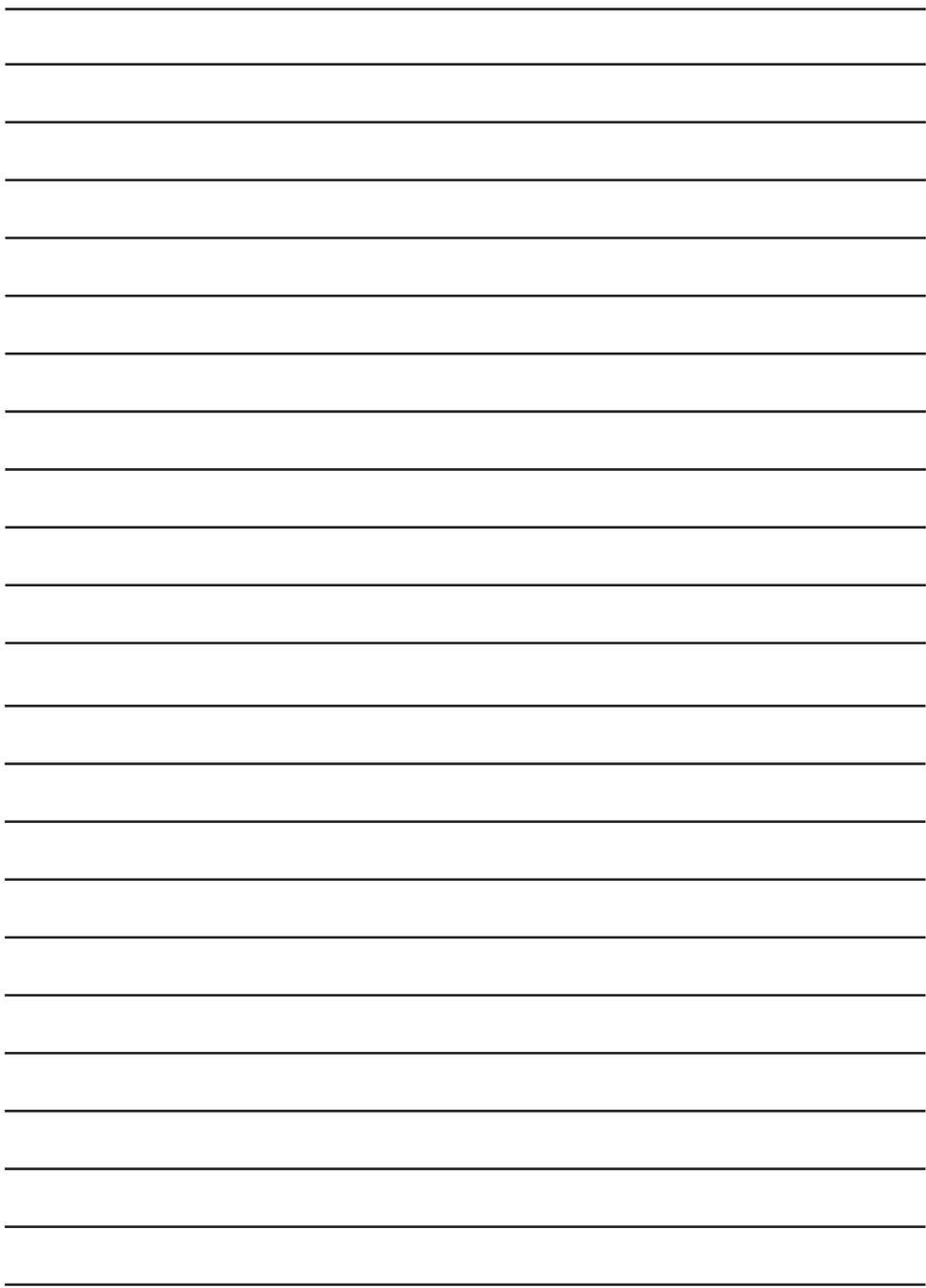
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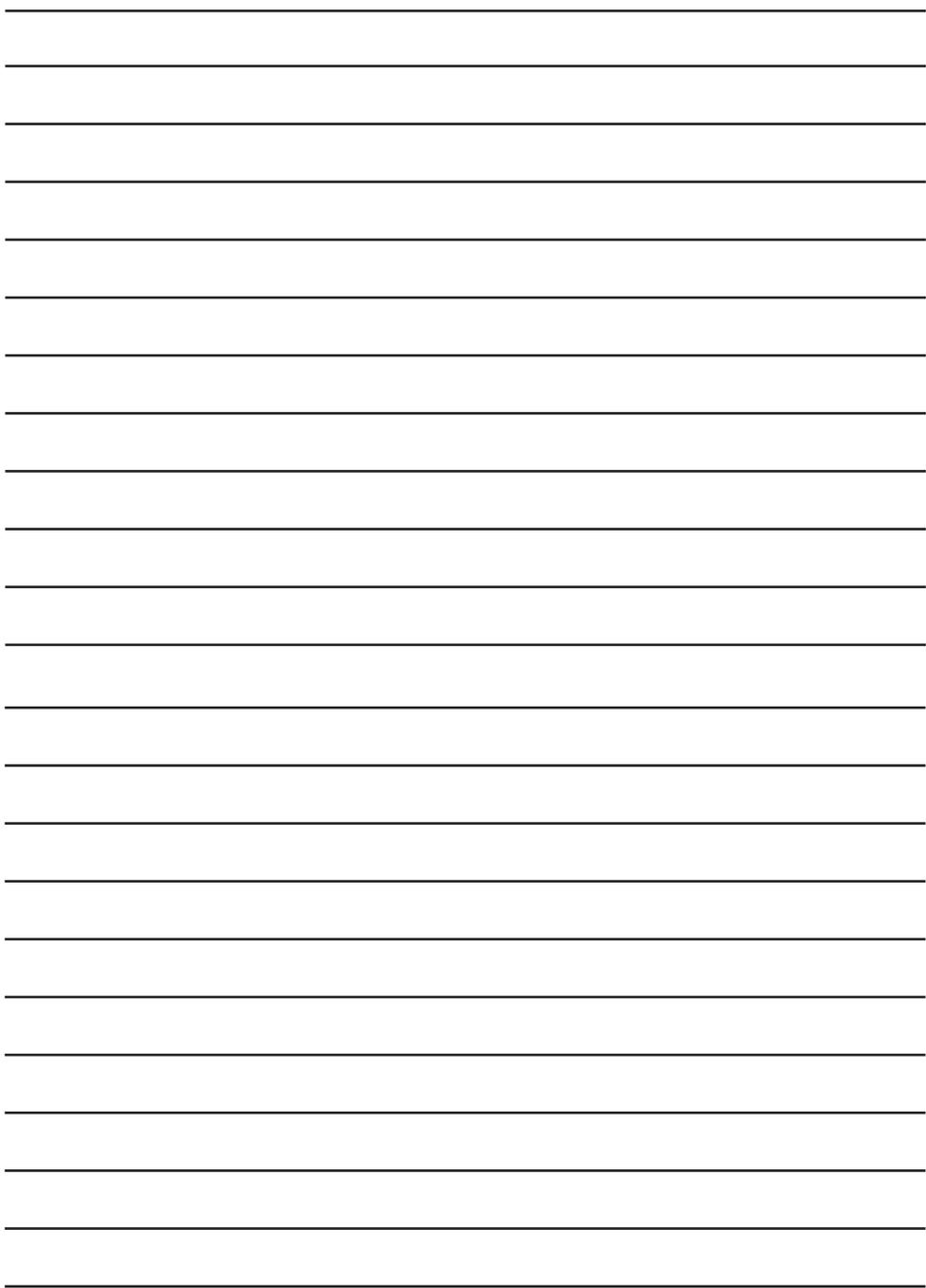
If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

PRAYER:

LORD, PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR _____
HELP ME TO LOOK MORE LIKE YOU AND TO LIVE A LIFE
OF RIGHT LIVING.





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SPIRITUAL GIFTS

In the movie Toy Story, there is this great scene where the toys are eagerly listening in as Andy opens his birthday gifts. One of them is bed sheets - to which Mr Potatohead comments, "Bed sheets! Who invited that kid?!" While we might long for that gift that we always wanted, sometimes we get the gift that we always needed.

God loves to give his children gifts, eternal life being the biggest. But there are other gifts, spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit gives, that may sometimes seem like "bed sheets". They're not what we wanted or asked for, but they are exactly what we need. This was true for the Corinthian church. Some believers wanted the "cool" gifts like prophesying and performing miracles, but instead they got another gift, one they didn't think was so cool.

Paul then compares spiritual gifts to both the unity and diversity of the body (1 Corinthians 12:12-31). Not everyone can be an eye or an ear. Some are a foot or a finger, while others are seemingly even "less important". This is how we can get spiritual gifts wrong, because every spiritual gift is important, regardless of what we may think. And yes, some are given the gift of "bed sheets".

But if I think about it, who doesn't like to curl up on a cold night with a nice warm flannel sheet? Maybe my "bed sheets" spiritual gift is good after all. It helps protect and warm others when cold weather comes. That's a comforting and encouraging thought.

SCRIPTURE:

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31

QUESTIONS:

What is the purpose of spiritual gifts? For you and for the church?

Do you know what spiritual gift(s) the Holy Spirit has given you?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Why do you think the Holy Spirit gave you the spiritual gifts you have? Are you using them to help build up God's church?

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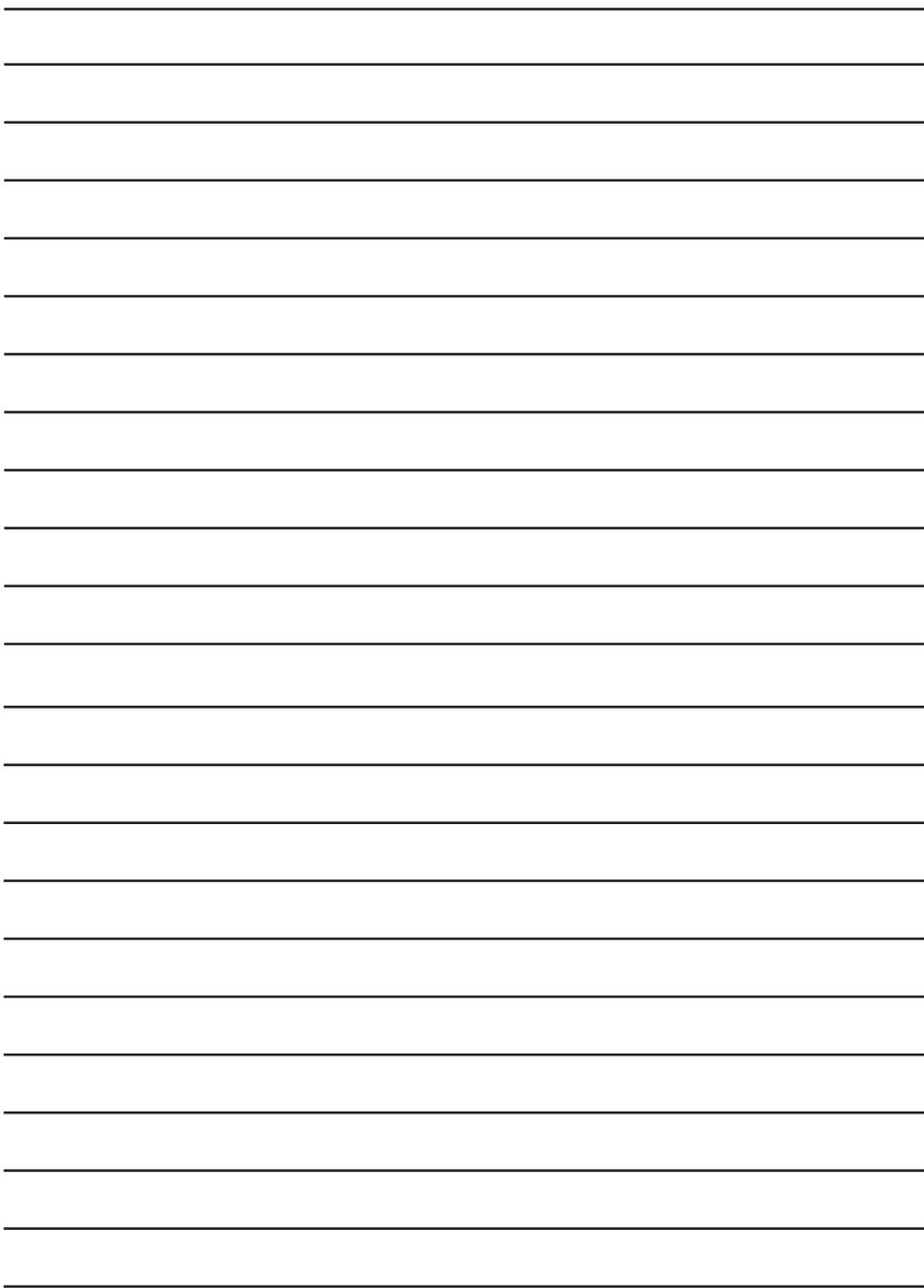
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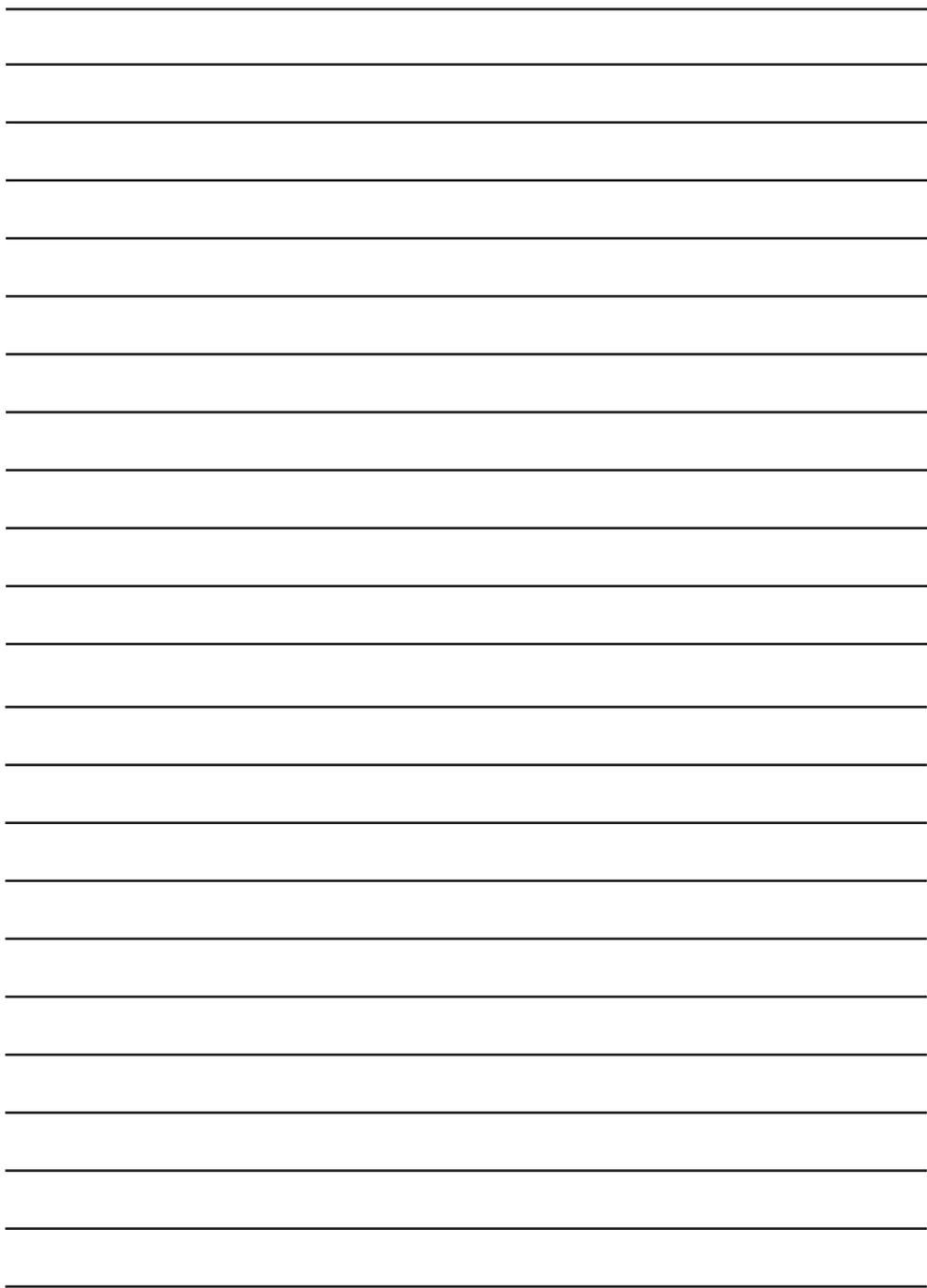
In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

ROMANS 12:6-8

PRAYER:

LORD, WHAT IS THE GIFT YOU HAVE GIVEN ME TO UPLIFT AND GROW YOUR KINGDOM? TEACH ME TO GIVE WITH A GENEROUS HEART & BOLD SPIRIT.





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EARTHLY TENTS - ETERNAL MANSIONS

Paul referred to our current earthly bodies as “tents” and to our eternal bodies as “houses” (2 Corinthians 5:1). Why? It comes down to what is temporary versus what is permanent.

Have you ever camped out in a tent, sleeping under the stars? It might have been fun for a day, or even a week, but what if you had to live in a tent all the time? Not so fun! What is meant to be temporary is not supposed to become permanent.

Our current body is a tent, a temporary dwelling. As we get older it begins to show its age. The internal structure gets creaky, the outer covering gets worn and frayed. We can add some patches, even replace a part here and there to try and make it last a little longer, but it's still just a tent.

On the other hand, our heavenly body is a house, a permanent dwelling. Not just any house either! This house is being prepared for us by God himself, built to be perfect and to last forever. Even when our bodies suffer pain from illness, injury, and aging, we can take comfort from the fact that someday “we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands.” (2 Corinthians 5:1).

SCRIPTURE:

1 CORINTHIANS 1:5

1 CORINTHIANS 1:8-9

1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-2

QUESTIONS:

Have you ever really thought of your current body as a tent - temporary? How does this affect your attitude about eternity?

Why is it important to “make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.” (2 Corinthians 5:9)?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Do you find encouragement in that God will build our eternal house in heaven? Why?

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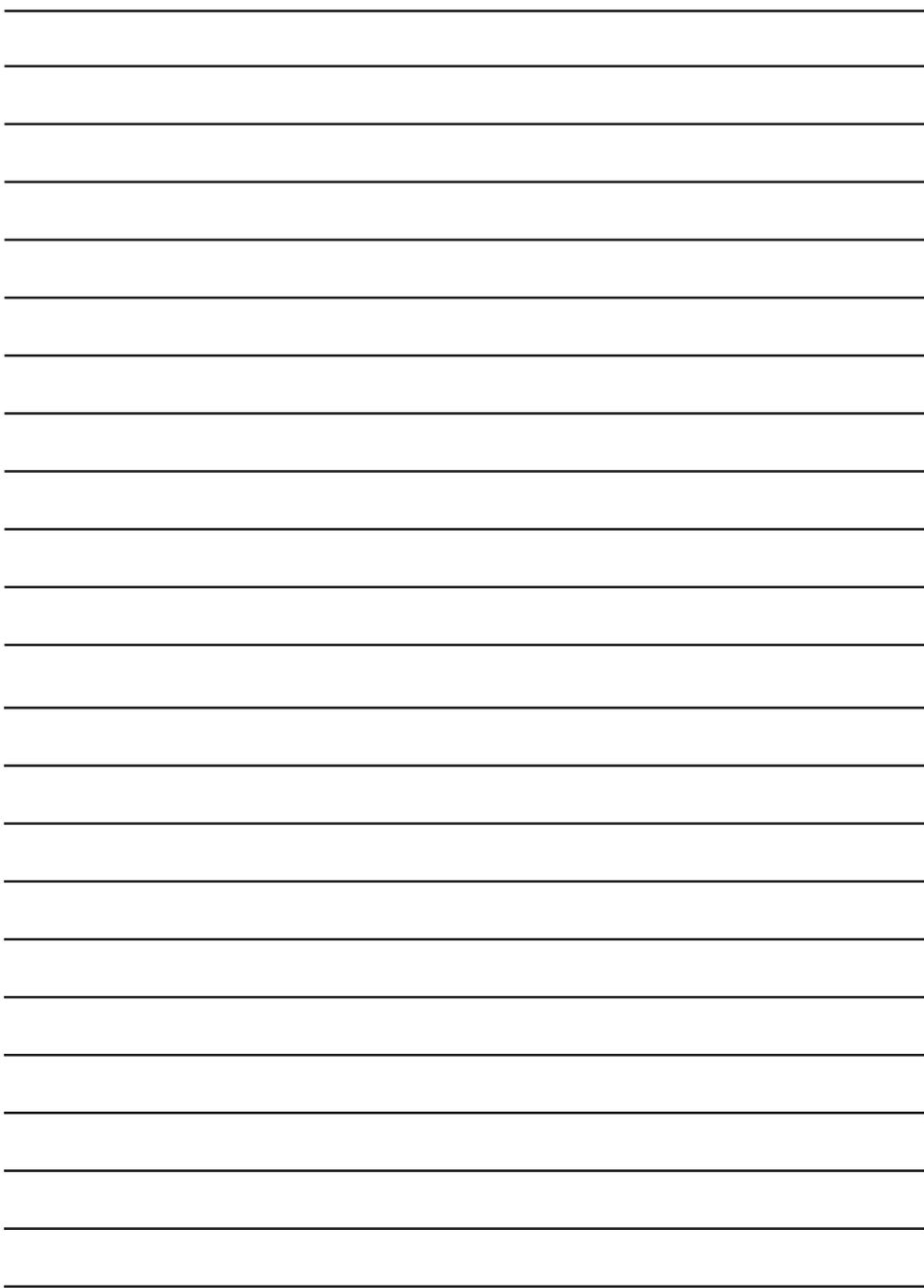
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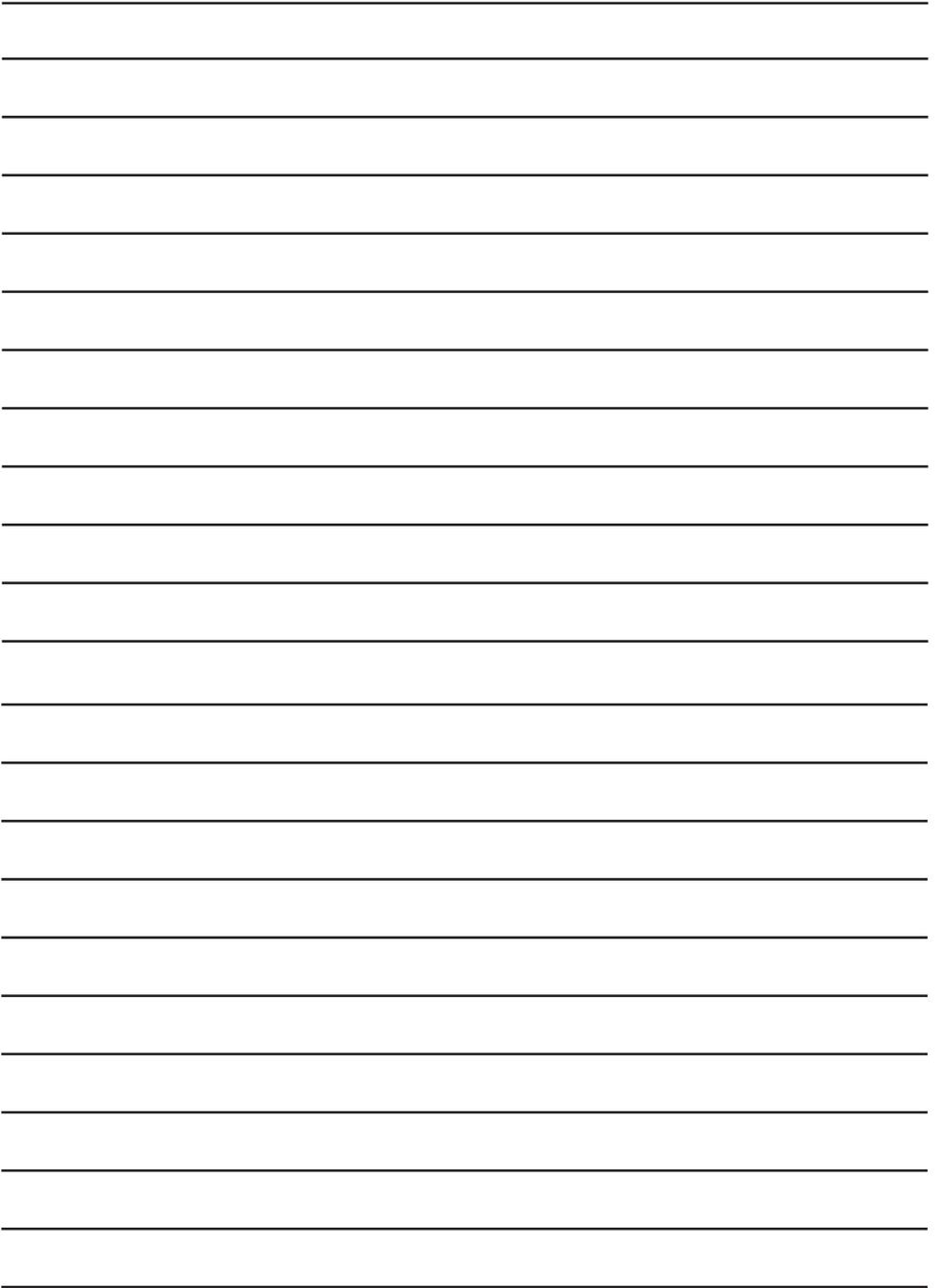
I pray that you will begin to understand how incredibly great His power is to help those who believe Him. It is that same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God's right hand in heaven.

EPHESIANS 1:19-20

PRAYER:

HEAVENLY FATHER, THANK YOU FOR DYING FOR ME.
TEACH ME TO CLING TO YOU AND BE FILLED BY YOUR
PRESENCE SO I CAN GO INTO THE WORLD AND LIVE
FOR YOU!





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APPOINTED AS AMBASSADORS

I've always found it interesting, not to mention challenging, that Paul calls believers "Christ's ambassadors" (2 Corinthians 5:20). The Greek word for ambassador is *presbeuō* and refers to the highest ranking official representative from one government to another.

There are certain obligations and requirements for ambassadors. First, they must represent their country well, both morally and ethically. Second, they need a good understanding of the country they represent and the country they are assigned to. Last but not least, they must be able to work well with people as they navigate relationships between their countries.

Which government would "Christ's ambassadors" represent? None other than the kingdom of God! If you believe in Christ, you are a citizen of God's kingdom (Philippians 3:20) and should "live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear" (1 Peter 1:17). As ambassadors for the kingdom of God we are foreigners living in an alien land. We are appointed to share the love of God and invite people to accept the salvation that can only be found in Jesus. And most important of all, we are empowered by the Spirit of God to do this work. So let's get to it!

SCRIPTURE:

II CORINTHIANS 5:20

PHILIPPIANS 3:20

I PETER 1:17

QUESTIONS:

Have you ever considered the weight of being an ambassador for Christ and the obligations that come with it?

How is being an ambassador of Christ different from being a disciple of Christ? How are they alike?

Paul talks of the “ministry of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:19). How does being an ambassador of Christ and the ministry of reconciliation tie together?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

What would it look like for you to represent Christ today?

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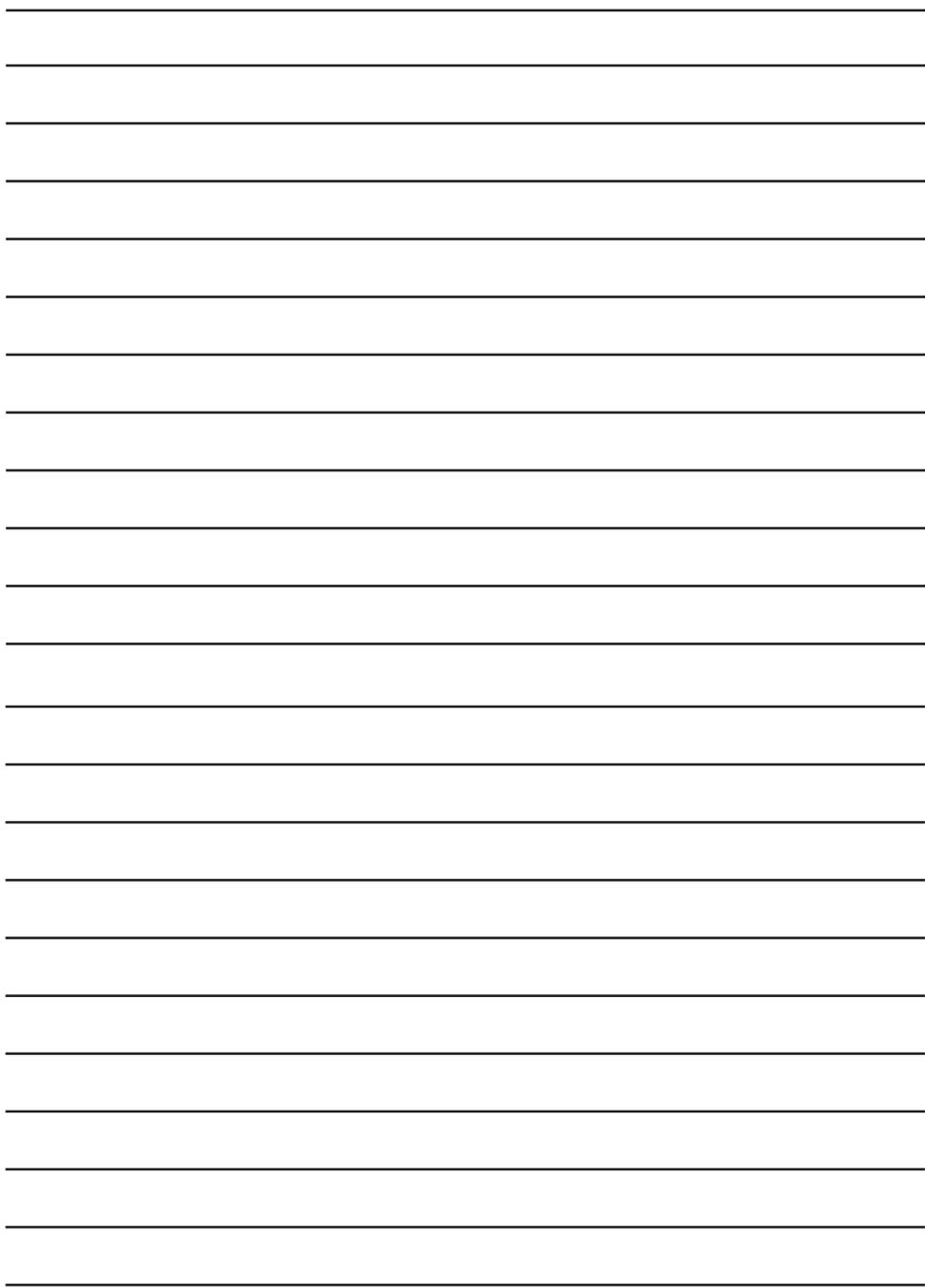
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Anyone who is in Christ is a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

II CORINTHIANS 5:17

PRAYER:

LORD, THANK YOU FOR THE FREEDOM I HAVE IN YOU.
TEACH ME TO LEAVE EVERY BIT OF MY OLD LIFE BEHIND.
THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME ANOTHER CHANCE.



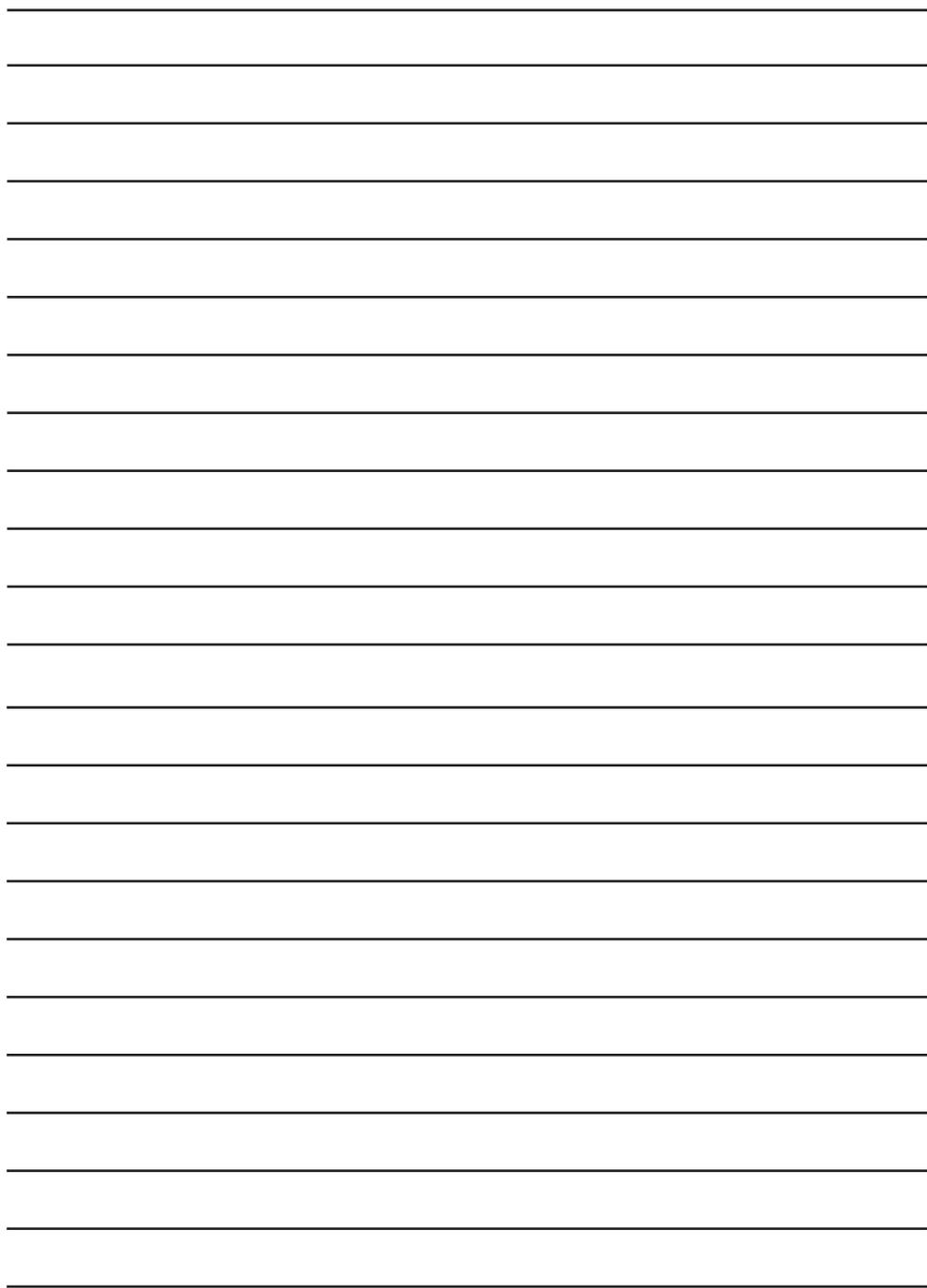


GENEROUSITY

...me to you — for I will be going into Macedonia. ⁶Perhaps I will stay with you awhile, or even spend the winter, so that you can help me on my journey, wherever I go. ⁷I do not want to see you now and make only a passing visit; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. ⁸But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, if the Lord will. ⁹For I have decided that I will not return to Greece, but will stay here in Asia. ¹⁰If I have time, I will visit you and will stay with you for a while. ¹¹But I will not do this unless the Lord will. ¹²I will say good-bye to you now, but I will see you again, if the Lord will. ¹³God bless you all. Amen.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the church in Ephesus and to each one of you, who are called by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who are merciful to us and who have forgiven all our sins, by washing with water by the word, through the blood of Christ, to present to himself a holy people, zealous of good deeds, who are obedient to the word of life, which we preach, and who are to bring glory to God the Father, who is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, who has called us to himself in Christ, to share in his glory, which he has promised us in Christ before the world began. He has made known to us the mystery of his will, which he has kept hidden from the beginning of time, but which he has now made known to us through his Spirit, who is promised to us, so that we may know what is the hope to which he has called us, and what are the riches of his glory which he has promised us in Christ before the world began. He has made known to us the mystery of his will, which he has kept hidden from the beginning of time, but which he has now made known to us through his Spirit, who is promised to us, so that we may know what is the hope to which he has called us, and what are the riches of his glory which he has promised us in Christ before the world began.

Final Greetings
¹⁹The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house. ²⁰All the brothers here send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I write this greeting in my own hand, as I have done to the other churches. Grace to all of you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, who is with the Father and who is together with the Father in the glory of the Father, who has spoken through me.



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GENEROSITY

The old adage “it is better to give than to receive” has a certain amount of truth to it. But if we’re being honest, it is also nice to receive. So today let’s talk about being generous and how to live a life of generosity.

The word generosity is only found four times in the New Testament, and all four of those references are in chapters 8 and 9 of Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians. In this passage we find truths about what generosity is, and also about what it is not.

First, generosity is a privilege. We read that “they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people” (2 Corinthians 8:4). A heart that is generous sees giving as both an honor and an act of service.

Second, generosity does not expect anything in return (2 Corinthians 9:7). A heart of generosity gives because it wants to give, not under compulsion or in expectation of getting something in return.

Third, generosity finds joy in giving (2 Corinthians 9:2, 7). A heart that is generous is both eager and cheerful to give. So this brings us back to that old adage “it is better to give than to receive”. We may enjoy receiving, but God gives us the privilege and opportunity to reflect His generosity by being generous to others. Then we can truly say with joy, “it is better to give than to receive”!

SCRIPTURE:

II CORINTHIANS 8:4

II CORINTHIANS 9:2, 7

QUESTIONS:

Can you both show generosity while not being generous?
How? Is such a person truly generous?

How should your belief in God's generosity affect your generosity?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Have you experienced someone's act of generosity when you were in need? How did it make you feel?

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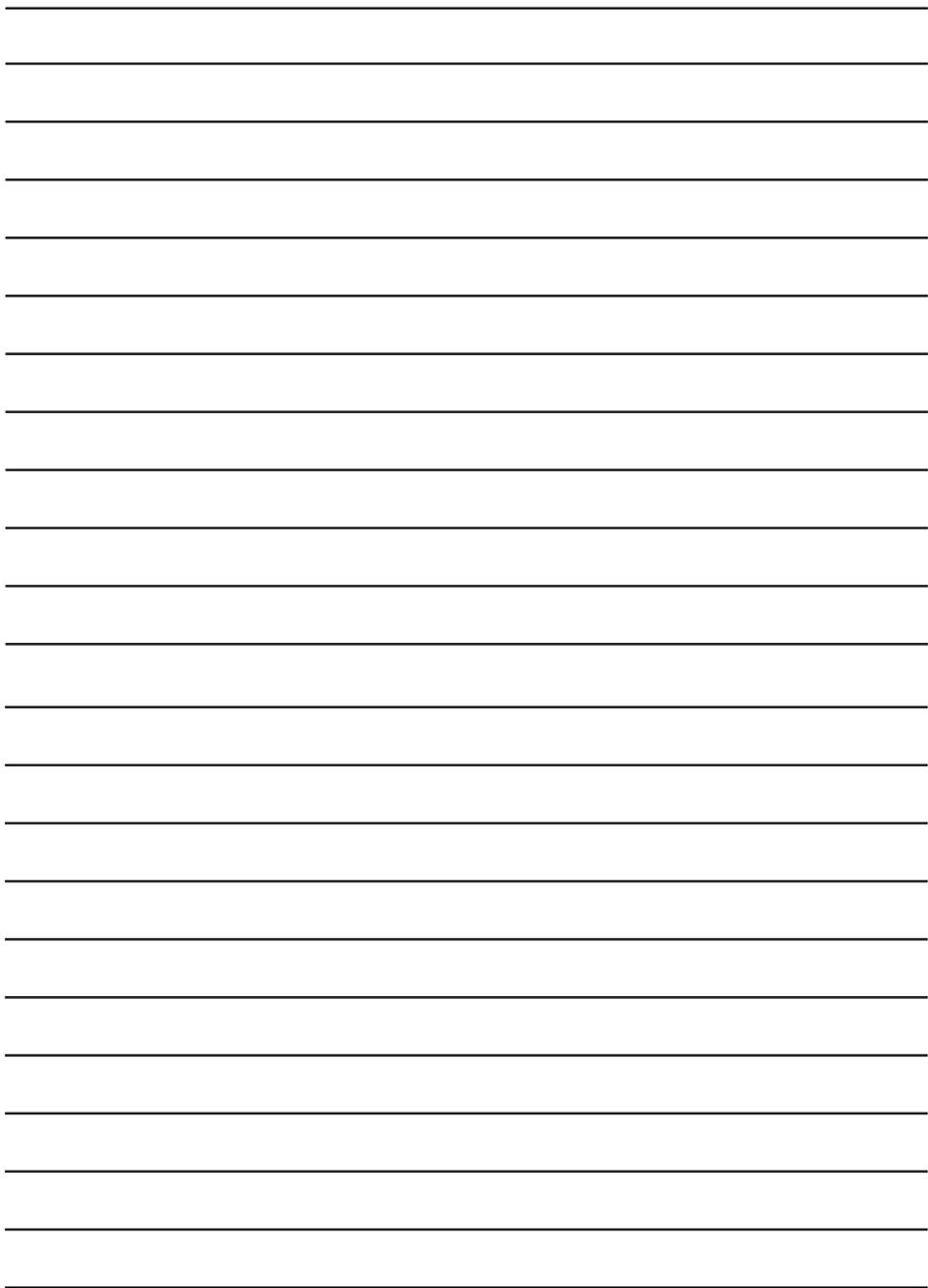
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Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

II CORINTHIANS 9:10

PRAYER:

LORD, YOU ARE THE SUPPLIER OF EVERY GOOD GIFT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TOWARDS ME AND THE GIFT OF SALVATION. HELP ME TO LIVE A GENEROUS LIFE BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME.



great door to me, and
to me.
he is with you
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one, then, should
Send him on his
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brother,

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together with all the saints t

Achaia and peace to you f
Father and the Lord Jesus C
God of all Comfort

Praise be to the God an
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PART II

CORINTHIANS

