



LIVING IN THE WORD

# MARK



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# MARK

LIVING IN THE WORD



NEW LIFE  
CHURCH



## *Key Verse:*

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### **MARK 1:2-3**

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:  
“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way” —  
“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’”

# How to Use this Book

We are so excited that you're starting your journey through the book of Mark with us! You may have gotten this journal because living in the Word daily is difficult for you. Or, maybe this discipline comes naturally for you, but you simply want to take a different approach in your study of scripture. Regardless of where you may fall in this aspect of your walk with God, our prayer is that you would see scripture in an entirely new way in the next few weeks.

The goal of this journal is simple: we want it to be a tool for you. Each weekday, there will be a short reading out of the book of Mark. We recommend that you start your time with prayer, then slowly read through that day's passage. You may even want to read it multiple times; something new could stand out with each read! Write down what stands out to you in the lines. After completing the reading, finish out with that day's reflection questions and pray about what you took away from your time in the Word.

Weekends look a little different in this journal. On Saturdays, you will find a short devotional and guided prayer that covers a takeaway from what you read that week. On Sundays, we encourage you to use the blank notes page to take sermon notes at church.

We hope your time in the book of Mark is reflective, fruitful, and eye-opening for you!

# *Reading Plan*

Mark 1:1-20

Mark 1:21-45

Mark 2:1-17

Mark 2:18-28

Mark 3:1-19

Mark 3:20-35

Mark 4:1-20

Mark 4:21-34

Mark 4:35-41

Mark 5:1-20

Mark 5:21-43

Mark 6:1-29

Mark 6:30-56

Mark 7:1-23

Mark 7:24-37

Mark 8:1-21

Mark 8:22-30

Mark 8:31-9:1

Mark 9:2-13

Mark 9:14-29

Mark 9:30-50

Mark 10:1-16

Mark 10:17-31

Mark 10:32-45

Mark 10:46-52

Mark 11:1-11

Mark 11:12-25

Mark 11:27-33

Mark 12:1-17

Mark 12:18-27

Mark 12:28-34

Mark 12:35-44

Mark 13:1-13

Mark 13:14-23

Mark 13:24-37

Mark 14:1-11

Mark 14:12-25

Mark 14:26-42

Mark 14:43-65

Mark 14:66-72

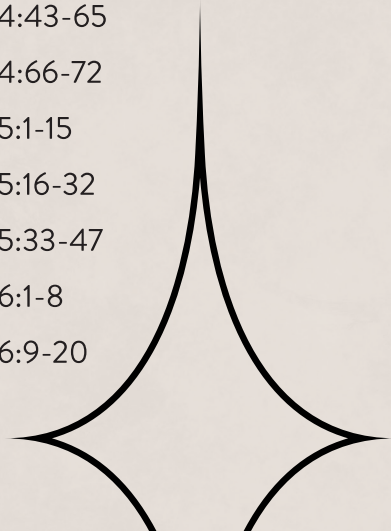
Mark 15:1-15

Mark 15:16-32

Mark 15:33-47

Mark 16:1-8

Mark 16:9-20





# *Overview*

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The Gospel of Mark is considered by some as the most important of the “synoptic” gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), mainly because it was the earliest written. With brevity and urgency, John Mark describes the birth, life, work, and teachings of Jesus Christ. Highlighted with action and vivid storytelling, this Gospel underscores the transformative power of faith and encourages us to remain steadfast in our commitment to Christ, even in the midst of trials and uncertainties. The Gospel of Mark stands not only as a historical account of Jesus’ life, but also as a source of inspiration and guidance for the early Christian community navigating the challenges of their time.

# *Section Breakdown*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Mark 1:1-13

## **THE MINISTRY OF JESUS**

Mark 1:14-13:37

## **THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS**

Mark 14:1-16:20

# Locations

The Gospel of Mark takes us on a journey through various locations significant to the life and ministry of Jesus. From the bustling streets of Capernaum, where Jesus performed many miracles, to the tranquil shores of the Sea of Galilee, where He taught the crowds from a boat, each location carries profound symbolic and spiritual significance. Jerusalem plays a central role in Mark's account, serving as the backdrop for Jesus' final days, the Last Supper, and ultimately, His crucifixion and resurrection.

PLACES: Capernaum, Nazareth, Caesarea Philippi, Jericho, Bethany, Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, Golgotha

# Author's Bio

Although he wasn't one of Jesus' twelve Disciples, John Mark was a figure mentioned in the New Testament who grew up in the middle of the early church. In fact, his mother Mary's home was an epicenter for the early church, as referenced in Acts 12, and perhaps the location of the Last Supper. His uncle Barnabas was Paul's right-hand man, and he was extremely close to the Apostle Peter, so close that Peter referred to him as "my son" in 1 Peter 5:13. It is likely that John Mark wrote this gospel from the firsthand accounts of Peter's sermons.





*Mediterranean Sea*

CAESAREA PHILIPPI ♦

CAPERNAUM ♦

GALILEE

NAZARETH ♦

*Sea of Galilee*

SAMARIA

*Jordan River*

JUDEA

JERICHO ♦

GOLGOTHA ♦  
JERUSALEM ♦

MOUNT OF OLIVES ♦  
BETHANY ♦

*Dead Sea*

## Listen to the Right Voice

### READING:

Mark 1:1-20

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."*

Mark 1:11

### REFLECTION:

- So many voices compete for our attention.
- So many sources want to tell you who you are.
- So many opinions exist about you, your life, and your purpose.
- Only one voice speaks from Heaven's throne.
- If the voice you're hearing is not calling you "beloved," it's not God's voice.
- God says, "You are mine and I love you."

Think about the voices you are listening to.

Who do they say you are?

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Do they bring out the best in you?

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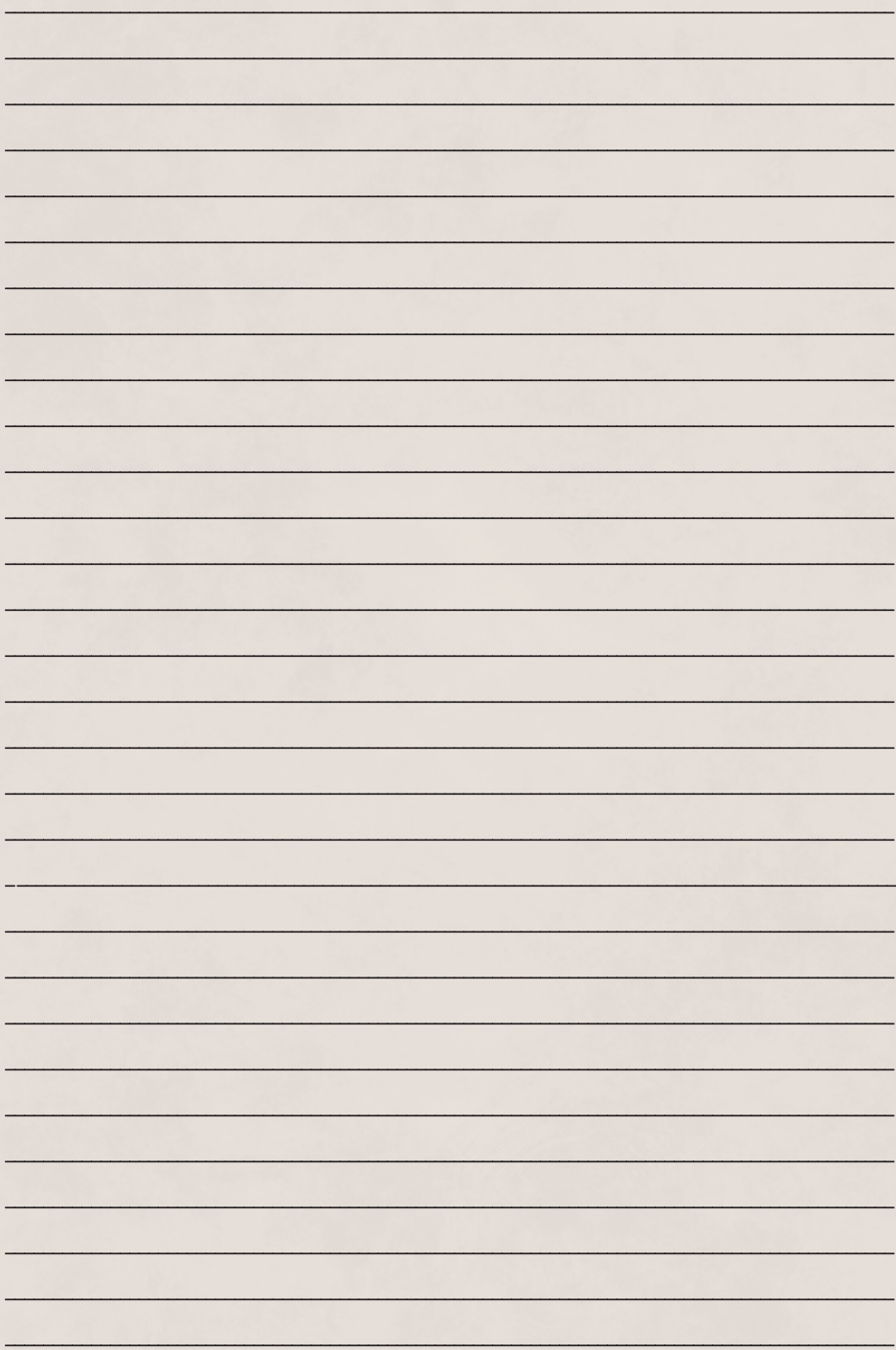
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We will become like the ones we most listen to.

Consider the SOURCE.



## Move Away from Distractions

### READING:

Mark 1:21-45

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*

Mark 1:35

### REFLECTION:

- Jesus got up early to beat the morning noise.
- Jesus went away from activity.
- Jesus isolated Himself temporarily.
- Jesus went to an empty place to FILL UP.
- Jesus went to a lonely place to BE WITH GOD.
- Jesus went to a lifeless place to LIVE FULLY.

What is your morning routine?

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When do you spend time in prayer?

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When do you get away from distractions?

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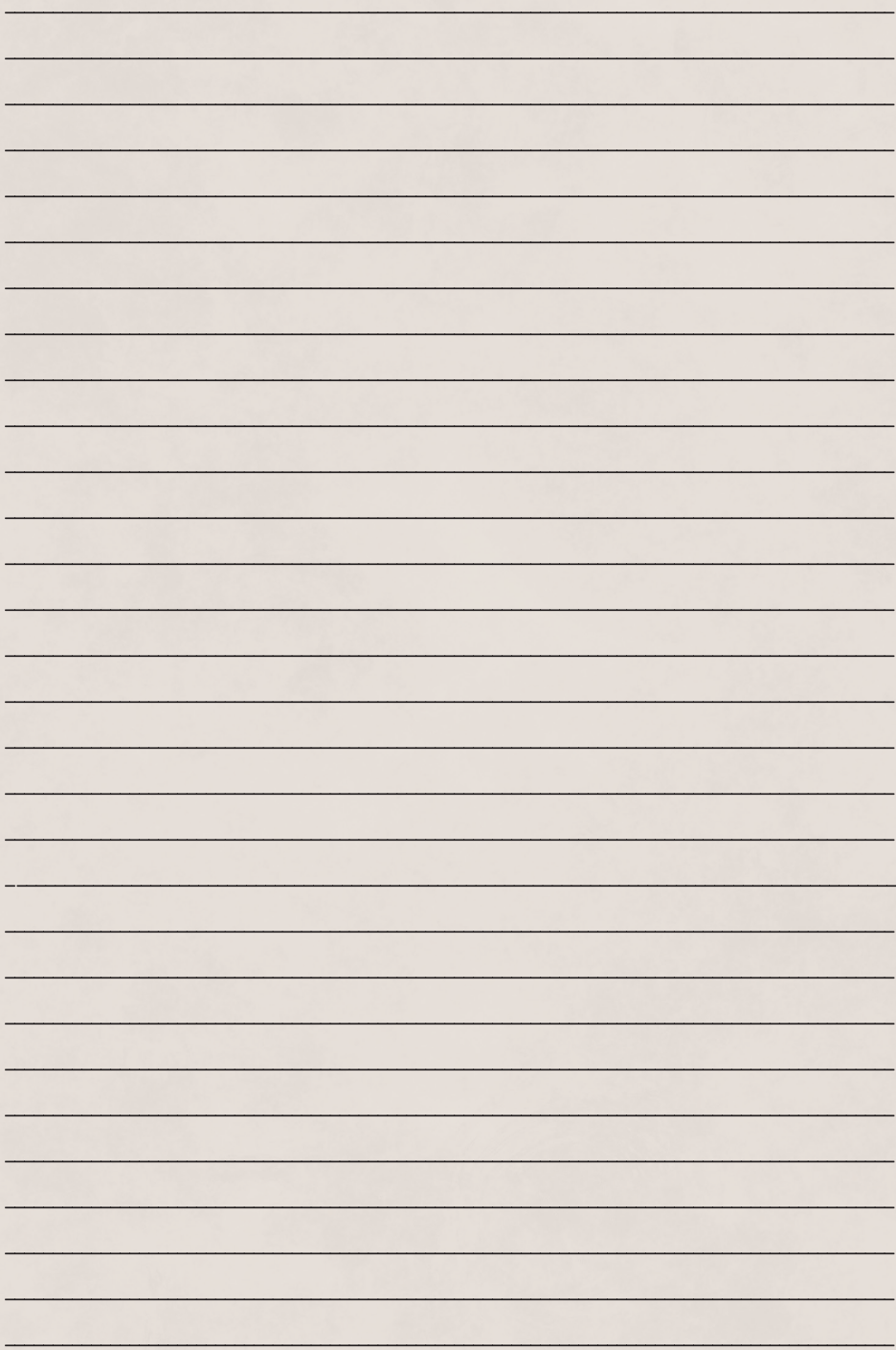
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What is your biggest obstacle when it comes to prayer?

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## Jesus Rejects No One

### READING:

Mark 2:1-17

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.*

Mark 2:15

### REFLECTION:

- Those who society had written off were welcomed at Jesus' house.
- Those who followed Jesus mingled with the lost.
- Everyone enjoyed being around Jesus, except the uptight, religious people.
- Jesus didn't care about public perception.
- Jesus cared about reaching people in need.

What is your default response to those rejected by society?

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Are you more comfortable around lost people or religious people?

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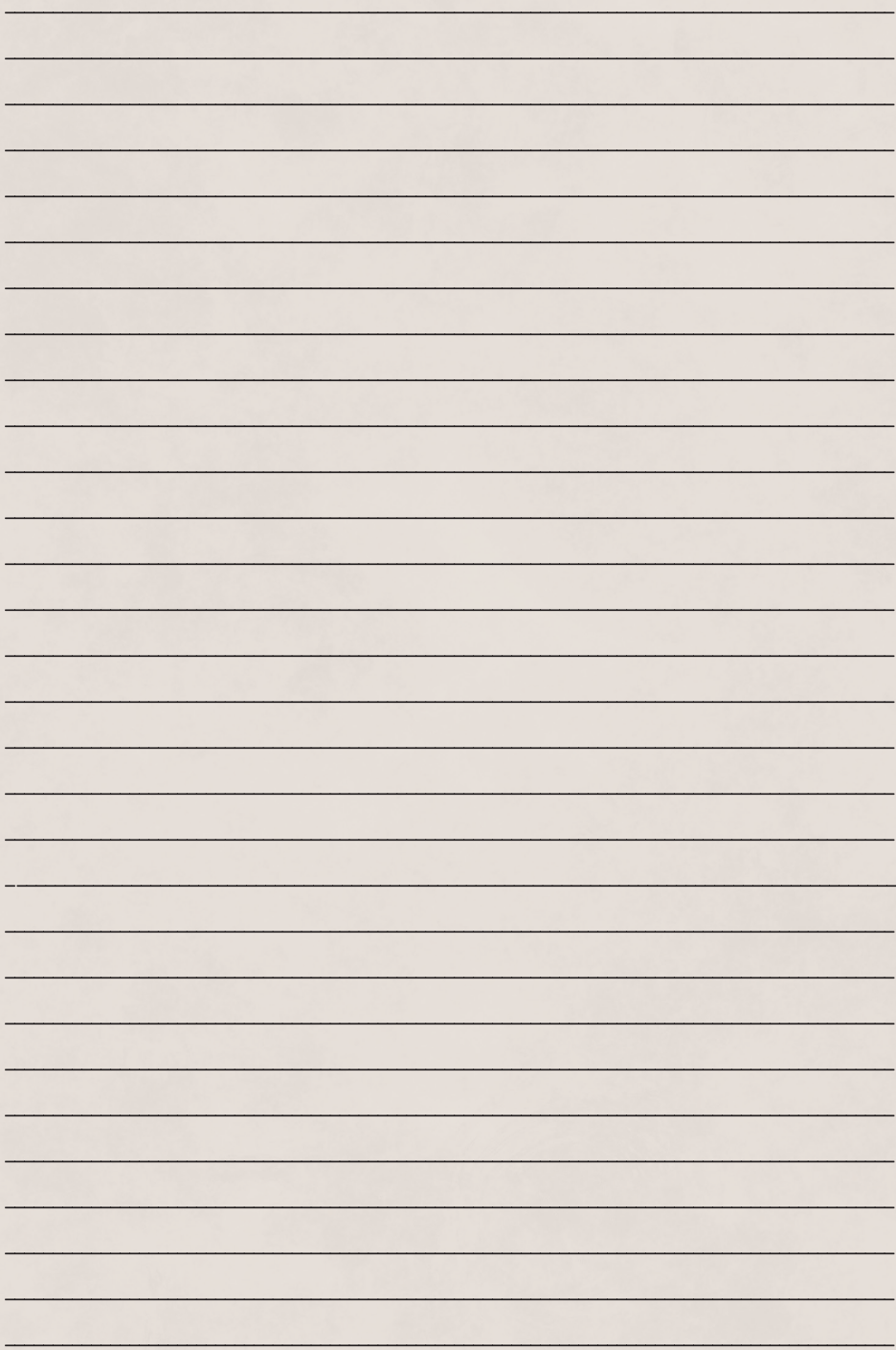
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Which group would you like more?

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## God Wants Rest for You

### READING:

Mark 2:18-28

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."*

Mark 2:27

### REFLECTION:

- Sabbath is about 3 things:
  1. STOPPING - calling a timeout to pause what you're doing
  2. OBSERVING - reflecting on what is behind and before you
  3. CELEBRATING - expressing gratitude and joy
- A rhythm of rest is restoring.
- You must do ALL 3 or you will burn out.
- Don't make it a RULE; make it a HABIT.

Do you have a healthy Sabbath habit?

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What day of the week is your regular Sabbath?

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What is the hardest part of practicing your Sabbath?

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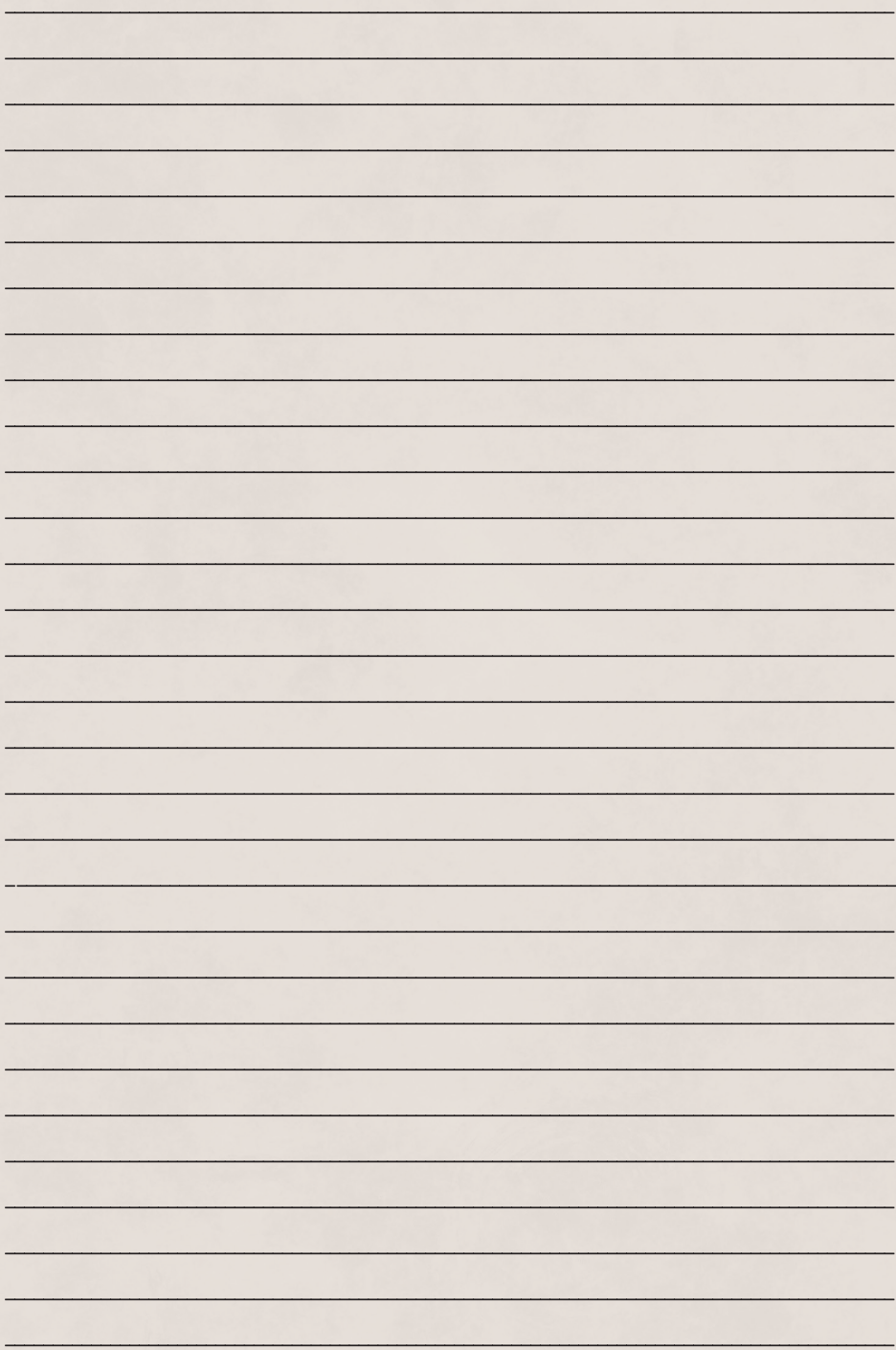
What keeps you from Sabbath?

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## The Gospel is Attractive

### READING:

Mark 3:1-19

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed. When they heard about all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon.*

Mark 3:7-8

### REFLECTION:

- Over the course of history, there have been seasons where people have been inexplicably drawn in from the corners of the earth to be with Jesus.
- We sometimes call this “Revival.”
- The good news draws people in.
- The message of Jesus is contagious.
- It’s hard to stay away.

Have you experienced this? Have you been drawn in by a move of God?

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When was the last time you had a hard time walking away from the presence of God?

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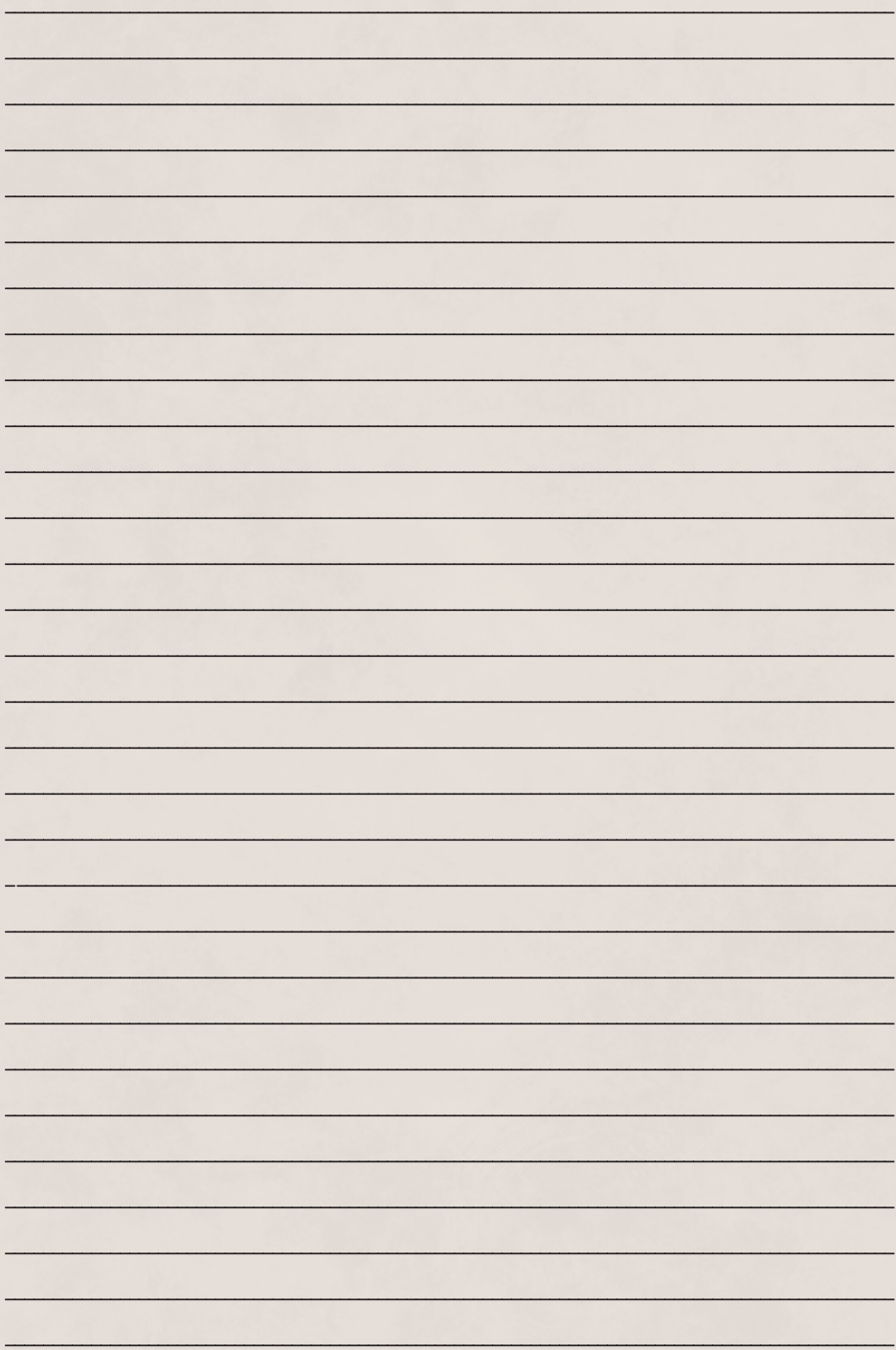
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When was the last time you were compelled to go somewhere because you knew the Lord was there?

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## Δ Focus on Prayer

### SCRIPTURE:

*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed:*

*“Everyone is looking for you!” Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come. So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.*

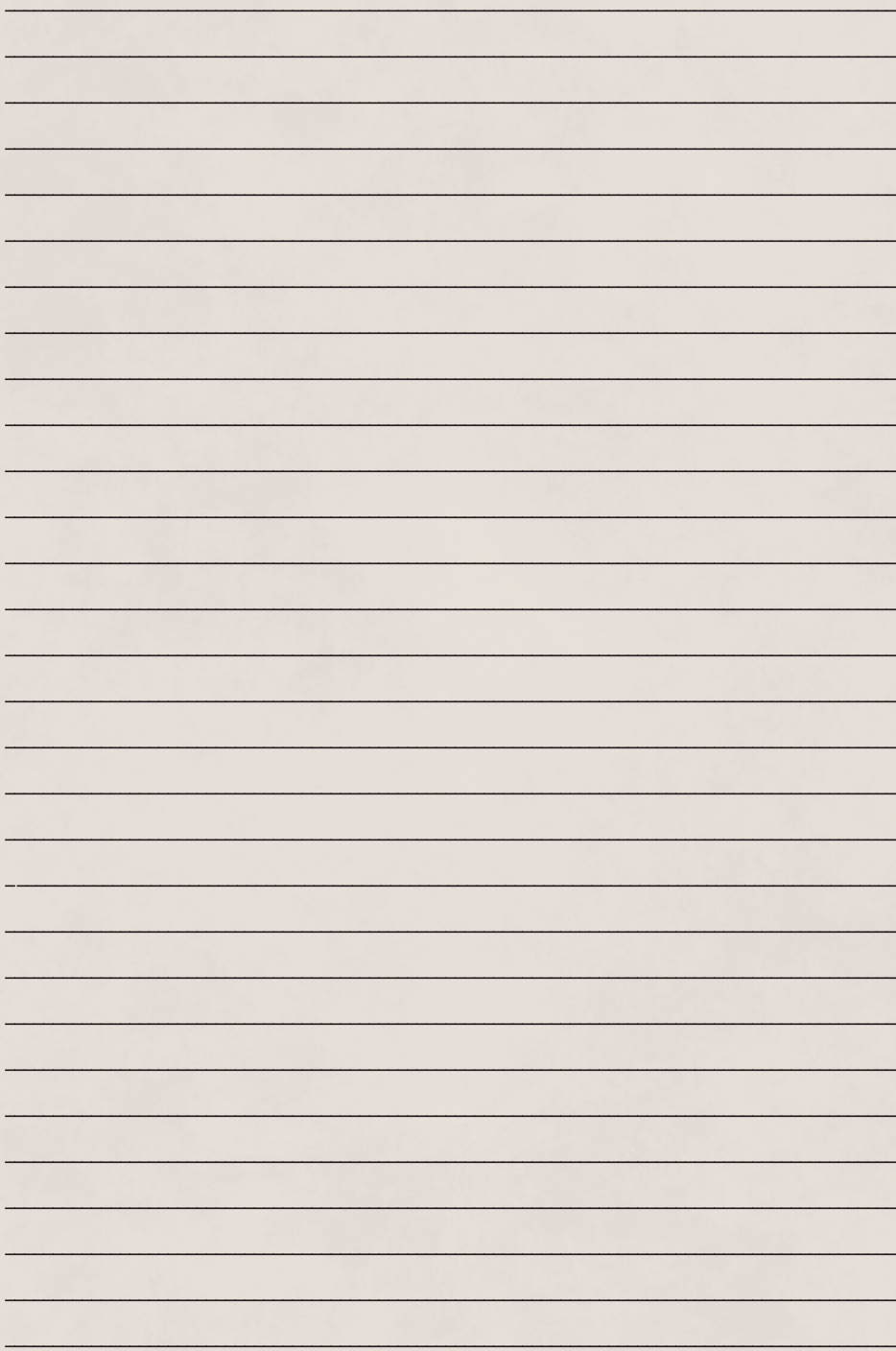
Mark 1:35-39

### PRAYER DIRECTION:

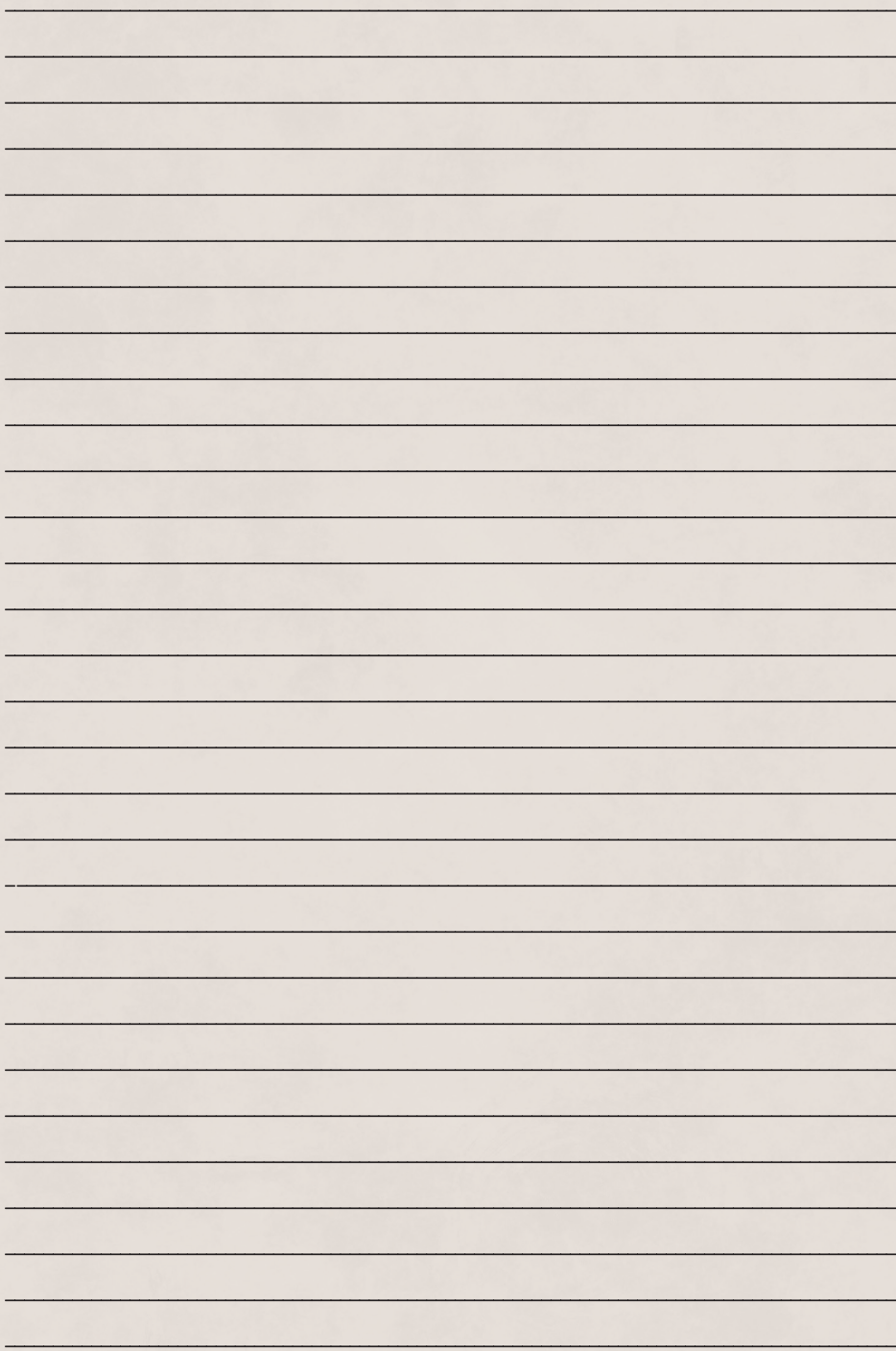
Jesus prioritized His time alone with the Father. In this passage of scripture, we see that after His intentional prayer time with the Father, He then had clear direction. Immediately after His time of prayer, He told the disciples exactly where they needed to go next. His time of prayer was not only a time to talk with the Father, but also to receive from Him. When we get alone with God in prayer, the same can happen for us. Is there any area of your life where you need direction from God? Bring that to Him faithfully in prayer.

### PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:

Thank You, God, that You are sovereign over every area of my life. Thank You that I am able to approach You in prayer and seek Your supernatural wisdom and guidance! There is no one more wise than You. Please give me wisdom and direction in \_\_\_ (express your specific needs to God here). Thank You for Your help in all things! I am dependent on You, and I am trusting in You.







## Division Leads to Disaster

### READING:

Mark 3:20-35

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*"If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand."*

Mark 3:25

### REFLECTION:

- Healthy houses have unity.
- Division is a disease.
- To be STEADY, have UNITY.
- UNITY is a COMMON VISION and PURPOSE.
- DIVISION is a result of competing AGENDAS.
- UNITY happens when we move together in the same direction and for the same reason.

What is your vision for your family?

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Is there unity in your house? With your family? With your friends?

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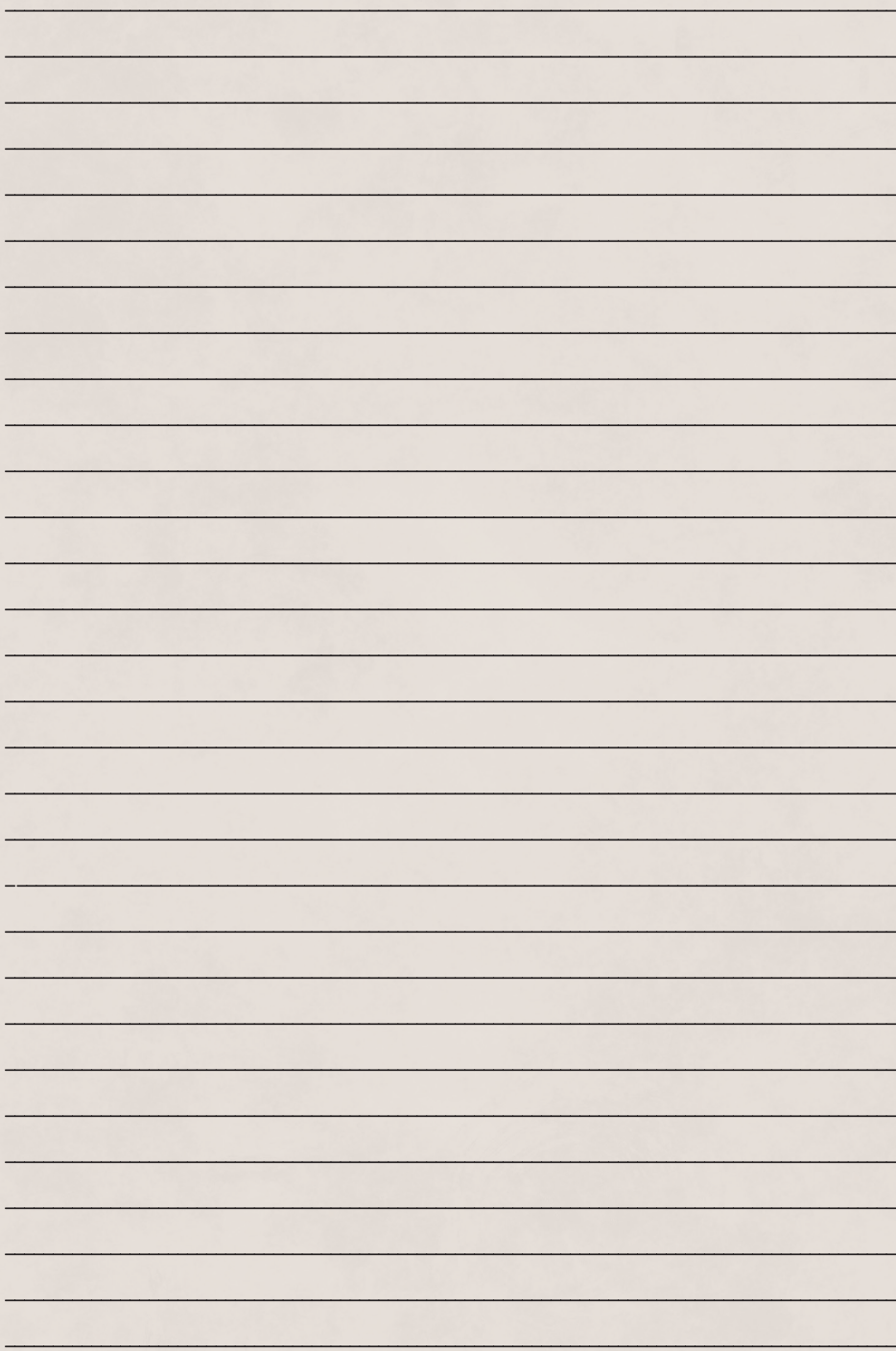
What is one move you could make in the direction of unity?

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# Good Soil Grows Good Fruit

## READING:

Mark 4:1-20

## VERSE OF THE DAY:

*“Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”*

Mark 4:20

## REFLECTION:

- Be fertile soil, receptive and willing to grow.
- This starts with listening.
- Be open to the Word in both your heart and mind.
- Accept the authority of God’s Word.
- Our lives should produce fruit.
- The fruit of your life is the evidence of what God has done and is doing.
- What we hear and receive changes who we are.

Have you been good soil lately?

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What kind of fruit is your life bearing?

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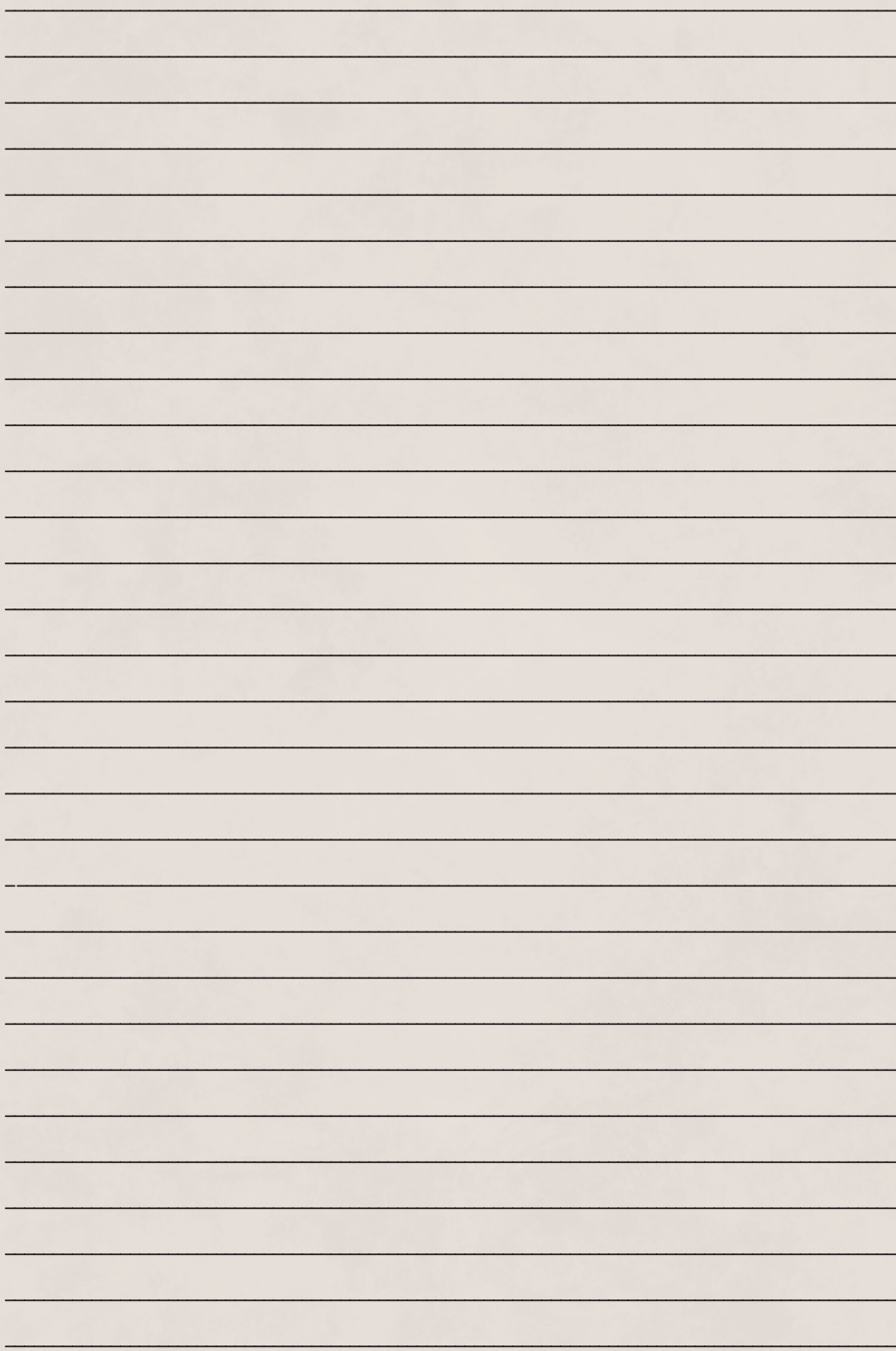
What is the biggest challenge to being good soil?

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## Light Shines in the Open

### READING:

Mark 4:21-34

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*He said to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand?"*

Mark 4:21

### REFLECTION:

- The Gospel you carry is a light for this world.
- You were brought here for a purpose.
- Shine your light at home.
- Shine your light at work or school.
- Shine your light where all can see it.

Do you ever feel like you hide your light?

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What causes you to hide it at work? At school? At home?

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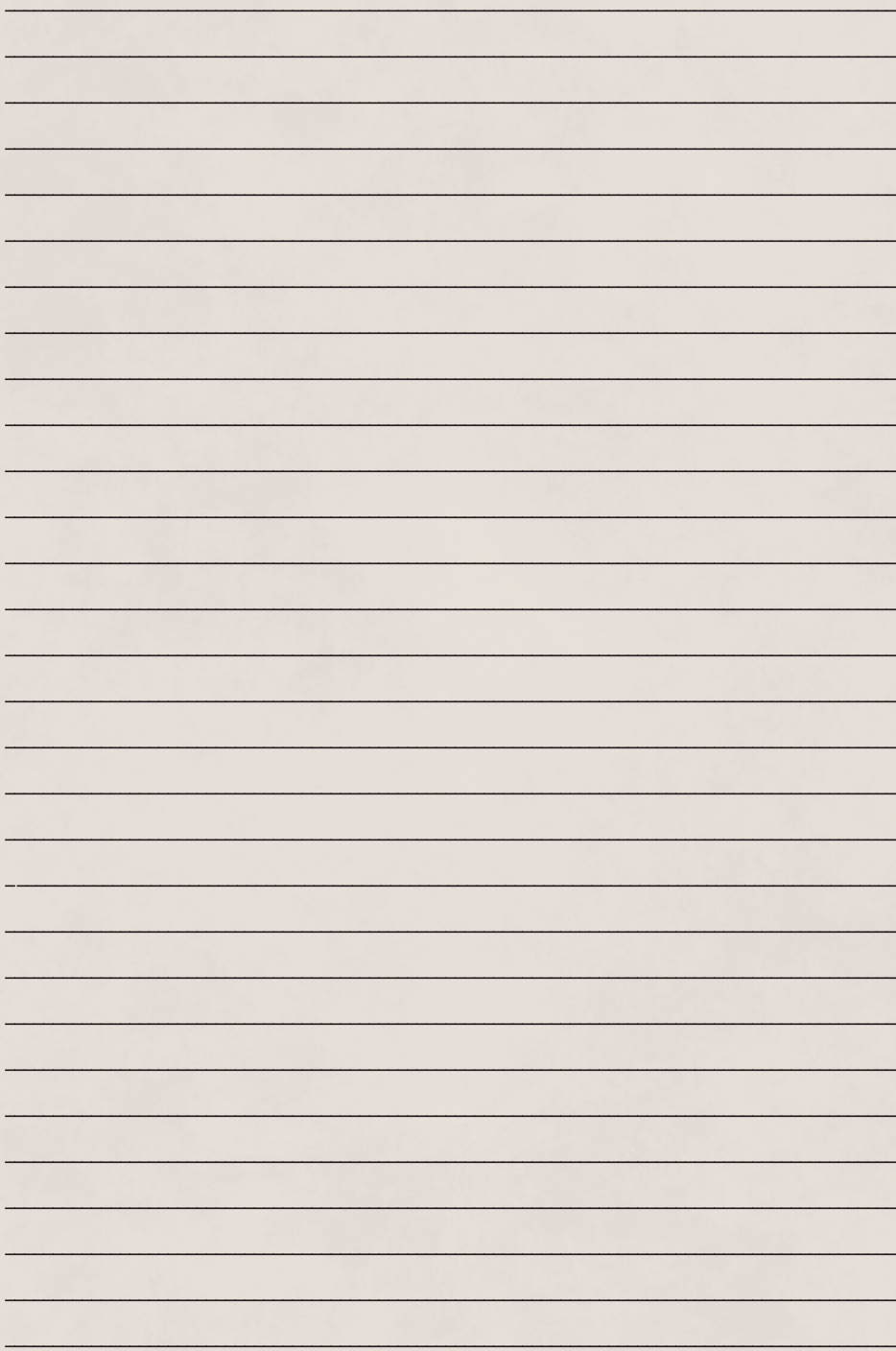
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What can you do today to shine your light in the open?

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## Understanding Diminishes Fear

### READING:

Mark 4:35-41

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"*

Mark 4:41

### REFLECTION:

- They followed Jesus but didn't understand Him fully yet.
- Miracles wowed them.
- His true nature eluded them.
- Even in His presence, they were mystified.
- None of them fully understood until AFTER His death and resurrection.

Who is Jesus to you?

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How would you respond to a storm being calmed?

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When did you first encounter Jesus?

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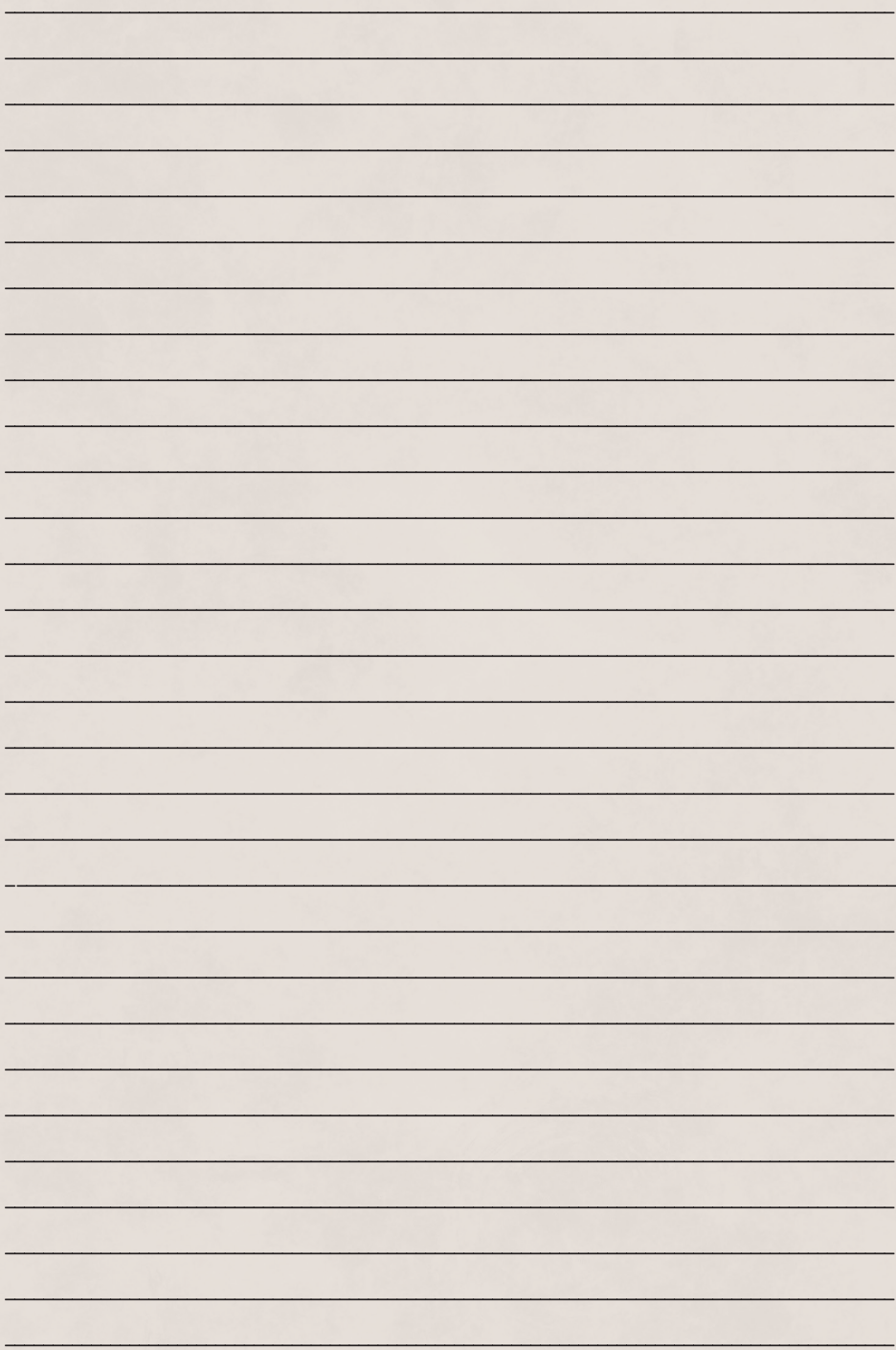
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How did the resurrection change things for you?

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## Do We Want the Results?

### READING:

Mark 5:1-20

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.*

Mark 5:16-17

### REFLECTION:

- It was a great day for the man with demons.
- It was a bad day for the pig farmer.
- Helping one person doesn't always equate to hurting someone else.
- Do we want the MIRACLE but not the results?
- Life with Jesus means accepting EVERYTHING.
- We don't get to pick and choose.

What area of your life have you been holding back from God?

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How do you respond when God wants to change the difficult things in your life?

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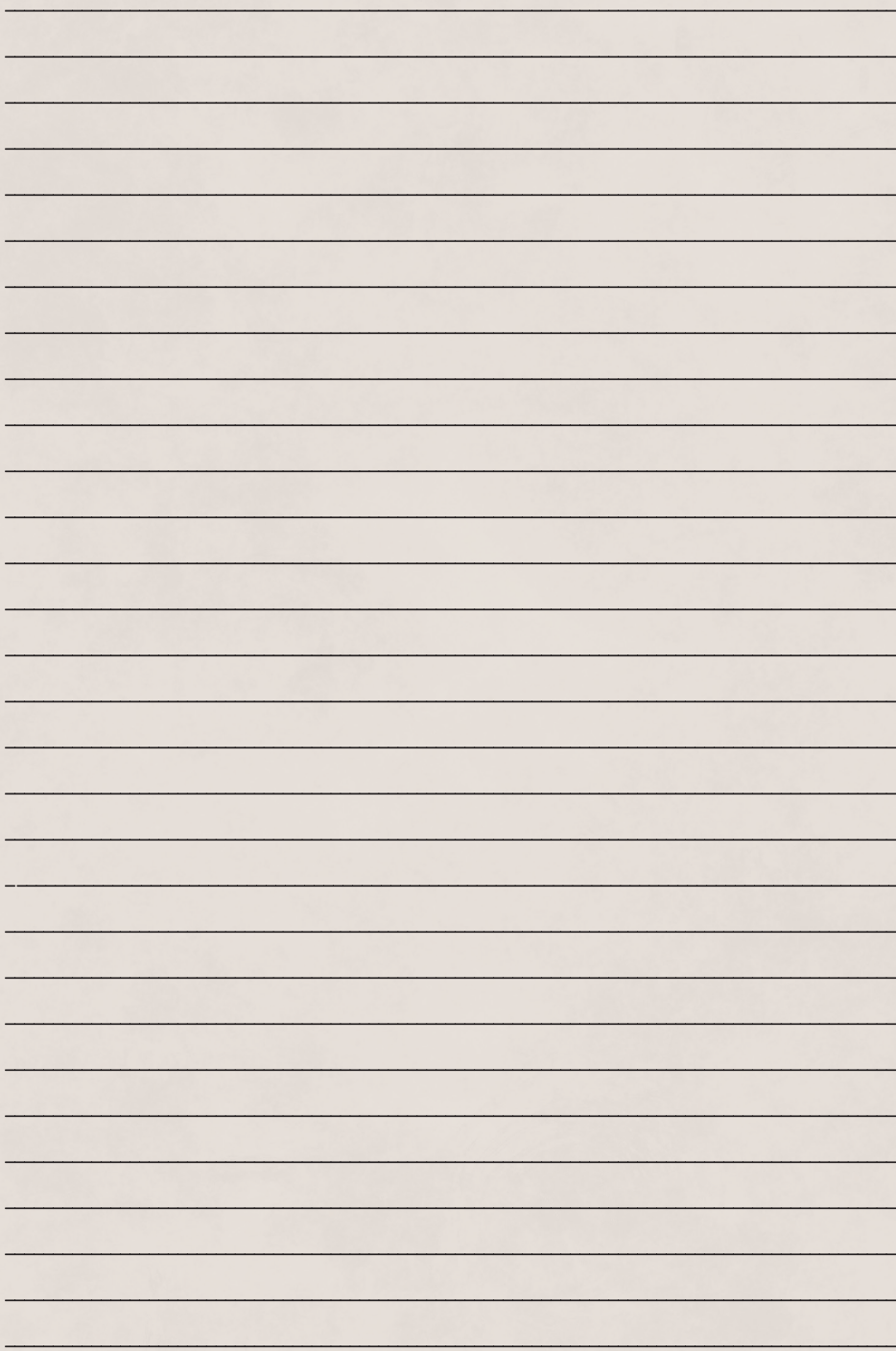
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Have you ever asked Jesus to leave you alone (if not with words, then with actions)?

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## Δ Focus on Prayer

### **SCRIPTURE:**

*And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."*

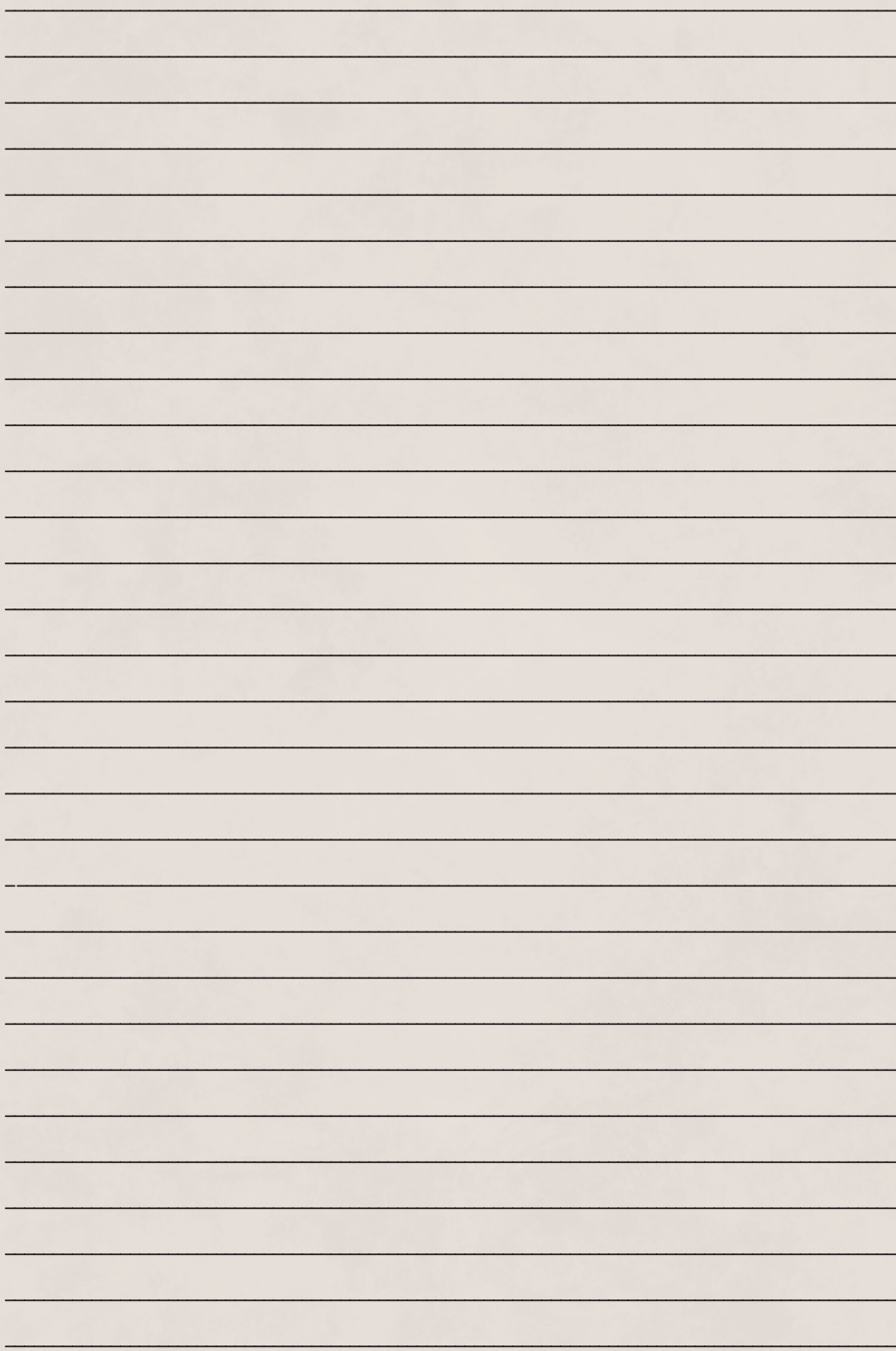
Mark 4:30-32 ESV

### **PRAYER DIRECTION:**

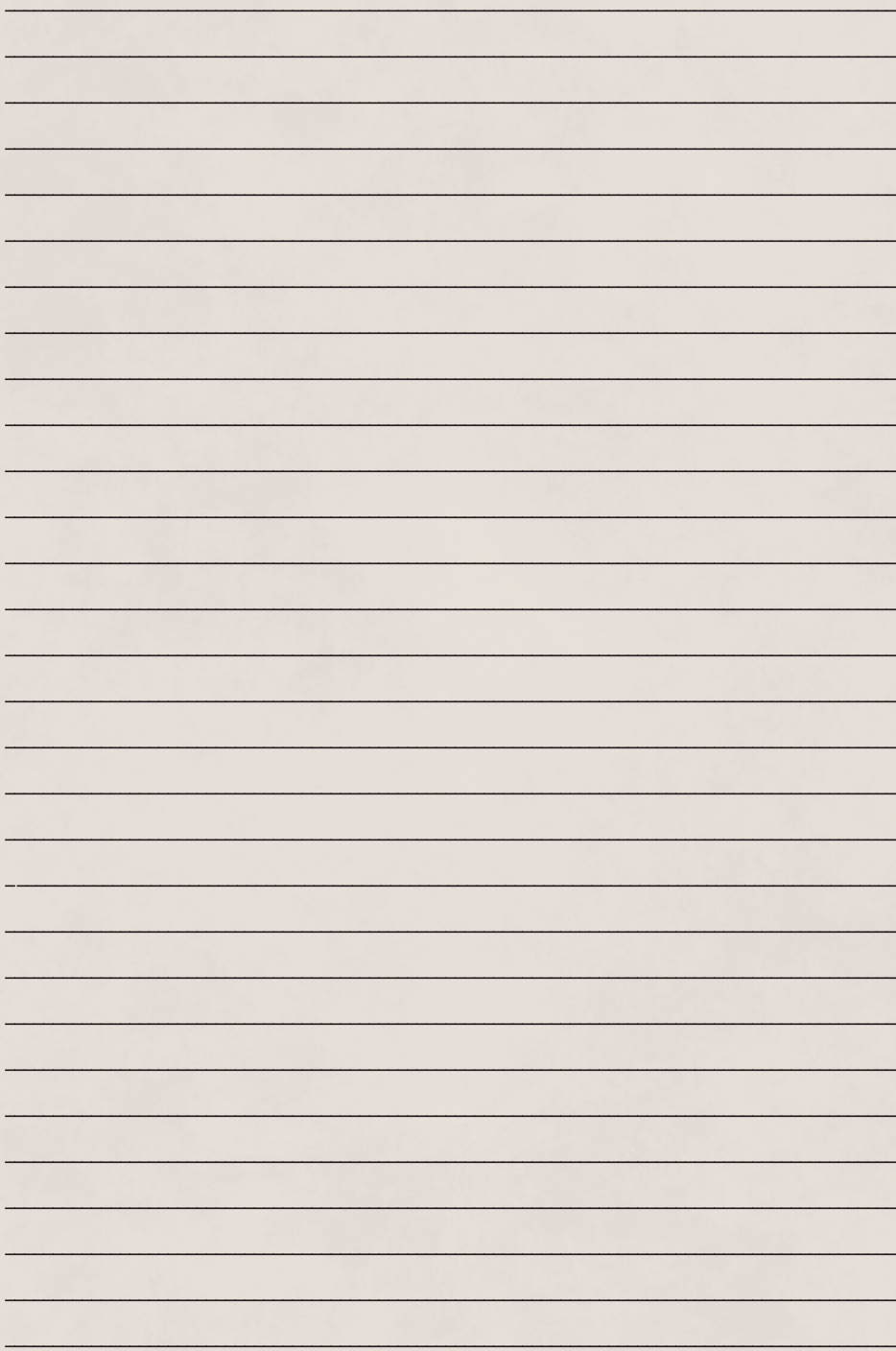
The smallest seed is used to explain the importance of sowing even the smallest things in faith. What the Lord does with the small supercedes our limits and produces solutions for more than just ourselves, but for others. The mustard seed provided branches for birds to nest and have shade. Our faith, as small as a mustard seed, when sown in good soil, covers more than we could ever ask, think, or imagine. Something small, with faith, can carry immense significance.

### **PRAYER OF PERSPECTIVE:**

Lord, forgive me for allowing my judgment of small beginnings to limit my faith in how big You are! I pray that what You have shown me to sow, even if it's so small, will benefit Your Kingdom. Thank You for reminding me it is not about me, but about You. I pray that You receive all the glory, and that my faith would rise in seeing all You do with one small step of obedience. I love You, Lord! May Your kingdom come and Your will be done. In Jesus' name, Amen.







## Be Humble Before Jesus

### READING:

Mark 5:21-43

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet.*

Mark 5:22

### REFLECTION:

- Look for opportunities to encounter Jesus.
- Take your needs to Jesus.
- Approach Jesus with HUMILITY.
- Jairus went to Jesus, submitting to a greater authority than his own.
- Jesus was moved by this father to help him.

What is your biggest challenge to being humble?

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What is the biggest personal need you have taken to Jesus? What was the outcome?

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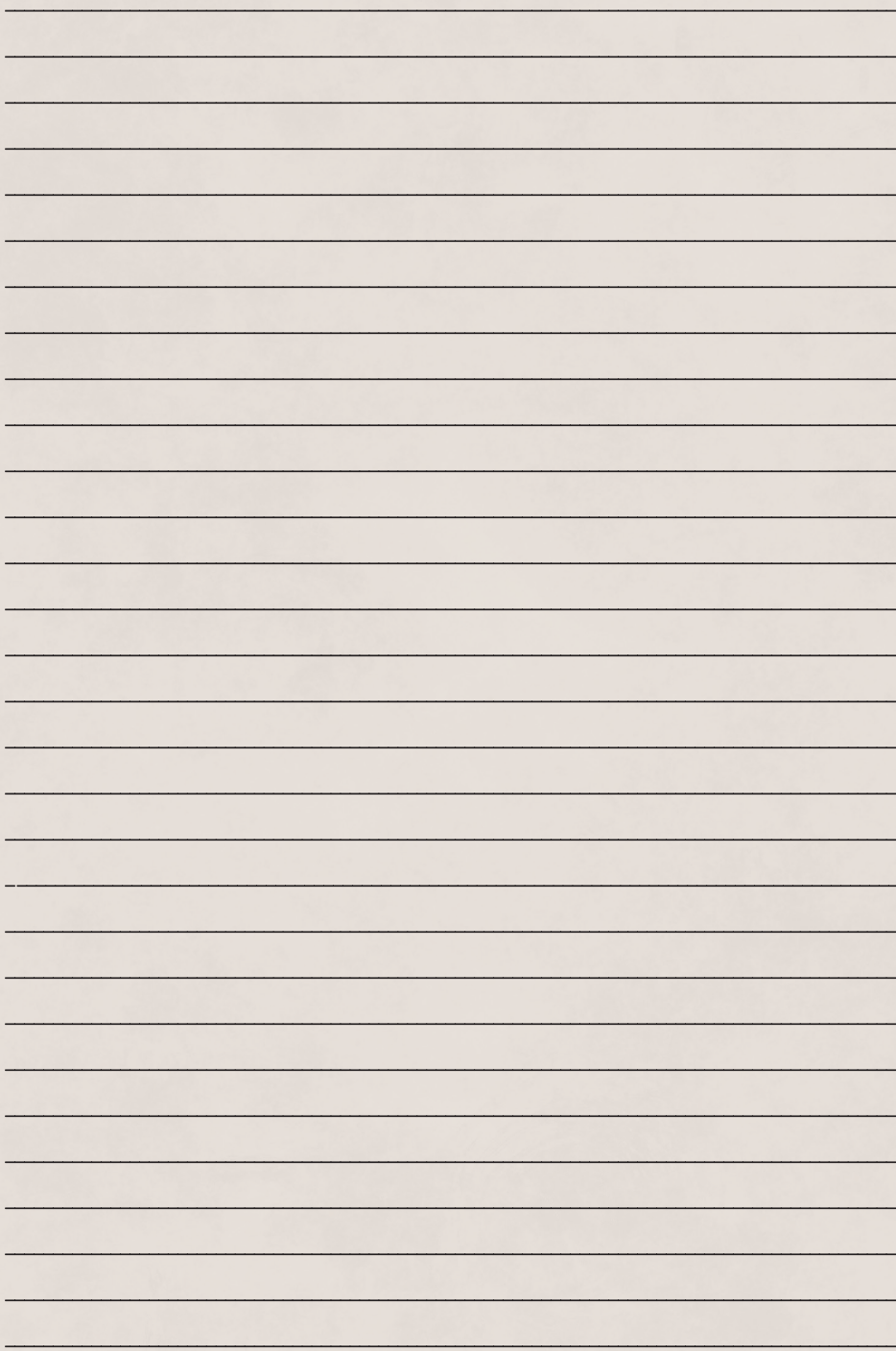
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What do you need to take to Jesus now?

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## You Will Always Have Doubters

### READING:

Mark 6:1-29

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?"*

Mark 6:2

### REFLECTION:

- Some will question WHY you have been blessed, given leadership, saved, or given a platform.
- Some will question your skill, integrity, and ability.
- Some will question what you do.
- Some will question how you do it.
- Some will question if you are the right one.
- Don't fall for IMPOSTER SYNDROME.
- Believe in the opportunities God has given you.

Where do you face your biggest doubts?

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Where have you encountered opposition?

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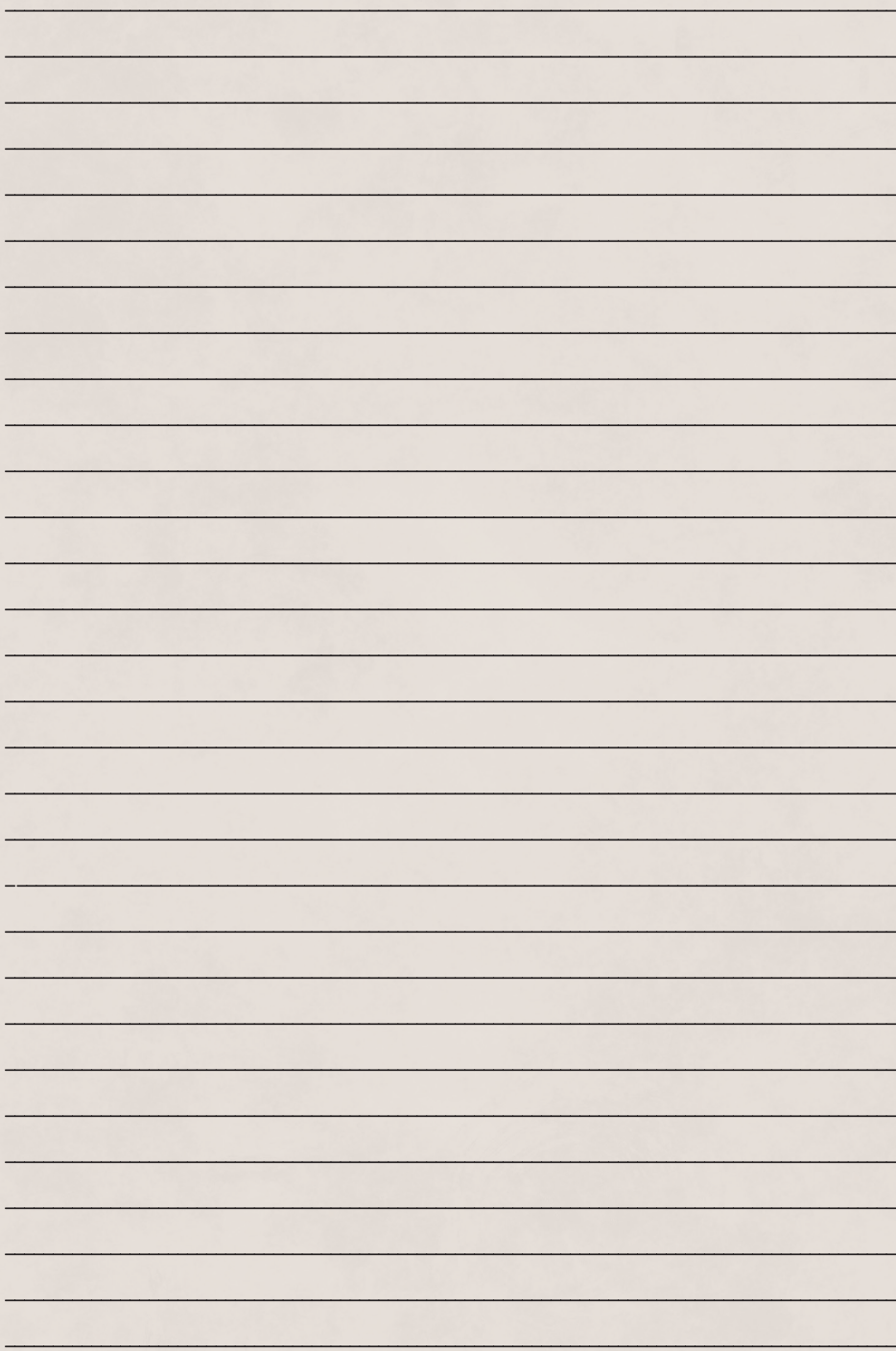
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What makes you doubt yourself?

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## Recognize Jesus

### READING:

Mark 6:30-56

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus.*

Mark 6:54

### REFLECTION:

- How did they know who Jesus was?
- Reputation?
- The people with Him?
- The description of His appearance?
- If Jesus walked in right now, would you recognize Him?

Do people see Jesus in you?

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When you show up, is Jesus with you?

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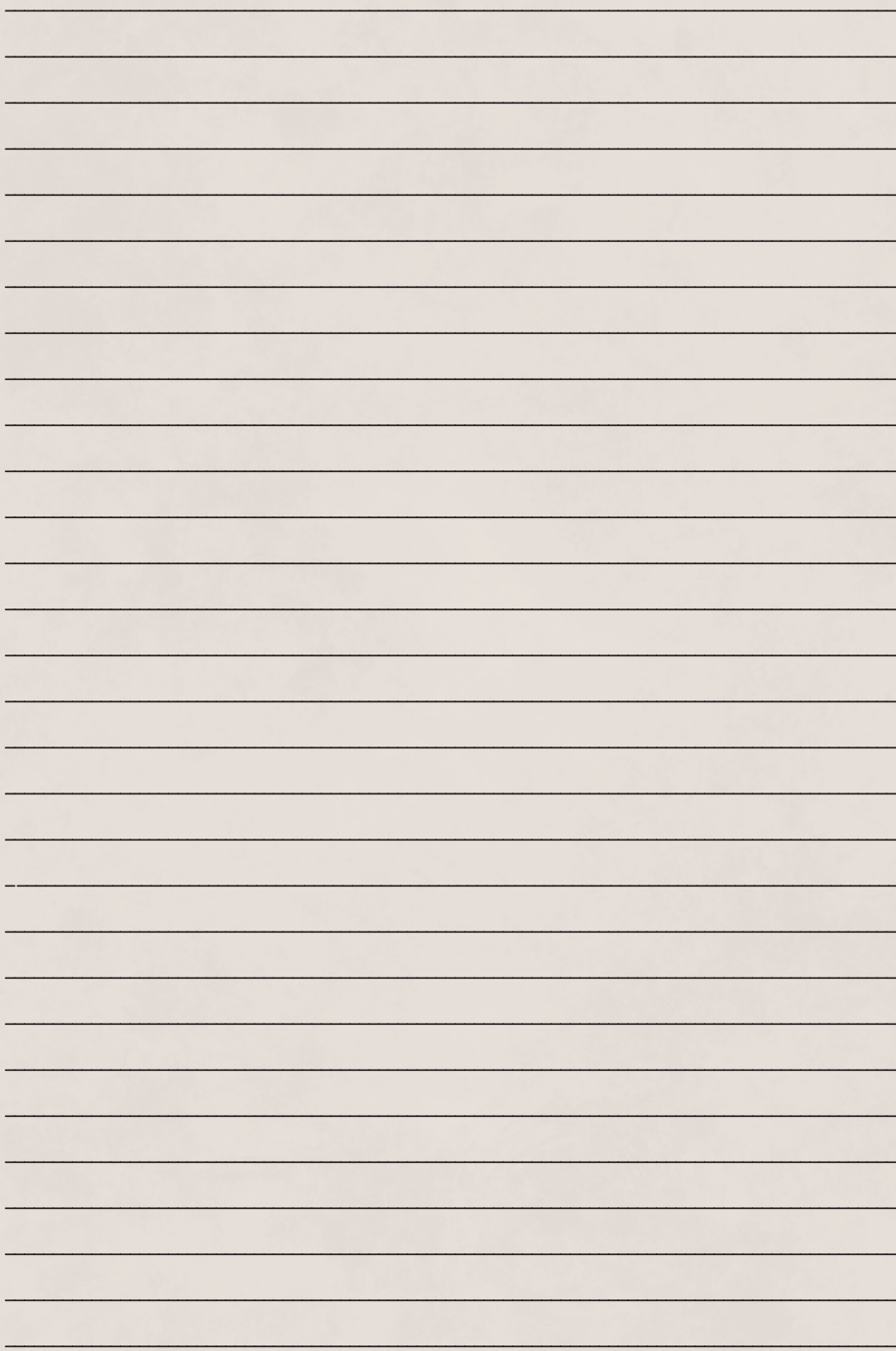
What Christ-like characteristics would people use to describe you?

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## What You Do Reveals What's Inside

### READING:

Mark 7:1-23

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*"All these evils come from inside and defile a person."*

Mark 7:23

### REFLECTION:

- The evil inside will produce evil fruit.
- Guard your thoughts, heart, and actions.
- Be careful what you let in.
- Don't let the seeds of corruption hang around.
- ONE ACTION DOES NOT DEFINE YOU.
- But everyday choices declare who you are.
- Don't be a slave to bad choices.

What do you need to eliminate from your life?

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What do you need to guard against?

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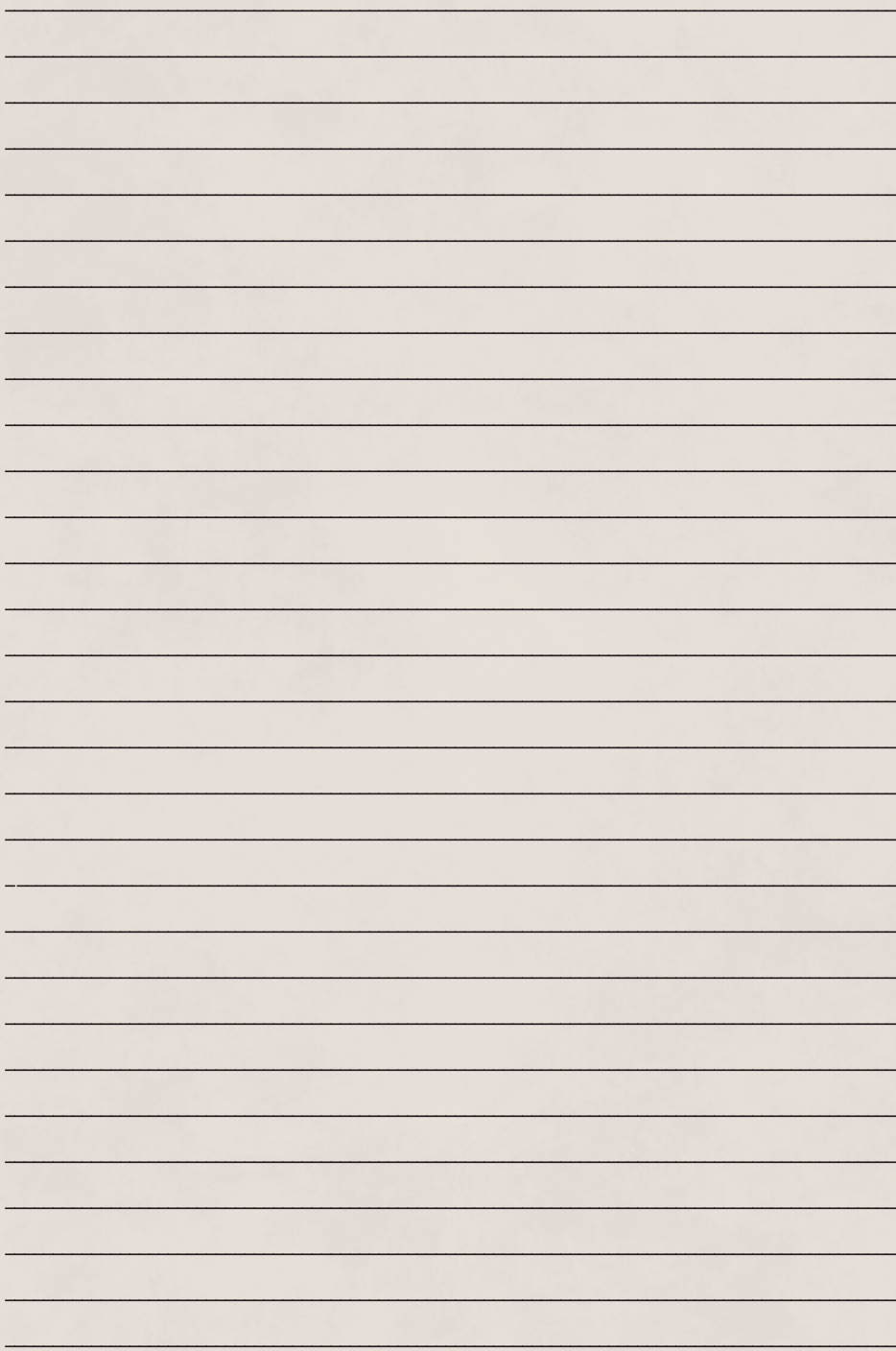
What is something you have overcome in the past?

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## Good News is Worth Sharing

### READING:

Mark 7:24-37

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it.*

Mark 7:36

### REFLECTION:

- What Jesus does is ALWAYS good news.
- He brings healing, hope, victory, and life change.
- When you experience what Jesus does, you can't be silent about it.
- There's a LOT of bad news in this world.
- Let's be people who share the GOOD NEWS.

What amazing thing has Jesus done in your life?

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How did you respond to it? Who did you tell?

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How did the people in your life react?

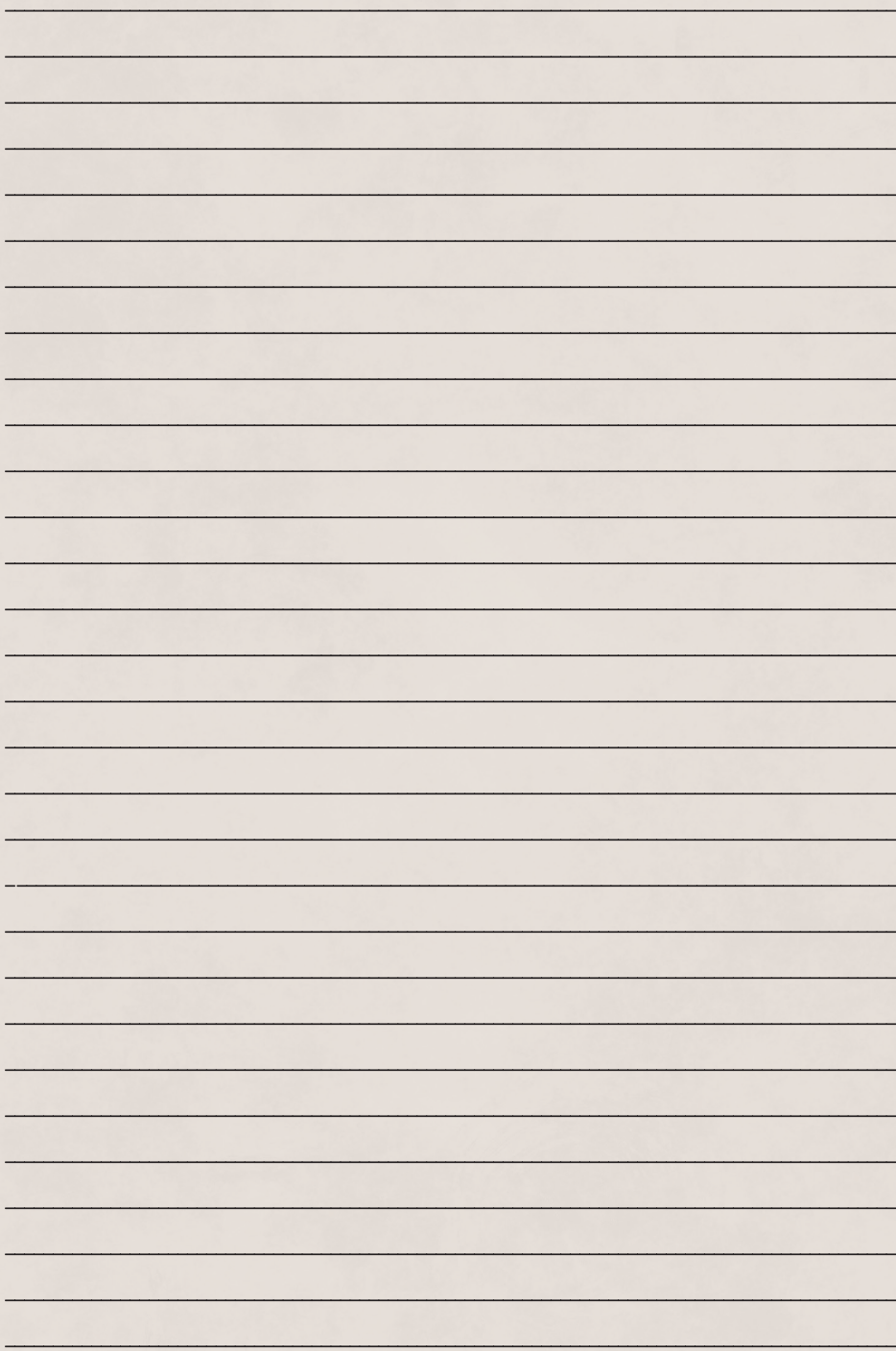
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Has there ever been a time you kept quiet about what Jesus did?

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## Δ Focus on Prayer

### SCRIPTURE:

*While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?” Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.”*

Mark 5:35-36

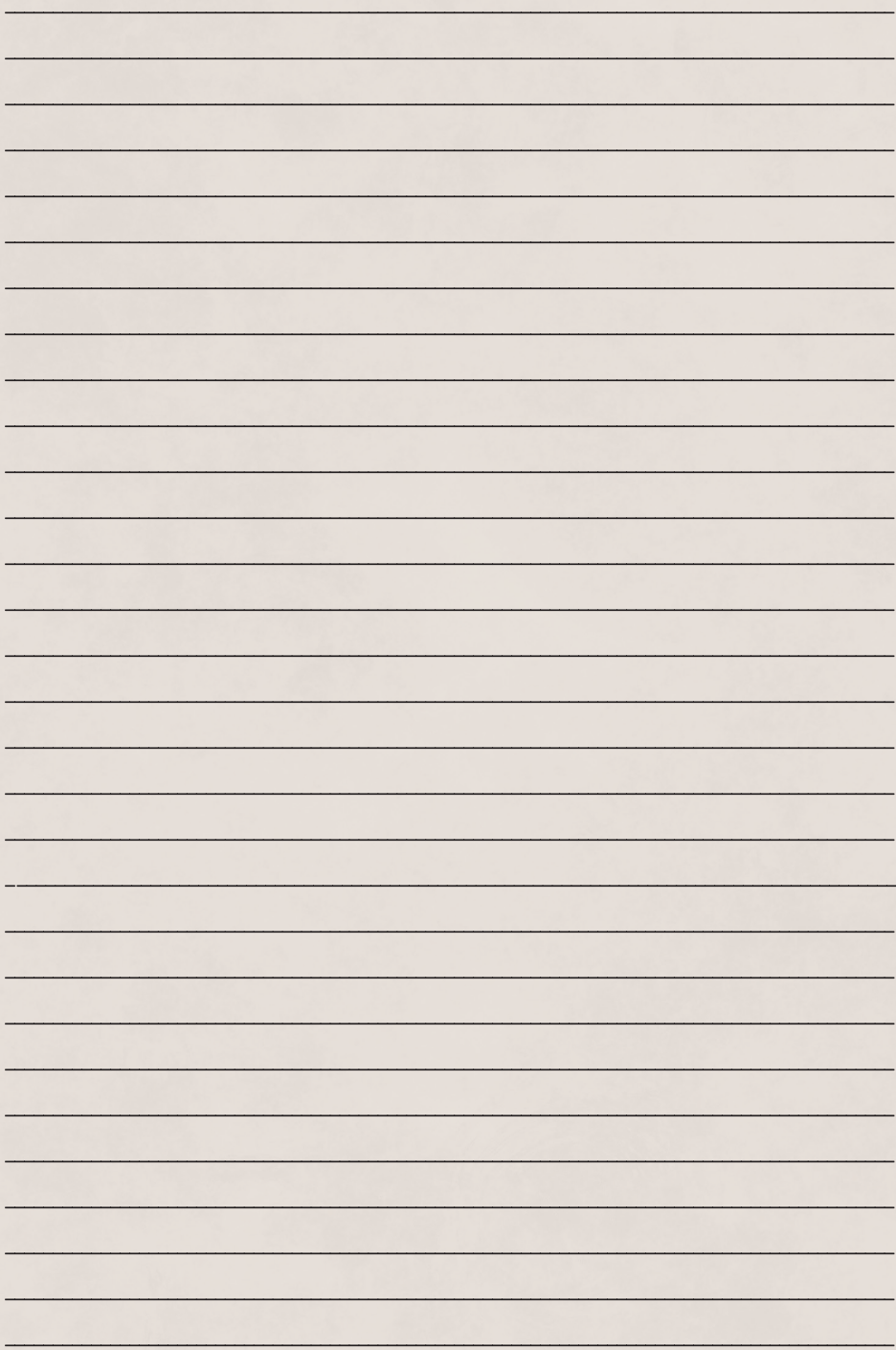
### PRAYER DIRECTION:

Jairus (who was like a local pastor) sought Jesus when he was desperate to see his daughter healed. After she died, people considered the situation beyond Jesus’ ability and thought that Jairus’ continuing with his request was a waste of Jesus’ time. But Jesus had a very different perspective. Jesus heard Jairus’ plea, and His intention to heal had not changed—even with the delay, and even in the face of death! Jesus was as able to raise the dead as He was to heal the sick. Our requests move His heart to action if we will ignore doubt and persist in faith, even if it seems beyond hope! What is this situation for you?

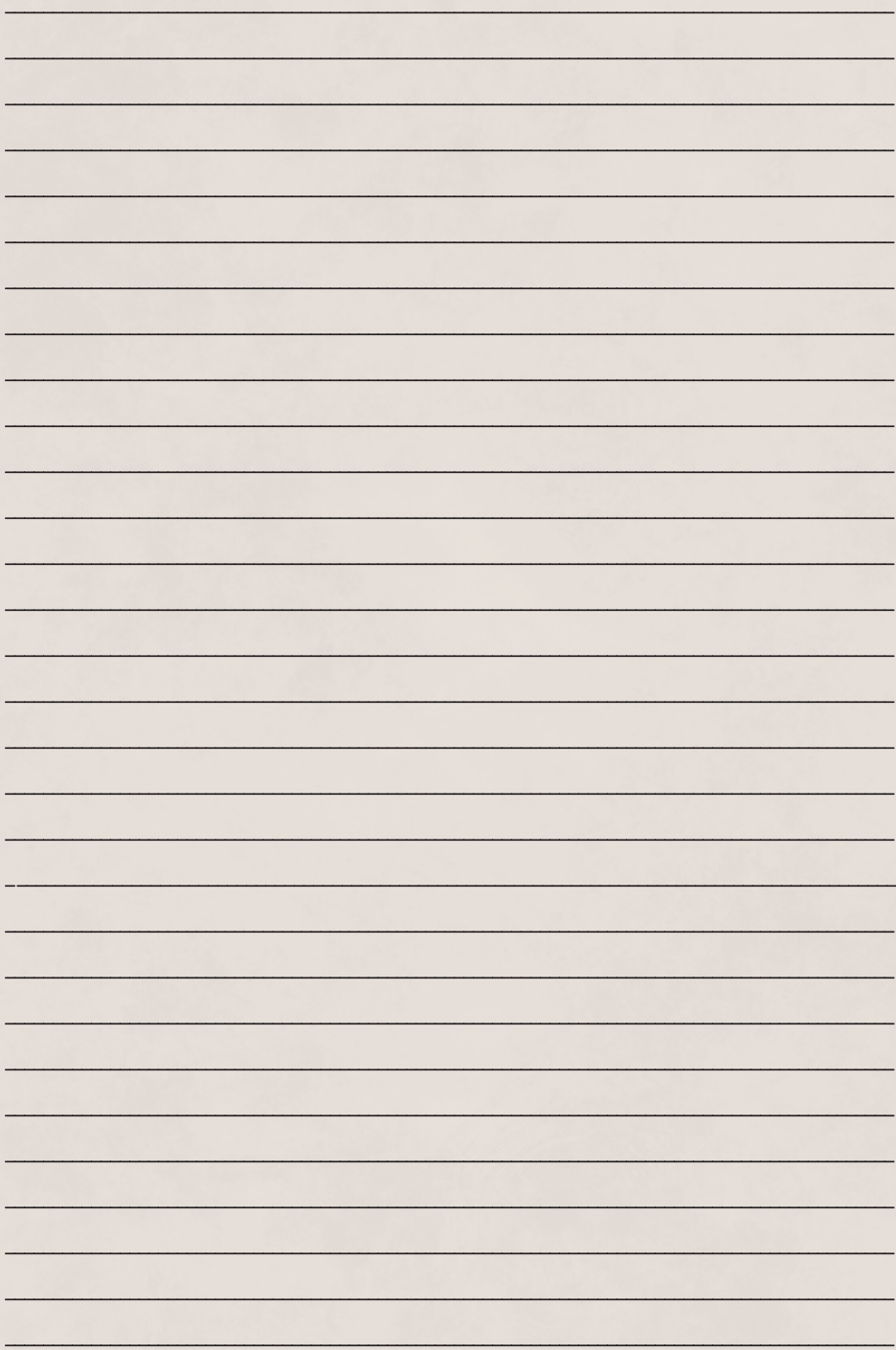
### PRAYER OF FAITH:

Heavenly Father, thank You that You are good and Your mercy endures forever! Thank You for blessing my life with many good things, and most of all, for a relationship with You through Jesus’ blood. I remember many times that You intervened and provided for me in my need—thank You for Your faithfulness! Today, I bring \_\_\_\_\_ to You. It feels too big and beyond hope in human terms, but that which is impossible for me is possible for You! Strengthen my faith to see what You see, and speak what You say no matter what it looks like. I give You this area and ask for Your mighty hand to move and bring hope, healing, and restoration for Your glory! In Jesus’ name, Amen.









## Jesus Cares

### READING:

Mark 8:1-21

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance."*

Mark 8:1-3

### REFLECTION:

In the business of everything that was going on, it was JESUS who took note of the needs of others. He didn't delegate His compassion to a team. HE noticed. HE cared. HE took action.

What does compassion look like to you?

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Have you been too busy to see the needs of others?

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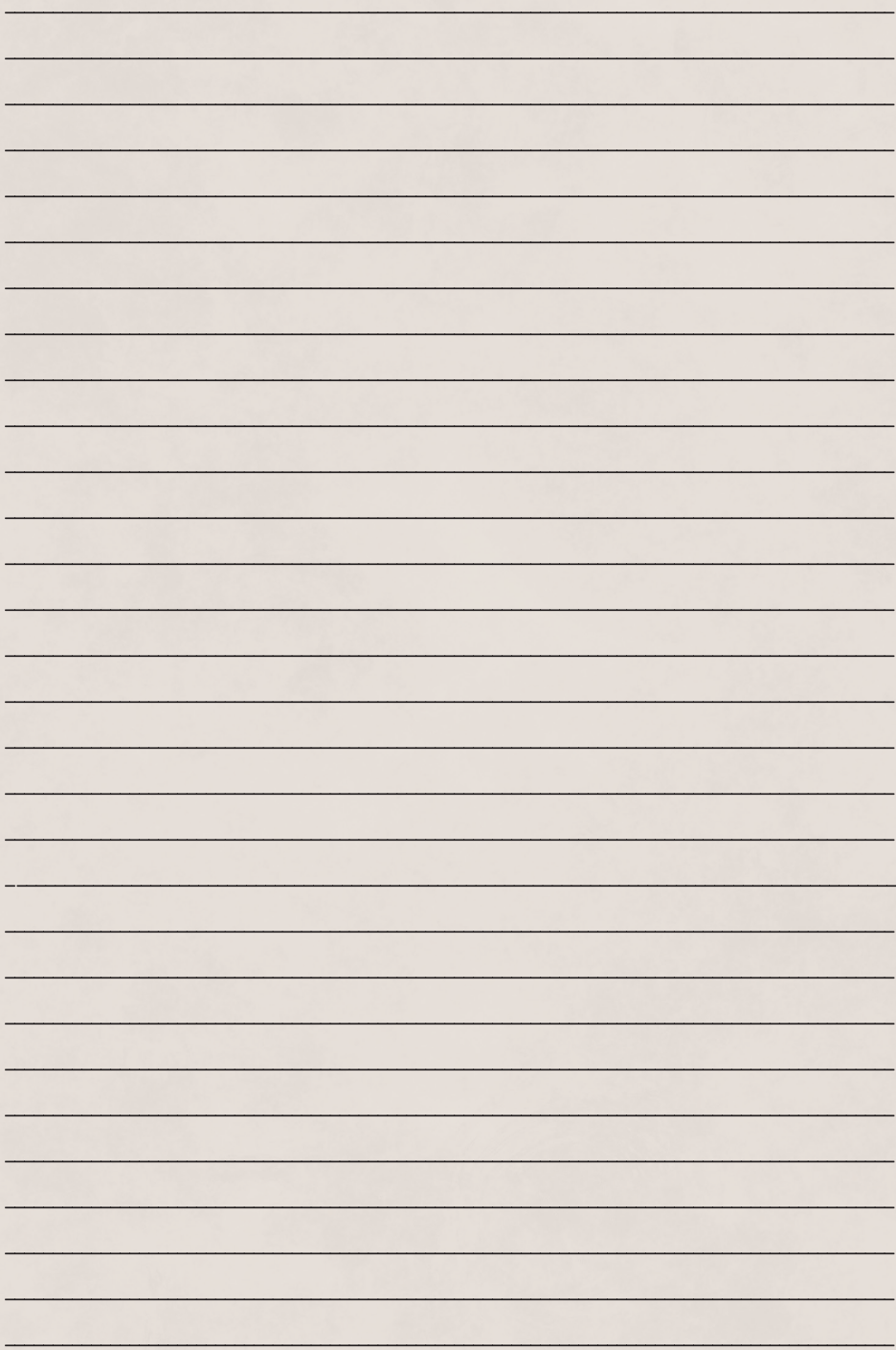
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What is something you can do today to show someone else that you see them and that you care?

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# Who is Jesus to You?

## READING:

Mark 8:22-30

## VERSE OF THE DAY:

*“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”*

Mark 8:29

## REFLECTION:

- Some people see Jesus as a kind teacher.
- Some people see an outlaw.
- Some people see a prophet.
- Some people see a fairy tale.
- WHO DO YOU SEE?
  
- PETER SAW THE SAVIOR
- You can't be saved by a teacher, outlaw, revolutionary, prophet, or myth.
- You can only be saved by a SAVIOR.

When you talk about Jesus, what do you talk about?

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Who do you say that He is?

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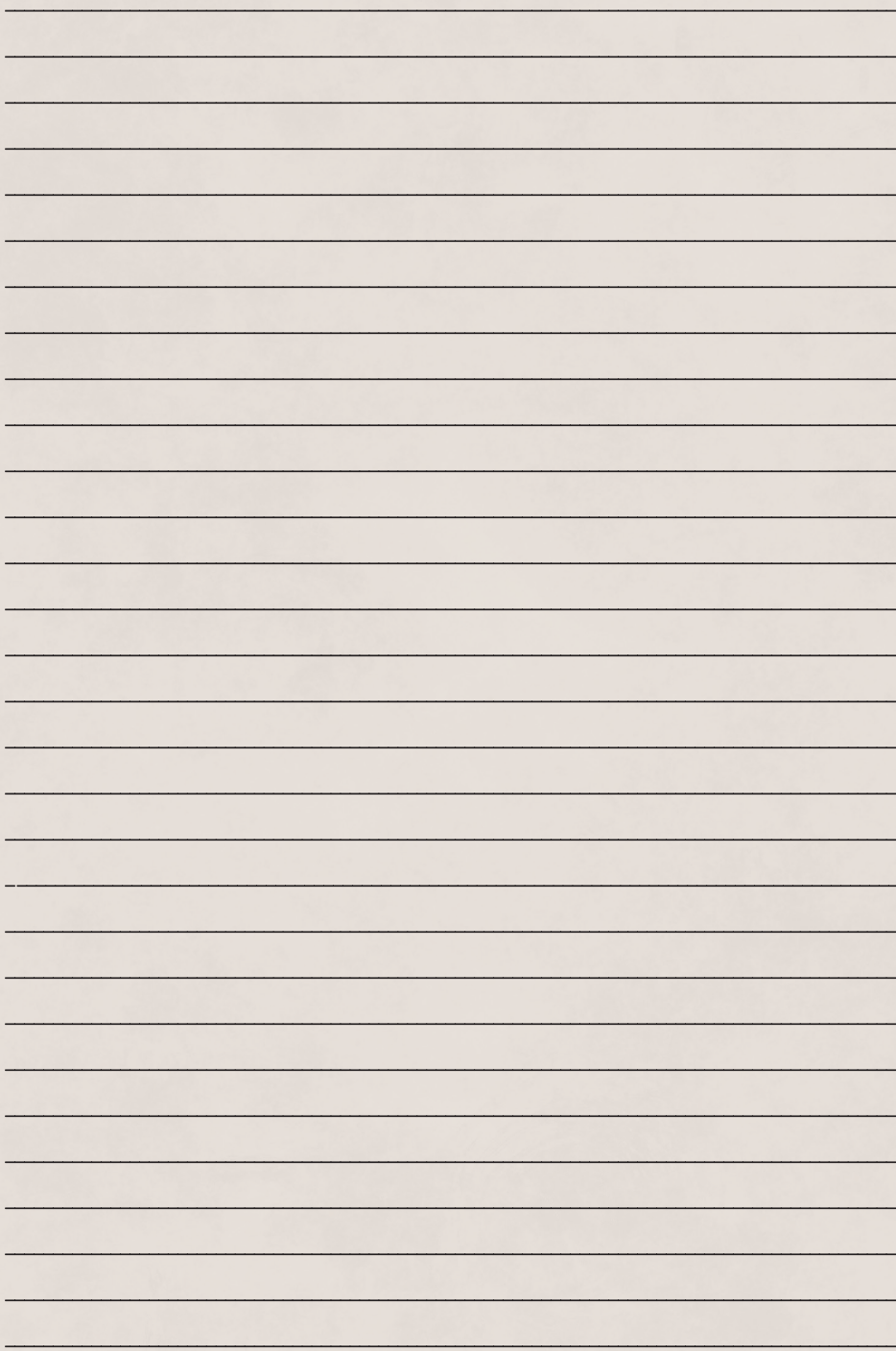
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Is Jesus your Savior?

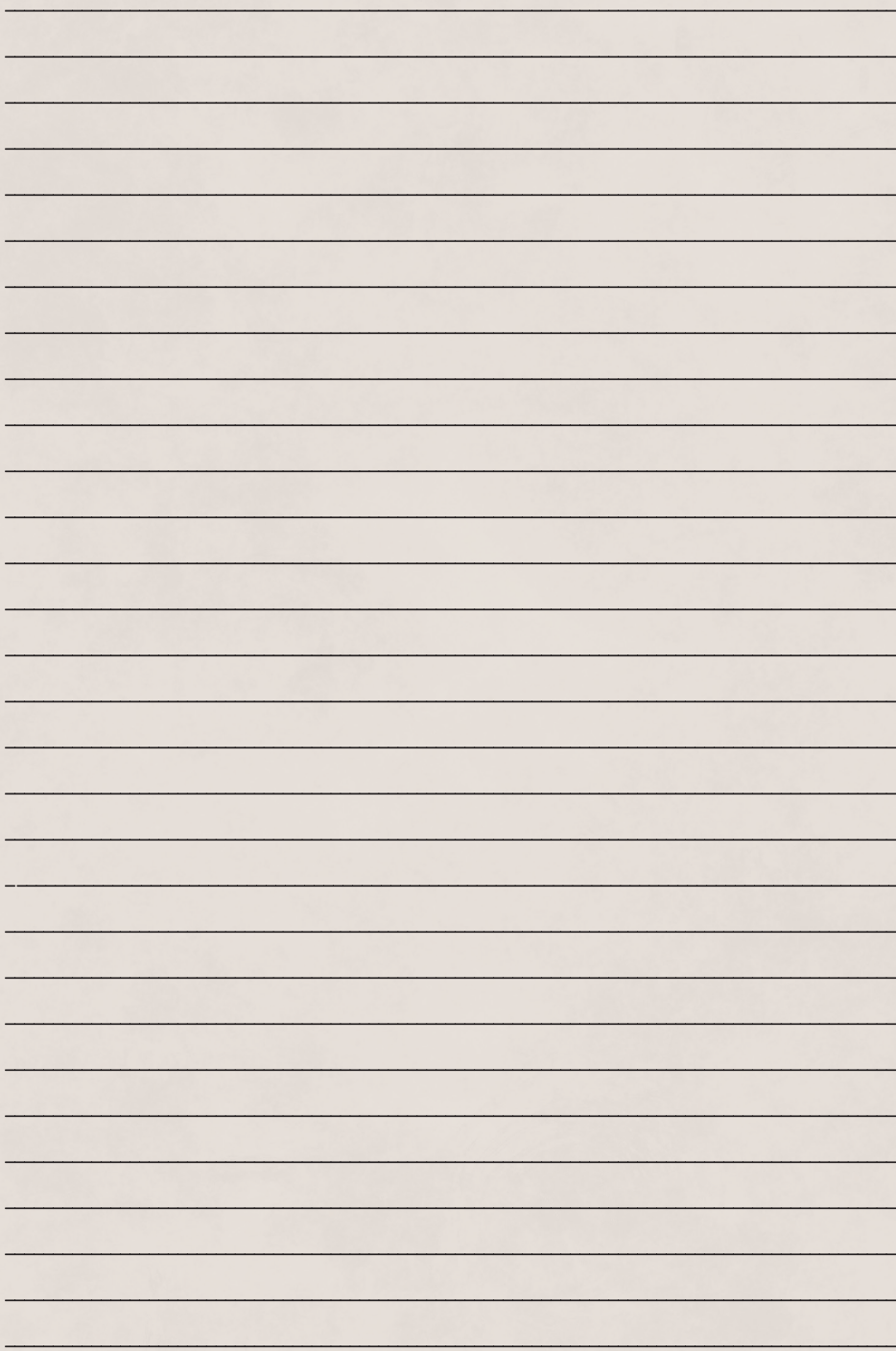
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## Listen

### READING:

Mark 9:2-13

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud:*

*“This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”*

Mark 9:7

### REFLECTION:

- Peter, James, and John experienced the miraculous!
- The glory of God showed up, and God told them to listen to Jesus.
- Jesus is worth listening to!
- God doesn't speak to PERFECT people.
- He speaks to people CLOSE to Him.

When was the last time you heard from God?

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Everyone hears from God differently. Where do you hear from Him?  
(In worship? In the Word? When it's quiet? In chaos?)

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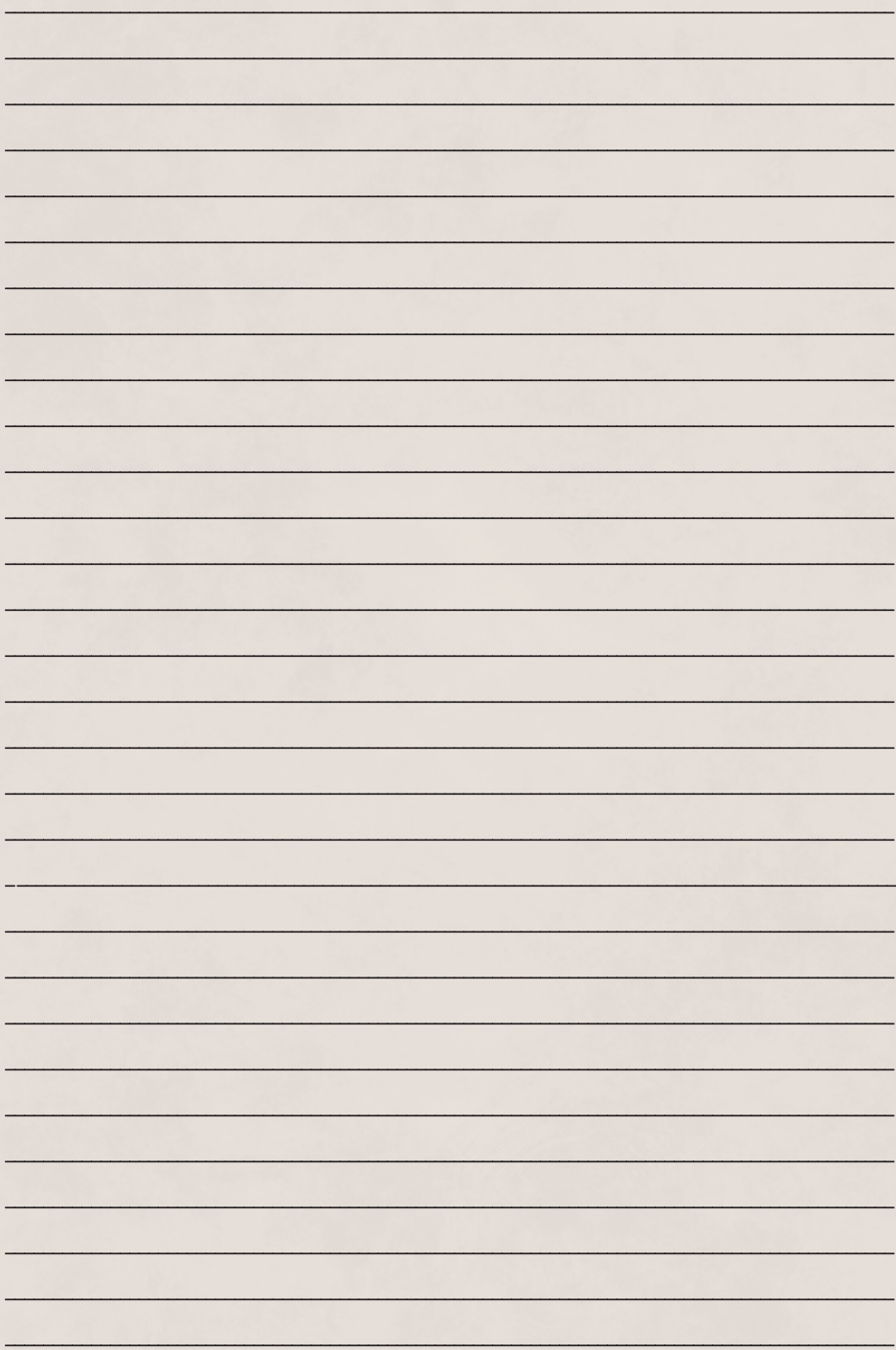
What situation will you put yourself into today to be close to Jesus, so you can hear from Him?

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# Help My Unbelief

**READING:**

Mark 9:14-29

**VERSE OF THE DAY:**

*Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"*

Mark 9:24

**REFLECTION:**

- It's easy to be proud of what we believe.
- It's hard to be vulnerable about our doubts.
- Jesus can move through our faith.
- He can also use our doubts if we bring them to Him.
- Our doubts are a weakness until we bring them to Jesus.

**GET HONEST ABOUT YOUR DOUBTS**

What are some matters of faith you struggle with?

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How can you bring them to Jesus?

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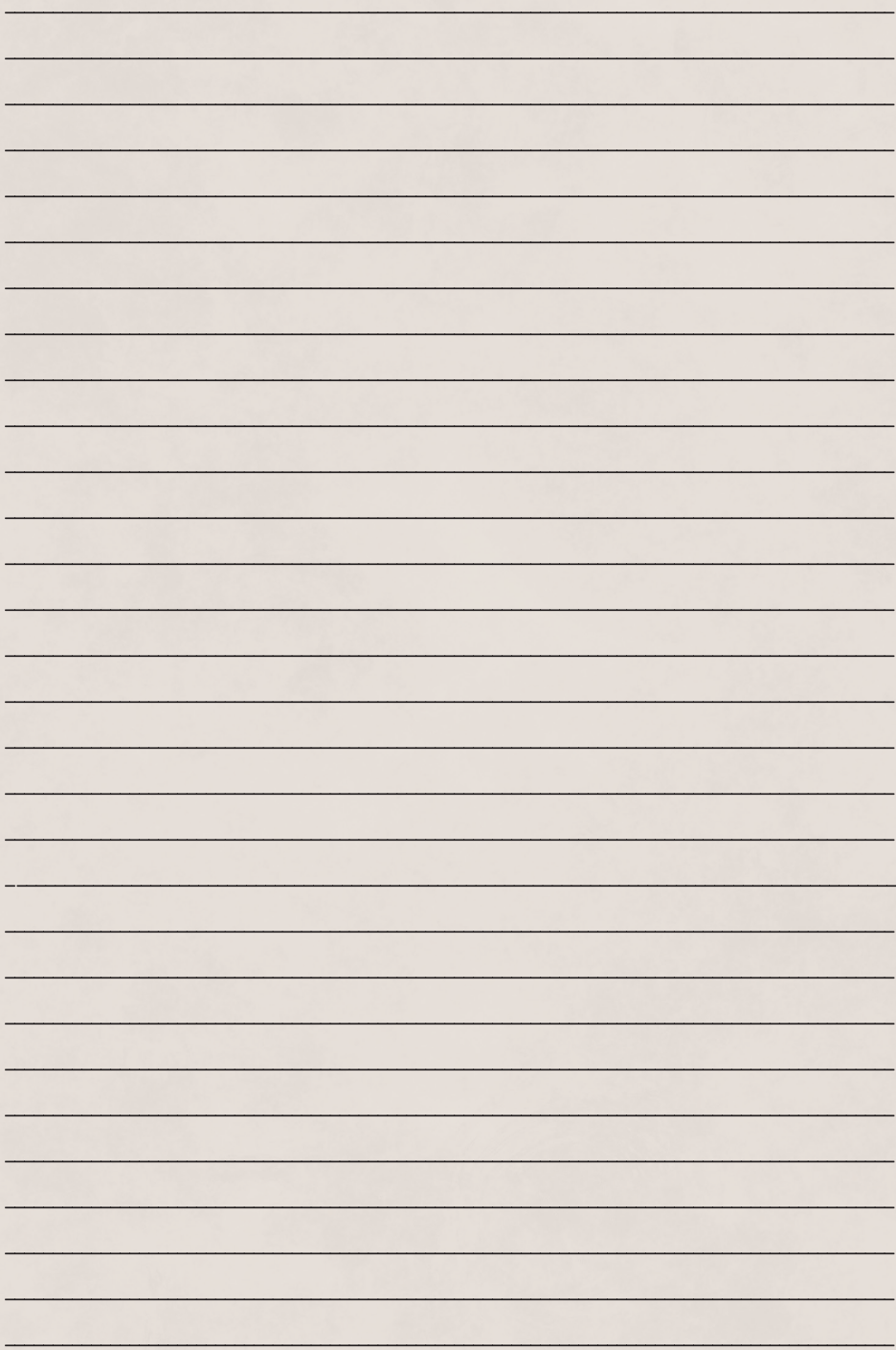
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## Δ Focus on Prayer

### **SCRIPTURE:**

*“But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” And Jesus said to him, “If you can? All things are possible for one who believes.”*

*Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I do believe; help my unbelief!”*

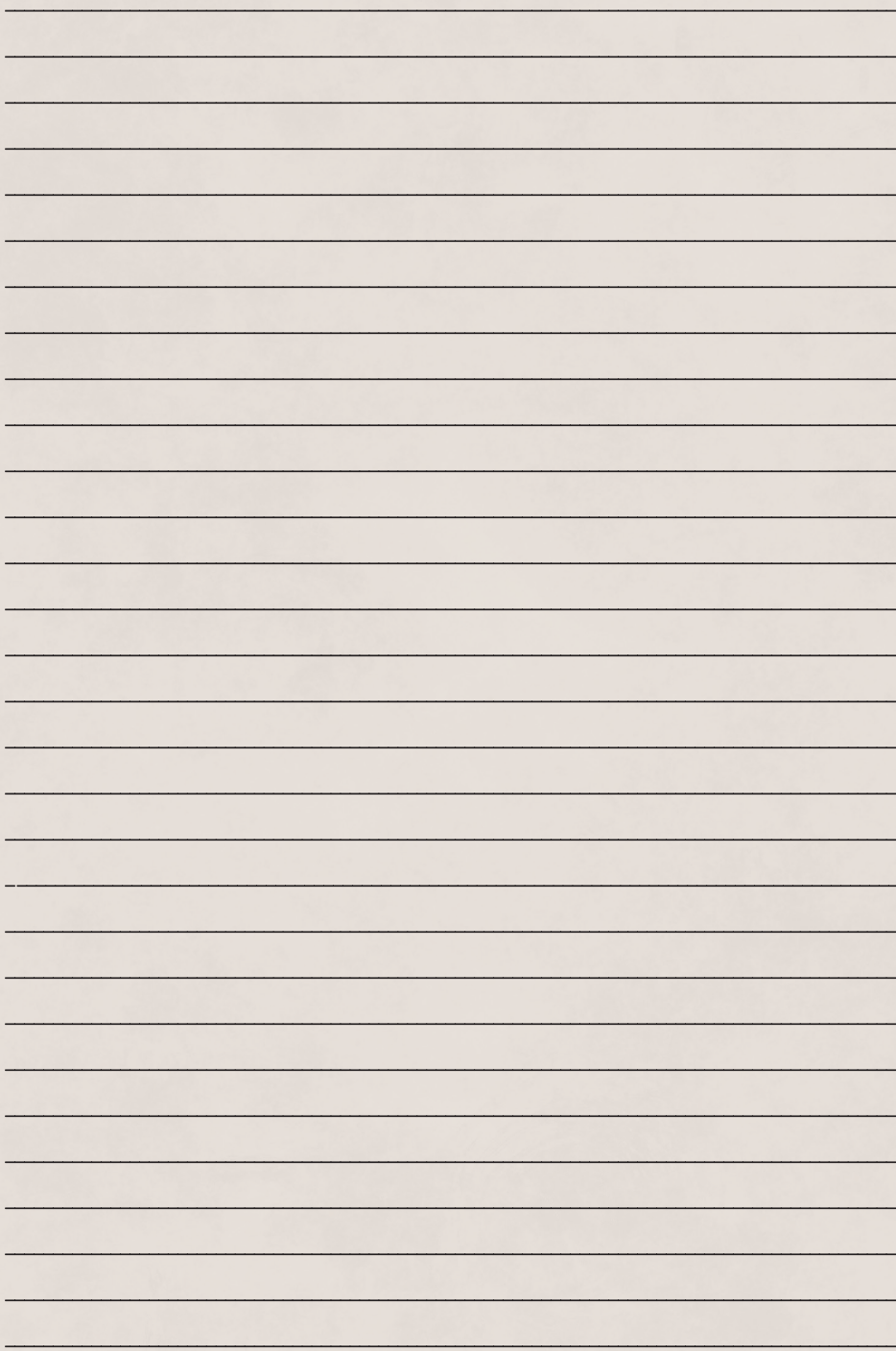
Mark 9:22b-24

### **PRAYER DIRECTION:**

We can learn so much from this father’s response! When he lacked faith, he asked Jesus Himself to help him with that. We will all face hard things in life that may deter our faith and bring up hard questions. If you are currently experiencing this, be encouraged by this story and know that God can handle all of your hesitations and questions. He wants us to bring them directly to Him. Sometimes the only expression of faith we can muster is simply coming to Jesus. As we see in this story, our coming to Him and asking for His help is always enough. He is faithful to meet us there.

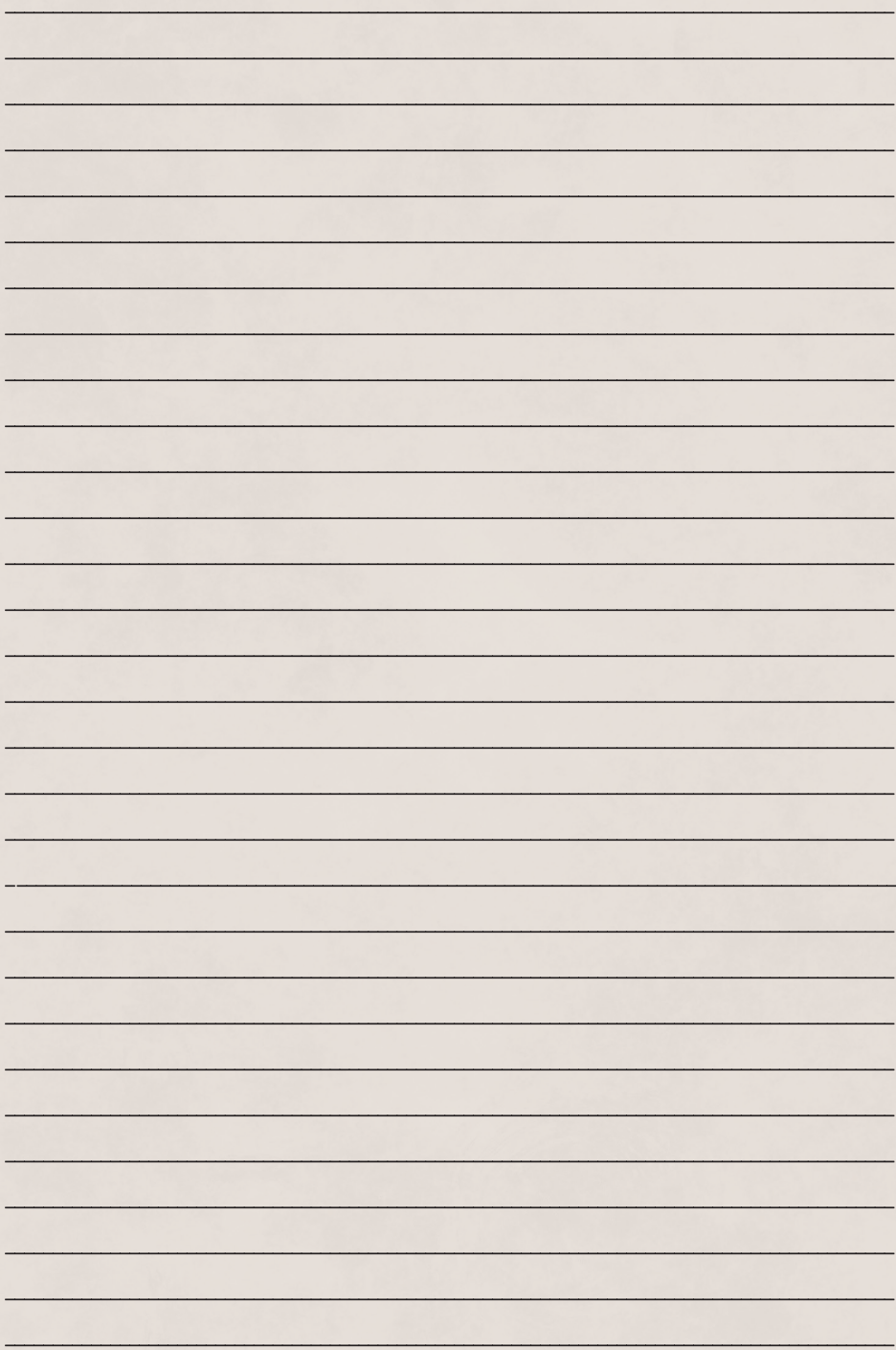
### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Thank You, Lord, that Your grace is sufficient and Your power is made perfect in my weakness. I desire to trust You in every area of my life. If there is any part of my life that I do not have full faith in You, please forgive me. And just as the father in Mark 9 prayed, I also pray here and now: I do believe; help my unbelief! Thank You for who You are. Grow my faith in You so that I may trust and follow You fully in all things!









## Work Reveals Intent

### READING:

Mark 9:30-50

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*“Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me.”*

Mark 9:39

### REFLECTION:

- Someone who works in their own name is building their own kingdom.
- Someone who works in Jesus’ name is building THE Kingdom.
- Be someone intent on advancing THE Kingdom.
- Examine your heart to find WHY you do what you do.

What does your work reveal about you?

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How can you demonstrate a desire to build the Kingdom of God instead of your own kingdom?

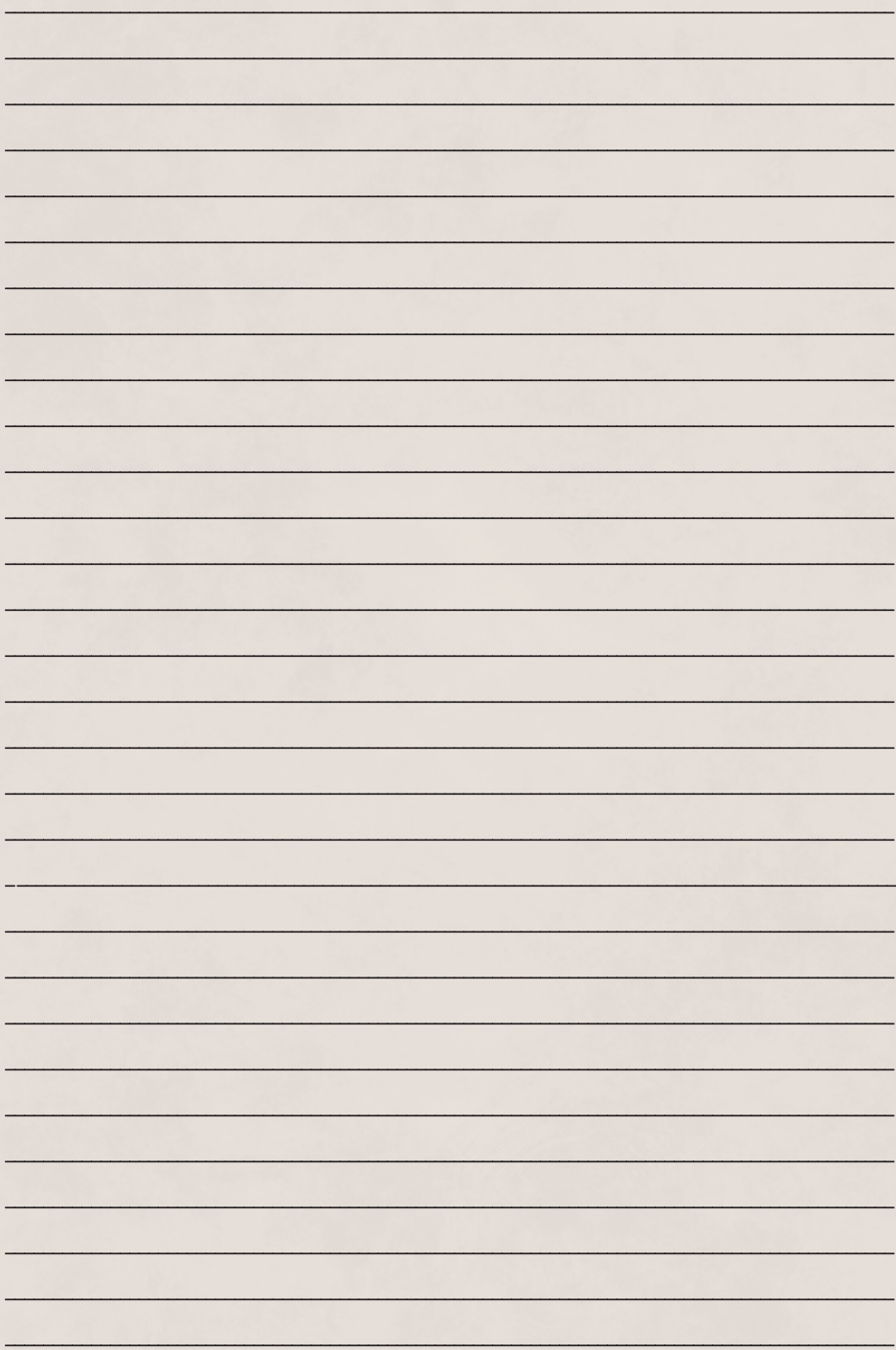
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# Enter with Innocence

**READING:**

Mark 10:1-16

**VERSE OF THE DAY:**

*“Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”*

Mark 10:15

**REFLECTION:**

- It takes childlike faith to enter the Kingdom of God.
- It takes innocence to live with God’s order.
- Our own innocence is short-lived.
- It is inadequate.
- We have to receive Jesus Himself.
- We do it IN FAITH. BELIEVE.

Where do you struggle to stay innocent?

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How do you maintain your childlike faith?

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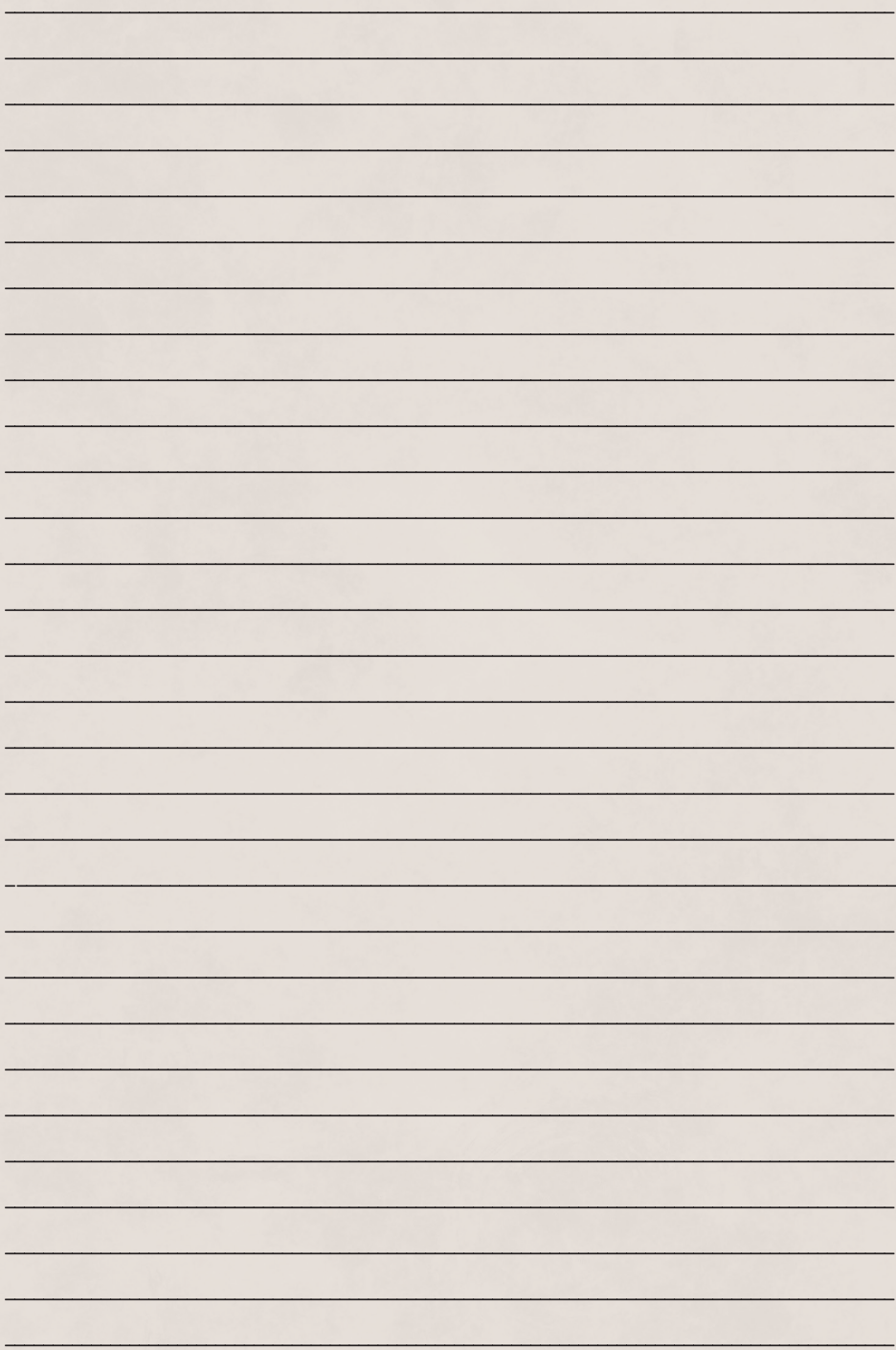
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## God Can Do It

### READING:

Mark 10:17-31

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."*

Mark 10:27

### REFLECTION:

- The conversation began concerning wealthy people living for God.
- But the TRUTH is, NO ONE can do it.
- No one can live for God under THEIR OWN ability.
- We ALL need God to HELP US.
- He MAKES a way.
- He POINTS the way.
- He LEADS the way.
- THE KEY IS: WITH GOD.

What in your life tries to come between you and God?

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What can you do about it? How has God helped you?

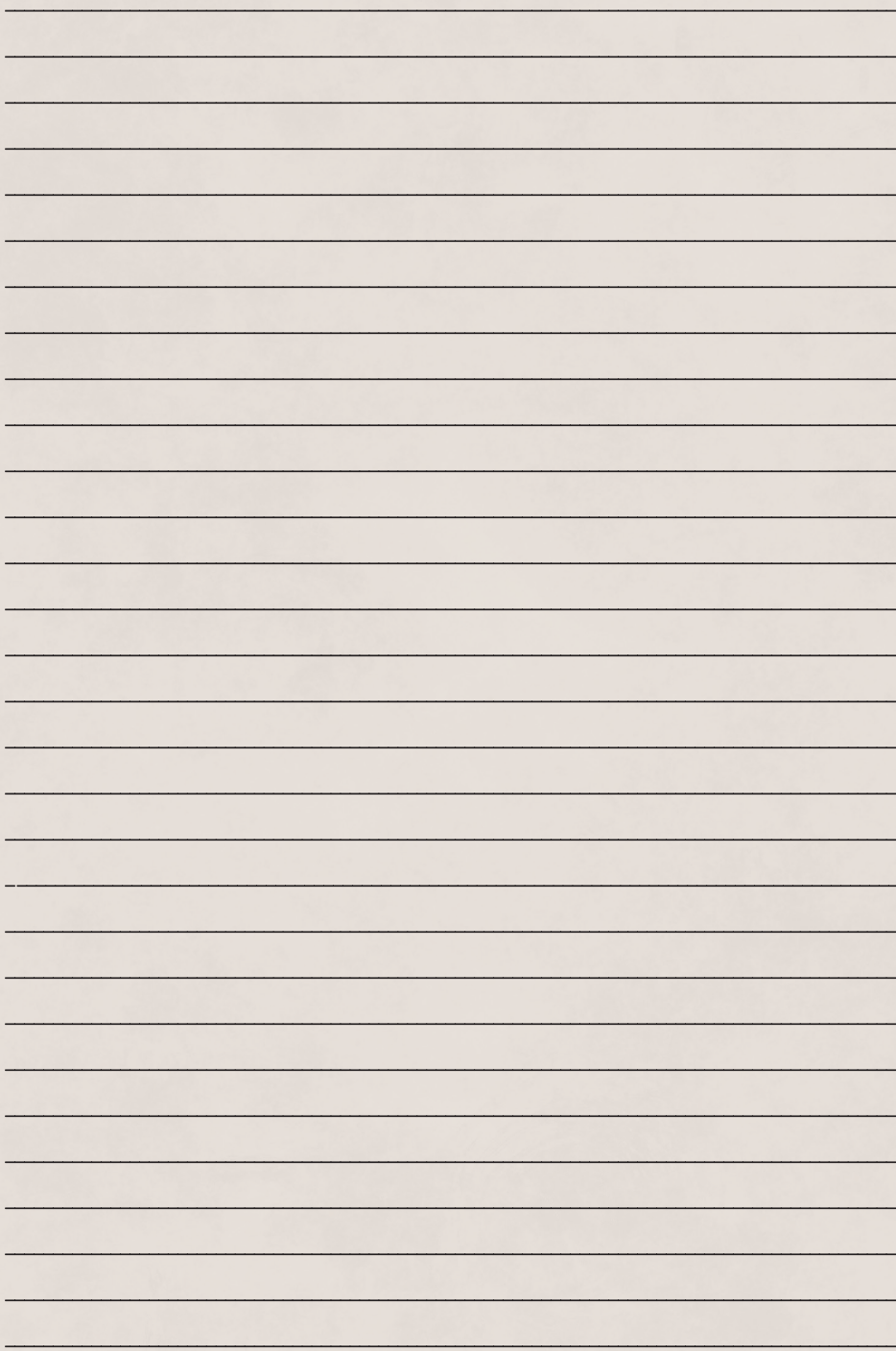
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## Serve to Excel

### READING:

Mark 10:32-45

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*“Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.”*

Mark 10:43

### REFLECTION:

- Standing out means helping out.
- Be someone who adds value to others.
- You’re at your most valuable when you’re making what others do more valuable.
- You’re at your least valuable when you try to make it all about you.
- Selfishness serves no one.
- Selflessness serves many.

When was the last time you stepped out and served someone else?

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What was the result?

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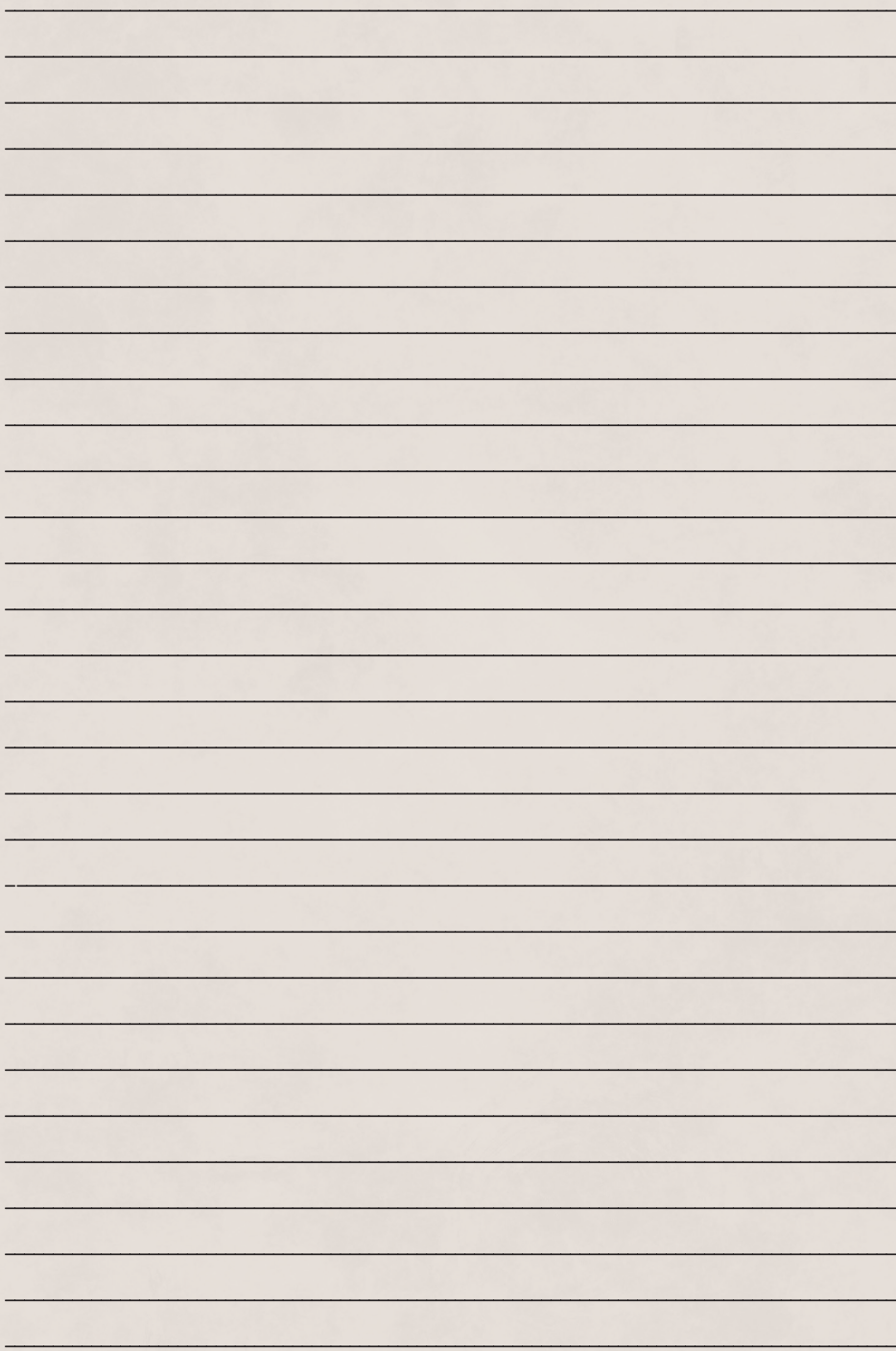
What is one thing you can do to serve someone today?

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# Have Faith

**READING:**

Mark 10:46-52

**VERSE OF THE DAY:**

*“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.” “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.*

Mark 10:51-52

**REFLECTION:**

- The blind man had such faith that he called out to Jesus, confident that he would see, respond to, and heal him.
- The blind man had vision for his future. Vision for his healing. Vision for his restoration.
- When others couldn't see, he could!

What are you asking the Lord to do in your life?

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What do you have vision for that seems insurmountable?

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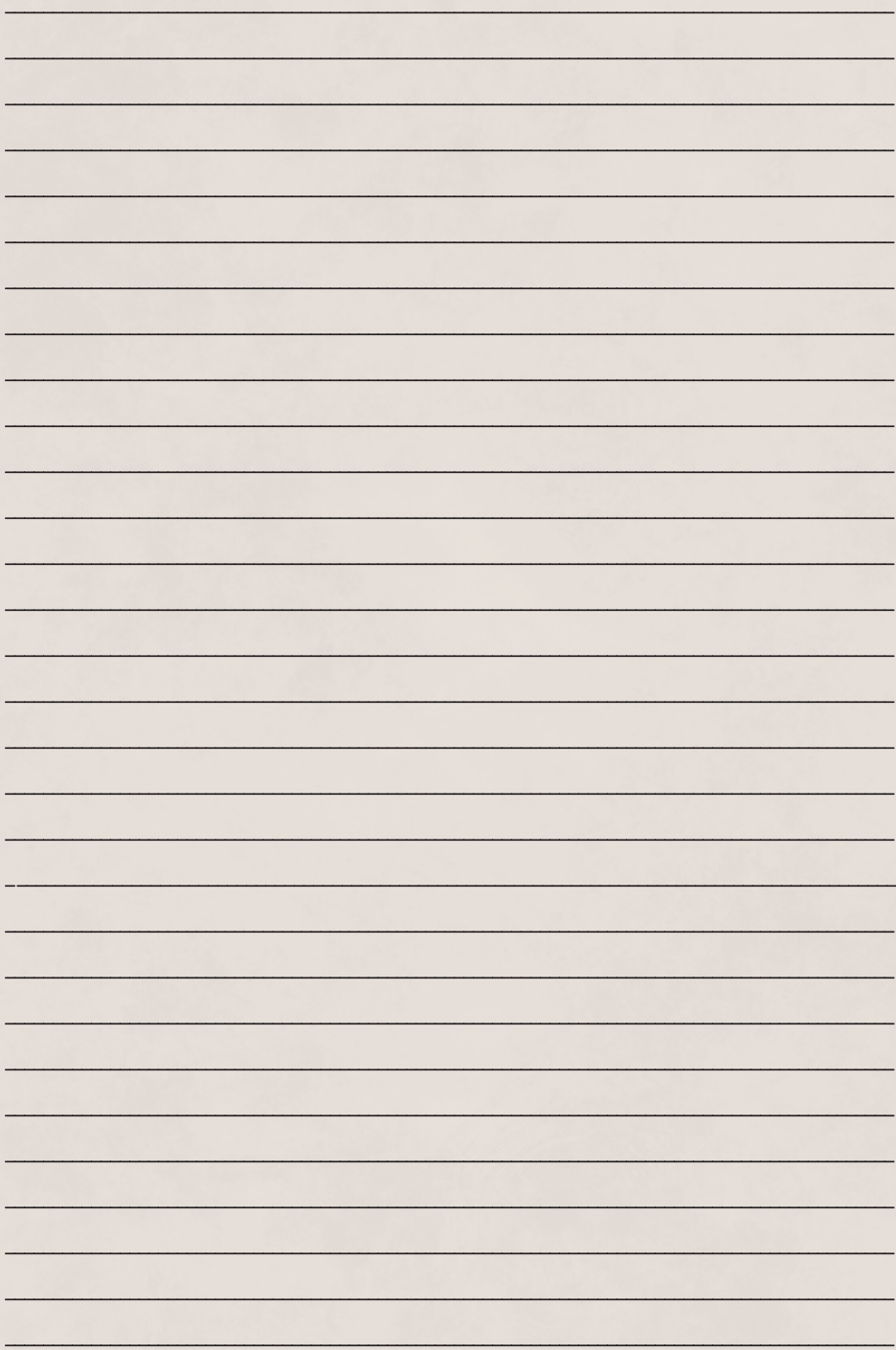
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If Jesus said, “What do you want?” how would you answer?

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## Δ Focus on Prayer

### SCRIPTURE:

*As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus, was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabboni, I want to see.” “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.*

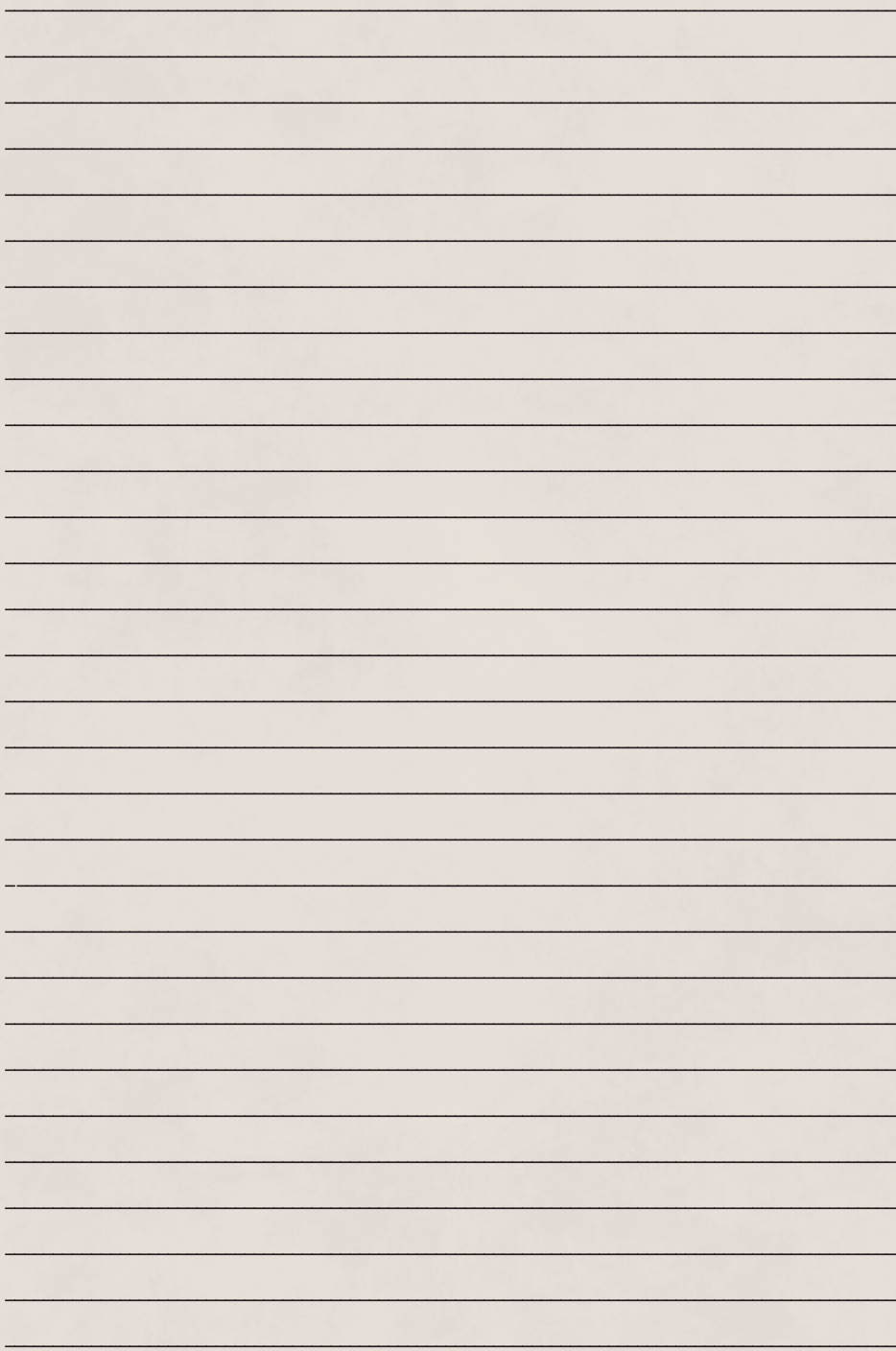
Mark 10:46b-52

### PRAYER DIRECTION:

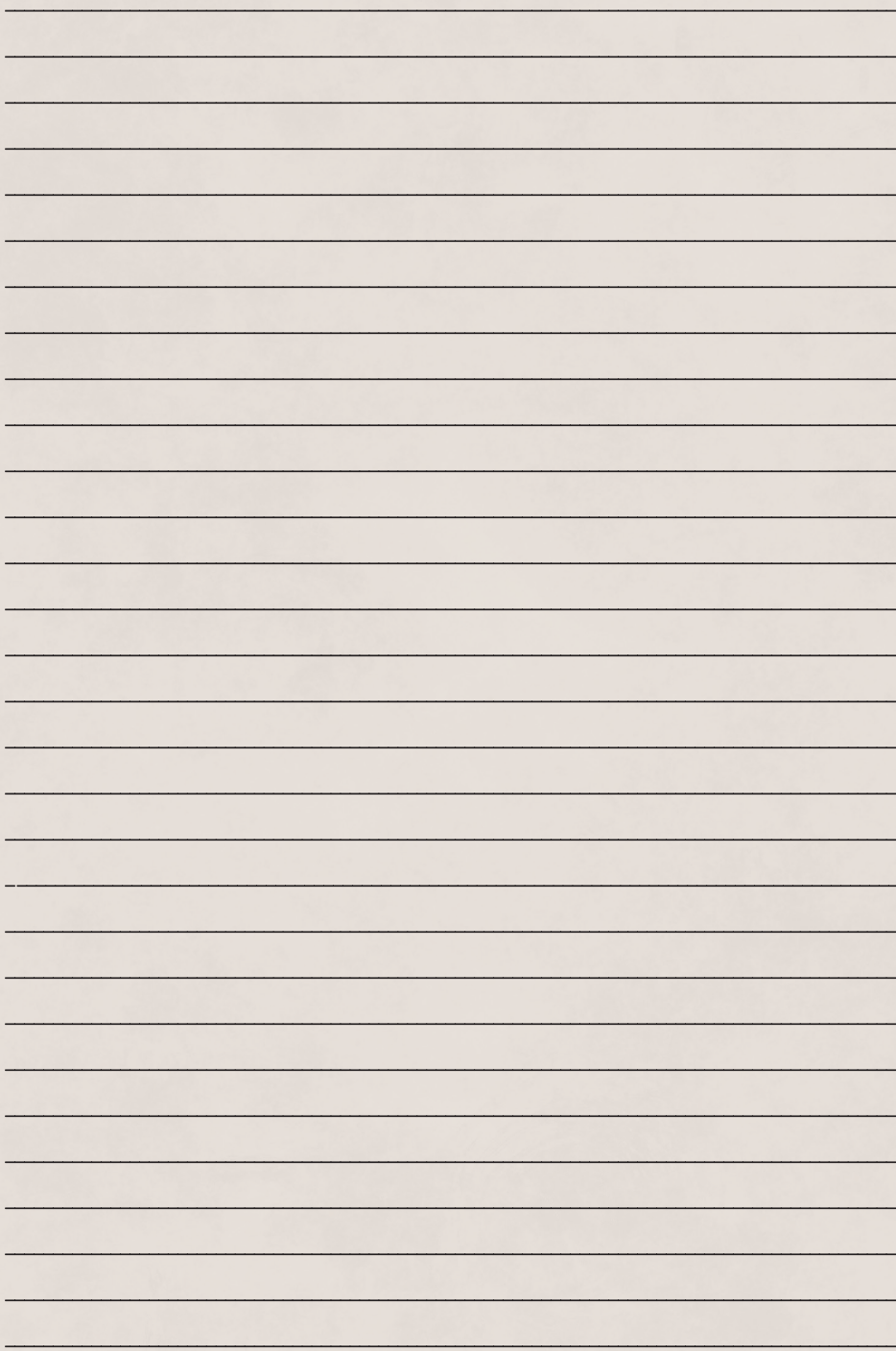
Bartimaeus was humble, persistent, and unashamed in his pursuit of Jesus. He was not deterred by many rebuking him, but he continued to cry out to God, even as they tried to quiet him. And when he did speak to Jesus directly, he called Him “Rabboni” (which means “my lord” or “my master”) before expressing his need. This clearly displayed his faith in and submission to Christ. We can learn so much from this. Can this persistence, humility, and boldness be seen in your prayer life? Is there a need in your life that you need to faithfully recommit to Him in prayer? If Jesus were to ask you “What do you want me to do for you?” as He did Bartimaeus, how would you respond?

### PRAYER OF BOLD PERSISTENCE:

Thank You, Jesus, that because of who You are and all that You’ve done, I can approach Your throne of grace with confidence and boldness. Thank You for being gracious, merciful, and kind. Forgive me for when I have not come to You with faith, humility, and persistence. Please help me in \_\_\_\_\_ (express your prayer needs to the Lord openly). Thank You for moving on my behalf. I surrender these needs in full faith and trust to You.







## Obey the Instructions

### READING:

Mark 11:1-11

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go.*

Mark 11:6

### REFLECTION:

- Jesus sent them with a very specific goal.
- When they encountered opposition, they remembered their instructions.
- Their instructions kept them out of trouble.
- You can't follow instructions you don't know.
- You can't know if you don't listen.

How do you hear from the Lord?

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What do you do about it?

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What is the most intimidating thing you have ever heard from God?

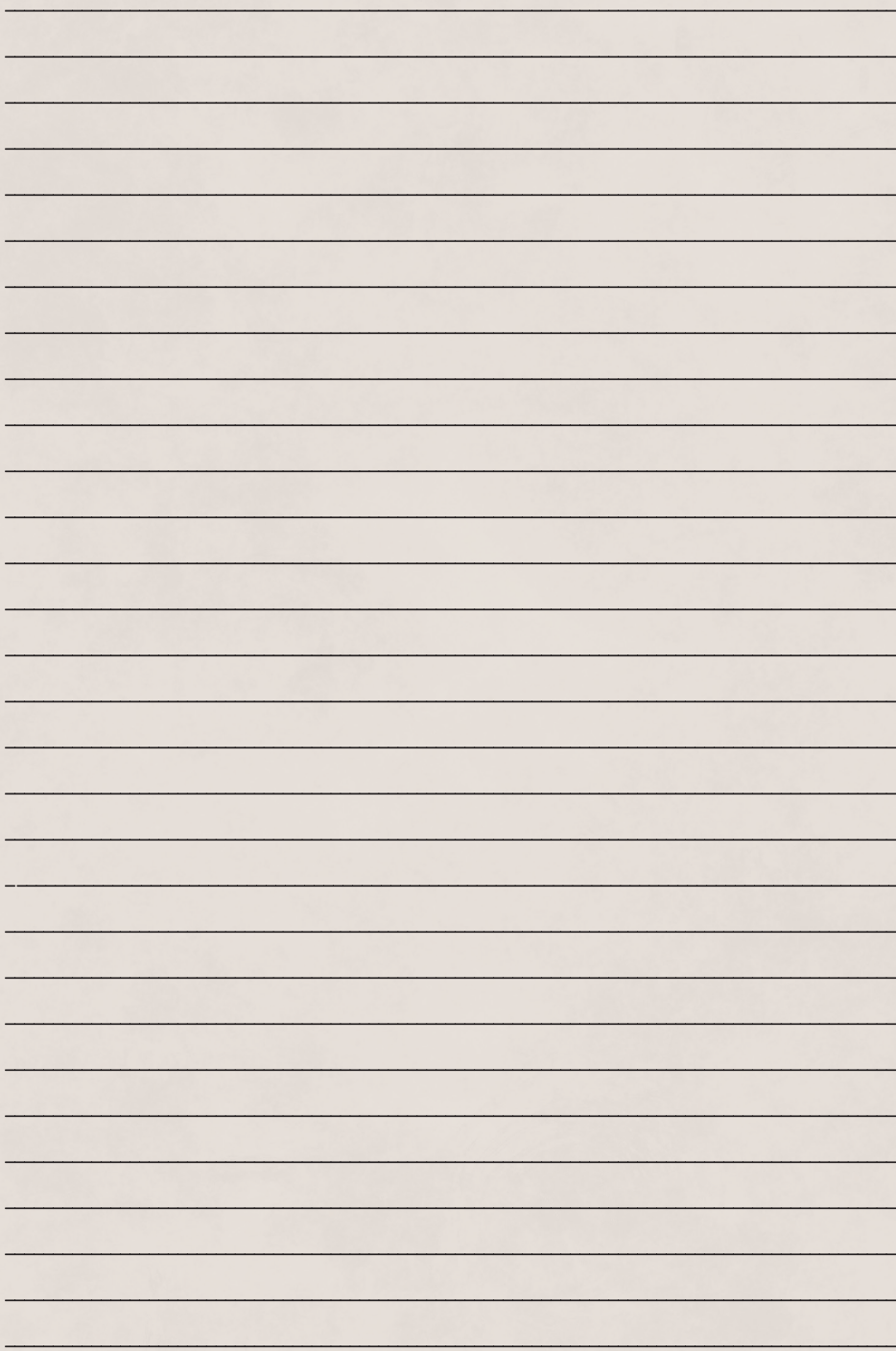
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# Forgive First

## READING:

Mark 11:12-25

## VERSE OF THE DAY:

*“And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”*

Mark 11:25

## REFLECTION:

- It’s hard to seek the Lord in prayer without first offering forgiveness.
- Don’t let unresolved issues get between you and God.
- FORGIVE others. Deal with it.
- God will deal graciously with you.
- Set an EXAMPLE of forgiveness.

What is something that was hard for you to forgive?

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What is something you may still need to forgive?

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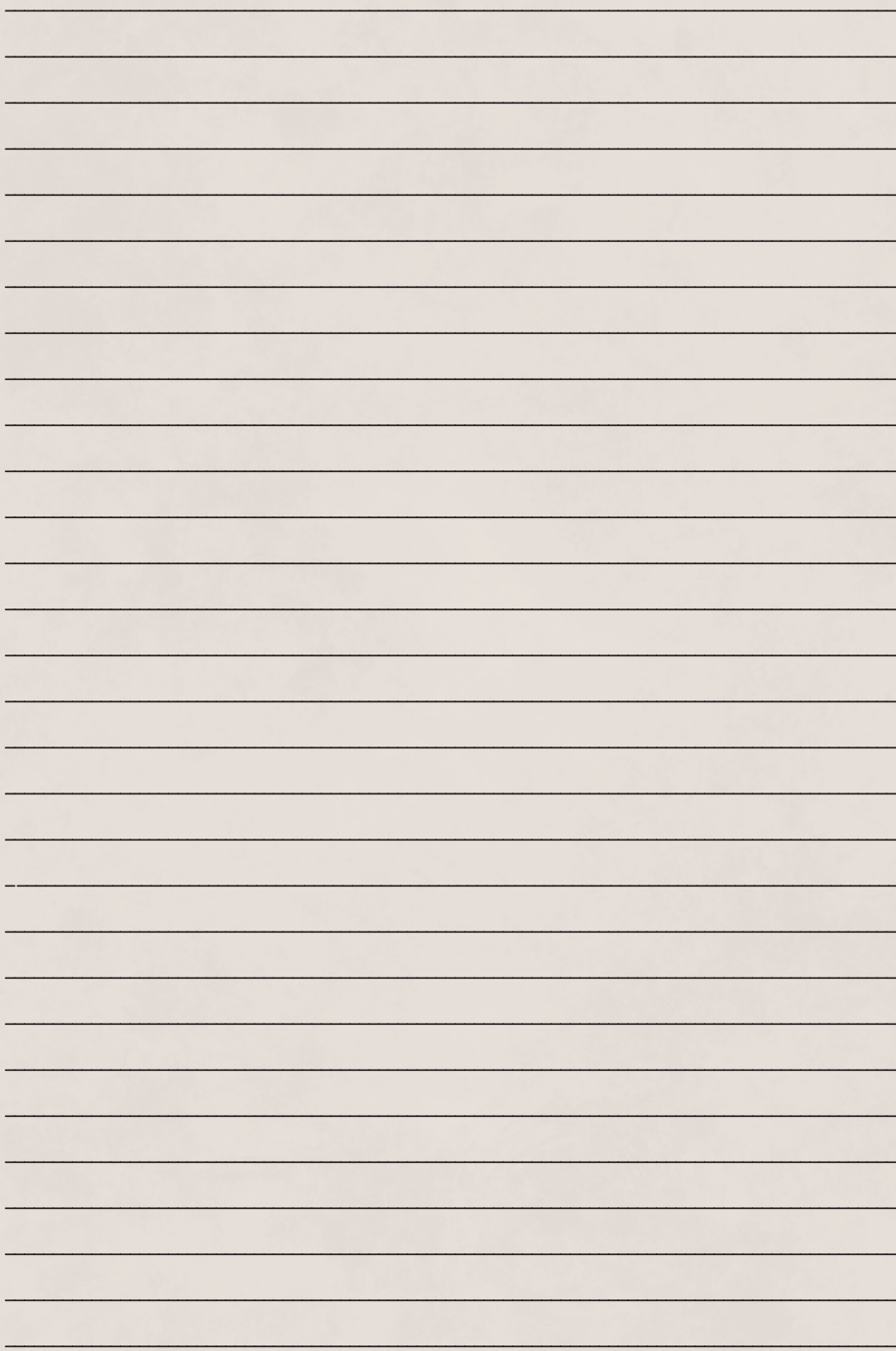
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What are you thankful that God has forgiven?

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## Answer to Jesus

### READING:

Mark 11:27-33

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*Jesus replied, "I will ask you one question. Answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things."*

Mark 11:29

### REFLECTION:

- The religious tradition demanded they ask Jesus about His authority.
- Jesus' authority superceded anything they could imagine.
- Jesus is the higher authority - God's Son.
- Refusing Jesus is refusing the One who sent Him.
- Religious people want to play games.
- Jesus doesn't play games.

What is Jesus asking of you today?

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Where have you questioned Jesus in your life?

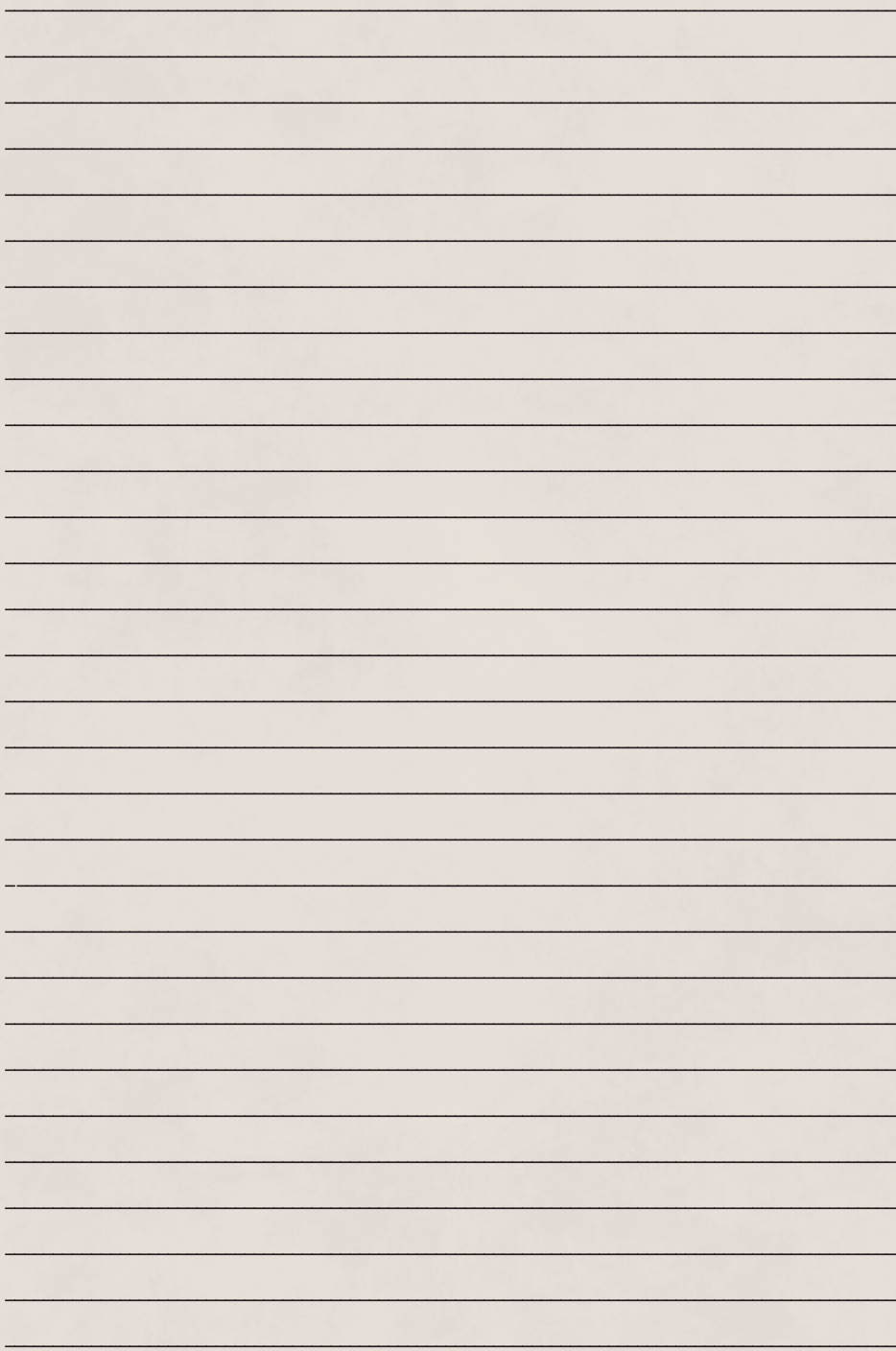
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## Don't Test Jesus

### READING:

Mark 12:1-17

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. "Why are you trying to trap me?" he asked. "Bring me a denarius and let me look at it."*

Mark 12:15

### REFLECTION:

- They were not honest in their intentions.
- The question was designed for ill intent.
- Jesus' answer was to reveal the truth.
- They cared about money and power.
- Jesus used their own question to point out their inadequacies.
- But it didn't make them humble; it made them mad.
- Jesus can't fail the test because HE is the standard.

How have you tested Jesus in your life?

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What did it reveal about you?

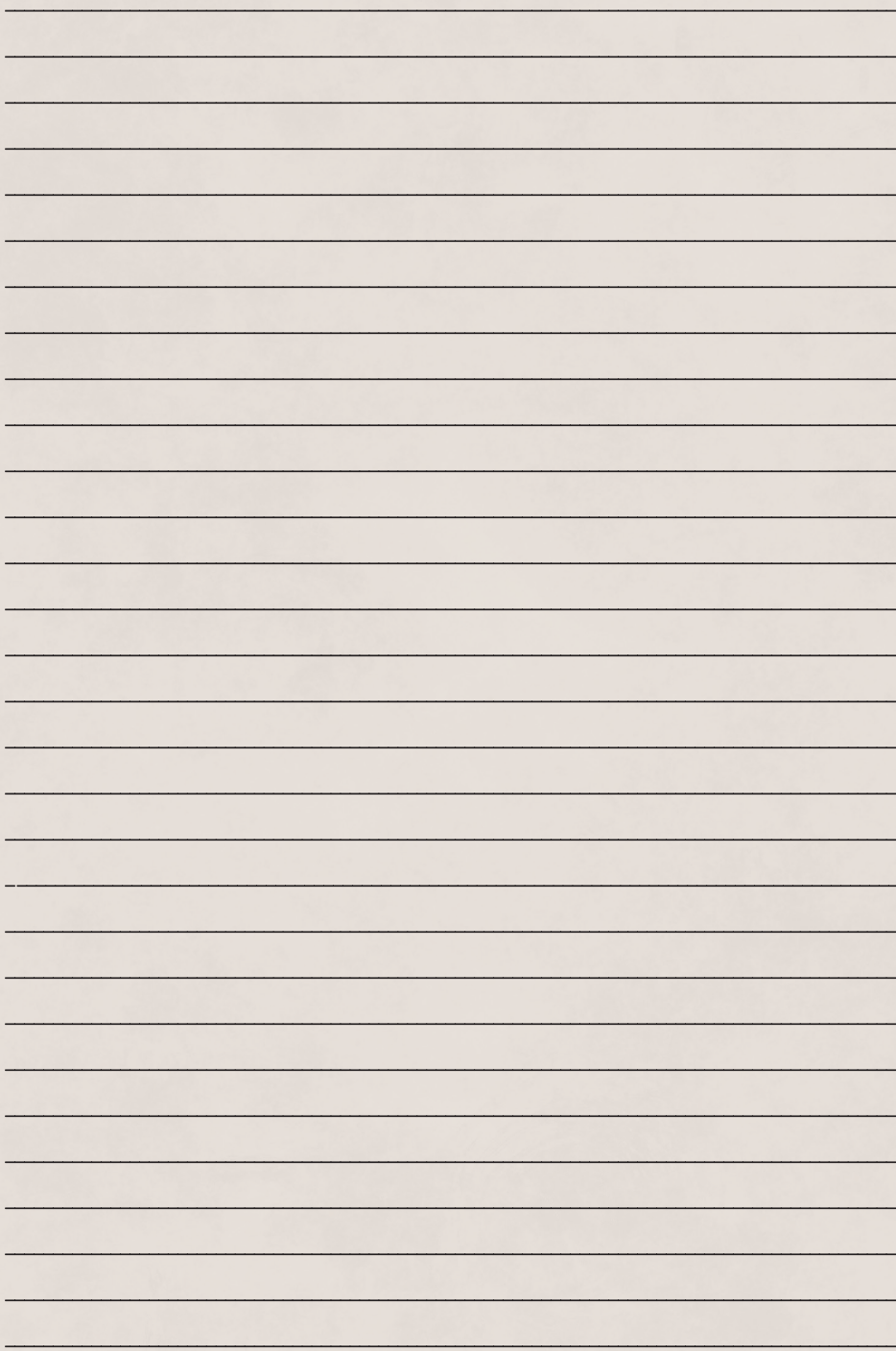
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## This is How to Experience God

### READING:

Mark 12:18-27

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*Jesus replied, "Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God?"*

Mark 12:24

### REFLECTION:

- KNOW God's Word.
- Become familiar with it. Let it be like an old friend to you. Spend time together. Go there for daily instructions.
- KNOW God's Power.
- Be in His presence to experience His power. That might happen in prayer alone, but it also commonly happens in worship and prayer together.

How often do you read or listen to the Bible?

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When was the most incredible time you had experiencing the presence of God?

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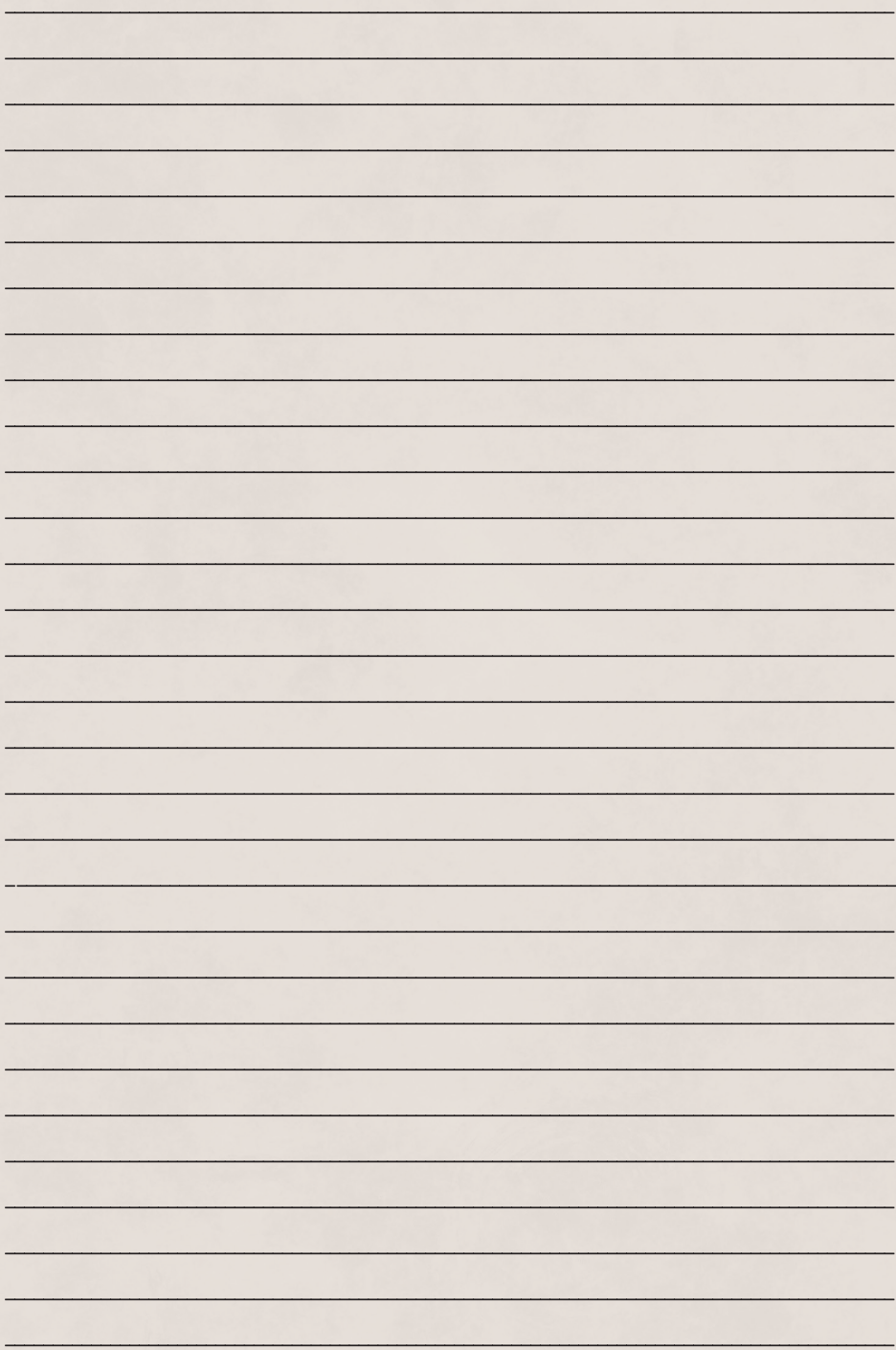
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## Δ Focus on Prayer

### SCRIPTURE:

*“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”*

Mark 11:24-25

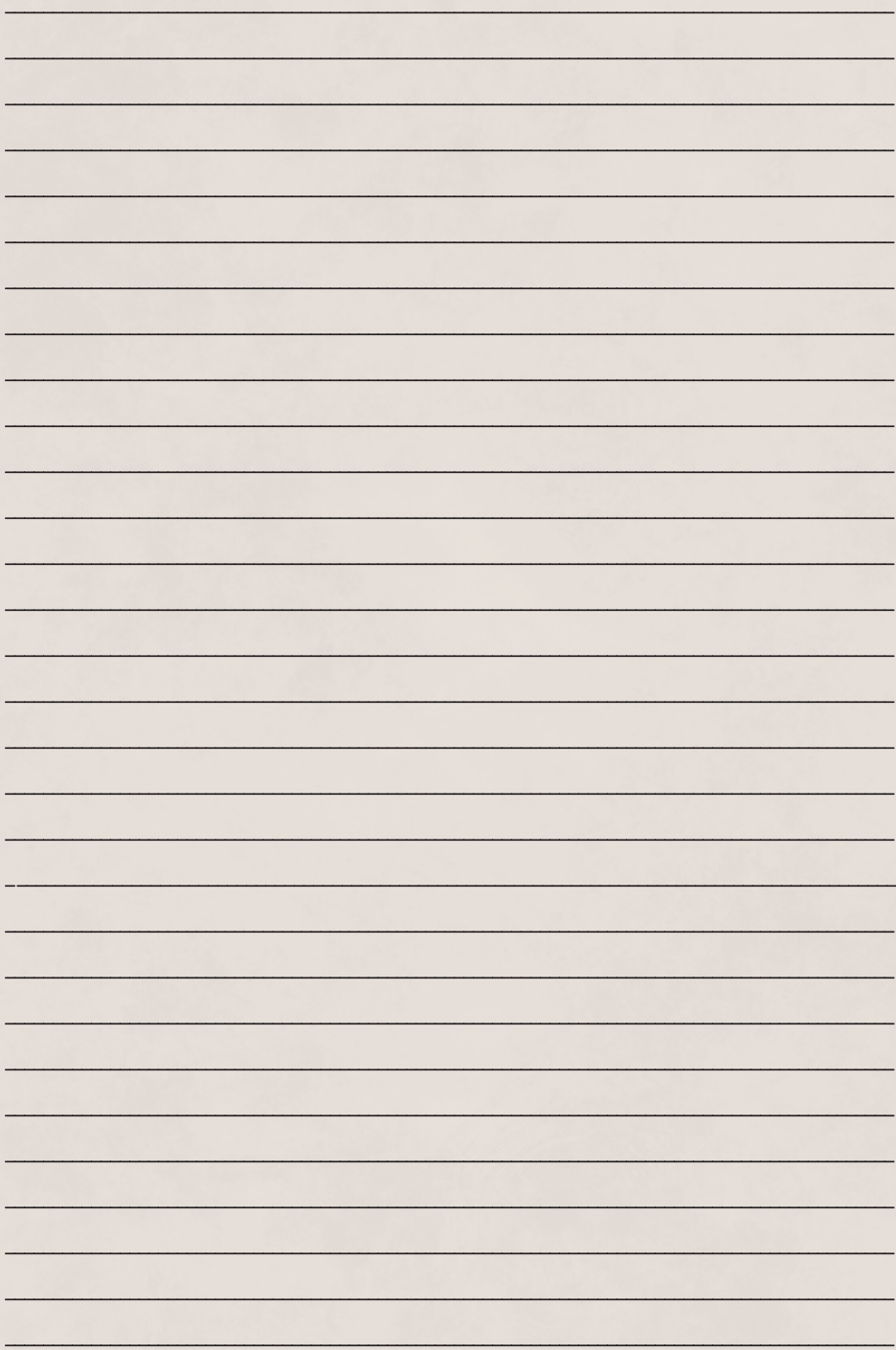
### PRAYER DIRECTION:

While teaching on effective prayer, Jesus encourages us to pray with great faith and a pure heart. When we hold unforgiveness in our hearts, it will hinder us from receiving the forgiveness God wants us to receive from Him. Is there anyone in your life you need to forgive? Forgiving others is a continual and lifelong journey for Christ followers. Continue to ask for God’s help in forgiving those who have wronged you. This humble posture before God honors Him and allows Him to work in and through our lives.

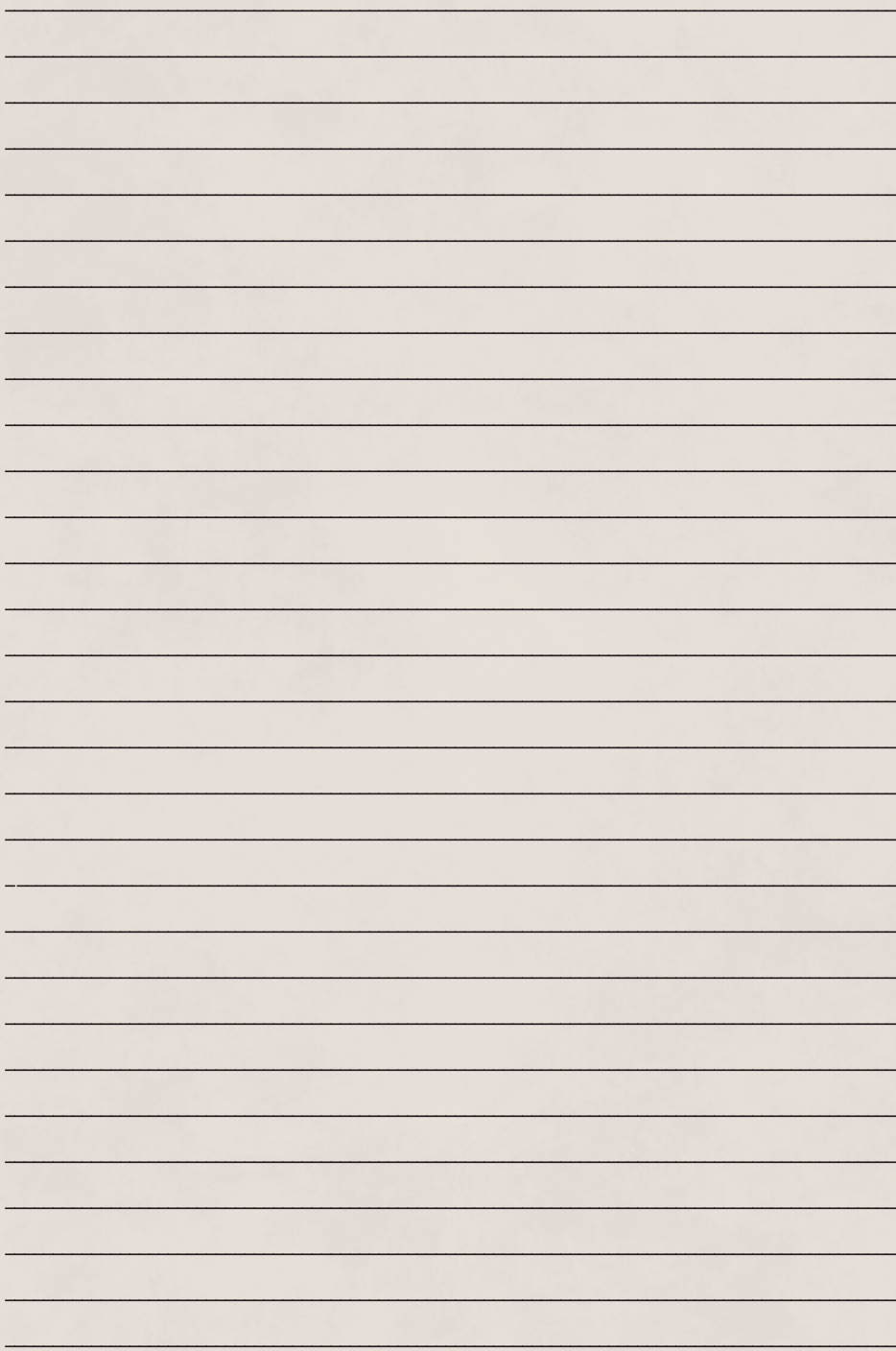
### PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS:

Thank You, Jesus, for how You have so freely forgiven me. Help me to not forget all the ways I desperately need forgiveness, and to forgive freely as You do. Thank You that Your love and grace not only flows to me but through me. I need Your help in forgiving the people who have hurt me. It is not within my human ability to forgive, but I know it is within Yours. I know that because of what You’ve done, Your spirit lives in me.

So by the power of Your Spirit, I forgive \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_  
(talk openly with the Lord about who you need to forgive and how you have been hurt). Because Your forgiveness is at work in my life, I forgive them for these things, and release them to You.







## Nothing is More Important

### READING:

Mark 12:28-34

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”*

Mark 12:29-31

### REFLECTION:

- Let love lead the charge.
- Begin with your love for God.
- Prove it by loving the people around you.

Which area is the biggest struggle for you? Heart? Soul? Mind? Strength?

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How well do you love your neighbor?

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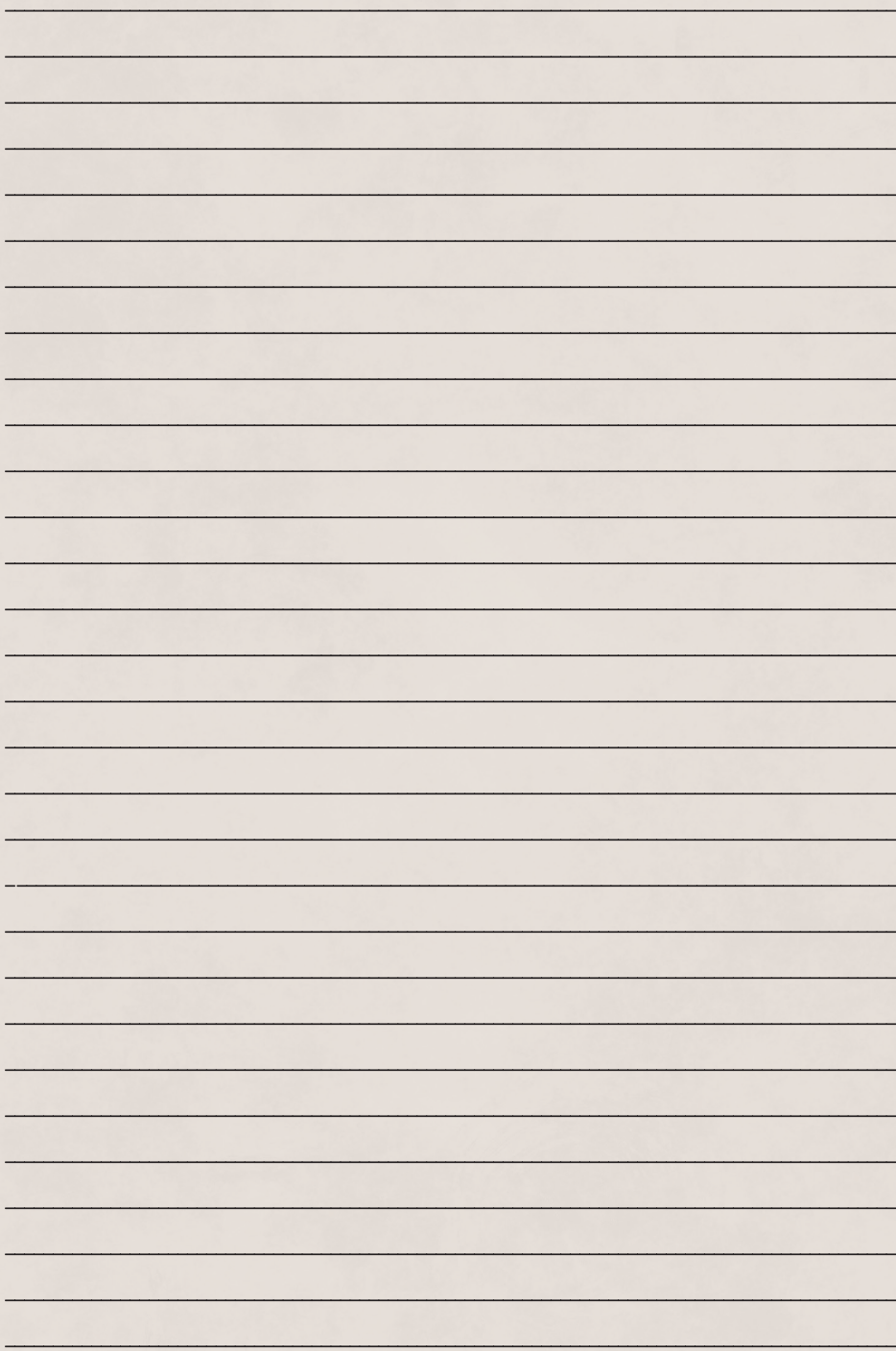
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How well do you love yourself?

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# Hold Nothing Back

## READING:

Mark 12:35-44

## VERSE OF THE DAY:

*“They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”*

Mark 12:44

## REFLECTION:

- It wasn't the amount of money that mattered. It was the widow's commitment to making everything available to God.
- She was willing to offer it all. Her only source of finances, she GAVE.
- She kept NOTHING from God.
- You don't have to give away all you have to follow the Lord. But He wants you to be willing.

What have you held back from the Lord?

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What is He asking you to give?

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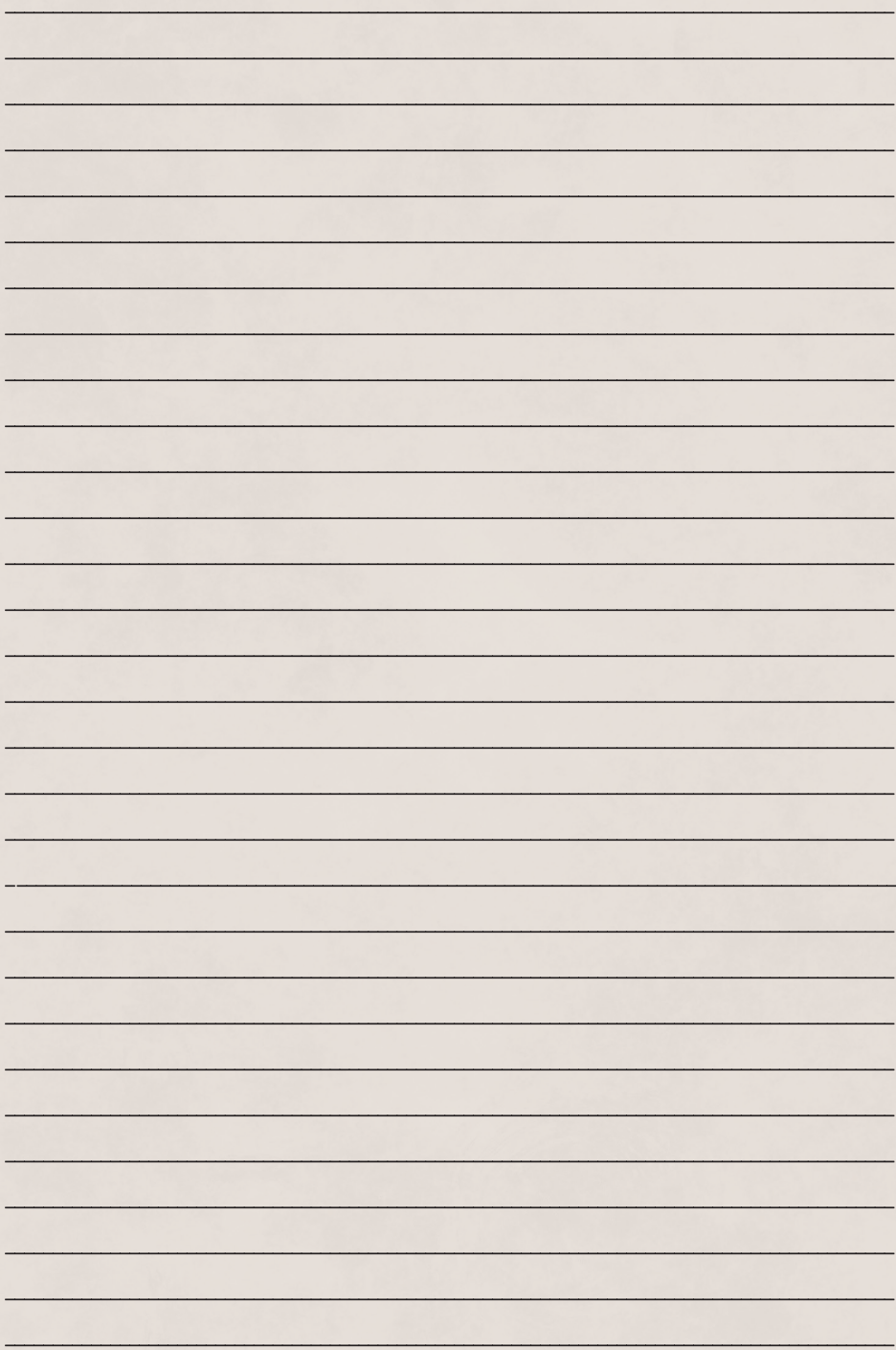
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## Stand Firm

### READING:

Mark 13:1-13

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*“Everyone will hate you because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”*

Mark 13:13

### REFLECTION:

- When the battle comes, stand firm.
- When temptation comes, stand firm.
- When your friends abandon, stand firm.
- When the night is dark, stand firm.
- When you’re all alone, stand firm.
- When you feel like you can’t go on, stand firm.
- With your eyes fixed on Jesus, STAND FIRM.
- Jesus will never leave us or forsake us. STAND FIRM.

If put to the test, would you stand?

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Is there anything that would keep you from standing?

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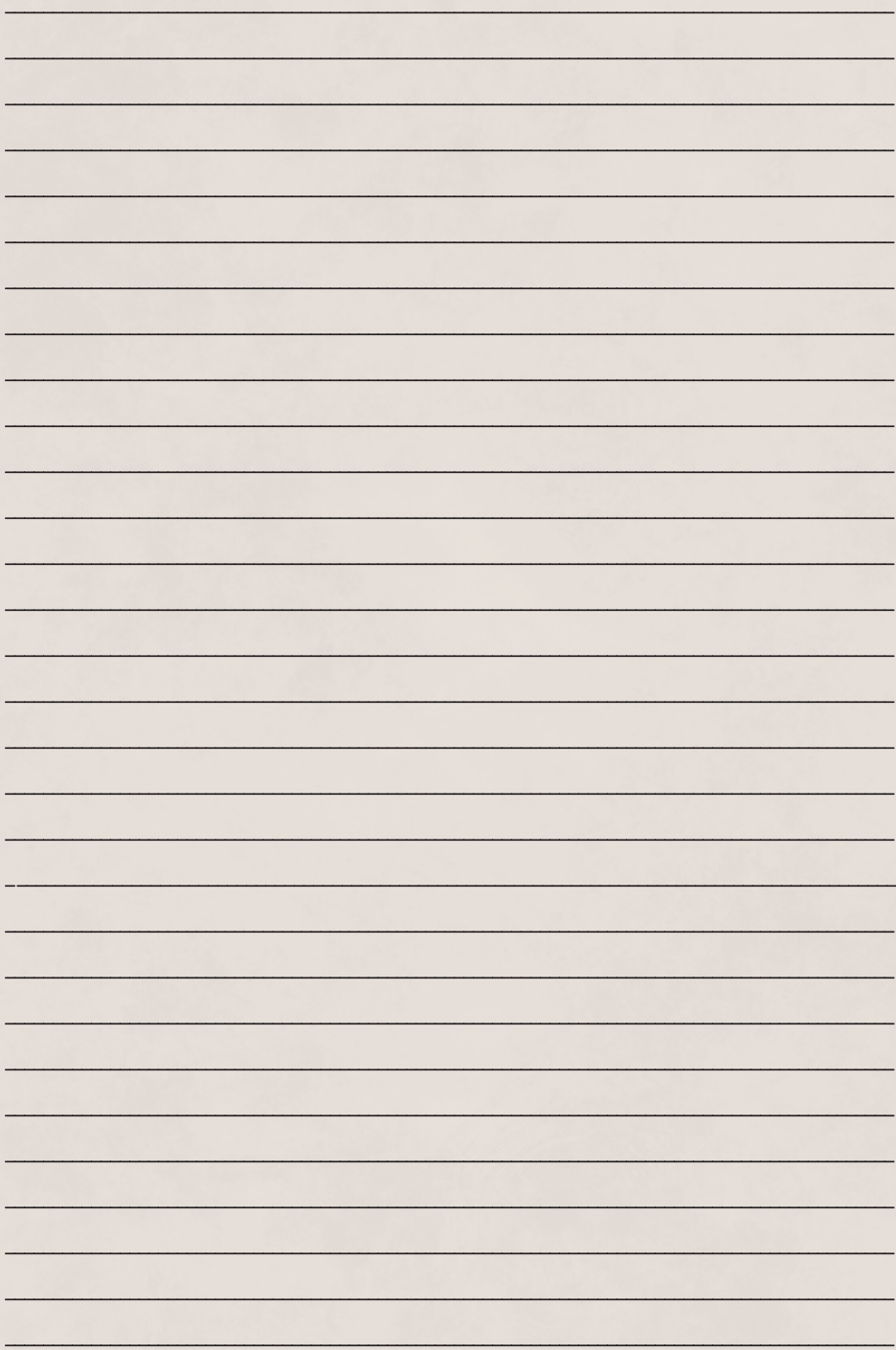
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## Be On Guard

### READING:

Mark 13:14-23

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*“So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time.”*

Mark 13:23

### REFLECTION:

- Our role is not rooted in fear.
- We’re not supposed to be afraid.
- We are supposed to be ready.
- Pay attention to the world around you.
- Be discerning of ANYTHING done in the Lord’s name.

What are some things people do in the name of Jesus that don’t seem very Christlike?

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What puts your guard up?

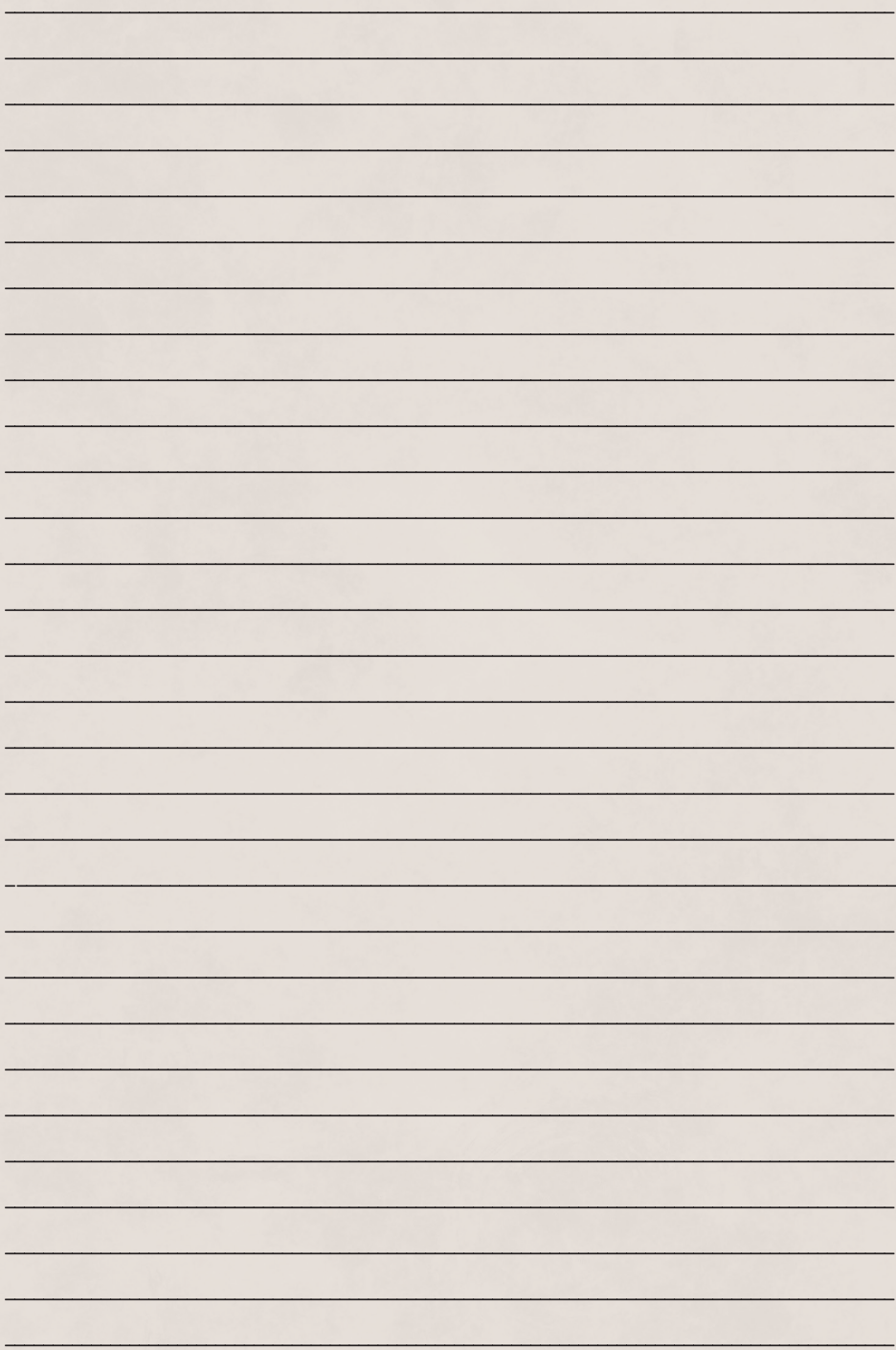
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# Keep Awake

**READING:**

Mark 13:24-37

**VERSE OF THE DAY:**

*“Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.”*

Mark 13:33

**REFLECTION:**

- Don't fall asleep on the job.
- Stay alert!
- Don't get lazy. Pay attention.
- You have to be ready for what's coming.
- If you're asleep, you'll miss the opportunity.

What have you missed out on because you weren't paying attention?

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What opportunities are you praying or waiting for?

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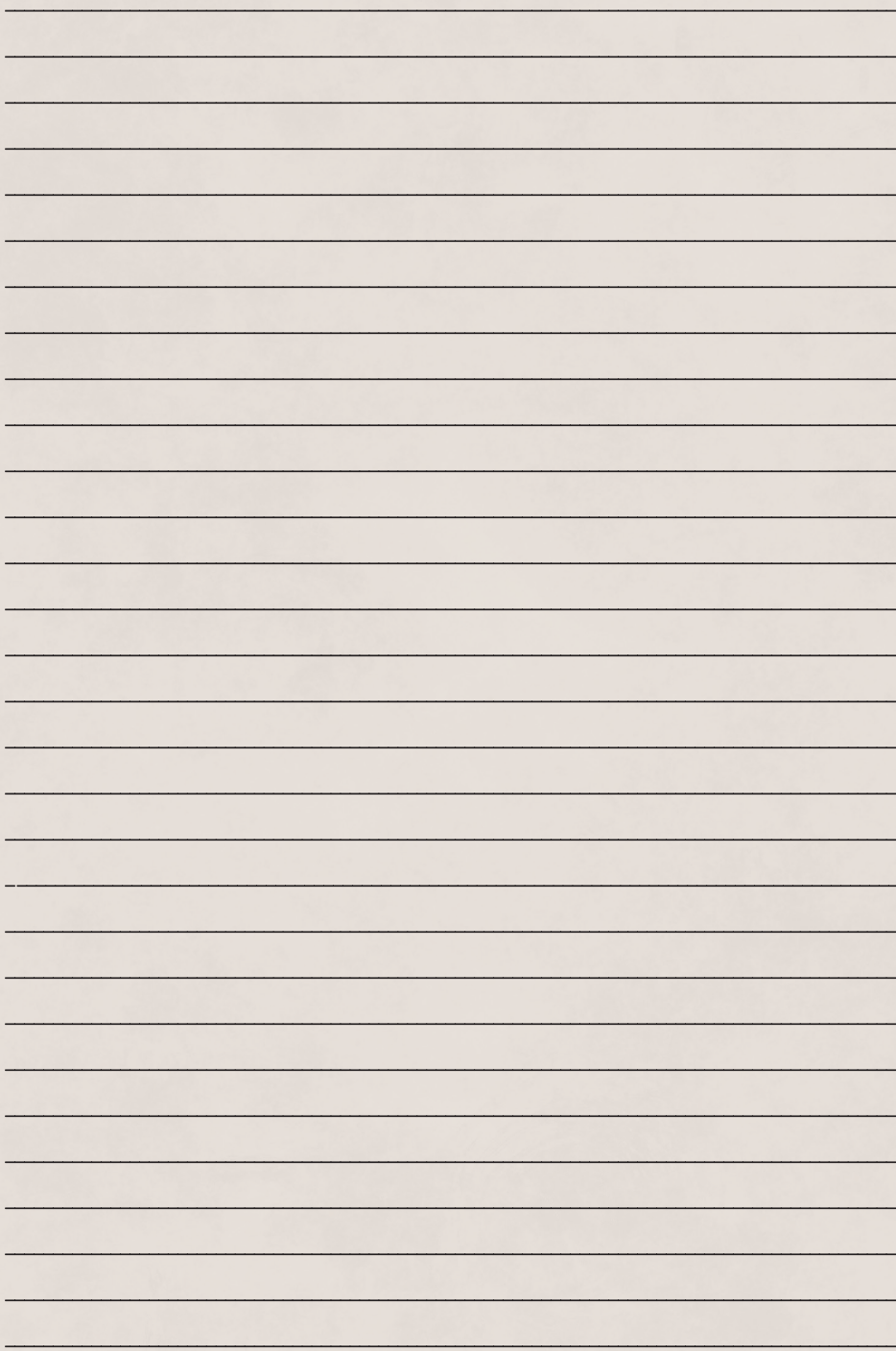
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## Δ Focus on Prayer

### SCRIPTURE:

*One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”*

Mark 12:28-31

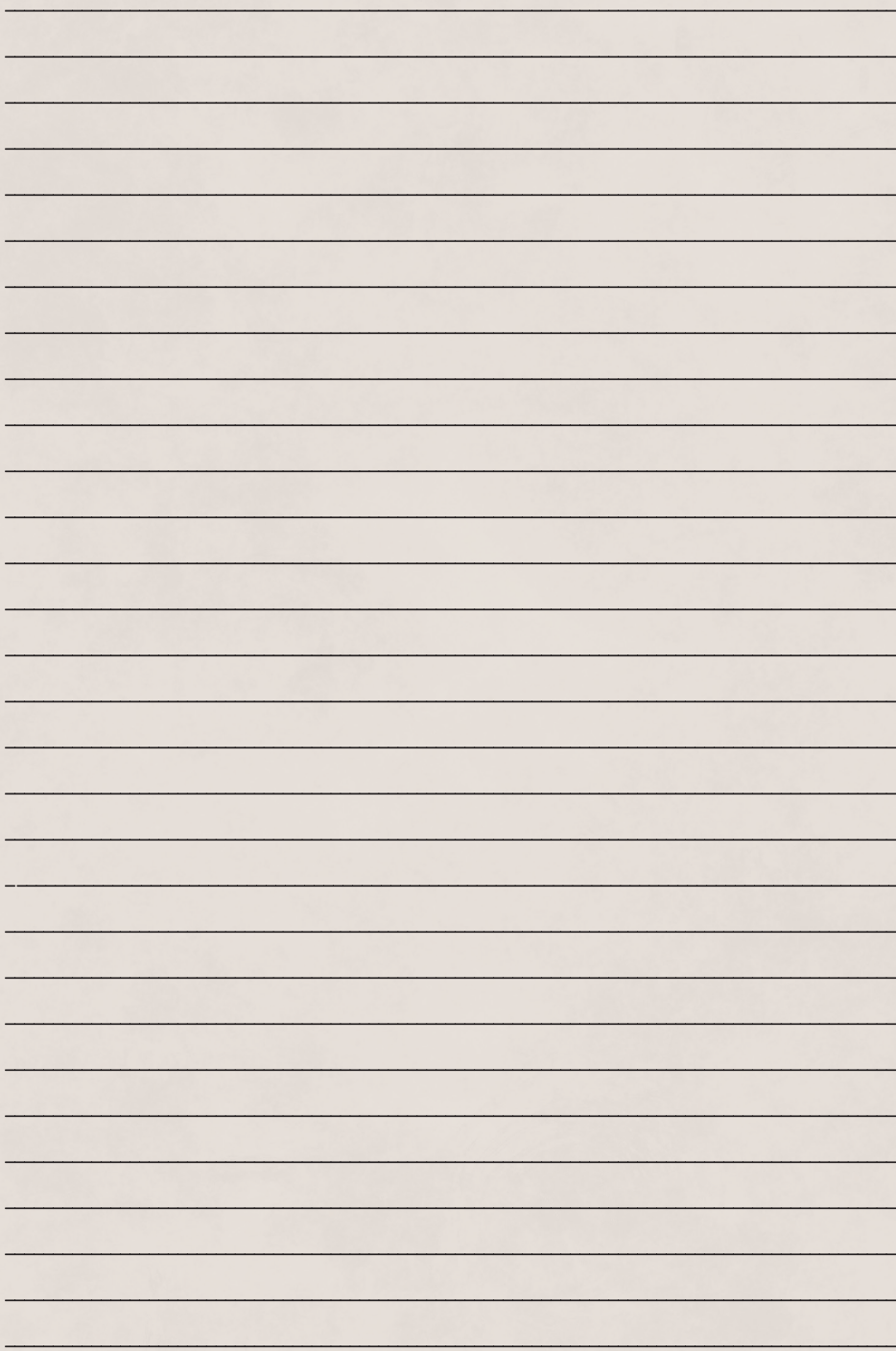
### PRAYER DIRECTION:

This teacher asked a genuine question that we may have all asked at one point: What is the most important command? Jesus answered simply yet profoundly, saying the first command is to know that God is the one true God and to love Him with every facet of our being—heart, soul, mind, and strength. The second one is to love your neighbor as yourself. The greatest command is not about the works we do to make ourselves worthy or holy, but it is about the posture of our hearts toward God and how we treat those around us.

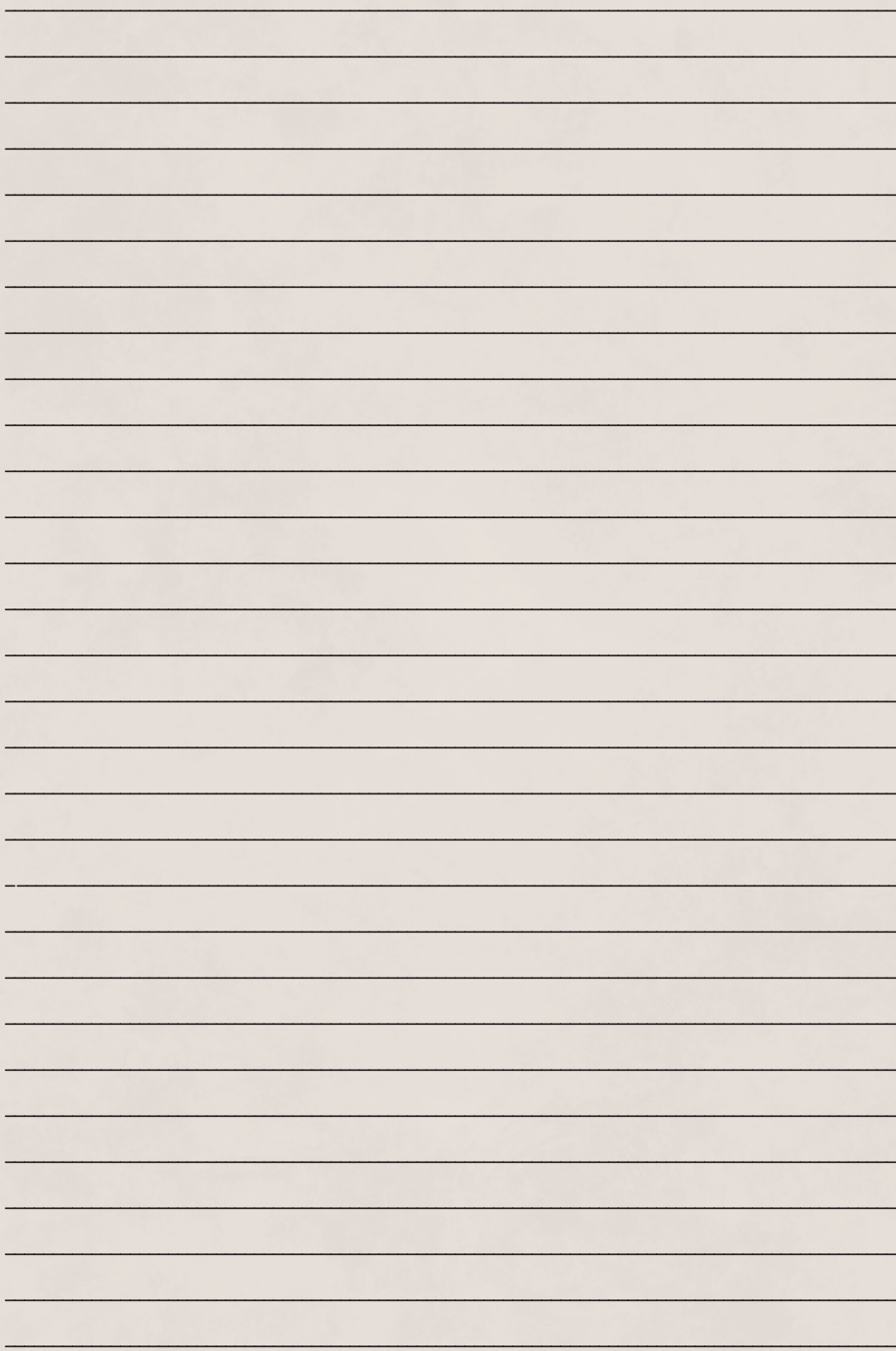
### PRAYER OF FIRST LOVE:

God, I pray that I am able to live out the greatest command every day. Help me to love You, the one true living God, with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength. Guide my thoughts, words, and actions so they reflect Your love. Teach me to love my neighbor as myself. Give me the grace to see others through Your eyes, and help me to be understanding and compassionate. Let the way that I love others be a reflection of how You love me.









## Nothing is Wasted on Jesus

### READING:

Mark 14:1-11

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*“Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me.”*

Mark 14:6

### REFLECTION:

- Those who scolded had skewed priorities.
- Worship is NEVER wasted.
- Caring for the NEEDY matters.
- It flows OUT of your love for God.
- It can demonstrate devotion.
- Preparing your HEART to receive what Jesus did FOR YOU is paramount.

Have you ever judged the way someone else worships?

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Have you ever thought of someone’s worship as wasteful? Ask the Lord to search your heart on this.

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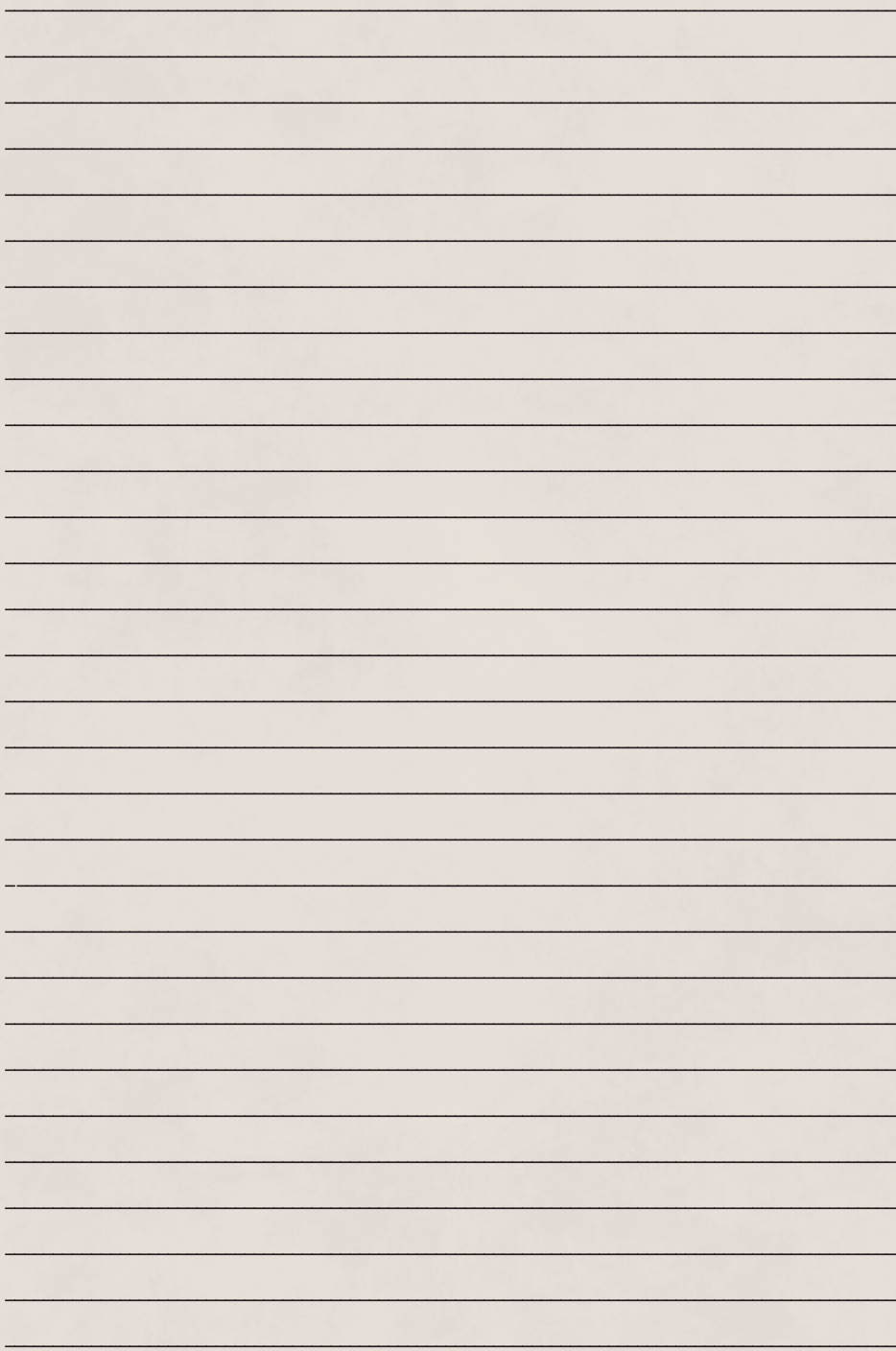
Are you giving ENOUGH in worship?

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# Prepare on Purpose

## READING:

Mark 14:12-25

## VERSE OF THE DAY:

*“He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”*

Mark 14:15

## REFLECTION:

- No one accidentally encounters Jesus.
- The man who owned the room worked to make it ready, but he didn't know WHO he was preparing for. He only knew WHAT he was preparing for.
- Prepare your HEART on PURPOSE.
- Prepare your HOUSE on PURPOSE.
- Don't miss YOUR PART in God's story.

What can you do to prepare your HEART for what Jesus wants to do today?

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What can you do to prepare your FAMILY for what Jesus wants to do?

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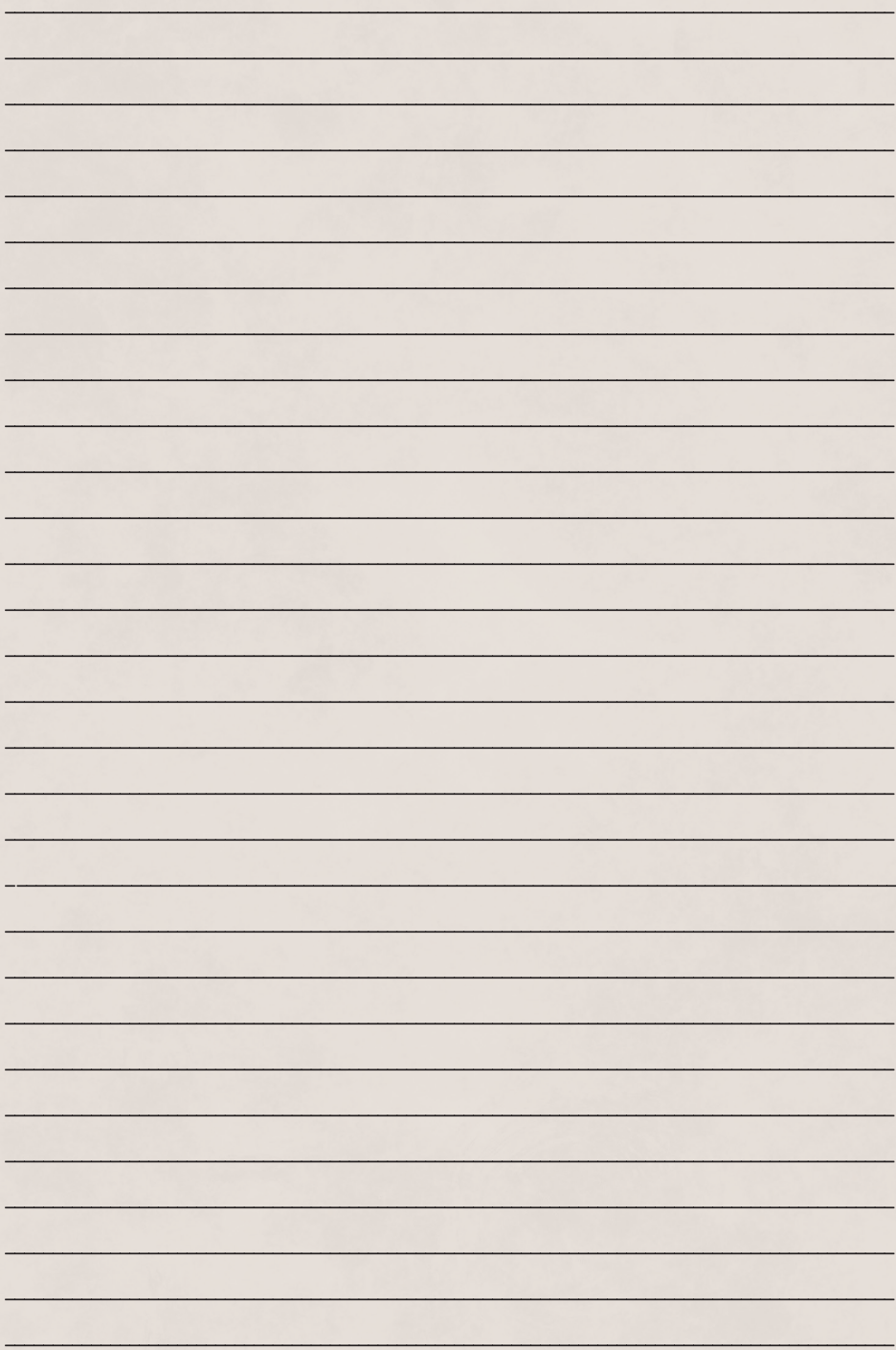
How can you do both intentionally?

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## Everyone Falls

### READING:

Mark 14:26-42

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*Peter declared, "Even if all fall away, I will not."*

Mark 14:29

### REFLECTION:

- Peter promised to be true no matter what.
- But he ALSO betrayed Jesus.
- Boasting isn't helpful. Humility is.
- Peter and Judas both betrayed Jesus.
- Judas showed REMORSE.
- Peter showed REPENTANCE.
- Jesus restores those who come back to Him.

When did boasting get you in trouble? Jesus is not impressed with our WORDS.

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Is there anything in your life that you need to seek repentance for?

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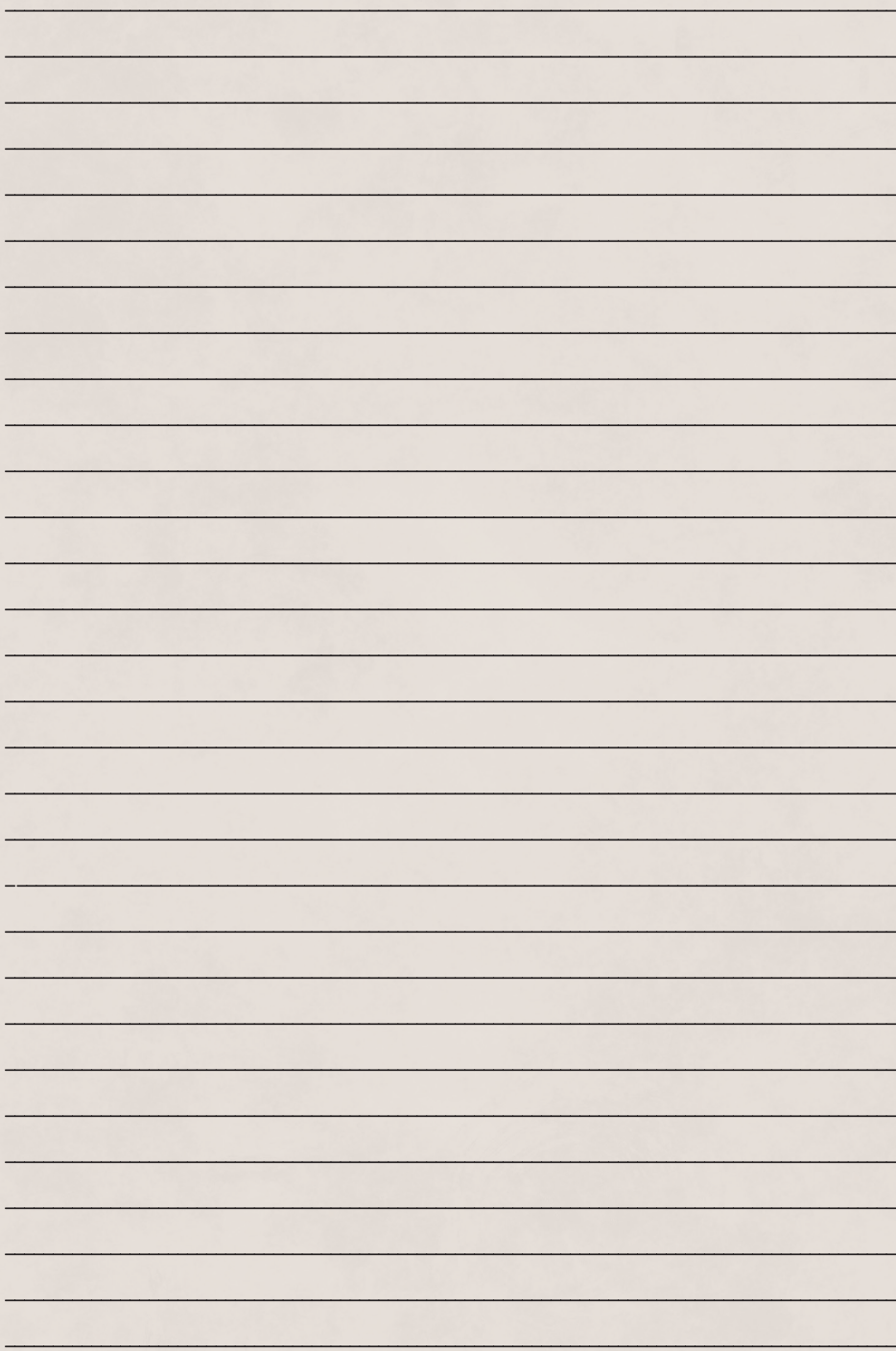
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## They Found None

### **READING:**

Mark 14:43-65

### **VERSE OF THE DAY:**

*The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any.*

Mark 14:55

### **REFLECTION:**

- There was nothing to testify against Jesus.
- They killed Him anyway.
- There is plenty to testify against us.
- But Jesus died so we wouldn't have to.
- He represented you in death.
- Represent Him in life.
- Try to live in a way so that no one will find anything to testify against you with.

What stands out the most to you when you examine the life of Jesus?

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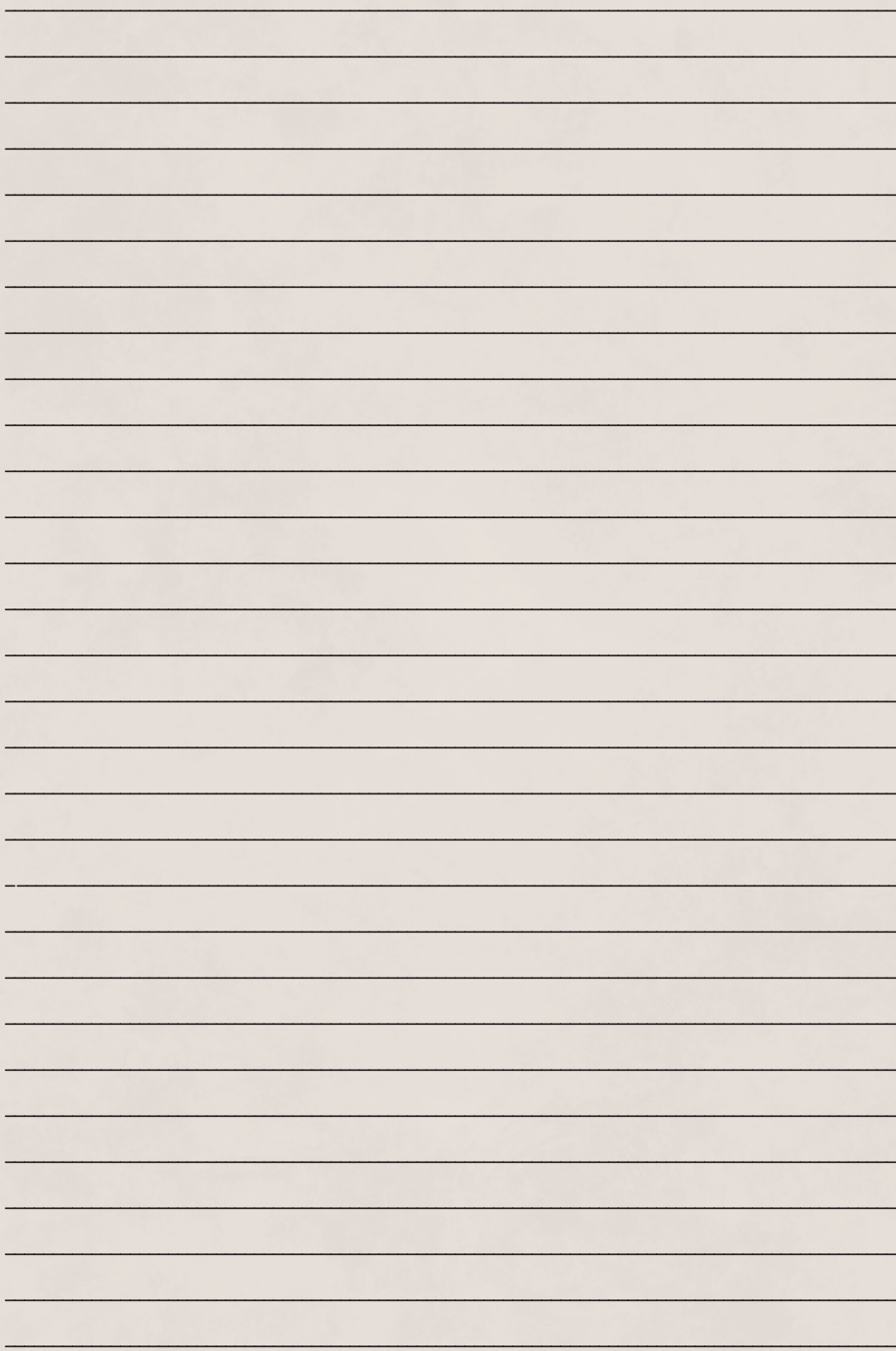
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# Jesus Knows Our Shame

**READING:**

Mark 14:66-72

**VERSE OF THE DAY:**

*Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept.*

Mark 14:72

**REFLECTION:**

- WORD - Jesus' word declared what would happen.
- WARNING - Peter ignored the warning (first rooster).
- WITNESS - The second rooster indicted him.
- WEEPING - Peter responded with shame and sorrow.
- WAY BACK - Jesus Himself forgave and restored Peter (John 21:15-19).

What is something you have been ashamed of?

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How long have you been carrying the shame?

Give it to Jesus. He already knows.

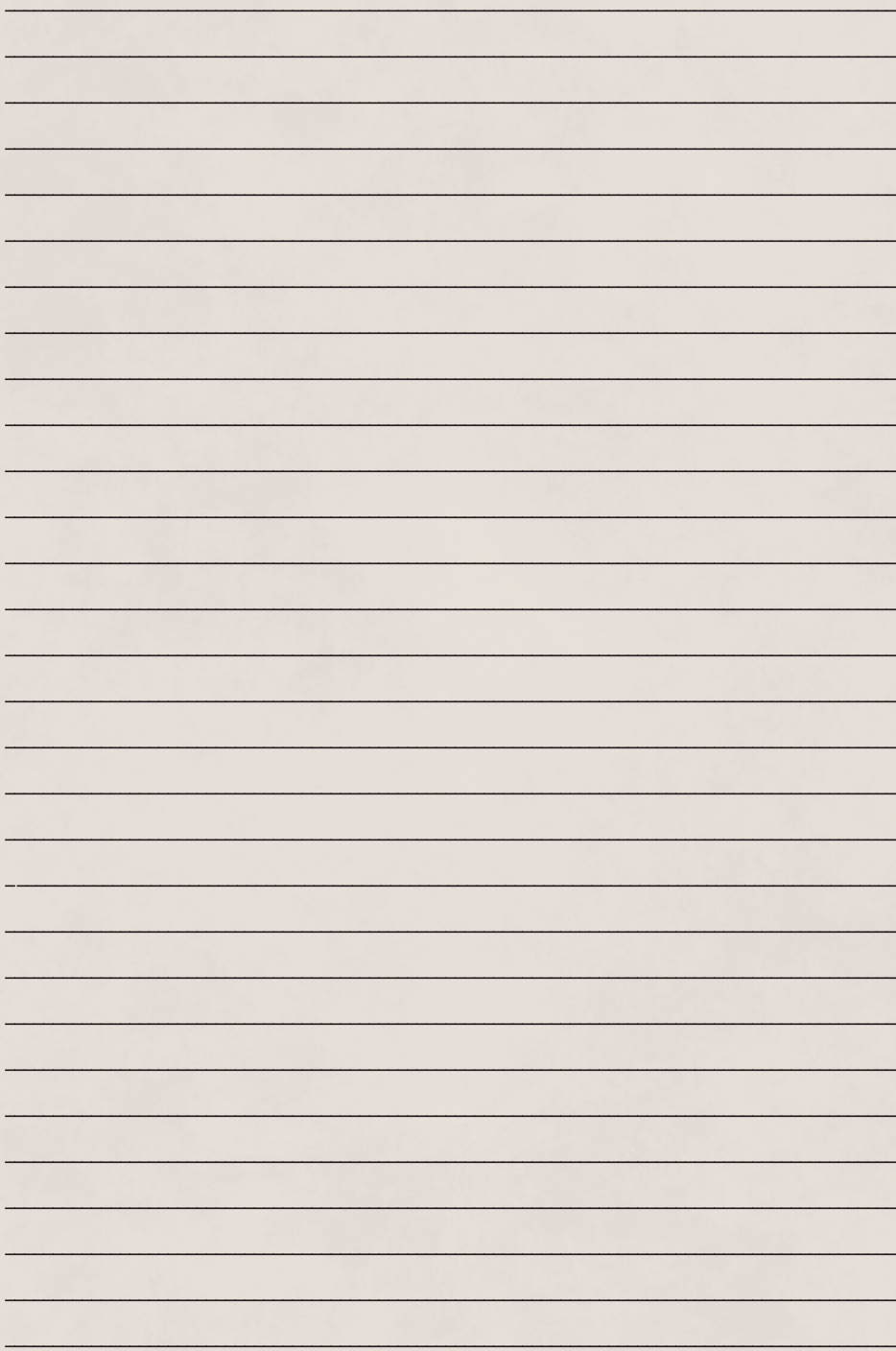
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## Δ Focus on Prayer

### SCRIPTURE:

*"Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

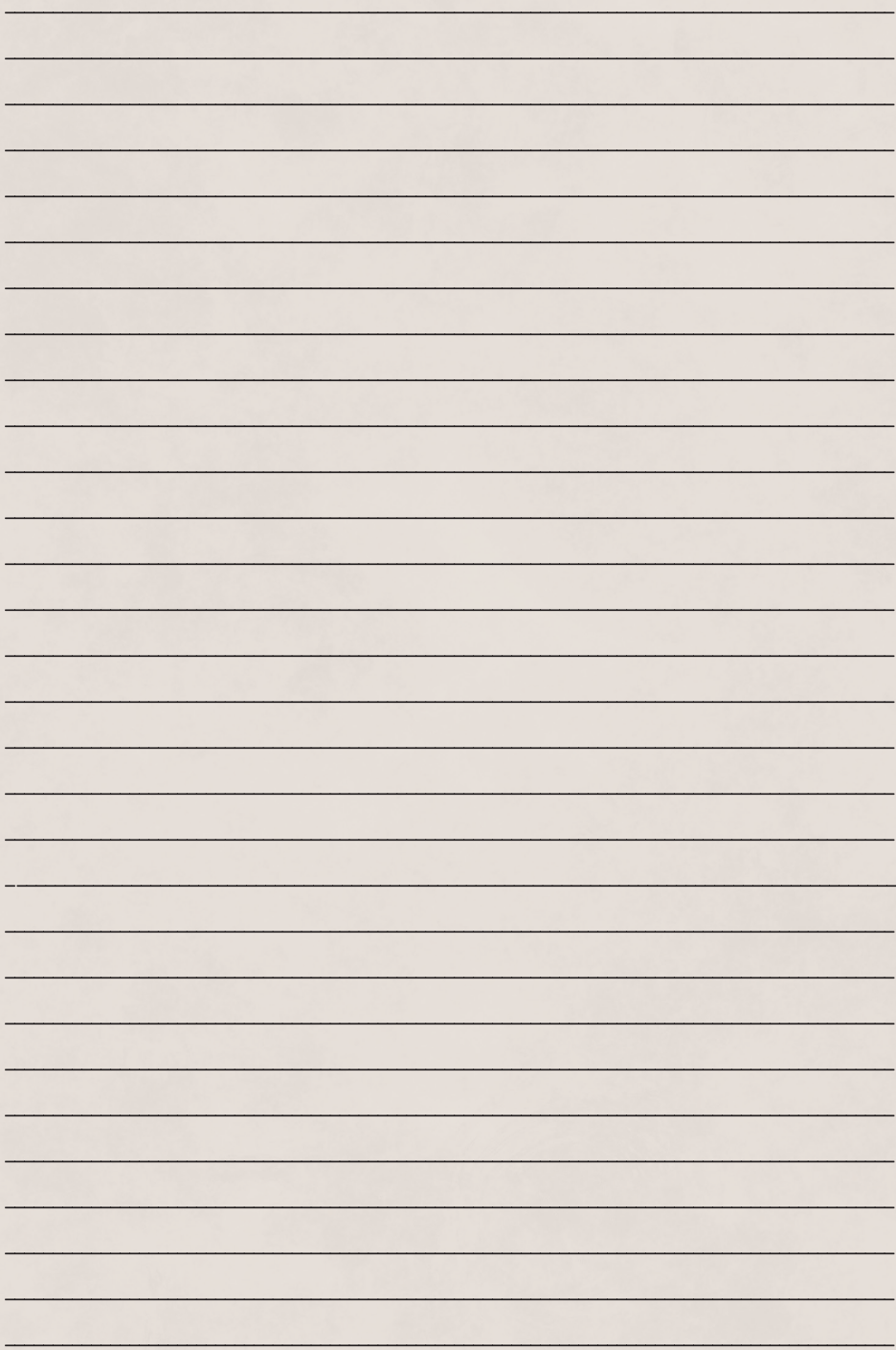
Mark 14:36-38

### PRAYER DIRECTION:

Jesus literally prayed to the Father what He would then ask Simon Peter (and consequently all of us) to observe. Surrender your flesh—your plan, your desires, your way—and value what is eternal over what is temporary. He never asks us to do something He Himself has not done. Jesus' surrender began with a confession of faith: "Everything is possible for you." The act of surrender begins with declaring God's ability—He then helps us rightly choose between what is temporary versus what is eternal. Our faith in Him makes it possible to fully surrender.

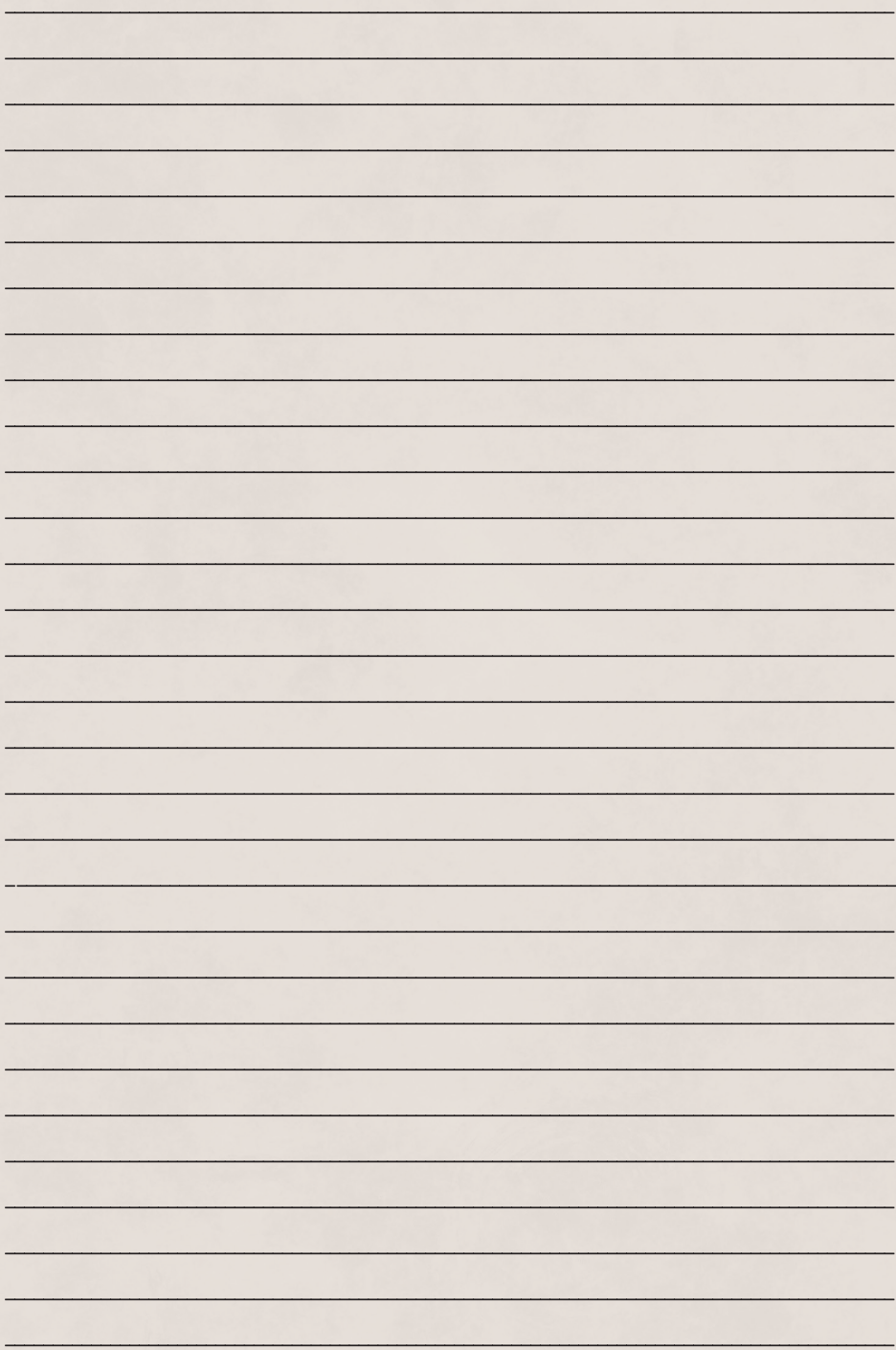
### PRAYER:

Father, You are able! Thank you, Jesus, for Your complete surrender. I want to be like You. As an act of faith, Lord, I choose to say, "Not my will, but Yours." I hand to You what I desire. I want what You desire and ask You to help me choose what is significant for eternity over what is temporary. Holy Spirit, thank You for helping me and making the hard things easier. I love You, Lord Jesus, and thank You for Your surrender and eternal victory! Glory to You, King Jesus!









## Who Do You Want Released?

### READING:

Mark 15:1-15

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.*

Mark 15:15

### REFLECTION:

- Everyone serves a king.
- The crowd chose Barabbas, the rebel, because they wanted to be their own king.
- Pilate gave them what they wanted.
- Who do we want in our lives?
- Do you want rebellion unleashed in your life?
- Do you want the King released in your life?
- The rebel chooses their own way.
- The King's Way is BETTER! ALWAYS.
- CHOOSE THE KING.

How can you demonstrate choosing the King over the rebel today?

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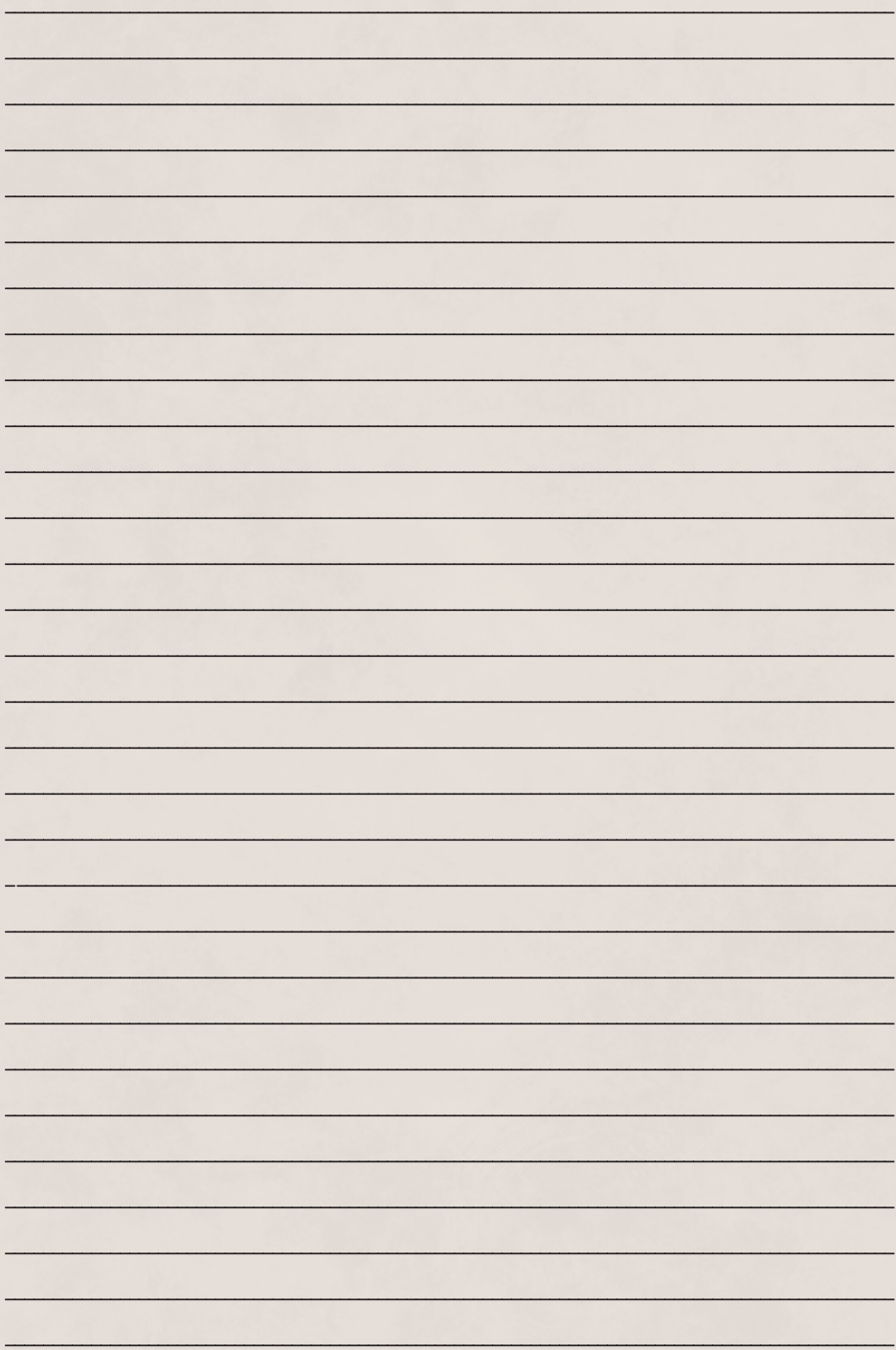
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## Proof is Not Ours to Demand

### READING:

Mark 15:16-32

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*“Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.*

Mark 15:32

### REFLECTION:

- Religious people demand proof.
- Desperate people cry out for Jesus.
- Jesus was WILLING to DIE for them.
- They were UNWILLING to SEE it.
- Jesus’ INNOCENCE proved HOLINESS.
- Jesus’ WILLINGNESS proved LOVE.
- Jesus’ RESURRECTION proved POWER.

A holy God loves you. He has the power to change your destiny.  
What will you do with this truth?

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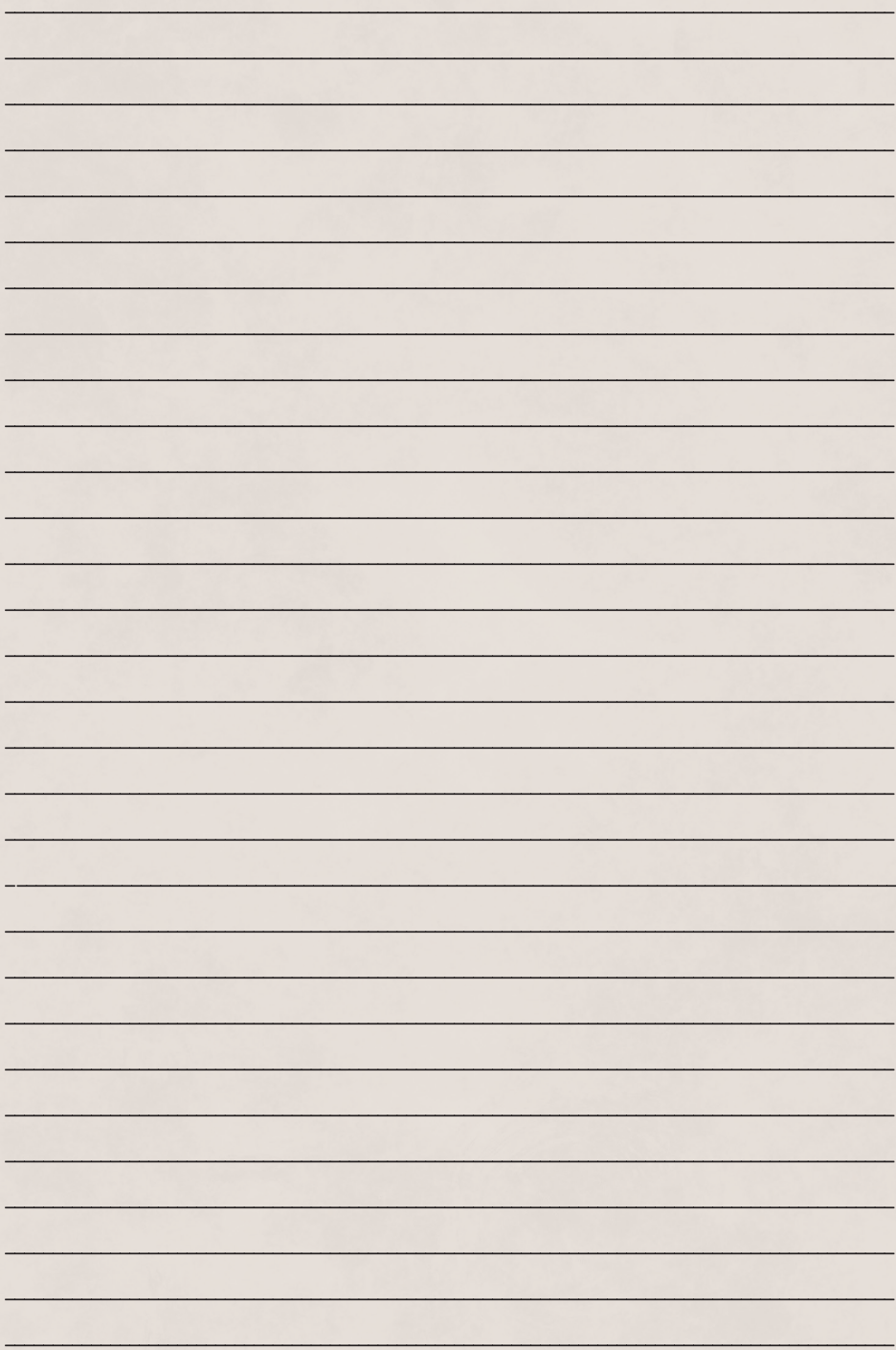
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In what area are you unwilling to fully trust and believe?

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# Jesus Tears Down the Veil

**READING:**

Mark 15:33-47

**VERSE OF THE DAY:**

*The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.*

Mark 15:38

**REFLECTION:**

- The curtain of the temple separated the people from the Holy Place.
- Only a priest could go there, and only once a year.
- Jesus' death destroyed the barrier.
- YOU now have full access to the presence and grace of God.

What is holding you back from God?

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What does Jesus need to tear down in your life?

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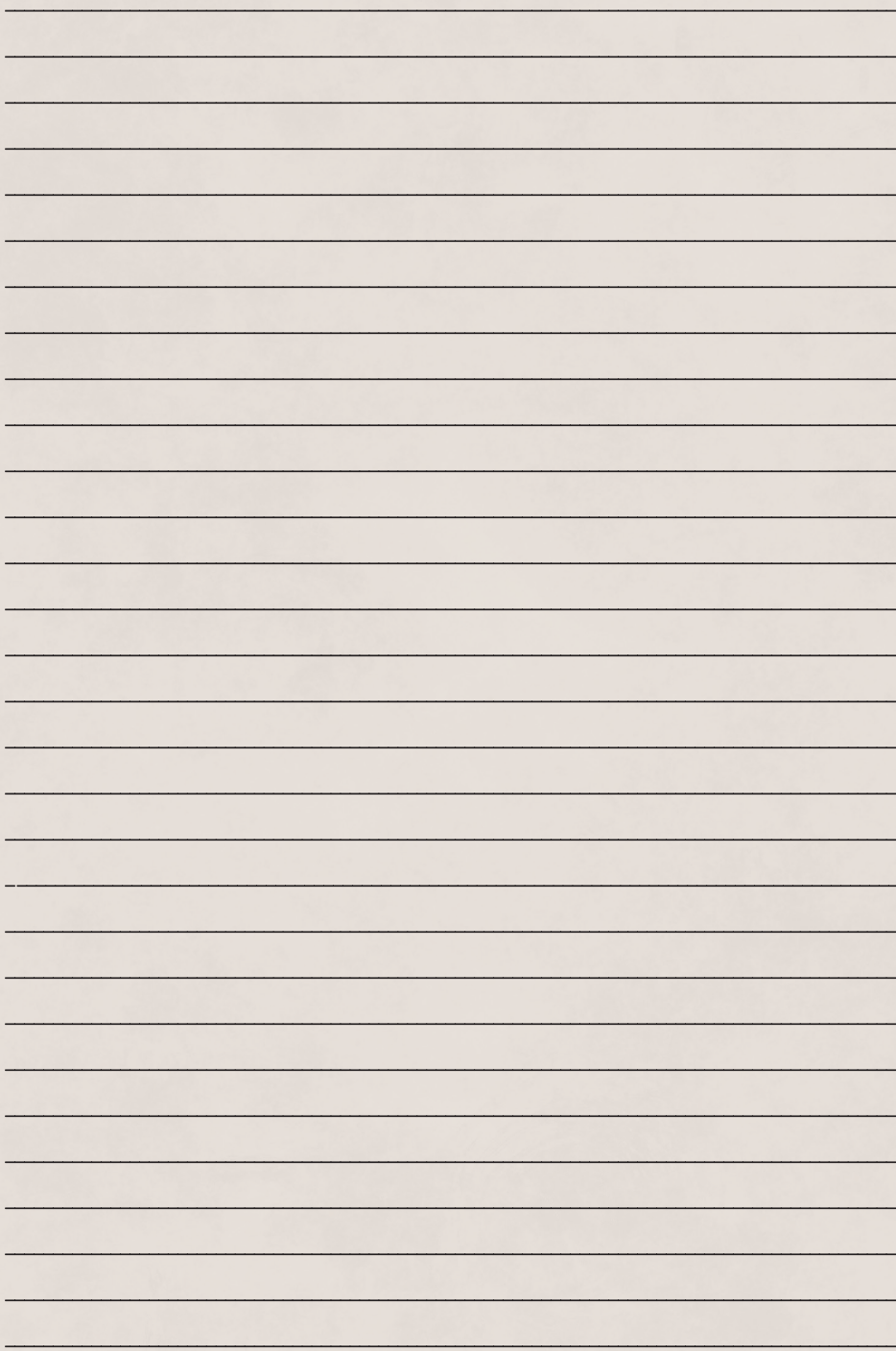
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## Only Jesus Can

### READING:

Mark 16:1-8

### VERSE OF THE DAY:

*And they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"*

Mark 16:3

### REFLECTION:

- While they doubted and planned, Jesus moved.
- The one thing they got right was going toward Jesus.
- But they believed they had to remove the obstacles.
- All we have to do is get where we are supposed to be.
- ONLY Jesus can move the heavy things out of the way.
- Jesus doesn't invite us into His TOMB.
- Jesus invites us into His KINGDOM.

What heavy thing do you need to give to Jesus?

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What is the first step you will take in releasing it?

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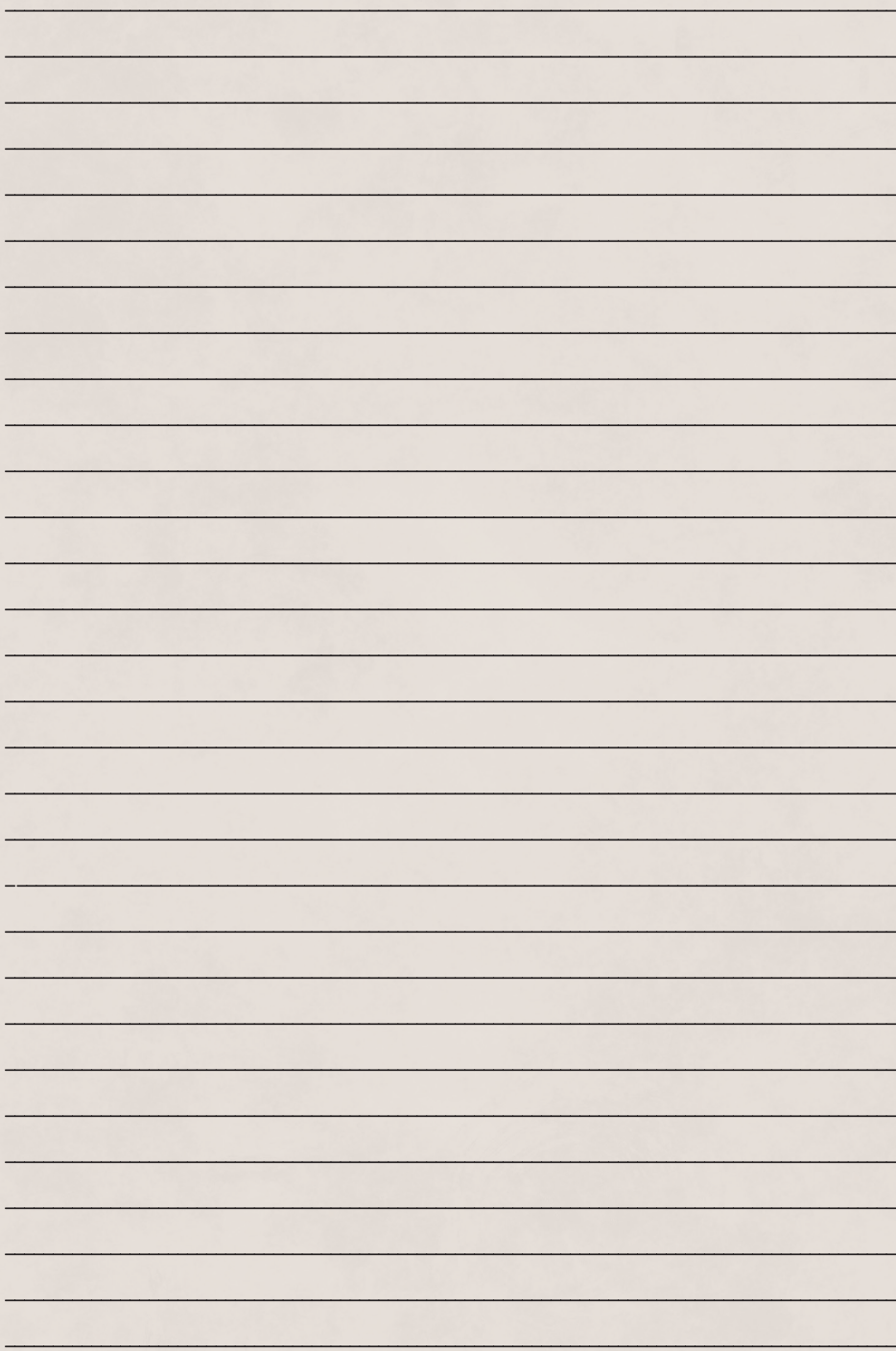
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# Our Commission

## READING:

Mark 16:9-20

## VERSE OF THE DAY:

*He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."*

Mark 16:15

## REFLECTION:

- There is ONE clear assignment from Jesus:  
TELL EVERYONE ABOUT ME.
- Of the many things Jesus told us to do, this is the most important.
- We have been given the gift of salvation, and if we believe, the ONLY response is to share it with others.

Have you ever shared your faith with someone else?

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How did it go?

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What did it do for YOU?

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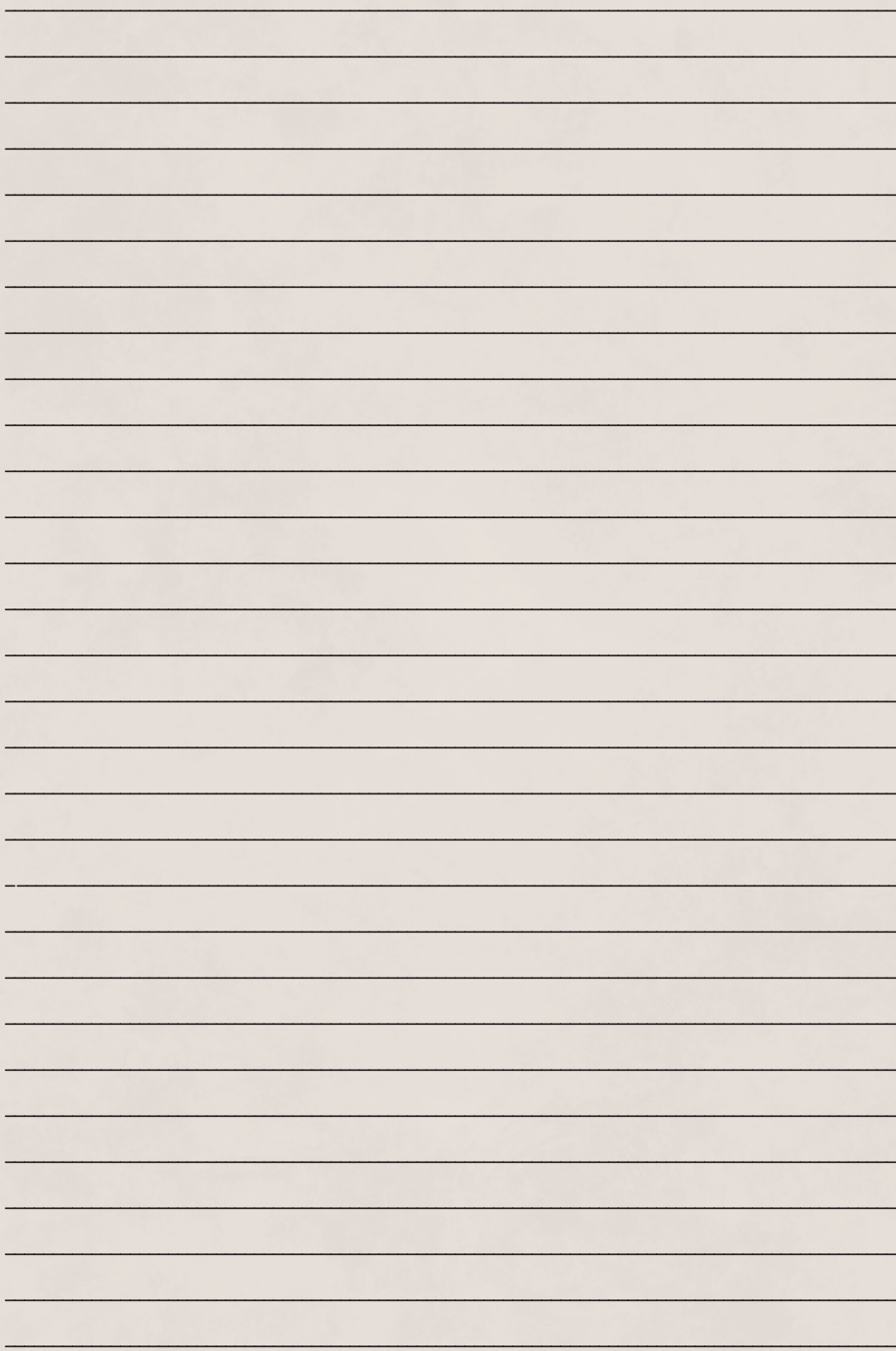
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Who is someone that you know you should share the gospel with, but you haven't? When will you?

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## Δ Focus on Prayer

### **SCRIPTURE:**

*With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.*

Mark 15:37-38

*In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.*

Hebrews 5:7, ESV

### **PRAYER DIRECTION:**

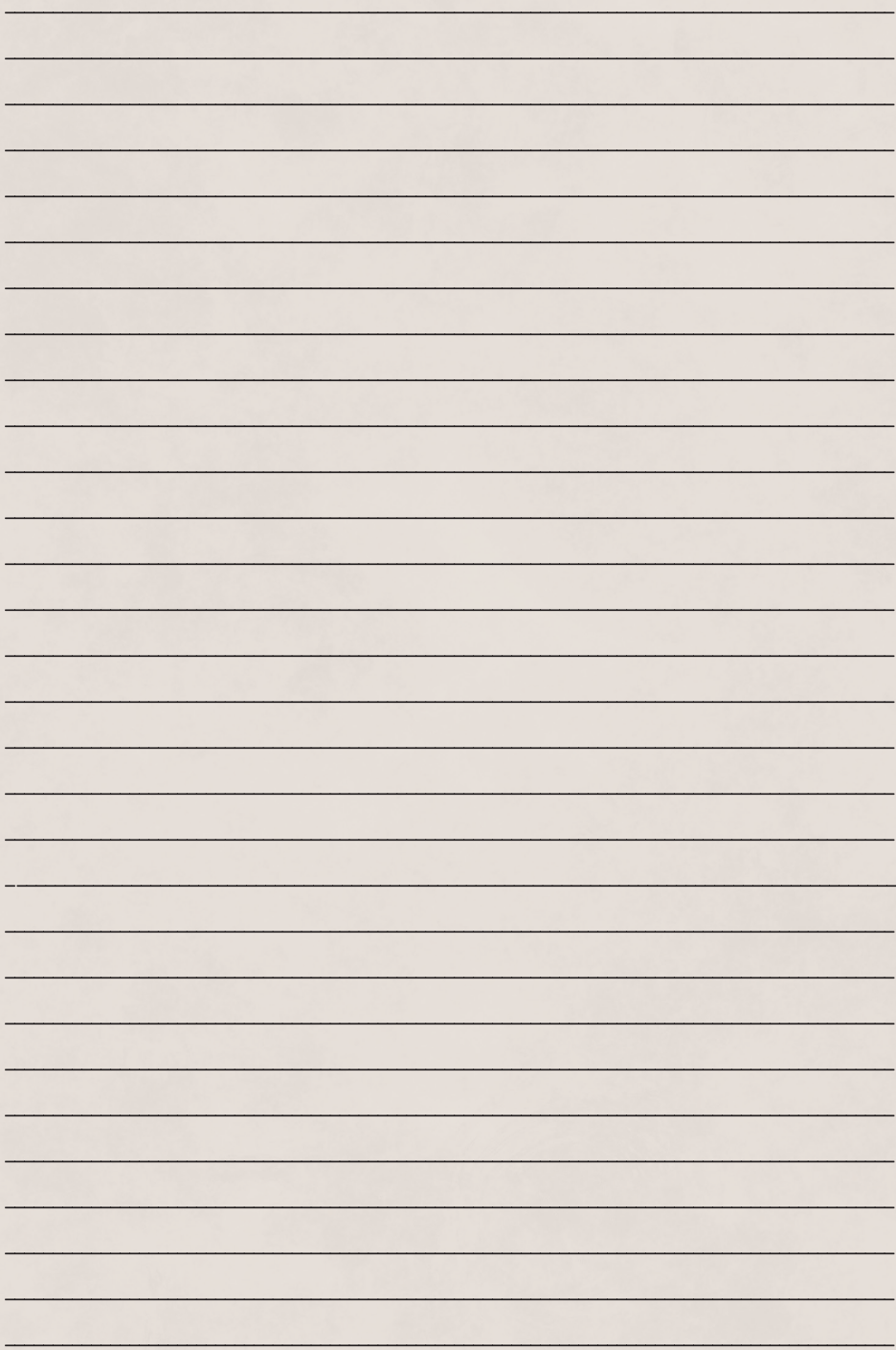
What were Jesus' final words before dying on the cross? The very last voice heard from Jesus' cross wasn't a word. It was a cry. In fact, it was described as a "loud cry," as He breathed His last. In Hebrews, we learn that Jesus often prayed to His Father with "loud cries." Jesus' final sound—as He expelled His last breath—was a loud heart-cry voiced to His Father. The King died in prayer. Wow! And at that moment, miles away in the temple, the curtain tore from top to bottom, opening the way for all of us to be cleansed of sin and now enter God's Holy presence in prayer. Jesus' prayers and death opened the door for us to be heard by His Father as our Father! Let us enter this precious door and pray our hearts out the way Jesus did!

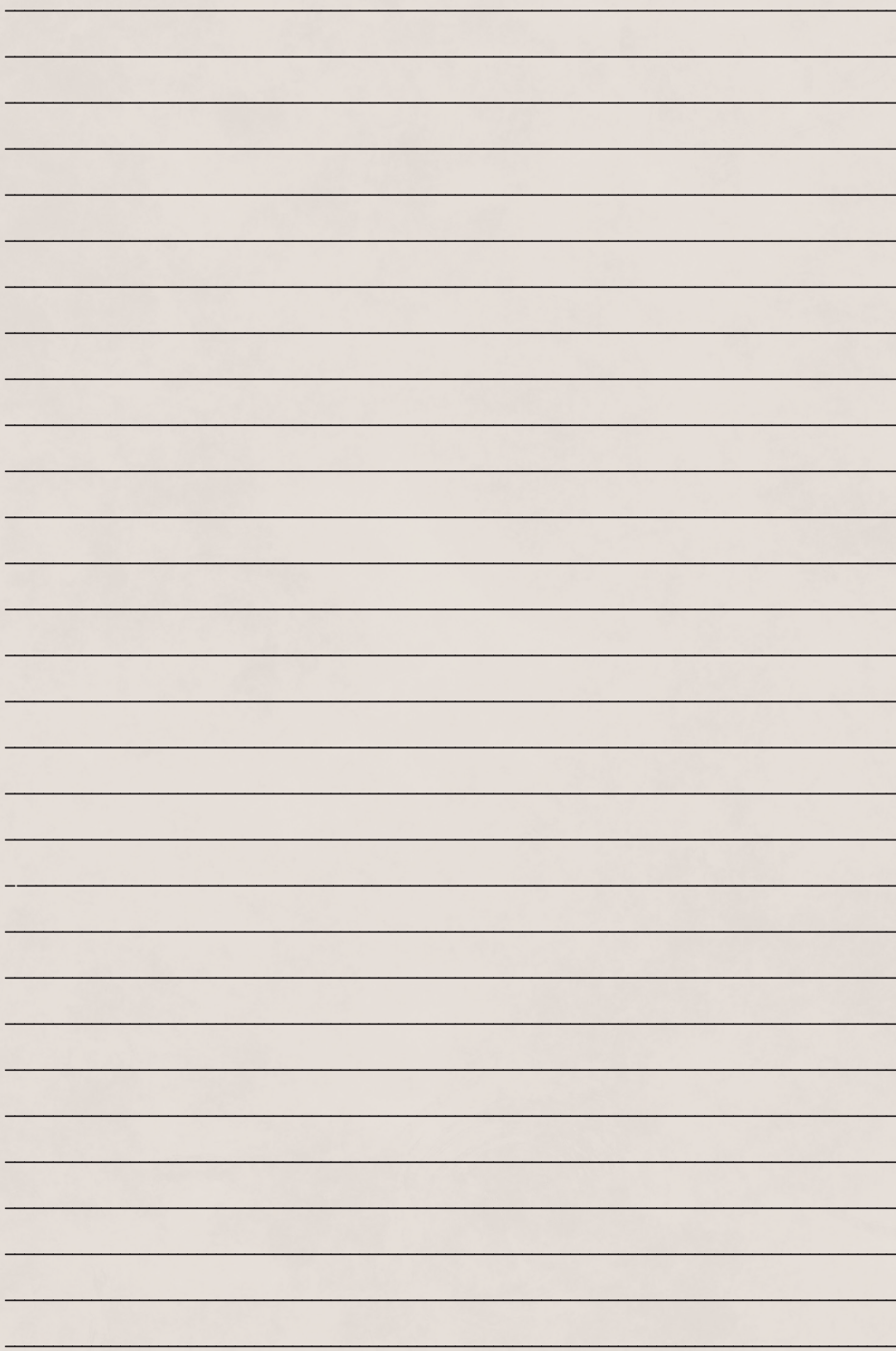
### **PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION:**

Father, thank You for giving Your Son to forgive my sin so that I might become Your child! Lord Jesus, thank You for enduring so much pain and praying for me even as You breathed Your last. Transform my heart that I might pray and seek God as You did—with all my heart! Help me to become whole-hearted in my pursuit of Your presence and Your will. Please forgive me for when I have taken such a privilege for granted. The King of the Universe has made a way for us to draw near! May I always praise You for Your sacrifice, and may I enter the door You opened to Your Father in prayer every day.

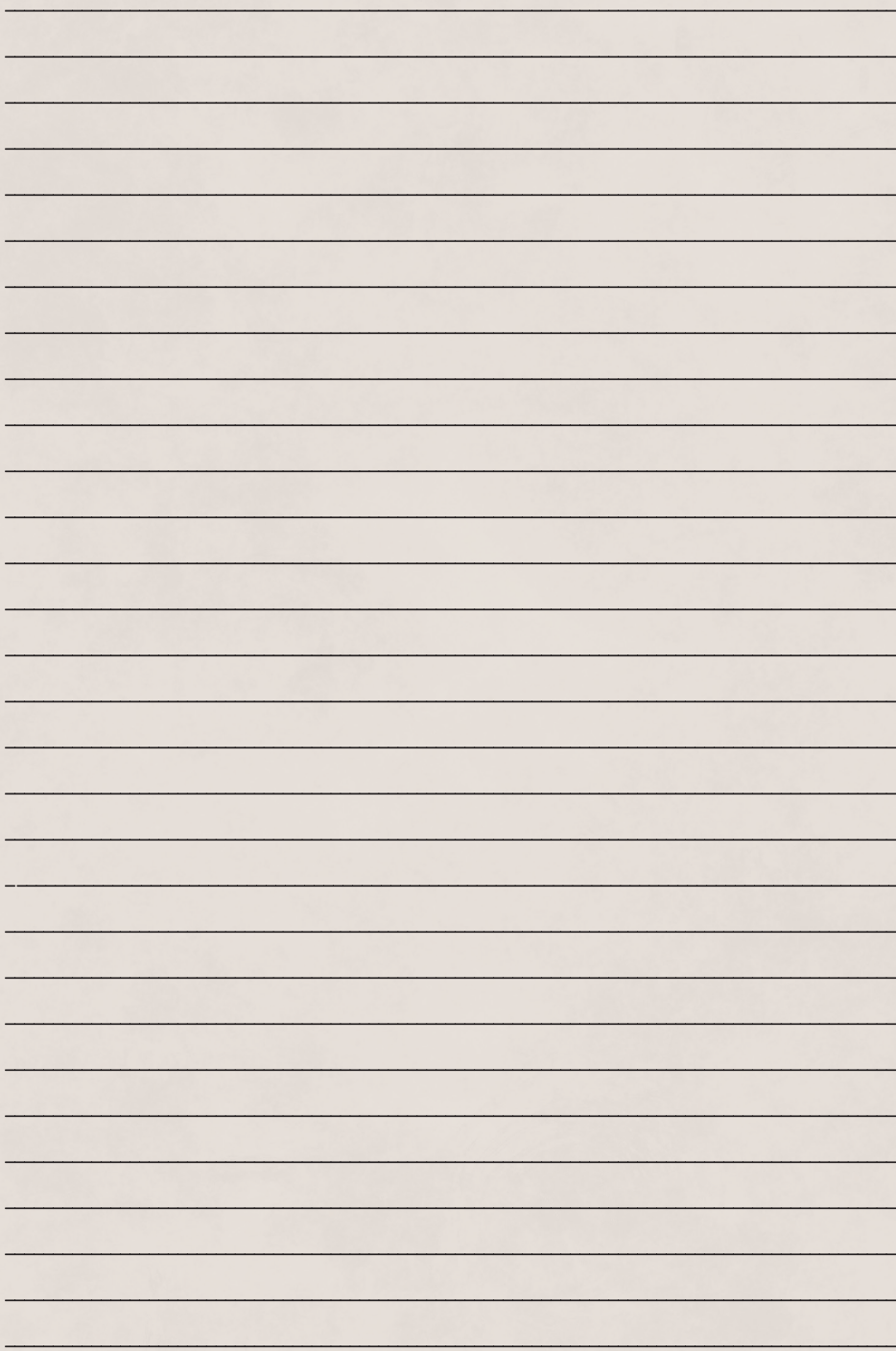


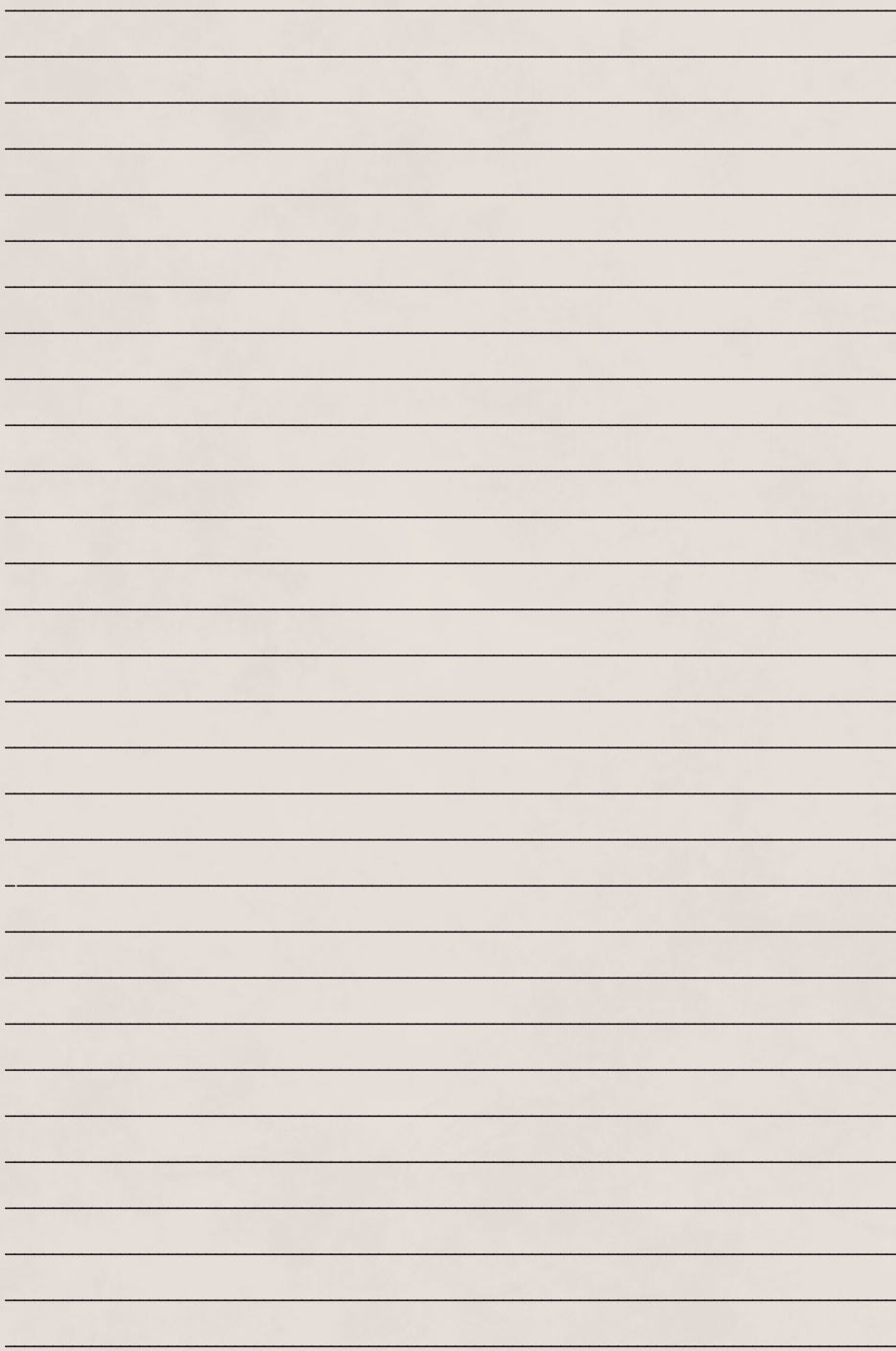
















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