

better 2015 *Together*

25-27th August



Timetable

Tuesday

- 18.00 > Arrival
- 18.30 Dinner
- 19.30 Welcome + Introduction Talk
- 22.00 > Prayers

Wednesday

- 7.30 Quiet Time
- 8.30 Morning Prayer
- 9.00 Breakfast
- 10.00 Talk 1 + Q&As
- 11.30 Break
- 12.00 Workshop 1
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.00 Games
- 15.00 Talk 2
- 17.00 Break
- 18.00 Workshop
- 20.00 Confession
- 21.00 Dinner

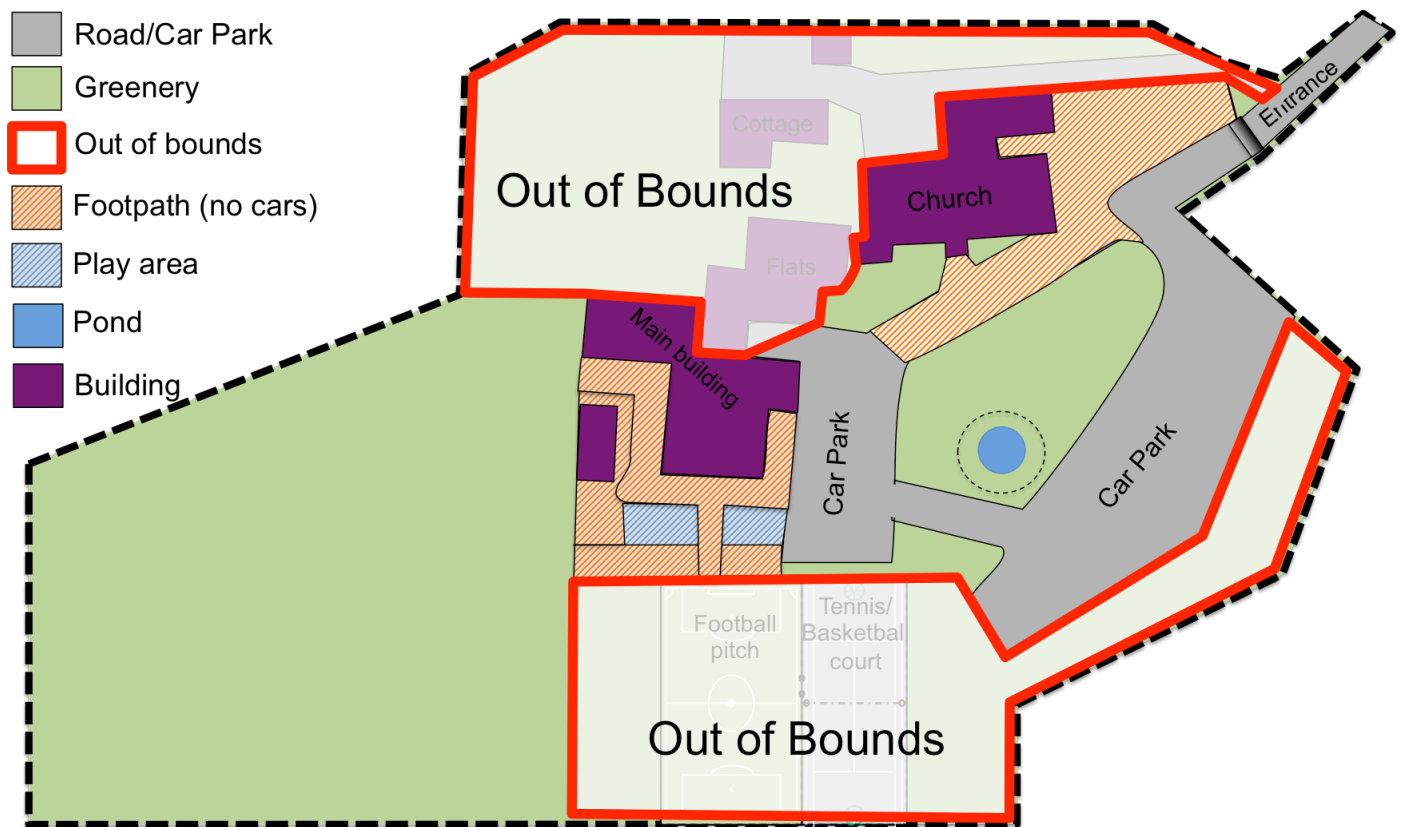
Thursday

- 8.00 Liturgy
- 11.00 Breakfast
- 12.00 Talk 3
- 12.30-13.30 Workshop
- 345093582 Conclusion
- 2094823 Lunch + Activity

Workshops

Years 5-6	Church (front)
Years 7-8	Crying Room
Year 9	Altar
Years 10-11	Church (back)

General Rules and Guidelines



- **Participate** in all of the talks. Share what is on your mind because someone might have the same question and be shy to ask as well.
- **Attend** all scheduled activities on time.
- **Be mindful** of your language (profanity, gossip, inappropriate comments).
- **Mobile phones are banned**
- **Clean up** after yourself (group activities, room, eating food).
- Food is **not permitted** upstairs in the Centre.
- Football field is **out of bounds** and not available.
- You are only permitted to enter **your own** bedroom

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Case Studies

<p>“_____ believed God, .. And he was called the friend of God.” (James 2:23)</p> <p>How did he become the friend of God?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. _____ God’s commands (Gen 12:1) 2. _____ God’s promises (Gen 13:16) 3. _____ God (Gen 22:1-3) 4. _____ with God (Gen 18:17, 23-32) <p>Proof that God trusted Abraham</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genesis 15:13-15 • Genesis 19:1 	<p>“The Lord spoke to _____ face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.” (Ex 33:11)</p> <p>How did he become the friend of God?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. _____ with God (Exodus 33:11) 2. _____ with God (Exodus 34:28) 3. Asked God for _____ (Num 11:13) 4. _____ God wherever (Ex 14:2-4) 5. _____ in God (Exodus 14:13) <p>Proof that God trusted Moses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exodus 33:18-23
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How can I become friends with God?

- True _____ is practical _____.
- The better you _____ God, the closer you are to Him.
- “Blessing comes to those who _____ to the Lord (Luke 11:28)
- The key to God’s heart is to _____ with Him.

Who are the saints?

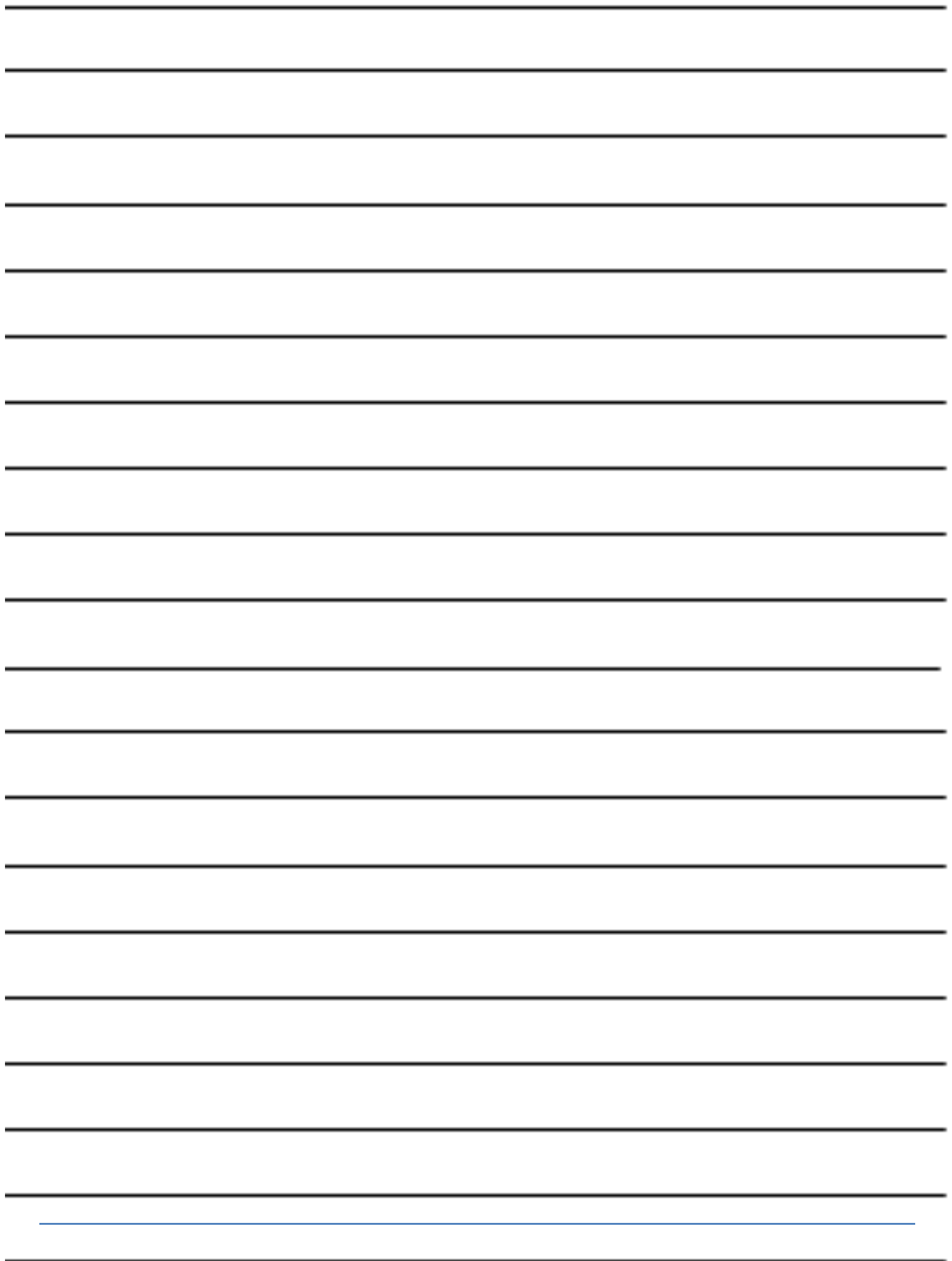
- The saints are the members of _____ including those in _____.
- “...you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but _____ with the saints and _____ of the household of God.” (Ephesians 2:19)
- “we were all baptized into _____” (1 Cor 12:13)

Why be friends with Saints?

- They _____ God
- To _____ from and _____ (1 Cor 11:1)
- Improve our _____ with God (John 4:39)
- To see _____ they became friends with God (Song of Songs 1:8)
- Sometimes God _____ us because of them (Genesis 12:2)
- They _____ and _____ us (2 Kings 6:15)

How can I become friends with a saint?

- _____ them (not more than God). (Matt 10:37)
- _____ their stories (Hebrews 13:7)
- Take their _____ (Acts 5:15)
- _____ (God’s work in) them (Psalm 150)
- Hang their _____ because they are _____
- Ask them to _____ for us (John 42:8)
- _____ them when I’m in trouble



Quiet Time

Quiet time is a daily time I set aside to be alone with God, to get to know Him through the Bible and prayer.

1. Is the key to **pleasing** God
2. Is the key to becoming **Christ-like**
3. It is the key to **answered** prayers
4. It is they key to **successful** living

How do I get started?

1. SELECT A SPECIFIC TIME

The best time is when I am at my best. Morning is the ideal, because that is the example that Christ Himself set for us. Would you go into battle without your sword? Whatever time you choose, be CONSISTENT.

2. CHOOSE A SPECIAL PLACE.

"Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed." Mark 1:35

3. GATHER THE RESOURCES YOU WILL NEED

You will need three things: a Bible, a pen and something to write in like a notebook. You should write down what the Lord speaks to you about, and to keep your prayer list.

4. BEGIN WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDES

- Reverence: "Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10
- Faith: "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law." Psalm 119:18
- Obedience: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:33

The 15 Minute Plan

1.RELAX (1 Minute)

Be still and quiet! Slow down! Prepare your heart. Take deep breaths and ask God to: Meet with you. Set aside distractions (including your phone). Reveal to you His Word for today. Bring comfort and clarification to your life.

2. READ A PASSAGE (4 Minutes)

Read and re-read a passage slowly, perhaps repeating a verse several times, expecting God to make it come alive with relevance for your situation. Read until you feel God has told you something.

3. REFLECT ON THE VERSE (4 Minutes)

Here are 6 ways to help you meditate on a verse:

- **Picture it!** Visualise the scene in your mind.
- **Pronounce it!** Say the verse aloud, emphasise a different word each time
- **Paraphrase it!** Rewrite the verse in your own words.
- **Personalise it!** Replace pronouns or people in the verse with your name
- **Pray it!** Turn the verse into a prayer and say it back to God.
- **Probe it!** Ask the following 9 questions [S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S.]. Is there any...
 - **Sin** to confess?
 - **Promise** to claim?
 - **Attitude** to change?
 - **Command** to keep?
 - **Example** to follow?
 - **Prayer** to pray?
 - **Error** to avoid?
 - **Truth** to believe?
 - **Something** to thank God for?

4. RECORD WHAT GOD DID (2 Minutes)

In your journal, write out the verse that spoke to you most personally. Then write out a personal application statement that is practical and measurable. What does the passage say generally (What is it teaching me?) What does the passage say to me personally (What should I do specifically?) Refer back to your verse and application several times throughout the day. Try to memorise the verse and meditate on the application all throughout your day

5. REQUEST (4 Minutes)

Conclude your Quiet Time by talking to God about what He has shown you and making requests from your prayer list.

Friendship with God + Saints - Workshop

What is friendship?

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Verse:.....

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What helps / prevents me becoming a friend of Jesus?

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Verse:.....

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Why have the saints as friends?

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Verse:.....

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Can I be ashamed of a friend? Am I ready to die for Him?

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Verse:.....

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What does it mean to call Jesus your friend / for Him to call us friends?

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Verse:.....

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Be a Better Friend

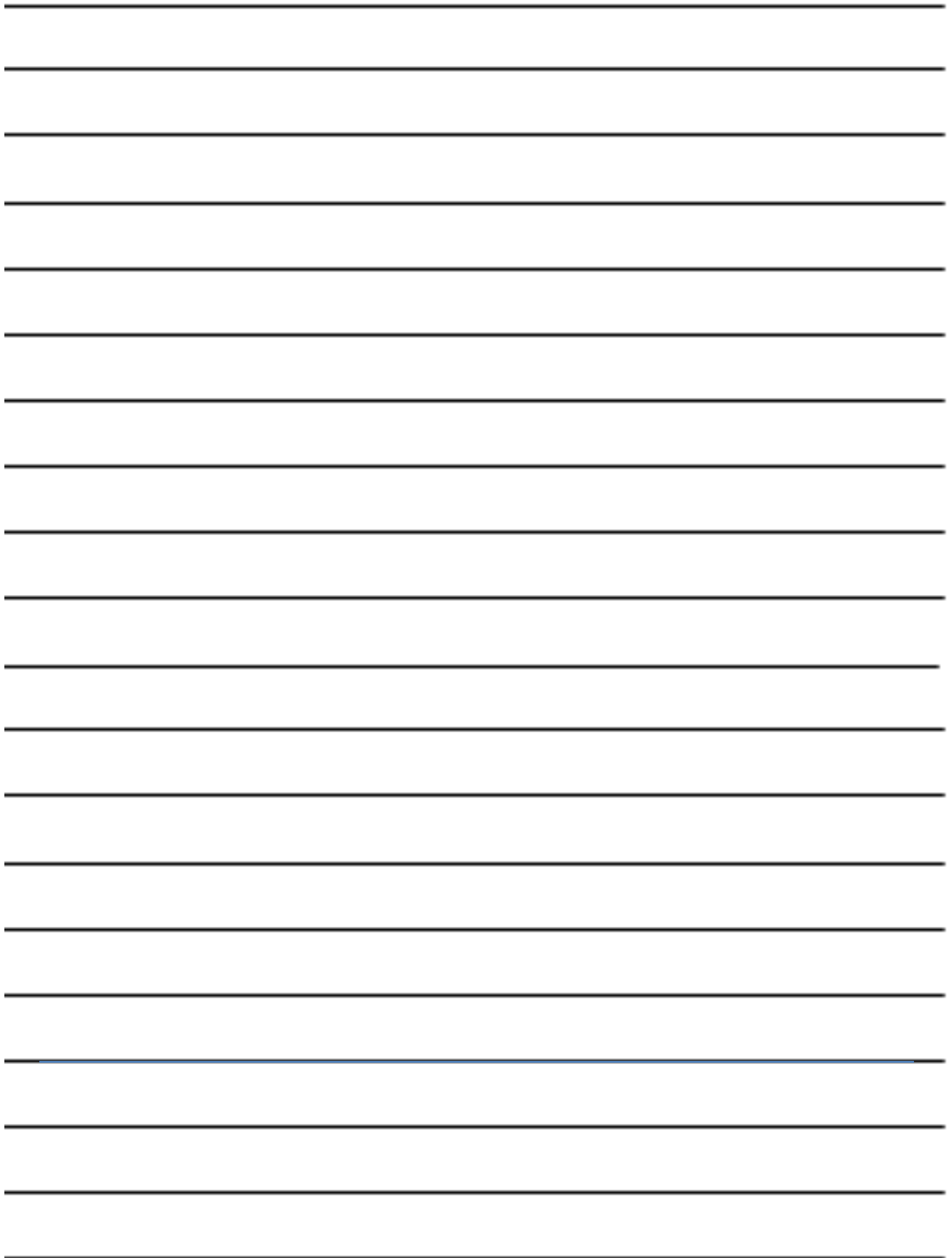
What are some practical steps you can take to be a true friend?

Think of one thing you can do this week to reach out to a friend in need or befriend someone who needs it. Be specific. Who needs your love, attention, advice, or shoulder to cry on? What specific step will you take to demonstrate that you're more concerned with being a friend to that individual than having the right friends or a lot of friends?

Here are a few ideas to get the ball rolling:

- Is there a widow in your church who is lonely? Why not make a date to go out for coffee with her? People your grandma's age might not fit your typical friendship profile, but we're not talking about typical friendship here!
- Is it the first week of school where you live? Is there someone new or strange whom you've seen sitting alone in the lunchroom? Park your lunch tray next to her, and strike up a conversation.
- Can you think of a someone whom you used to be great friends with in elementary or junior high but you've since dropped from your "it" list? Reach out to her. Make plans to spend time with her away from the rest of your friend group or invite her to join your group of friends for an outing.
- Write an encouraging note to someone who is down or who seems frustrated during a difficult time in their lives even if they haven't been kind to you.
- Reach out to someone older or younger than you.
- *Pray that God would your eyes to see the needs around you*

"First let us say how much pleasure friendship brings. A friend is bright with joy, and overflows when he sees his friend. He is united to him in a union having a certain ineffable pleasure of the soul. If he merely thinks of him, he rises and is carried upwards in his mind. I speak of genuine friends, who are of one accord, of those who would choose to die for their friends, of those who love warmly. Do not imagine that you can refute what I say with the example of those who love lightly, or who are sharers of your table', (Ecclesiastes 6:10), or with whom you have a nodding acquaintance. If any one has a friend such as I describe, he will understand my words; and, though he should see his friend every day, it is not often enough or him. He makes the same prayers for his friend as for himself. I now a certain man, who, when asking for the prayers of a holy man n behalf of his friend, asks him to pray first for the friend and then for himself." St John Chrysostom



Be a Better Friend - Workshop

Proverbs 18:24 A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 27:5-6 Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!

John 16:20-21 My intercessor is my friend as my eyes pour out tears to God; on behalf of a man he pleads with God as a man pleads for his friend.

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching

1. What do you think the meaning for true friendship is? _____

2. What makes your friendship different than those outside of Church? _____

3. How can we make a friendship spiritual? _____

4. Who was the true meaning of friendship and what is the biggest action that was done to prove the extent of that friendship and love? _____

5. How can you tell that the friendship you are in is bad? _____

6. When is confrontation necessary? _____

7. What questions should we ask ourselves before we confront a friend? _____

8. How do we confront a friend? _____

9. Confrontation exercise!

CLIMB THE LADDER OF INTEGRITY

10- I hope and look forward to...

9- I think my honest sharing will benefit our relationship by...

8- The most important thing I want you to know is...

7- One thing I could do to improve the situation is...

6- I am willing/not willing to...

5- This issue is important to me because I value...and I violate that value when...

4- My feelings about this are...
(What my reaction tells me about me is...)

3- My need in this issue is...

2- My part in this is...

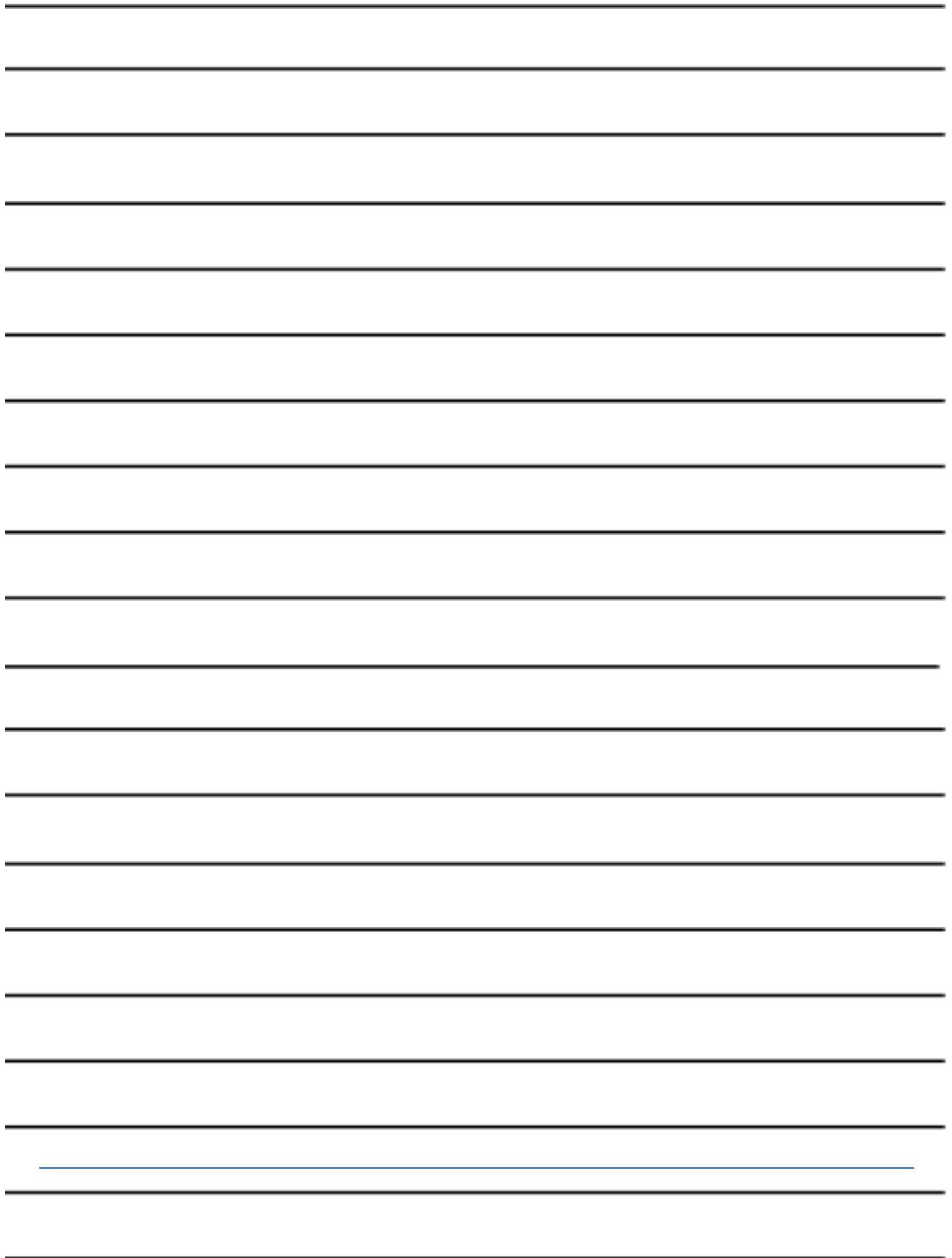
1- Right now the issue on my mind is...
(I'm anxious in talking about this because...)

What I
hope
(9-10)

What I
value
(5-8)

What is
going on
inside me
(1-4)

Be sure to stick to one issue.



Community

What is our community?

- 1 “Our Father who art in Heaven” Matthew 6:9
 - 2 “And all who believed were together and had all things in common” Acts 2:44
 - 3 “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them” Matthew 18:20
 - 4 “That there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it” Corinthians 12:25-27
 - 5 “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow” Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
 - 6 “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, stands in the path of the sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful” Psalm 1
 - 7 “He who is not with me is against me, and he who doesn’t gather with me, scatters abroad” Matthew 12:30
 - 8 “A righteous man is cautious in friendship” Proverbs 12:26
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Our Communities goal

- Earthly goal
 - 9 “And to aspire to live quietly and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on none” 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12
 - 10 “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, for God not man” Colossians 3:23
 - Heavenly goals
 - 11 “If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways, so I may know you, and continue to find favour with you” Exodus
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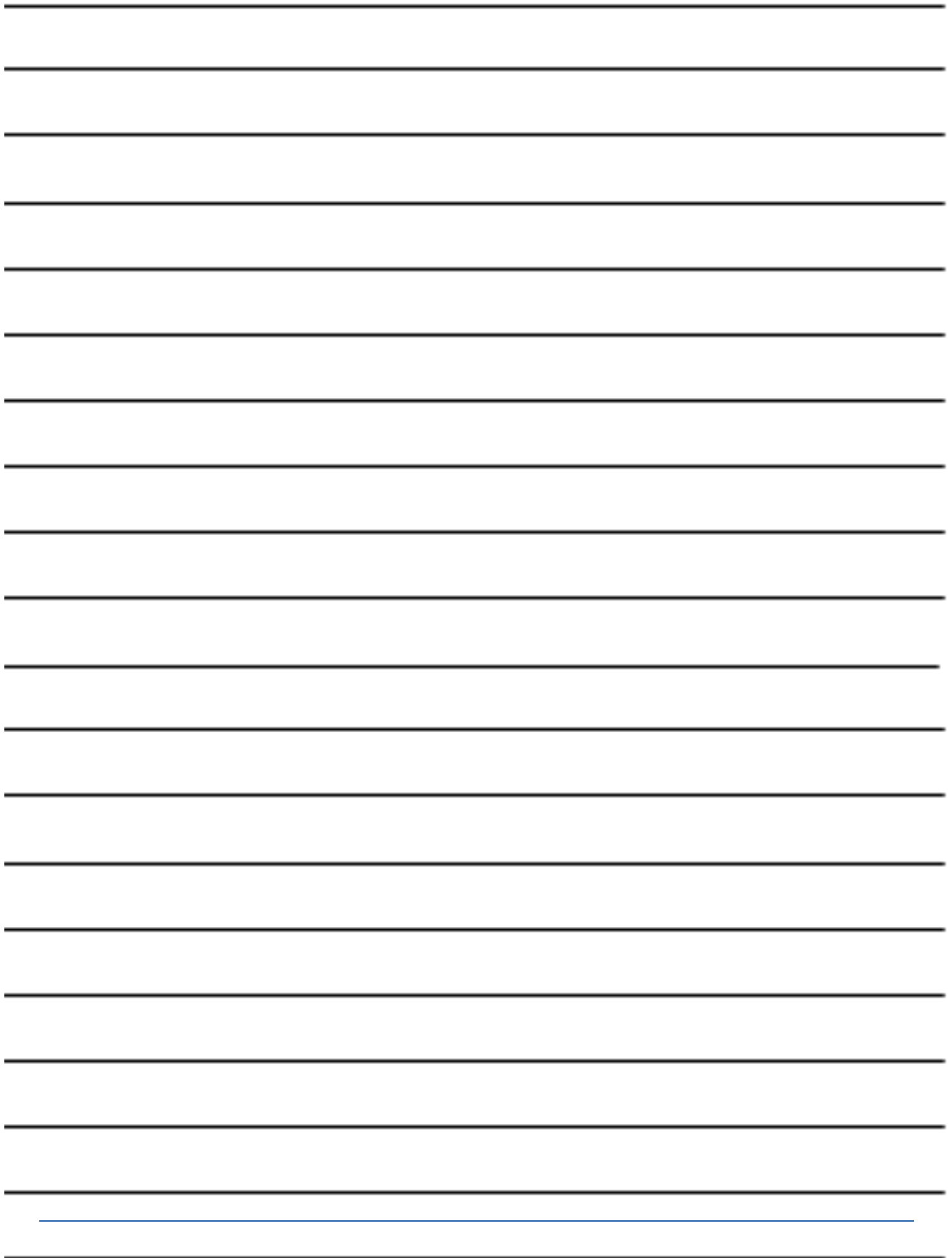
Why are we set apart?

What is our role in this community?

- 12 Fulfil my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. - Philippians 2:2-16
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The rewards

- 13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:13-16
 - 14 “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.” Luke 6:22
 - 15 “And your father who sees in secret will reward you” Matthew 6:18
 - 16 “Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you” Luke 6:38
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Confrontation – Workshop

In Matthew 18:21–22 Jesus gives this answer to that question. “Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.’”

Prayer leads to healing, and God’s Word promises that our prayers have power to effect change. Don’t head into confrontation without blanketing that conflict in prayer.. Your prayers are powerful and effective. They matter! If you’re going to confront a friend, you need to rely on God’s power to do a work in your heart and the heart of your friend

Question 1: Am I angry?

Question 2: Am I judging?

Question 3: Am I trying to win?

Question 4: Do I love peace?

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector” (Matt. 18:15–17).

If your friend is gossiping about you, that's a sin (Rom. 1:29).
If she has taken something that belongs to you, that's a sin (Luke 18:20).
If she often loses her temper with you, that's a sin (James 1:20).
If she just doesn't want to hang out as often as you'd like, that's not a sin.
If she has a new friend she's spending a lot of time with, that's not a sin.
Proverbs 19:11 says, "Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense."
In other words, it is wise to simply let some things go.
With this in mind, if your friend's sin still warrants a confrontation, this is how God wants us to go about it.

Step 1: Have the talk.

Step 2: Get a mediator.

Step 3: Get your church involved.

Step 4: Love extravagantly.



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