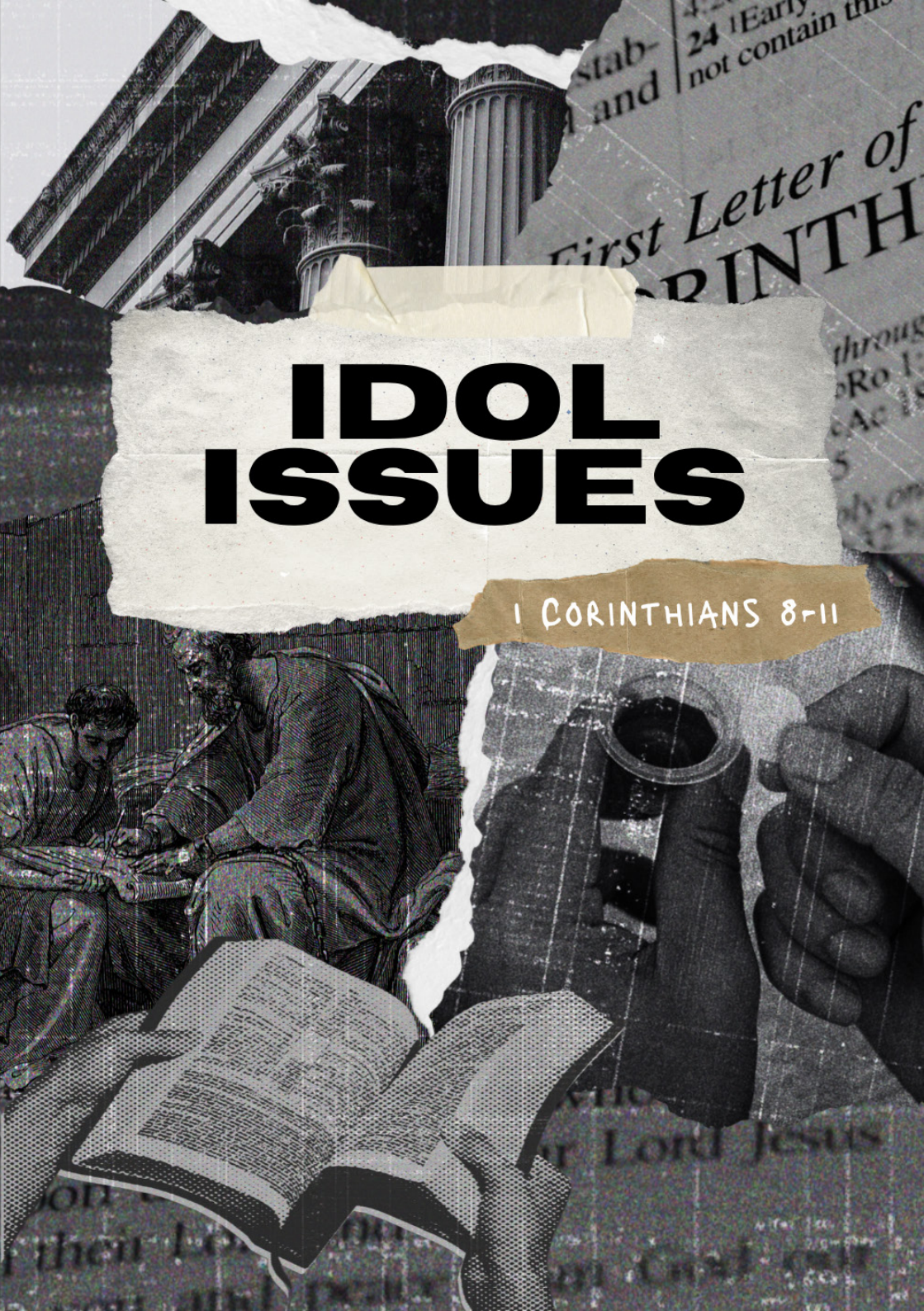
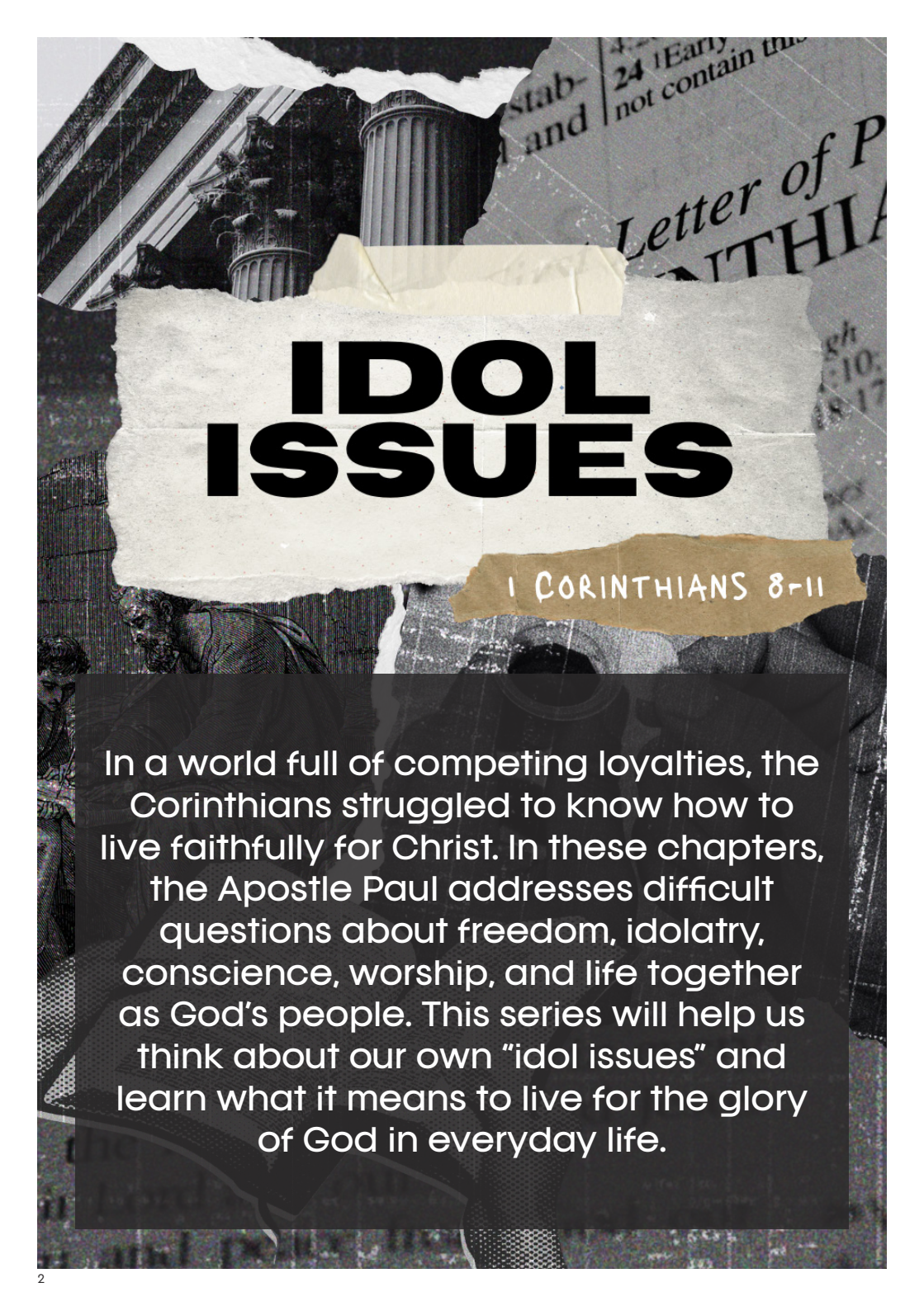




IDOL ISSUES

1 CORINTHIANS 8-11



IDOL ISSUES

1 CORINTHIANS 8-11

In a world full of competing loyalties, the Corinthians struggled to know how to live faithfully for Christ. In these chapters, the Apostle Paul addresses difficult questions about freedom, idolatry, conscience, worship, and life together as God's people. This series will help us think about our own "idol issues" and learn what it means to live for the glory of God in everyday life.

SERMONS

WHEN RIGHTS BECOME WRONGS

1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13

ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE

1 CORINTHIANS 9:1-23

EYES ON THE PRIZE

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-10:14

WHAT IS THE CHIEF END OF MAN?

1 CORINTHIANS 10:14-11:1

HAIRCUTS AND HEAD COVERINGS

1 CORINTHIANS 11:2-16

THE BEST MEAL IN THE WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-34

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is not meant to replace the Sunday sermon but is designed to help you apply the Biblical teaching given on a Sunday in your Life Groups. We don't want our Life Groups to feel like another 'mini-sermon', but rather to be places where we learn to obey what God says in Christian community. You can find our latest sermons here <https://oasischurch.com.au/audio/>

CHURCH SERVICES

Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.

There is space for you to take down notes during the sermon as well.

LIFE GROUP

Use this guide during life Group each week. There are Life Group questions for each sermon in the series, and space to write down prayer points that come from the discussion that week or prayer requests from the members of your group.

PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

Although this guide is primarily designed for Life Groups, it can also be used in personal devotions. After you have heard the sermon preached on the Sunday, go through this guide and use it to apply what you have learnt. It may be more natural to go through these questions with your family. There are also leader's guides available that give additional information to aid leaders in arriving at Biblical answers. Leaders use these to help them lead the group but you may find one beneficial in your personal devotions. If you would like a copy of a leader's guide please contact our team (lifegroups@oasischurch.com.au).

GUIDELINES FOR DISCUSSION

Your group needs to be a safe place for all people to share and to enter the discussion. This means, all members of the group need to follow a few guidelines:

WE LEAD WITH GRACE

We respond to one another in light of what Christ has done for us, understanding that we are all in need of His grace, compassion, and mercy.

WE TREAT EACH OTHER WITH RESPECT

We can wrestle with ideas and disagree with one another without judgement, personal attack, or dismissal. We don't laugh at others when they've shared and no putdowns of any kind. These are the actions that make others withdraw and feel uneasy about sharing.

WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER, NOT 'FIX' ONE ANOTHER

Jesus does the 'fixing'. Give encouragement, speak truth, and point to Jesus. Don't try to solve or fix each other.

WE COMMIT TO CONFIDENTIALITY

What is said in the group should stay in the group unless permission is given to share it elsewhere. This is not to create a dysfunctional group that keeps unhealthy secrets. Instead, it is to create a culture of safety where everyone feels safe to share thoughts and feelings and knows that others will not find out.

WE DO NOT CROSSTALK

Crosstalk is a conversation during discussion time that leaves others out and can be hurtful. Each person should be free to express his or her feelings without interruptions.

Your group needs to agree with one another that you are committed to providing a safe place to be encouraged and challenged by the word of God and to let Him do a healing, sanctifying work in your lives.

If you have any concerns, you should speak to your group leader or get in contact with our team (lifegroups@oasischurch.com.au).

LIFE GROUPS

At Oasis, we believe that following Jesus was never meant to be done alone. God has designed us to grow best in community—walking with others, sharing life together, and encouraging one another in faith. One of the key ways we do this as a church is through Life Groups.

Life Groups are small gatherings of people who meet regularly in homes or at church. They're a space where you can slow down in the busyness of life and truly connect—with God, with His Word, and with each other. In these groups, people read the Bible together, pray for one another, share meals, laugh, serve, and build genuine friendships. Over time, Life Groups become like extended family—people who walk with you through the joys and challenges of life.

Whether you've been part of Oasis for years or you're just beginning to make it your home, joining a Life Group is one of the best next steps you can take. In a big church family, Life Groups make sure no one slips through the cracks. They are places where you can belong, be known, and be encouraged to keep growing as a disciple of Jesus.

We'd love for everyone at Oasis to be part of a Life Group. If you're not yet connected, why not make this the year you step in? There's a group waiting to welcome you.

To find out more or to register your interest, simply scan the QR code below and we'll help you find the right group for you.

Let's walk together as we follow Christ.

WANT TO JOIN A LIFE GROUP?

email: office@oasischurch.com.au



Or scan the
QR Code

BIBLE READING PLAN

WEEK 1:

WHEN RIGHTS BECOME WRONGS

Day 1: 1 Cor 8:1–6
Day 2: 1 Cor 8:7–13
Day 3: Rom 14:13–23
Day 4: 1 Cor 10:23–24
Day 5: Phil 2:1–11
Day 6: Ps 139:23–24
Day 7: Reflect & Pray

REFLECTION THOUGHT:

Where might my “rights” be affecting someone else’s faith?

WEEK 4:

LIVING FOR GOD’S GLORY

Day 1: 1 Cor 10:14–22
Day 2: 1 Cor 10:23–33
Day 3: 1 Cor 11:1
Day 4: Rom 12:1–2
Day 5: Col 3:17
Day 6: Ps 115:1
Day 7: Reflect & Pray

REFLECTION THOUGHT:

What would it look like to do everything for God’s glory this week?

WEEK 2:

ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE

Day 1: 1 Cor 9:1–12
Day 2: 1 Cor 9:13–18
Day 3: 1 Cor 9:19–23
Day 4: Matt 20:25–28
Day 5: 2 Tim 2:8–10
Day 6: Col 3:12–17
Day 7: Reflect & Pray

REFLECTION THOUGHT:

Who has God placed in my life that I’m called to reach or serve?

WEEK 5:

HONOUR IN WORSHIP

Day 1: 1 Cor 11:2–6
Day 2: 1 Cor 11:7–12
Day 3: 1 Cor 11:13–16
Day 4: Eph 5:21–33
Day 5: 1 Pet 3:1–7
Day 6: Prov 3:5–6
Day 7: Reflect & Pray

REFLECTION THOUGHT:

How do my attitudes and actions reflect honour toward God and others?

WEEK 3:

EYES ON THE PRIZE

Day 1: 1 Cor 9:24–27
Day 2: 1 Cor 10:1–5
Day 3: 1 Cor 10:6–14
Day 4: Heb 12:1–3
Day 5: Gal 5:16–25
Day 6: Jas 1:12–15
Day 7: Reflect & Pray

REFLECTION THOUGHT:

What distractions or “idols” are pulling my focus away from Christ?

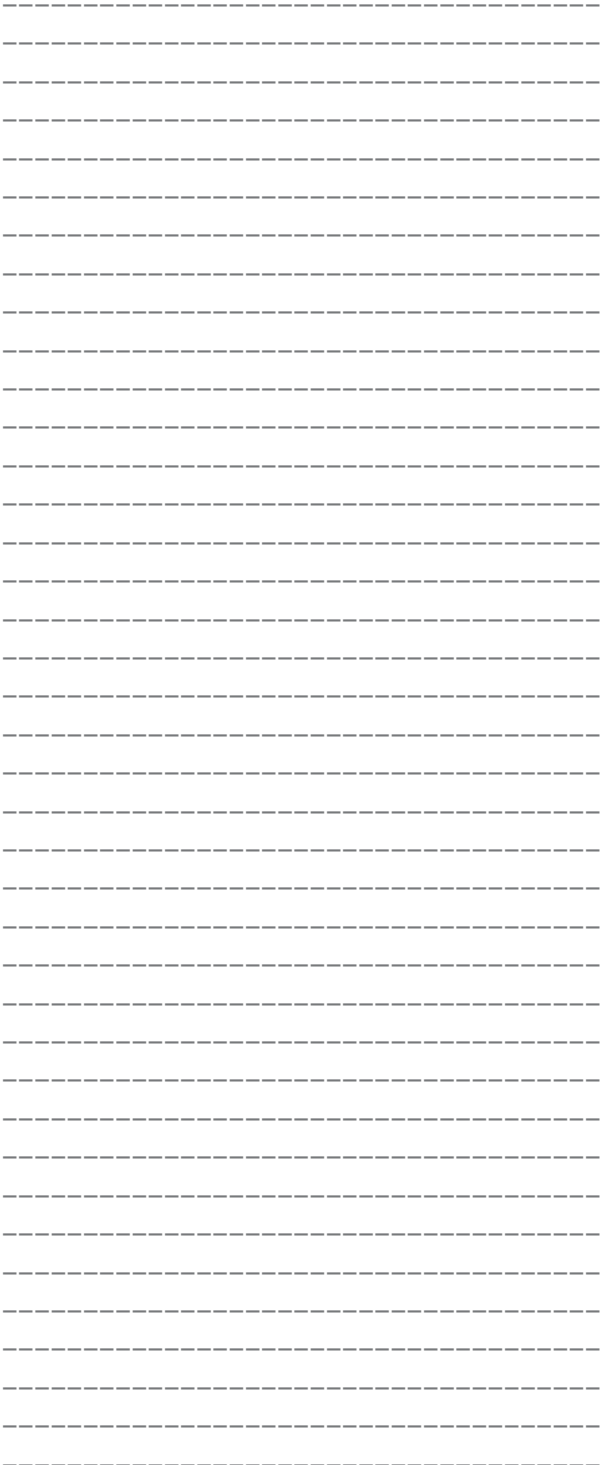
WEEK 6:

THE BEST MEAL IN THE WORLD

Day 1: 1 Cor 11:17–22
Day 2: 1 Cor 11:23–26
Day 3: 1 Cor 11:27–34
Day 4: Luke 22:14–20
Day 5: John 6:32–35
Day 6: Ps 51:1–12
Day 7: Reflect & Pray

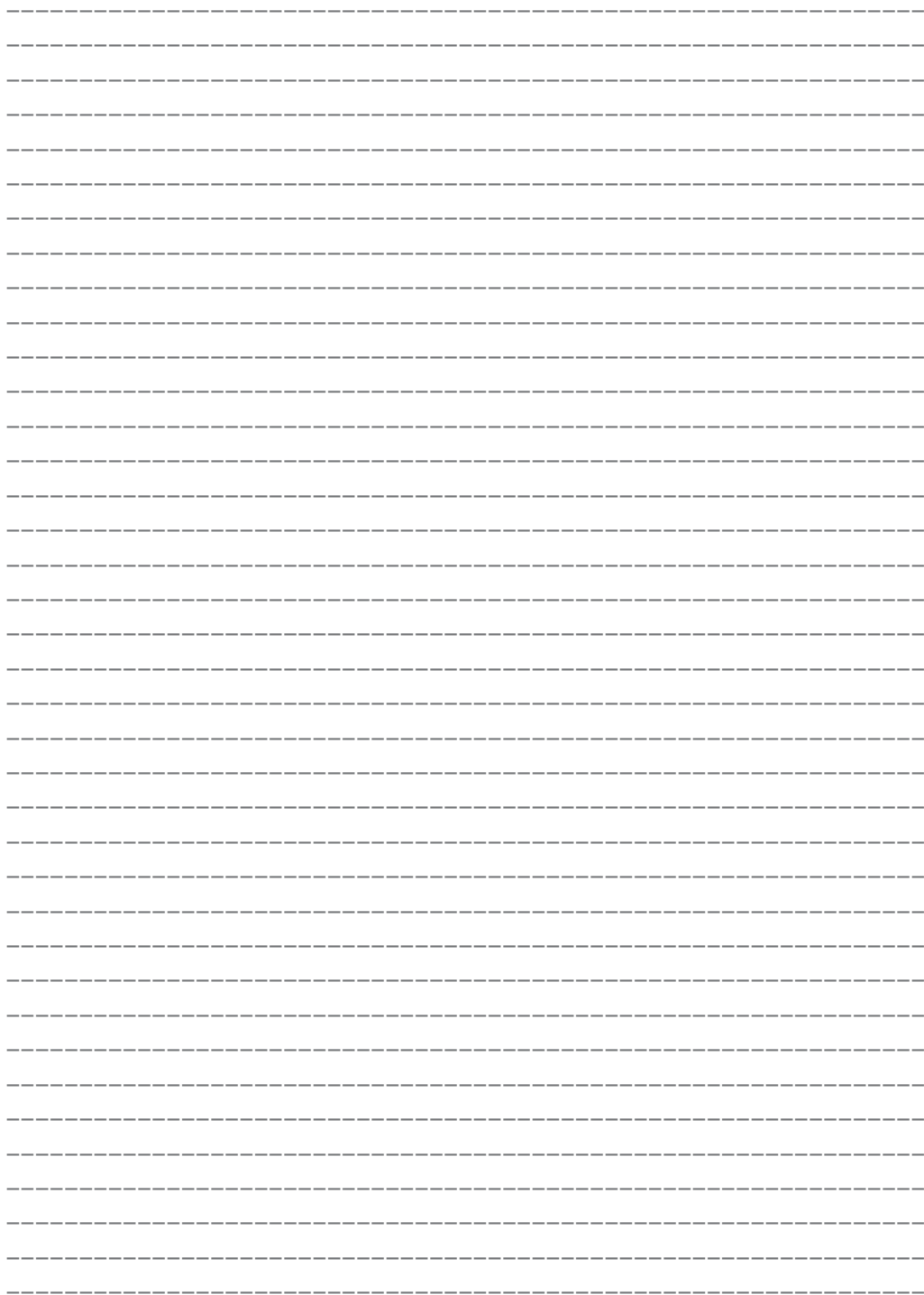
REFLECTION THOUGHT:

Is my heart aligned with the meaning of the Lord’s Supper—grace, unity, and remembrance?

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WHEN RIGHTS BECOME WRONGS

1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this study is to consider how our lives are to be lived as new creations under Christ. While we have freedom to do many things, we must not cause our brothers or sisters to stumble in doing so. Paul uses the example of food, but this extends to all areas of life.

SHARE TOGETHER

Check in with each other. Discuss some or all of the following questions:

- What has God been teaching you lately?
- How has God been stretching you?
- Where have you seen God working in your life?

PRAY TOGETHER

Before you begin your discussion, spend time in prayer together. While catching up you may have identified some prayer points you should include. Be sure to pray that God makes you more like Jesus through this discussion.

PURSUE GOD

- 1 As a child, what food did you refuse to eat? How about now?

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-3

- 2 What is this 'knowledge' that Paul is talking about? (see 8:4)

- 3 What warning does he give (v.1b-2)? Why does he give this warning at this point?

- 4 What comfort does he give (v.3)?

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 8:4-6

- 5 What are some things that Paul points out as fact?

- 6 What is his attitude toward other 'gods'?

- 7 Why would eating food sacrificed to idols be difficult for some believers?
- 8 What does Paul mean when he refers to the "weak brother" (v.7-13)?
- 9 How is it that what is not sin for one believer is sin for another?
- 10 How does Paul tell us to act toward those who struggle in certain areas?
- 11 We do not stumble over food sacrificed to idols today, but what other things might cause a believer to stumble in our day and age?

LIVE IT OUT

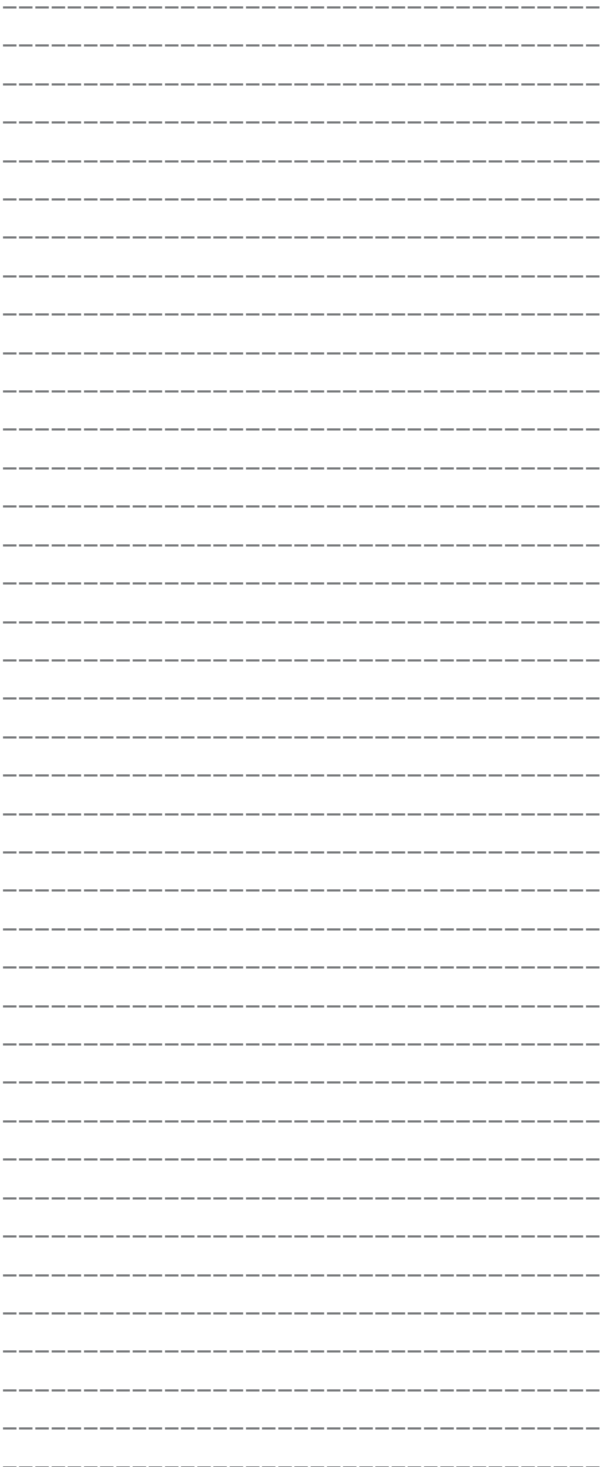
- 12 What approach do you tend to take toward things that may fall into a "grey area"?
- 13 How far should a Christian go to avoid being a "stumbling block"?
- 14 What is one thing you can do to show love or to encourage a brother or sister in Christ this week?

PRAY

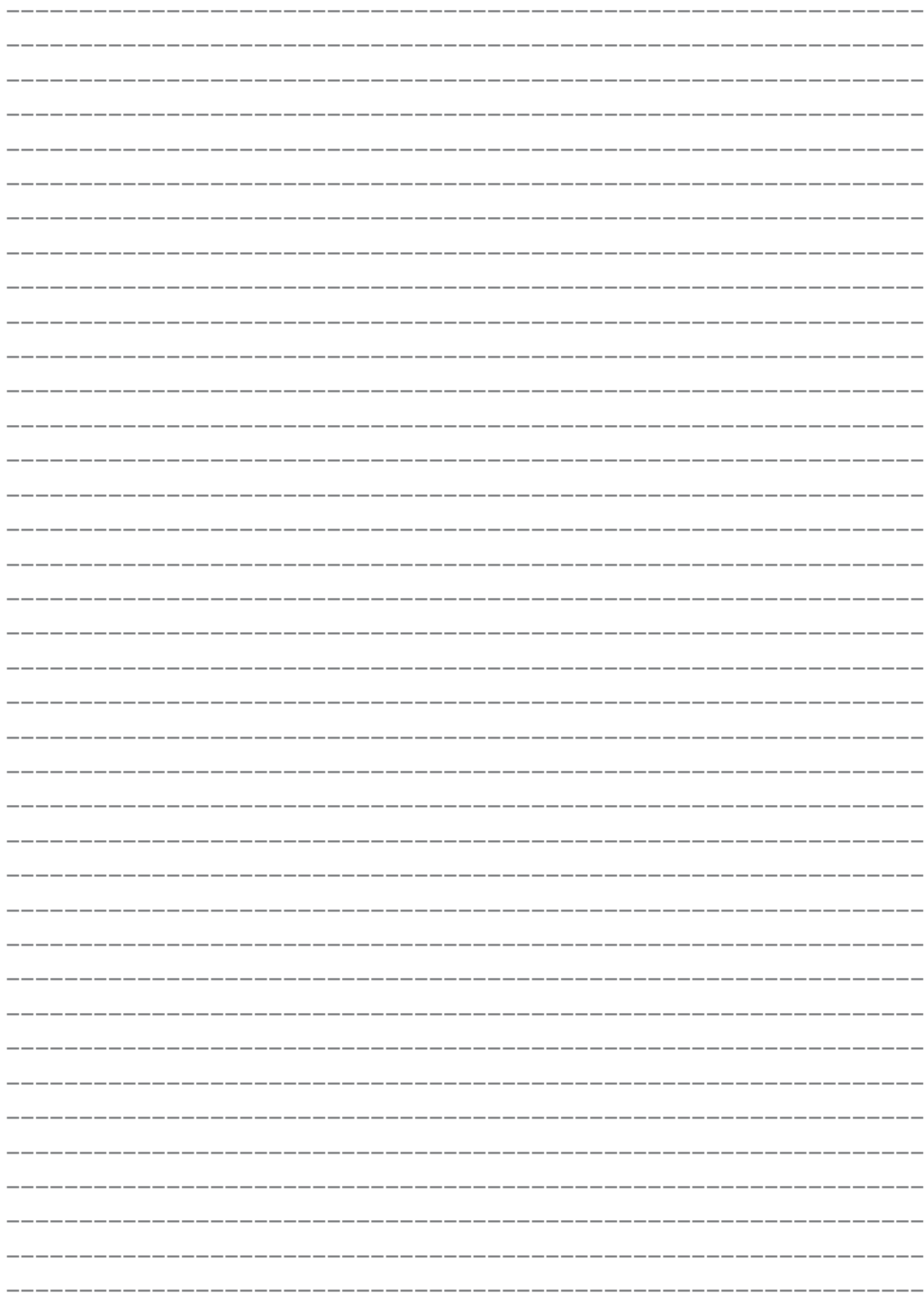
Faithful Father,

Thank you for the many blessings and provisions you have given to us. Please forgive us when we take these things for granted, and when we put these things above you! Help us to be willing to give these things up for the sake of your Gospel. Help us to give back to you that which you have given to us.

In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ,
Amen.

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ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE

1 CORINTHIANS 9:1-23

OBJECTIVE

Paul teaches that pastors should be paid by their congregations to free them to pursue gospel work, and that the congregants should be doing so willingly, giving examples of vineyard workers and plough oxen. Having set this expectation, Paul then moves to show what he is willing to give up for the cause of the gospel, and the cost of doing so. He embraces all sorts of customs, even though he does not need to abide by them, in order that, by his witness, some people might be saved.

SHARE TOGETHER

Check in with each other.

- What has God been teaching you lately?

PRAY TOGETHER

Before you begin your discussion, spend time in prayer together. While catching up you may have identified some prayer points you should include. Be sure to pray that God makes you more like Jesus through this discussion.

PURSUE GOD

- 1 Describe a time when you were overqualified for a particular job. Describe a time when you felt underqualified.



READ 1 CORINTHIANS 9:1-18

- 2 In verses 1 & 2, Paul defends his role as an apostle. Why do you think he does this?
- 3 Why would some of the Corinthians try and cast doubt on Paul's authority as an apostle?
- 4 What "rights" as an apostle does Paul say he is entitled to in this passage (v.4-5)? Why is he making this argument?
- 5 Why does Paul draw a connection between working as a soldier and a vineyard worker, and a gospel/ministry worker (v.7)?

6 Why does he quote the law of Moses (v.8-10)? What link does this passage have to the Old Testament?

7 Do you agree with Paul's question in verse 11? Why or why not?

8 If Paul had the right to the things he mentions in verses 3-14, why doesn't he take advantage of these rights?

9 What reason does Paul willingly give up his rights? How might Paul using his rights hinder the gospel (v.12b)?

10 How do you feel about giving up your rights? How hard is it for you to sacrifice what's yours?

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 9:19-23

11 Can you summarise what Paul is saying in these verses?

12 How should this principle shape the way we live our lives and carry out God's mission in our church?

LIVE IT OUT

13 What is your response when you hear a truth from God that you don't want to hear?

14 Paul's calling is a costly one, both personally and financially. What are some things in your life that might prevent you from living out God's calling on your life?

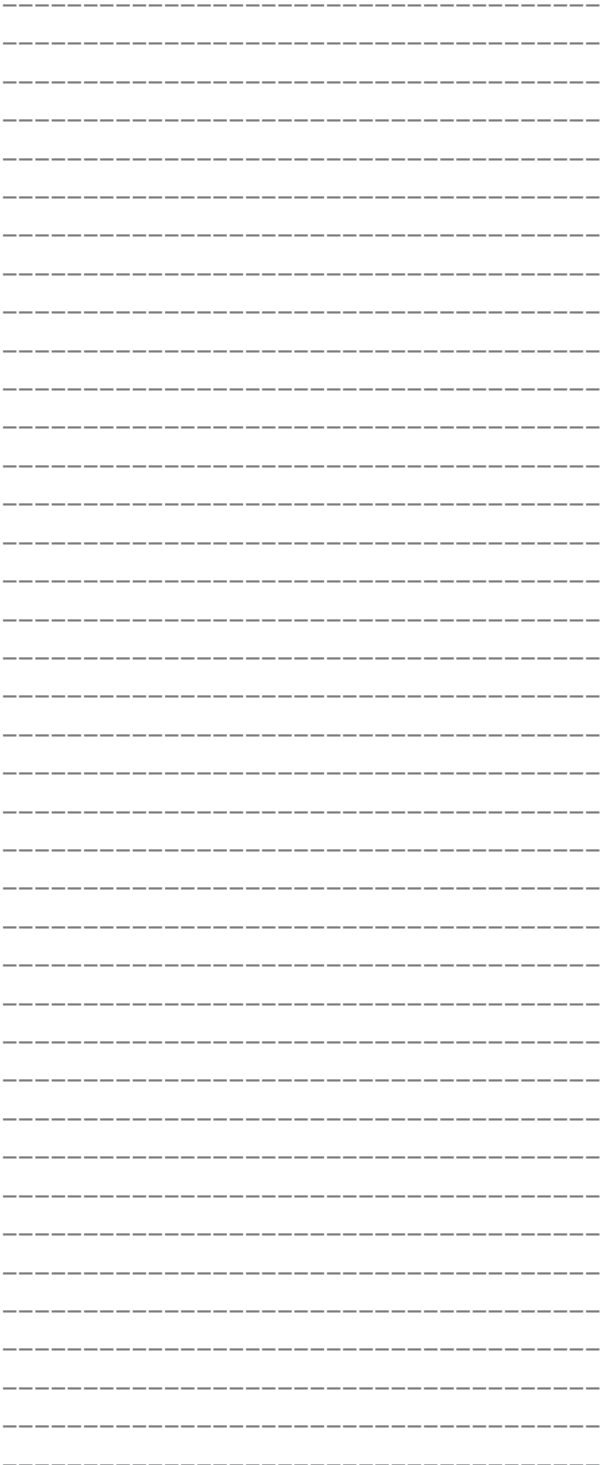
PRAY

Lord God,

We are often prideful people and struggle to give sacrificially. We know Your work is important, so we ask that You help us to see the priorities clearly and be ready, willingly and gladly, to serve You. Please forgive us when we fail to do so and help us to encourage others when we see them struggling as well.

Help us to also keep supporting our pastors, gospel workers, and others we know working in the harvest (Matt 9:37-38) in the ways that we can, both in our prayers and with the resources you have given us.

In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.



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EYES ON THE PRIZE

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24 - 10:14

OBJECTIVE

God warns us to continue in the faith lest we be disqualified and fall and experience destruction. These warnings are real. They are one of the means God uses to enable us to continue. If the apostle Paul needed to exercise self-discipline vigilantly in order to run the race, how much more do we? When we read Old Testament stories about Israelites rebelling against God by turning to idolatry and immoral sex, testing God, and grumbling, we might (rightly) think that those Israelites sure were foolish. But how much more foolish are we—we who have the privilege of living “in these last days,” when God “has spoken to us by his Son” (Heb. 1:2)—when we rebel against God by turning to idolatry, immoral sex, testing Christ, or grumbling?

PRAY TOGETHER

Before you begin your discussion, spend time in prayer together. While catching up you may have identified some prayer points you should include. Be sure to pray that God makes you more like Jesus through this discussion.

PURSUE GOD

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-27

- 1 What is the only way to get the prize (v.24-25a)?
- 2 Why does Paul think Christians should undergo this type of training (v.25)?
- 3 Why is Paul so concerned that we go through this (v.26-27)?
- 4 What are some of the dangers of not practicing this discipline?

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-14

- 5 Paul talks about the cloud, the sea, and the rock (v.1-4). What part of the Bible is Paul drawing on? Why might Paul draw on this Old Testament story?
- 6 All the Israelites lived under the same law, ate the same food and drink, and lived through the same miracles (v.3-4), but God was not pleased with all of them (v.5). What lessons does this have for us?

- 7** What does it mean to 'set your heart on evil things' (v.6)?
- 8** How do the four types of sin committed by the Israelites (v.7-10) serve as a specific warning to the Corinthians? What about Christians today?
- 9** What is Paul warning us about in verse 12? Have you ever experienced this reality or seen it in the life of someone else?
- 10** What are the four things Paul tells us about temptation in verse 13?
- 11** How can the statements and promises in verse 13 help you in your struggle against temptation?

LIVE IT OUT

- 12** It can be difficult to grapple with God's acts of judgement in the Old Testament. How can this passage help you to work through this, either for yourself or with someone else?

- 13** In light of Paul's warnings, what changes can you make in your life (v.12)? Using this passage, how can you encourage someone struggling with their sin?
- 14** Pray Giving thanks for His Word and asking God to help us grow to be more like Him

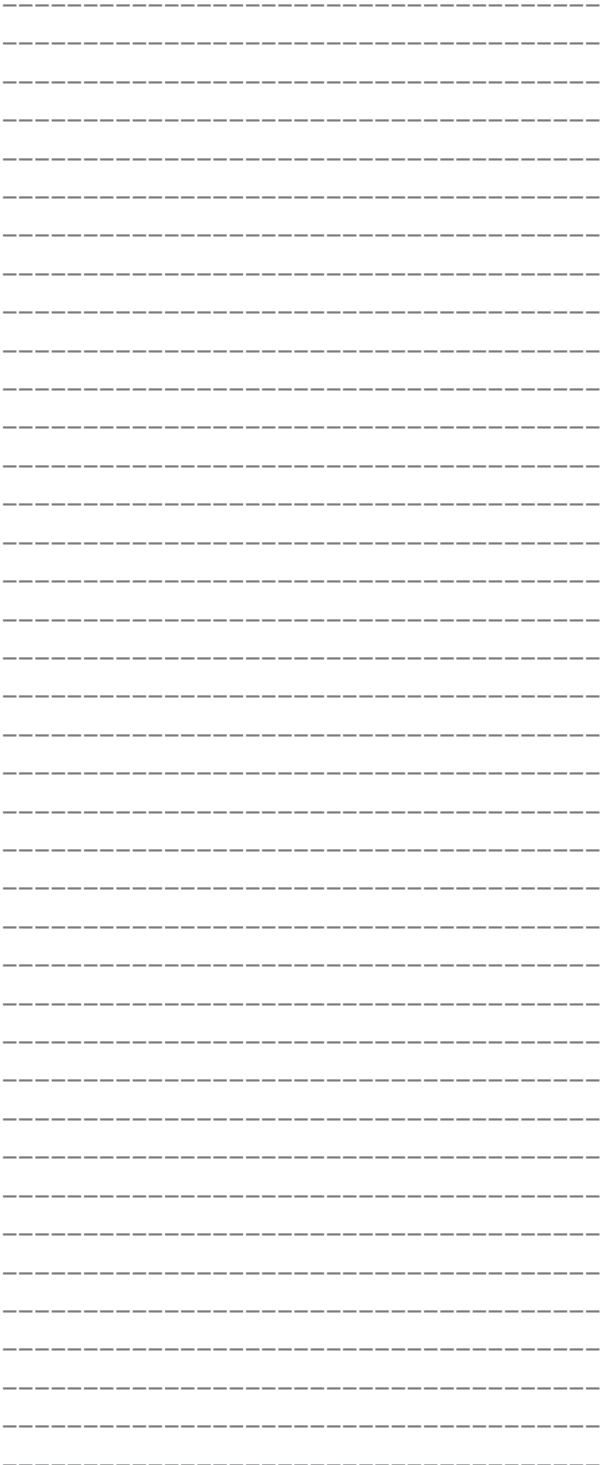
PRAY

Good and Faithful God,

Help us to keep our eyes on the prize and help us not to stumble. Help us to not be too prideful to recognise where we might stumble and practice the discipline necessary to keep us on the narrow path. Help us to encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ to do the same.

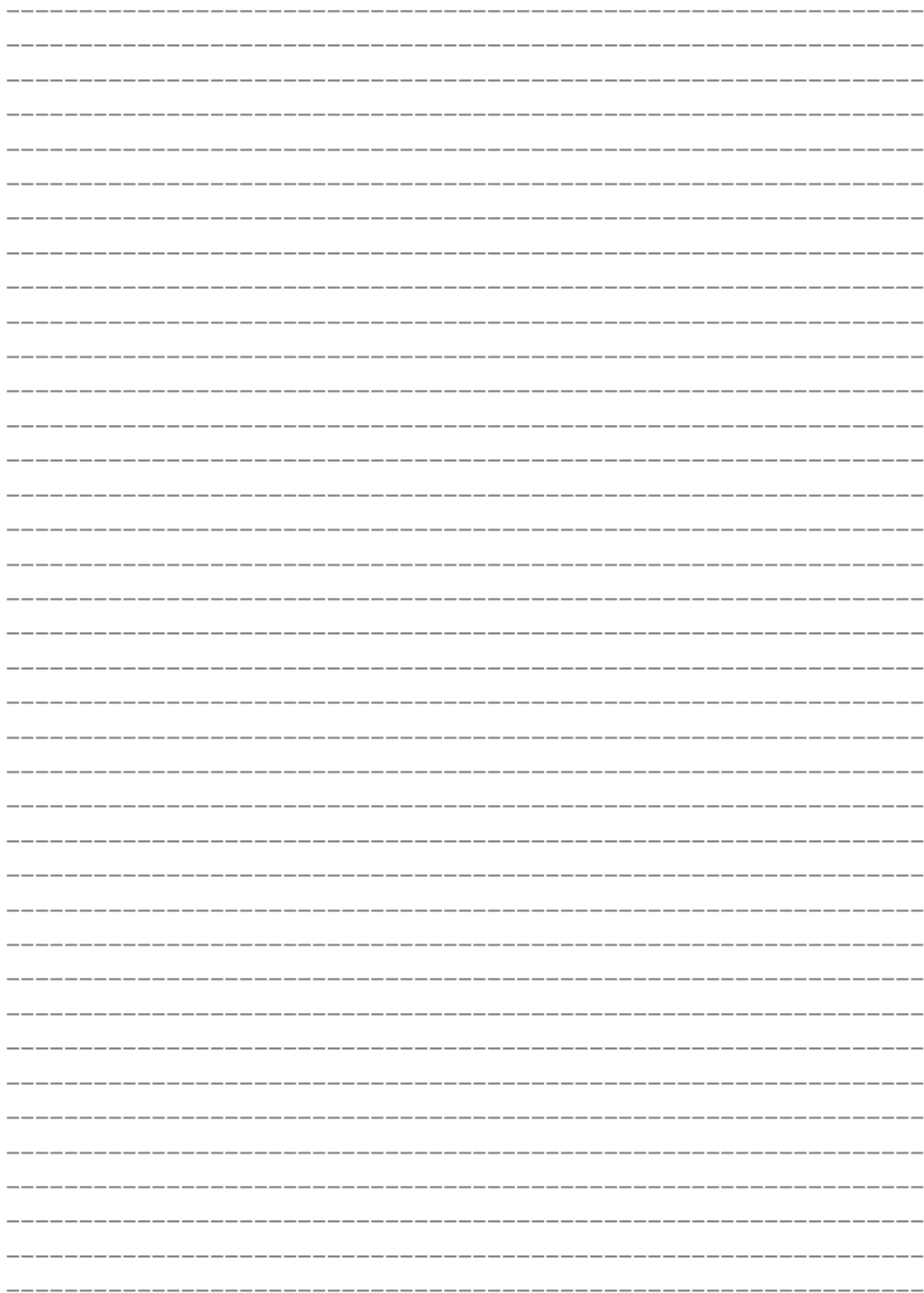
Thank you for the example we can see in Israel, and for the way Paul uses their failings to warn and encourage us. Help us to heed these warnings and grapple with these difficult passages in a way that honours and glorifies You.

In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.

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WHAT IS THE CHIEF END OF MAN?

1 CORINTHIANS 10:14-22

OBJECTIVE

This study aims to help us understand how loyalty to Christ shapes everyday choices. It aims to clarify the limits of Christian freedom, the dangers of compromising with idolatry, and the call to act for God's glory. This study aims to encourage believers to prioritise love for others, communal responsibility, and Christ-like self-denial in all areas of life

SHARE TOGETHER

Check in with each other. Discuss some or all of the following questions:

- What has God been teaching you lately?
- How has God been stretching you?
- Where have you seen God working in your life?

PRAY TOGETHER

Before you begin your discussion, spend time in prayer together. While catching up you may have identified some prayer points you should include. Be sure to pray that God makes you more like Jesus through this discussion.

PURSUE GOD

- 1 Was your upbringing more permissive or strict? If comfortable, share with the group.
- 2 How would you define the word 'freedom'? What does that word mean to you?



READ 1 CORINTHIANS 10:14-22

- 3 Why do you think Paul urges the Corinthian believers to 'flee from idolatry' in verse 14?
- 4 What are one or two 'idols' you see being worshipped today?
- 5 How does Paul use the Lord's Supper to explain loyalty to Christ?
- 6 What contrasts does Paul draw between participation in Christ and participation in pagan practices?

- 7** How would you explain to a friend that eating the bread and drinking the cup is a "participation" in Christ's body and blood?

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 10:23-11:1

- 8** In what ways is a Christian free (v.23-24)? How do you exercise your freedom in Christ?
- 9** How does Paul describe the limits of Christian freedom?
- 10** What role does the conscience – both our own and others' – play in Paul's argument?
- 11** Why does Paul emphasise God's glory as the guiding principle for daily actions?
- 12** How can verses 27-33 help us navigate our relationships with non-Christians?
- 13** What do you think Paul means in 11:1?

LIVE IT OUT

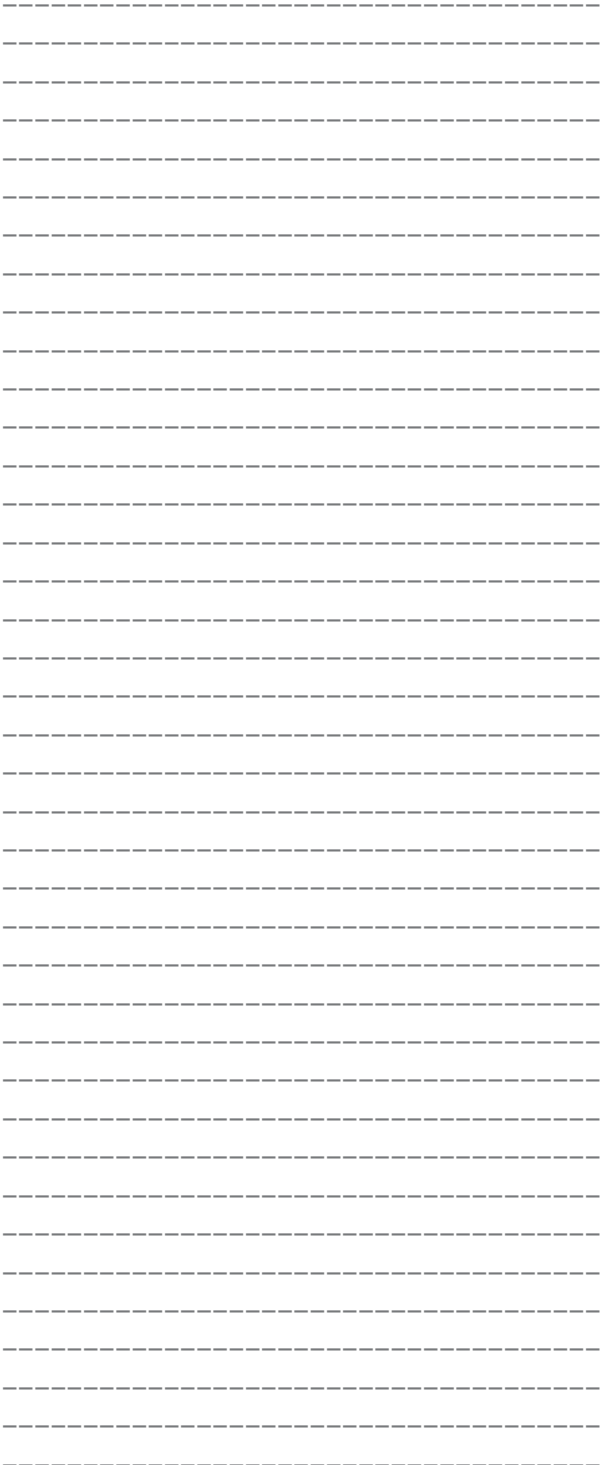
- 14** Is there anything you do that does not bother your conscience but might bother the conscience of someone else? If comfortable, explain.
- 15** What can you do this week to help live out verse 31 in your life?

PRAY

Heavenly Father,

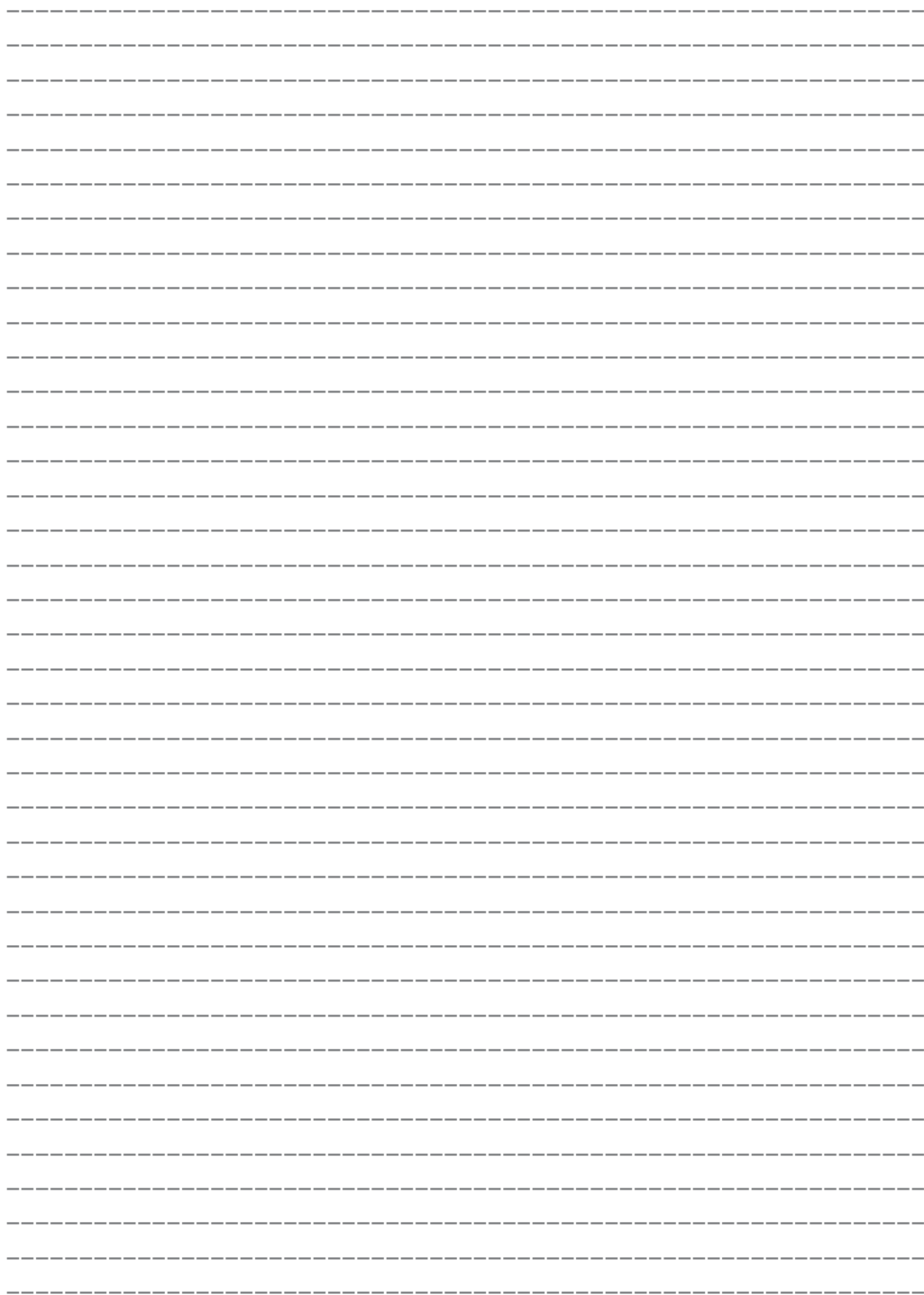
We thank you for meeting us through your Word tonight. Help us to flee from anything that pulls our hearts away from you, And help us to treasure the grace you've given us in Christ. Teach us to use our freedom with love, not seeking our own good, but the good of others, so that our lives might point people to you. As we go, help us to imitate Christ in humility, sacrifice, and love. We place ourselves in your hands and trust you to shape us more into his likeness by your Holy Spirit.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



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HAIRCUTS AND HEAD COVERINGS

1 CORINTHIANS 11:2-16

OBJECTIVE

This study aims to help us understand Paul's concerns about honour, authority, and gender distinction in gathered worship. It seeks to explore how theological convictions, cultural expressions, and church practices interact. The study should encourage thoughtful reflection on how worship behaviours communicate values, uphold order, and reflect faithfulness to God while remaining sensitive to cultural context and communal unity.

SHARE TOGETHER

Check in with each other. Discuss some or all of the following questions:

- How has God been stretching you?
- Where have you seen God working in your life?

PRAY TOGETHER

Before you begin your discussion, spend time in prayer together. While catching up you may have identified some prayer points you should include. Be sure to pray that God makes you more like Jesus through this discussion.

PURSUE GOD

- 1 Share with the group the most outrageous or interesting haircut you've ever had.
- 2 Have you ever worn something inappropriate to a formal event? How did it make you feel?



READ 1 CORINTHIANS 11:2-16

- 3 What are your first impressions of this passage?
- 4 Why do you think Paul begins this section by affirming the Corinthians before correcting them?
- 5 What problem in the Corinthian church is Paul addressing?
- 6 How does Paul explain the concept of 'headship' in verses 3-6?
- 7 What reasons does Paul give from creation to support his argument (v.7-10)? Consider the following from the ESV Study Bible: "Paul's appeal to the order of creation (cf. also 1 Cor. 11:3, 11-12) shows that his words are not merely directed to the cultural situation of his day. The principle of male headship in marriage continues

through all generations, though some cultural expressions of that principle (e.g., that women should wear head coverings) may vary." (p.2207)

- 8 What questions do you have about headship? Why is it a good thing?
- 9 In this passage, what restrictions does Paul place on the women? On the men? What is the principle underlying these instructions? Consider some of the repeated words (i.e., "dishonour", "disgrace", "glory", "proper"). While the particulars are different, how might this principle apply to us?
- 10 How does Paul connect outward appearance with honour or dishonour?
- 11 What role do cultural customs seem to play in Paul's instructions?
- 12 How does Paul balance mutual dependence between men and women in verses 11-12?
- 13 Why do you think Paul appeals to 'the churches of God' and common practice at the end of the passage (v.16)?

LIVE IT OUT

- 14 Many things in our worship reflect the culture we live in (e.g., type of music, style of dress, etc.). How do you discern when a cultural practice is acceptable and when it is a hindrance to worship? How can you best prepare yourself for worship this week?
- 15 To learn more about this passage, consider reading this article: 'Going on a Bear Hunt: Head Coverings, Custom, and Proper Decorum: Revisiting 1 Corinthians 11:2-16 by Steven Wedgworth'.

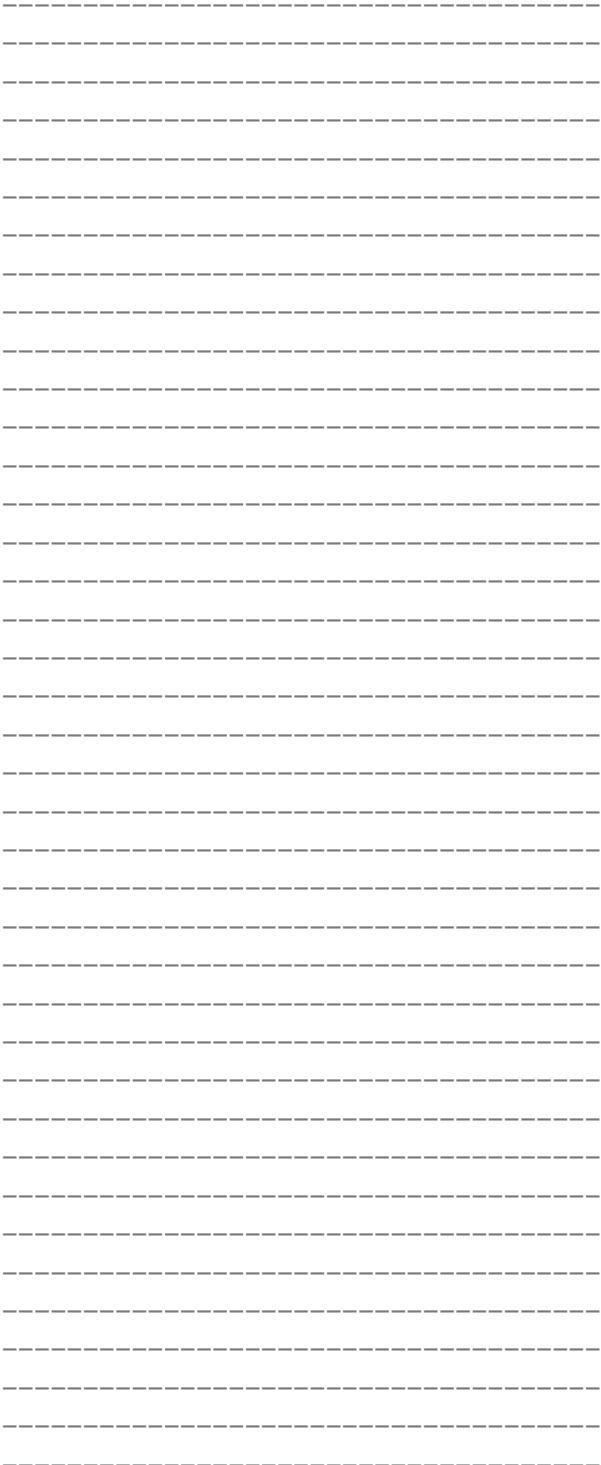


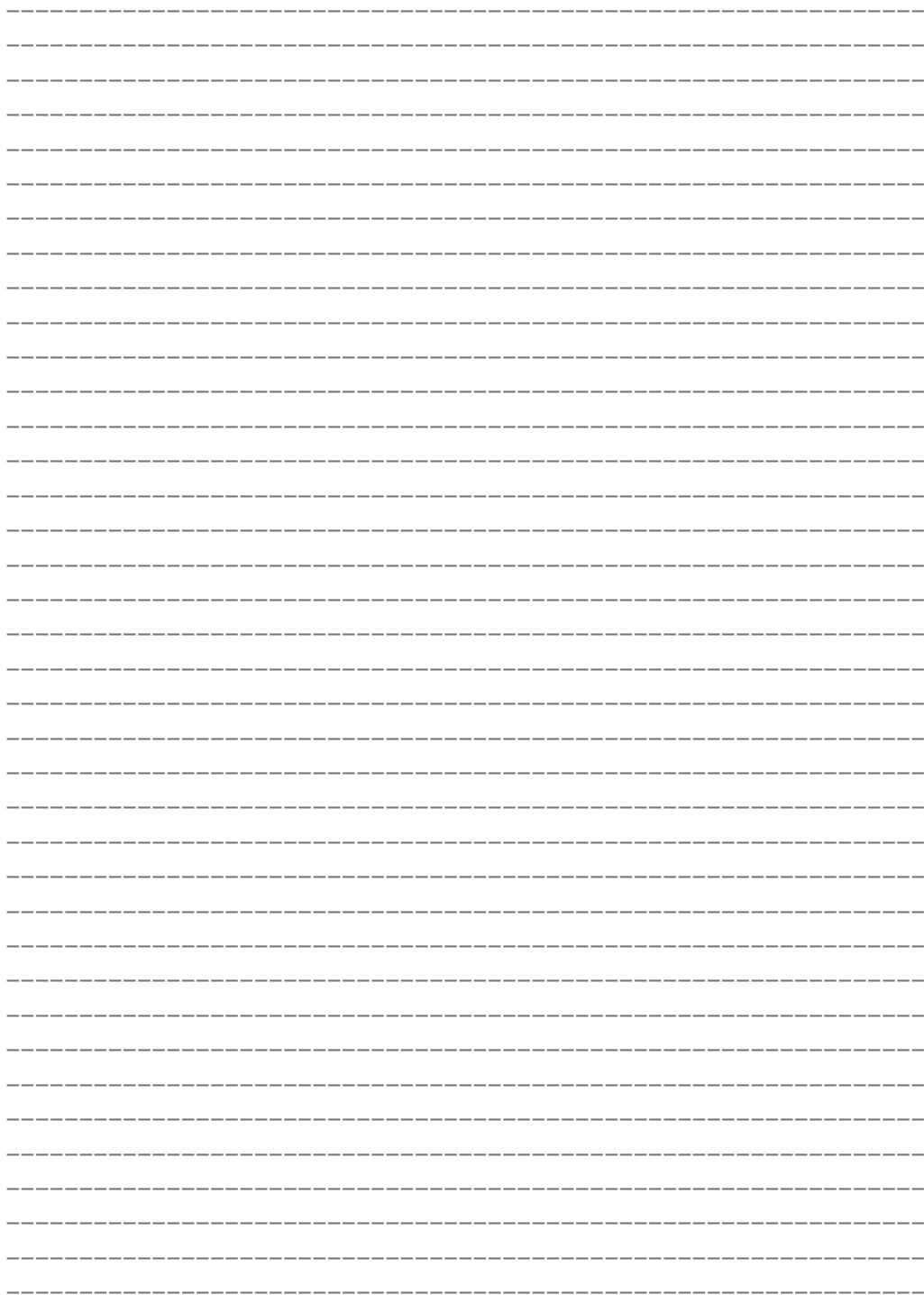
PRAY

Gracious God,

We thank you for the wisdom of your word and for the good order you have designed for your people. Help us to honour you in how we live together, reflecting humility, respect, and love for one another. Teach us to hold firmly to the gospel we have received and to express it in ways that bring glory to you. May our lives point beyond ourselves to Christ, who is our head and our hope.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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OBJECTIVE

The objective of this study is to help us grasp the Lord's Supper as a communal act that proclaims Christ's death and shapes the church's life together. It aims to address attitudes and behaviours that undermine unity, encourage thoughtful self-examination rooted in repentance, and highlight the call to discern and care for the body of Christ. This study should lead believers to approach the Lord's Supper with humility, gratitude, and renewed commitment to love and mutual responsibility.

SHARE TOGETHER

Check in with each other. Discuss some or all of the following questions:

- Where have you seen God working in your life?

PRAY TOGETHER

Before you begin your discussion, spend time in prayer together. While catching up you may have identified some prayer points you should include. Be sure to pray that God makes you more like Jesus through this discussion.

PURSUE GOD

- 1 Have you ever been part of a group or an event where people were clearly treated differently? How did that make you feel?



- 2 What specific problems does Paul identify in the Corinthians' gatherings?
- 3 How do social divisions affect the way the Lord's Supper is practised?
- 4 Why does Paul say their meetings do more harm than good?
- 5 What changes would the Corinthians need to make to ensure that it really was "the Lord's Supper" (consider verse 33-34)?

- 6 What key elements does Paul emphasise when recounting Jesus' words at the Last Supper?
- 7 What does it mean to 'proclaim the Lord's death until he comes' (v.26)?
- 8 How does Paul define eating and drinking 'in an unworthy manner' (v.27)? What are the consequences of eating and drinking in this way?
- 9 How are we to examine ourselves prior to partaking of the Lord's Supper? Why are we to do this? (v.28)
- 10 Can you summarise the main point of verses 30-32?

LIVE IT OUT

- 11 Why is it important for Christians to participate in Lord's Supper?
- 12 What does it mean to you to participate in Lord's Supper?

PRAY

Gracious Father,

We thank you for reminding us that we are one body in Christ. Forgive us where we have acted without love or failed to care for one another as you call us to. As we remember the sacrifice of Jesus, help us to examine our hearts, to lay aside selfishness, and to approach your table with humility, gratitude, and faith. Shape us into a community that reflects your grace, where each person is valued and built up in love.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

