

SIDEKICK JOURNAL

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO:



WELCOME

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

CONTENTS:

SERMON NOTES: take notes on that weekend's teaching

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

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



Special thanks to Duane Roach for writing the devotionals and the Deeper Dives. We thank him for sharing his writing talents with us.



SERMON SIDEKICK VIDEO



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COURAGE

Have you ever wished for a second chance? To be able to take back what you said or did? We all have at some point or another. Throughout the Bible we read stories of people who are repeat offenders sinning against God, not just once or twice, but multiple times. We see this played out over and over with the nation of Israel. Time after time they no sooner seem to get it all together and follow God, when they fail, again, and again. Thankfully our God is a champion of second chances.

It had been forty years since the nation of Israel had rebelled and sinned against God. As a result none of that generation were allowed to enter the promised land - not even Moses. But now Israel would have a second chance to enter the promised land. But this time under the leadership of Joshua.

After describing to Joshua the boundaries of the land they were to possess, God tells Joshua to be “strong and courageous”. Not just once but twice (Josh 1:6-7). Why? Because Joshua taking the promised land wasn't going to be a walk-in-the-park. He would need all the strength and courage he could muster.

Maybe you, or someone you know, is looking for a second chance with God. The great news is our God is a champion of second chances. And know that God will give you all the strength and courage you need as you follow and obey him.

QUESTIONS:

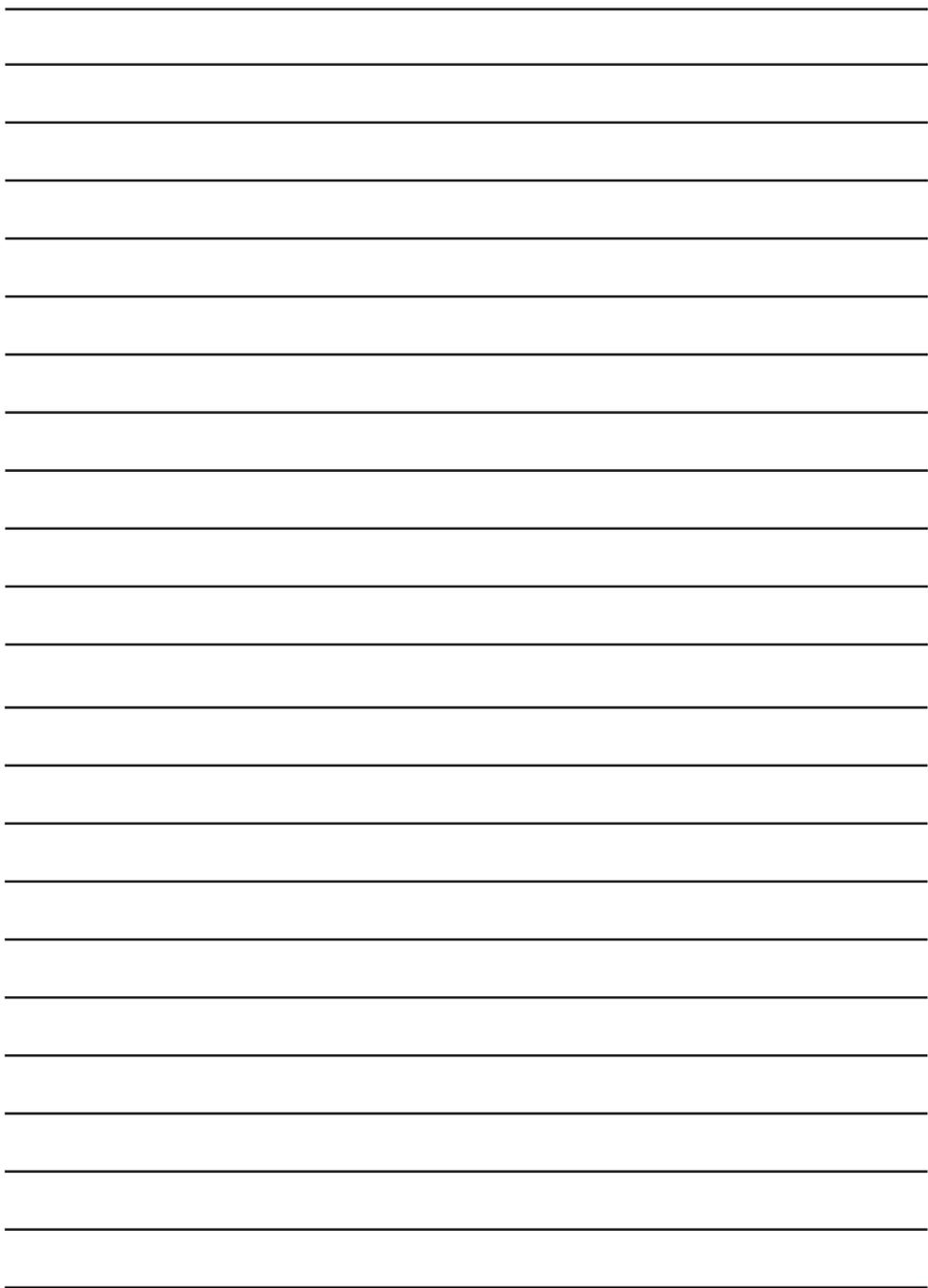
What area in your life do you seem to struggle following God? Why do you think you struggle?

How does the Holy Spirit help you be strong and courageous?

How can other believers help you be strong and courageous?

Looking for a way to “Dive Deeper” into this passage? Go to lifestreamweb.org/sidekick for a more interactive & carefully crafted Deeper Dive Study.

JOURNAL & PRAY





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DIRECTION

When I was young I remember watching the Ed Sullivan show. And every so often Ed would have an act where a person would balance spinning plates on the end of long rods. As the act would go on, we would cheer them on, as the person would work frantically to keep more and more plates spinning. But eventually, there would be too many plates and they would begin to fall and break. Sometimes I wonder if relationships with others are like trying to keep the plates spinning.

Sometimes our relationships can feel like we're spinning plates on rods as we work frantically to try and keep everything in balance. But, eventually our relationships begin to fail and break. But why? We worked so hard. Maybe we need to be reminded of a couple key points about healthy relationships.

First, healthy relationships seek to encourage and build each other up. Paul says, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." (1 Thes 5:11). Everyone needs encouragement. Everyone needs building up. And as we seek to encourage and build others up, others will also seek to encourage and build you up.

Second, know your limits and set boundaries. Loosely speaking, if the person spinning the plates would limit themselves to just a few plates then they could keep all the plates balanced and spinning. Sometimes limits must be set and boundaries must be drawn in order to keep a healthy relationship. This protects, not just you, but the other person as well.

QUESTIONS:

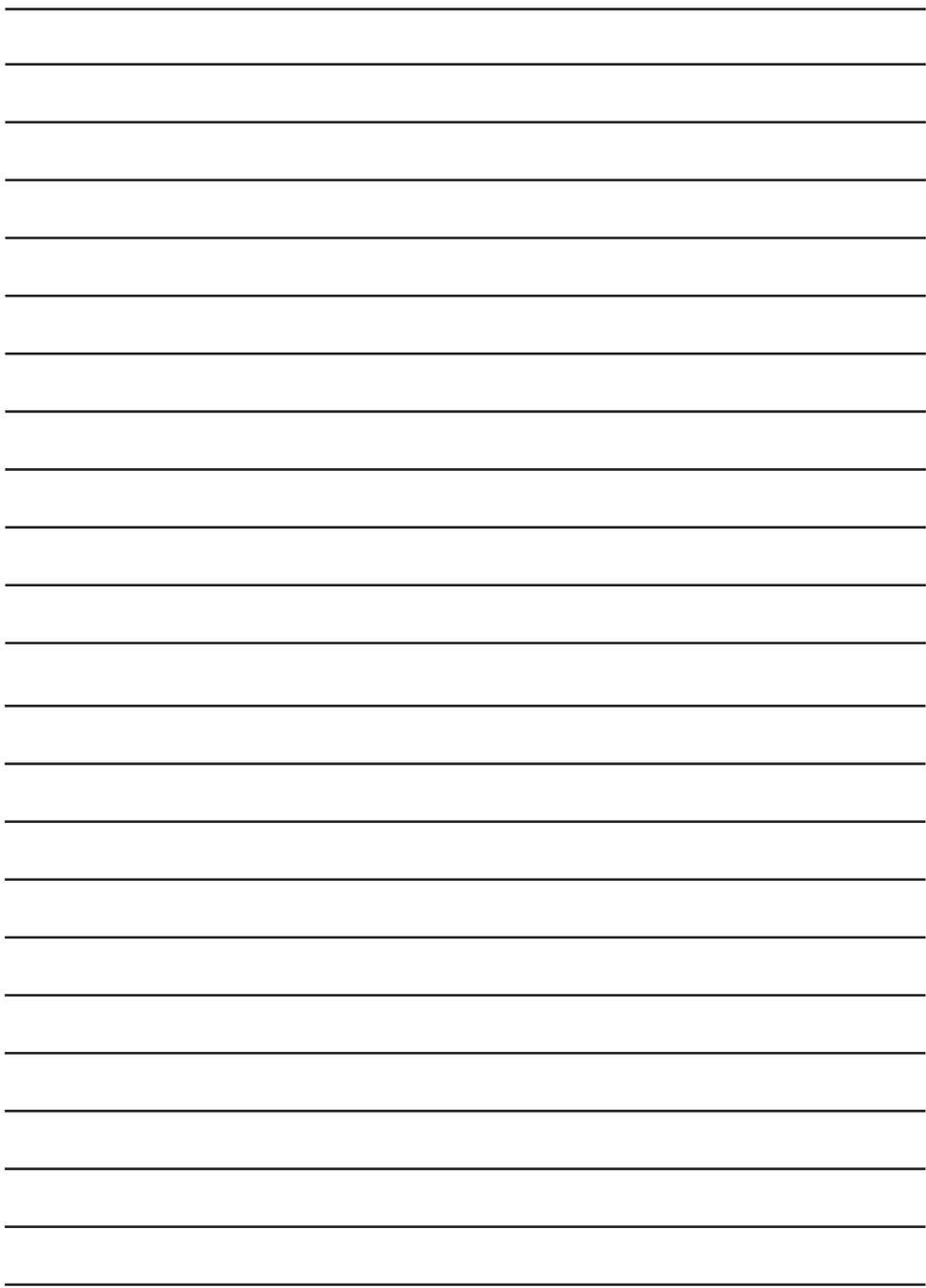
Have you ever felt like the person spinning plates on rods? How did it affect you?

Why is it important to sometimes set limits and boundaries in a relationship?

Think of someone you have a relationship with that you feel is very healthy. Why do you feel it is healthy?

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CROSSINGS

The night before we go on vacation, my wife and I usually don't sleep well. We're excited to leave the next morning. Did we pack everything we will need? Did we miss anything on our list to get done before we leave? If we're driving, we often end up leaving early since we're already awake anyway.

After 40 years in the wilderness eating manna and quail, the Israelites were finally getting ready to leave the wilderness and head into the promised land. Imagine the excitement as thousands and thousands of people were getting ready. But they were not going on vacation only to return in a few days. They were moving - lock, stock and barrel.

But first they had to cross the Jordan river. And to make matters worse, "the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest" (Josh 3:15). Have you ever wondered at the logic of crossing a river when it is at it's flood stage? Why didn't God have the Israelites cross when the water was lower and less dangerous?

Once again God is asking Israel to trust in him and not in themselves. And just like he parted the Red Sea many years earlier, today he would part the Jordan river. But not until the priests put their feet in the water. Maybe today God has a "Jordan river crossing" he's called you to. And you're excited and anxious to start, but the river is flooded. Take that first step. Trust in God and watch the flood waters part as you answer God's call.

QUESTIONS:

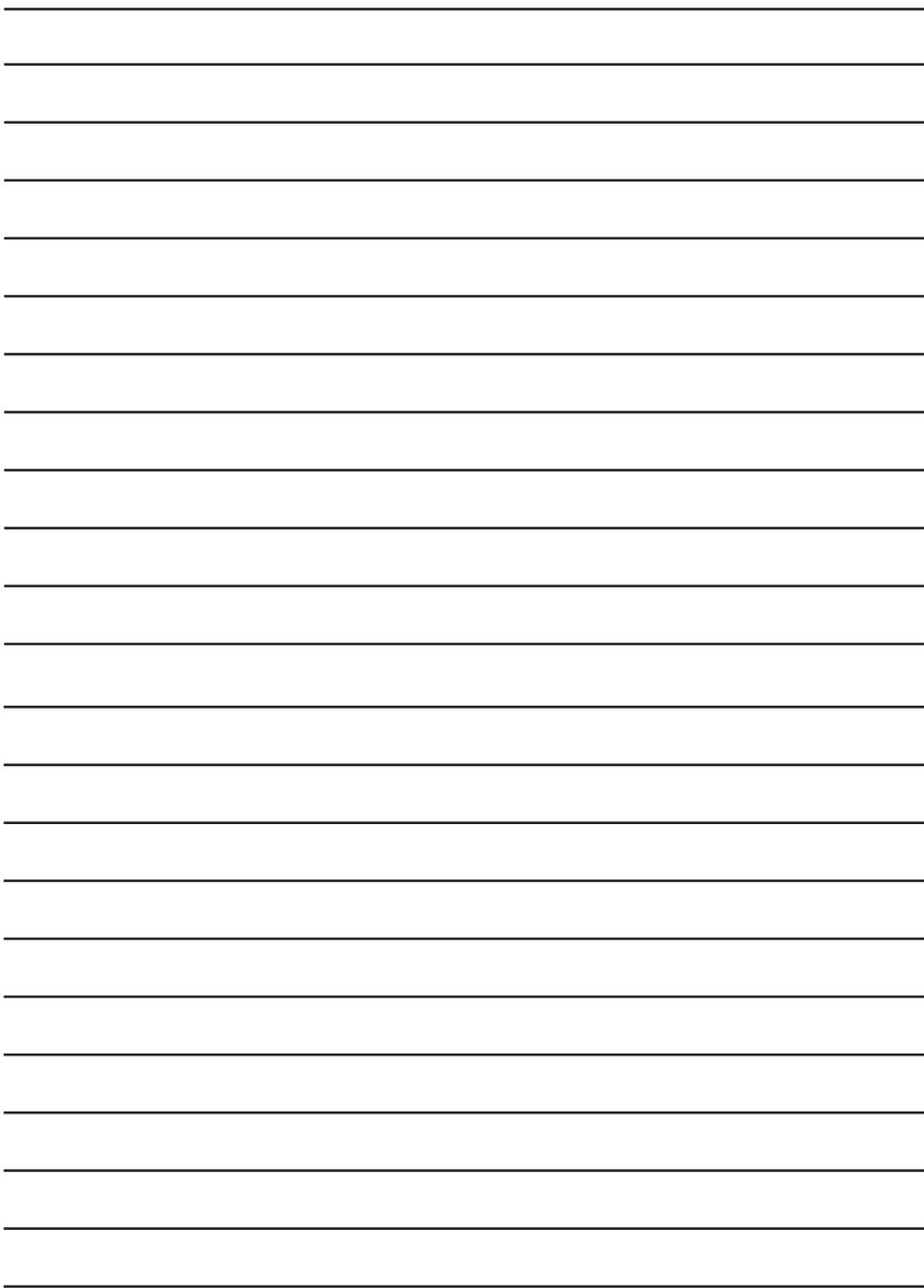
Describe the excitement level the night before you start a vacation. Why are you excited?

Have you ever had to “step in the water” before you could see God working?

Do you feel God calling you to take a step of faith in something new? What is holding you back?

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AUTHORITY

Have you ever noticed that God's ways are never conventional? Really... Look at how he defeated Egypt with plagues and parting the Red Sea. And now the Israelites have begun their conquest of the promised land and before them stands the first city they are commanded to destroy, Jericho. But Jericho was a heavily fortified city with powerful double walls. It's going to take a strong army to destroy Jericho. Or not.

In Joshua 5:13, we find Joshua looking over Jericho when he sees a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua asks the man "Are you for us or for our enemies?". But it is in the man's answer that reveals what victory is when he says "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the Lord, I have now come." (v 14).

The battle and victory of Jericho was once again, unconventional because it was God's battle. Jericho would be given to the Israelites, but only after they trusted in God to give the victory through unconventional means.

Today we are in a spiritual war. And our adversary, Satan, stands before us like Jericho did to the Israelites. Yet, for us the victory has already been won through Jesus. Satan has already been defeated, his walls crumbled and in ruins. It's time to trust in God and claim his victory - today.

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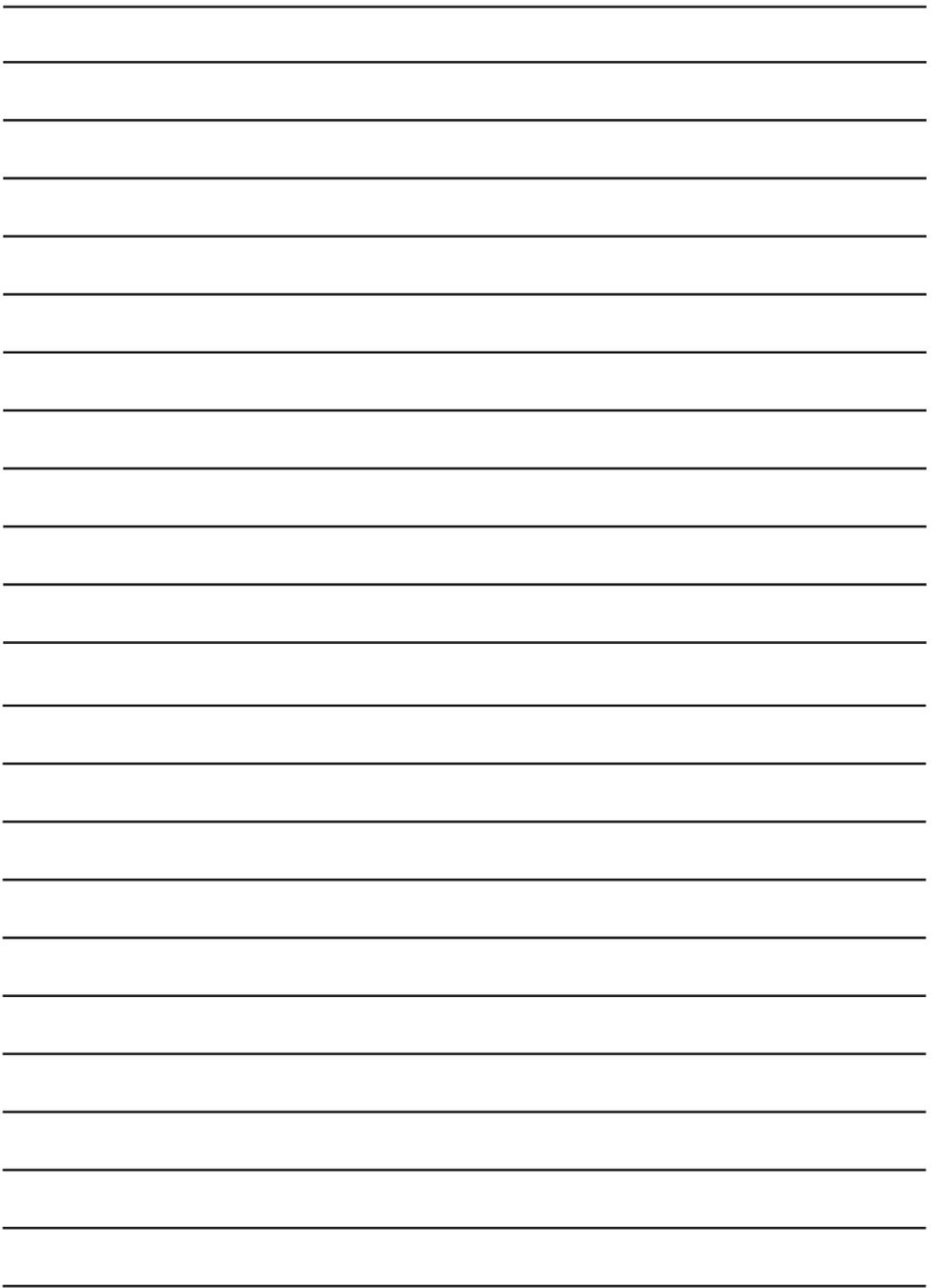
Why do you think God works in unconventional ways?

Describe a time when you saw God work a victory in your life. Did God work in a way you expected, or some other way?

Why is it important to remember that we are in a spiritual battle?

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RENEWAL

Complacency. It's all too easy to become complacent when things are going well. We can easily fall into the trap of the mundane and forget. This was the potential problem that Joshua wanted to help the Israelites avoid as he prepared for his coming death. The Israelites had conquered all the surrounding countries and were now at peace. But along with peace can come complacency.

It's at this time when Joshua calls everyone together for a renewal of their commitment to God. How? First by reminding them of everything that God had done for them. How he had rescued them from Egypt and had given them cities they had not built, and ate from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant. (Josh 24:13).

So to renew their commitment and covenant with God, Joshua draws a line in the sand - "choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve" (v 15). It's a blunt question, but it's meant to be. It has no simple answer. The question is meant to make one look deep.

But that's what renewal sometimes is. Renewal is re-evaluating one's beliefs and commitment. Renewal is to affirm once again that which is most important.

Joshua's response was a firm "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (v 15). It's good to renew our belief and commitment to God. It's good to affirm once again that which is most important - God's kingdom.

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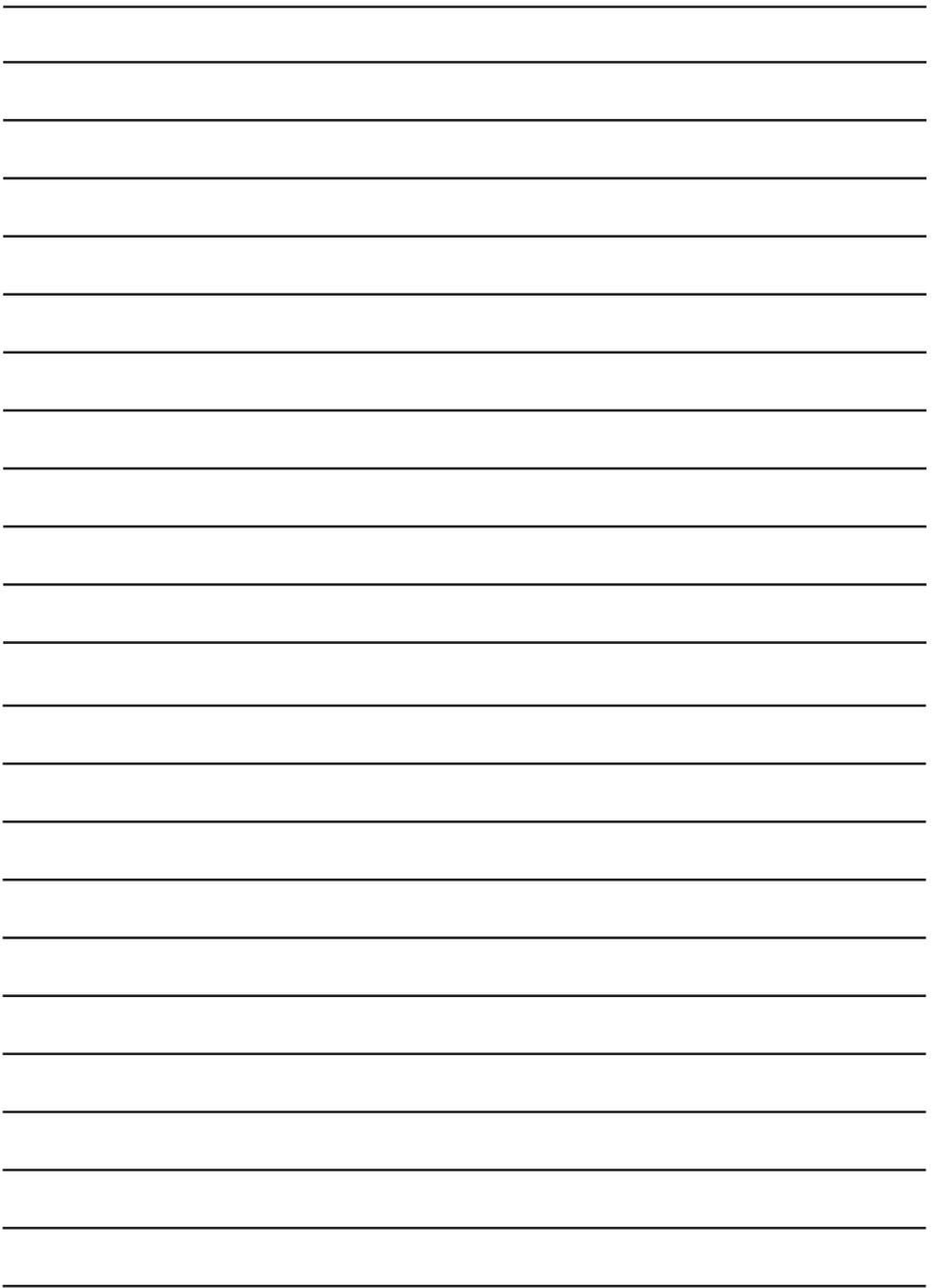
Have you ever felt you were just going through the motions of serving God? How can that become dangerous to your spiritual life?

Have you ever felt challenged to renew your commitment to God? What were the circumstances that led up to it?

What place do you think renewal has in your spiritual life?

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