



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.

DEEPER DIVE:

Looking for a way to "Dive Deeper"? Check out our **Deeper Dive** for daily online readings to dig deeper into God's Word.



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



SERMON NOTES

MIND THE GAP

— middle space —

APRIL 23

GENESIS 17, 1 SAMUEL 16

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

MESSAGE APPLICATION

How can I apply this message to my life?

What did this message teach me about God?

What did this message teach me about myself?

SERMON SIDEKICK VIDEO



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MIND THE GAP

While riding the trains in England you will hear the phrase, "mind the gap" each time the doors open to let passengers on or off. The phrase is meant to be a warning that there is a gap, a space, between the train and the platform. And while the gap is neither good nor bad, it is simply a space to be careful and step over as you enter or exit the train and continue on to your destination.

The Bible is full of gap moments, that middle space in a person's life between events. There are two things that navigating this middle space can teach us.

First, life is full of gaps, those middle spaces between one event and another. I would suggest that most of life is spent in this middle space as we move between events. Abraham lived in the middle space for over 25 years from God's promise of a son to Isaac's birth. David waited 15 years from being anointed king to actually becoming king of Israel.

Second, gaps are meant to be stepped over. What I meant is this, both Abraham and David knew they were living in the middle space but their focus was looking forward to God's promise. Can you imagine if the passengers on the train all stopped and stared at the gap, afraid to step over it? No one would ever make it to their final destination.

The same is for us as believers in Jesus. This life is our middle space as we look forward to being with Jesus, our final destination. But until then we must "mind the gap". Take note of the gap and step over it knowing that one day there will be no more gaps between you and Jesus.

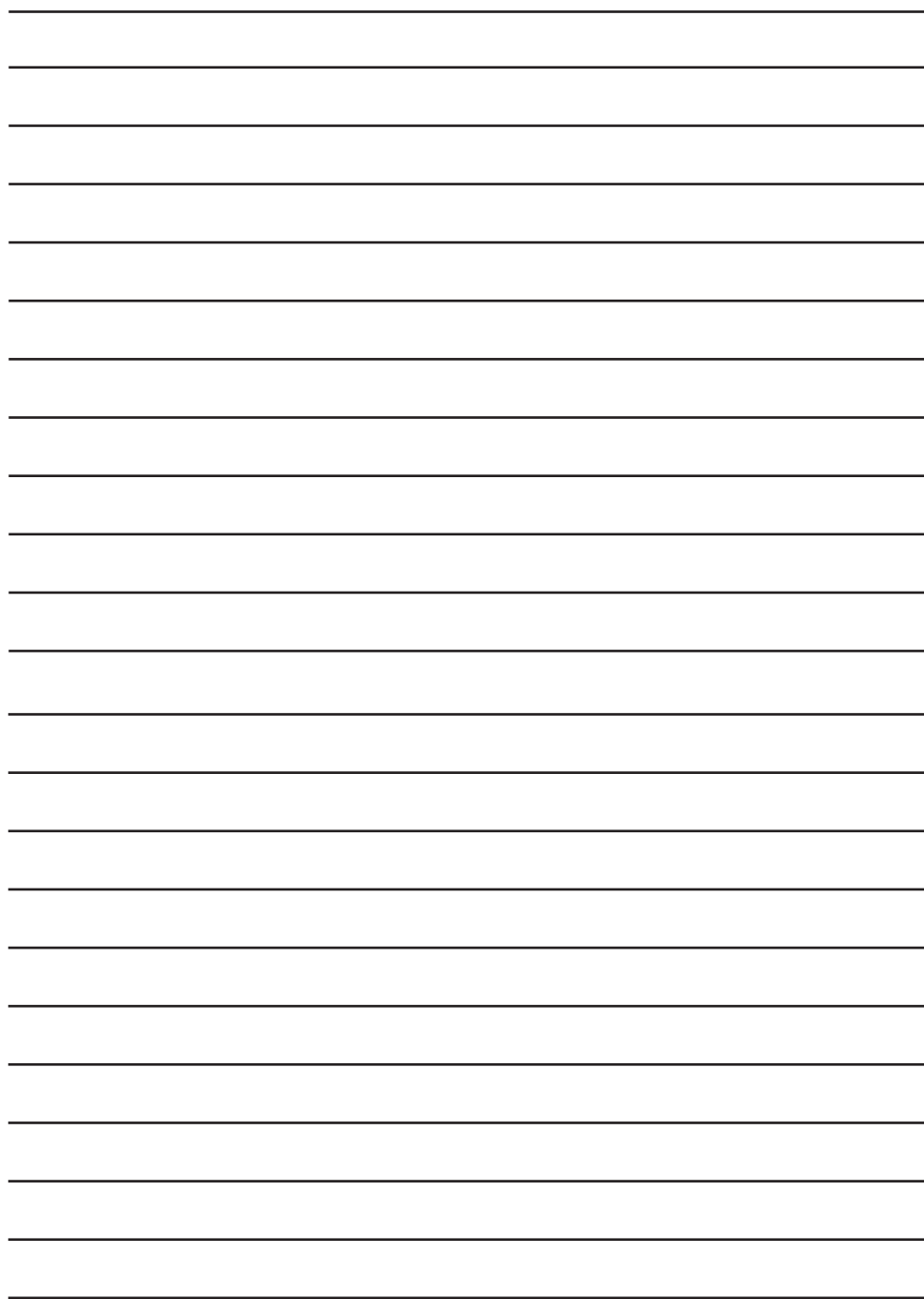
REFLECTION:

Describe some gaps, middle space, that you have experienced?

Why is it important to not focus on the middle space? How do you step over the gap?

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





SERMON NOTES

— middle space —

APRIL 30
ESTHER 4:16

ESTHER 4:16

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DEVOTIONAL

TRUST

Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish. (Esther 4:16)

Gaps, by definition, are voids or empty space. When applied to life they are those times between events where you don't know what will happen next. That is why navigating those gaps in life, those middle spaces where you're not sure of what's coming next takes trust in God — lot's of trust.

Esther is a wonderful example of how to manage the middle spaces of life when you're not sure of what is coming. After being told about Hamon's plan to kill all of the Jew's Esther's initial response was one of hesitation, after all, to enter the king's presence uninvited could result in death, even for a queen. But her cousin Mordecai shows his faith that God will save the Jews but that maybe God had elevated Esther to her position as queen for such a time as this (v. 14).

The encouragement, and challenge, from Mordecai was enough for Esther to step out in faith knowing that it could result in her death. And therein is Esther's example of how to navigate a middle space was to place her life in God's hands regardless of the outcome. How? Through prayer and fasting as she stepped over the gap. Esther moved forward even though she didn't know what the outcome would be.

When life is uncertain, when the middle space seems deep and wide, that is the time to draw even closer to God. Maybe you're currently navigating a middle space in life. You're not sure of what will happen next and you're scared. Trust in your heavenly Father. Go to him in prayer as you "mind the gap". Sometimes we know what God wants us to do next — step out in faith and trust in him.

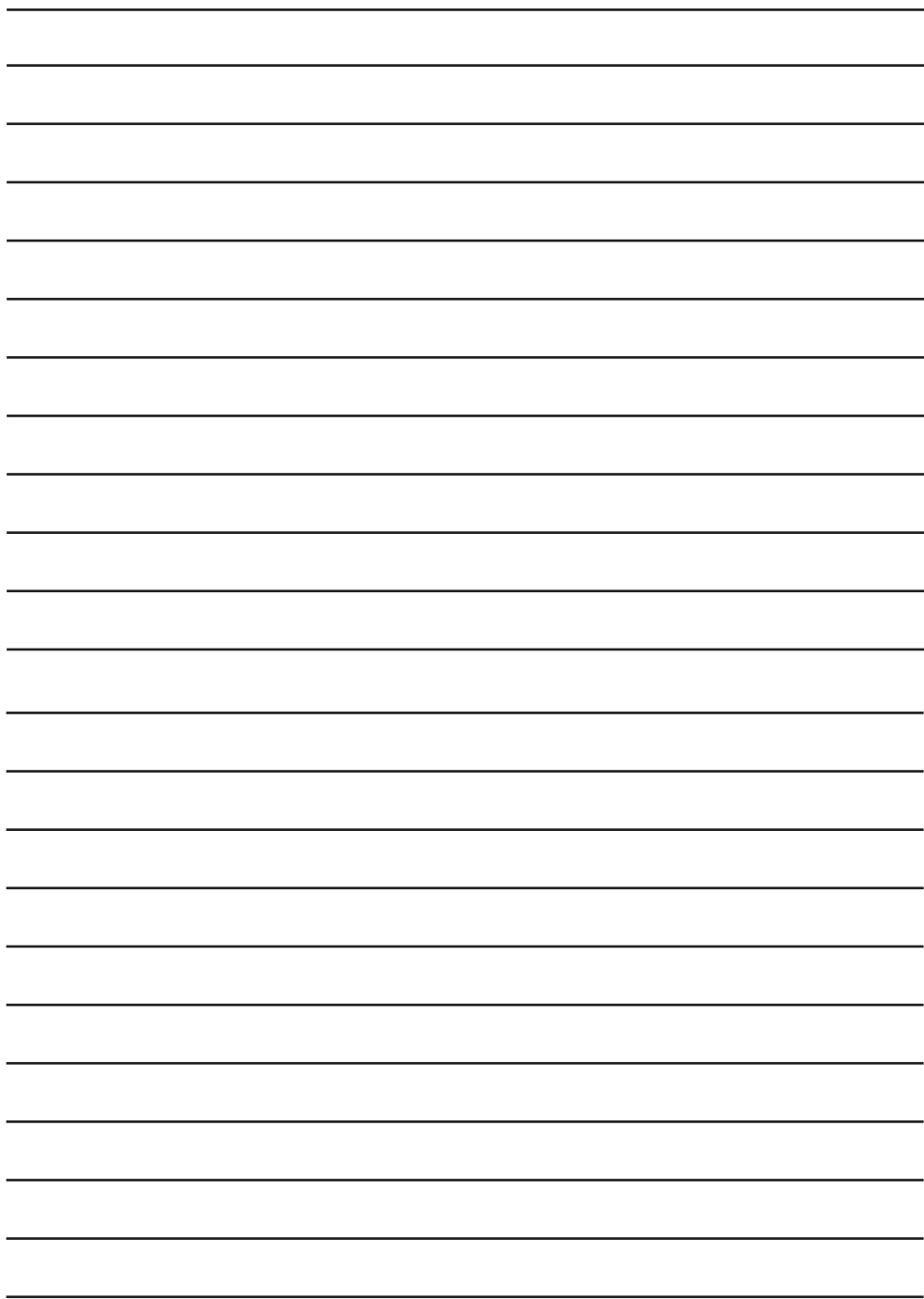
REFLECTION:

Think of a time when you had to navigate the middle space. Maybe a job, family, school or something else. How did you know what to do next?

How does Esther's example give you encouragement and challenge you to trust in God?

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JOURNAL & PRAY



Jeremiah

Jeremiah son of
of the priests at
of the land came
Then
hand and
said to
words

GOD KNOWS/GOODNESS

— middle space —

MAY 7

JEREMIAH 29:11

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GOD KNOWS/GOODNESS

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Everyone experiences times of living in the middle space. That time when it seems that you're all alone. And it's during these times when we can begin to wonder where God is in all our turmoil.

It was a dark time for the Israelites. The Babylon's had conquered Israel and taken most of the people back to Babylon as captives who were now living in the middle space. What were they to do? Everything they knew was gone.

Just like the Israelites it can be hard to know what to do next when we're living through a middle space time. We can easily become confused and lose our way. We can begin to wonder where God is, does he even care?

That's when the word's of Jeremiah can bring comfort and encourage us. How? Because God always has a plan for each and everyone. A plan to prosper us and not to harm us, a plan to give us hope and a future. God Almighty, the Creator of all things has a plan for you that may sometimes take you through a middle space. And while that middle space may seem dark and scary we can be reassured that God is still in control and that his plan for us can not be thwarted by anything or anyone.

Are you going through a middle space? If you are then take courage as you look forward to God unveiling his plan for you as you successfully emerge on the other side.

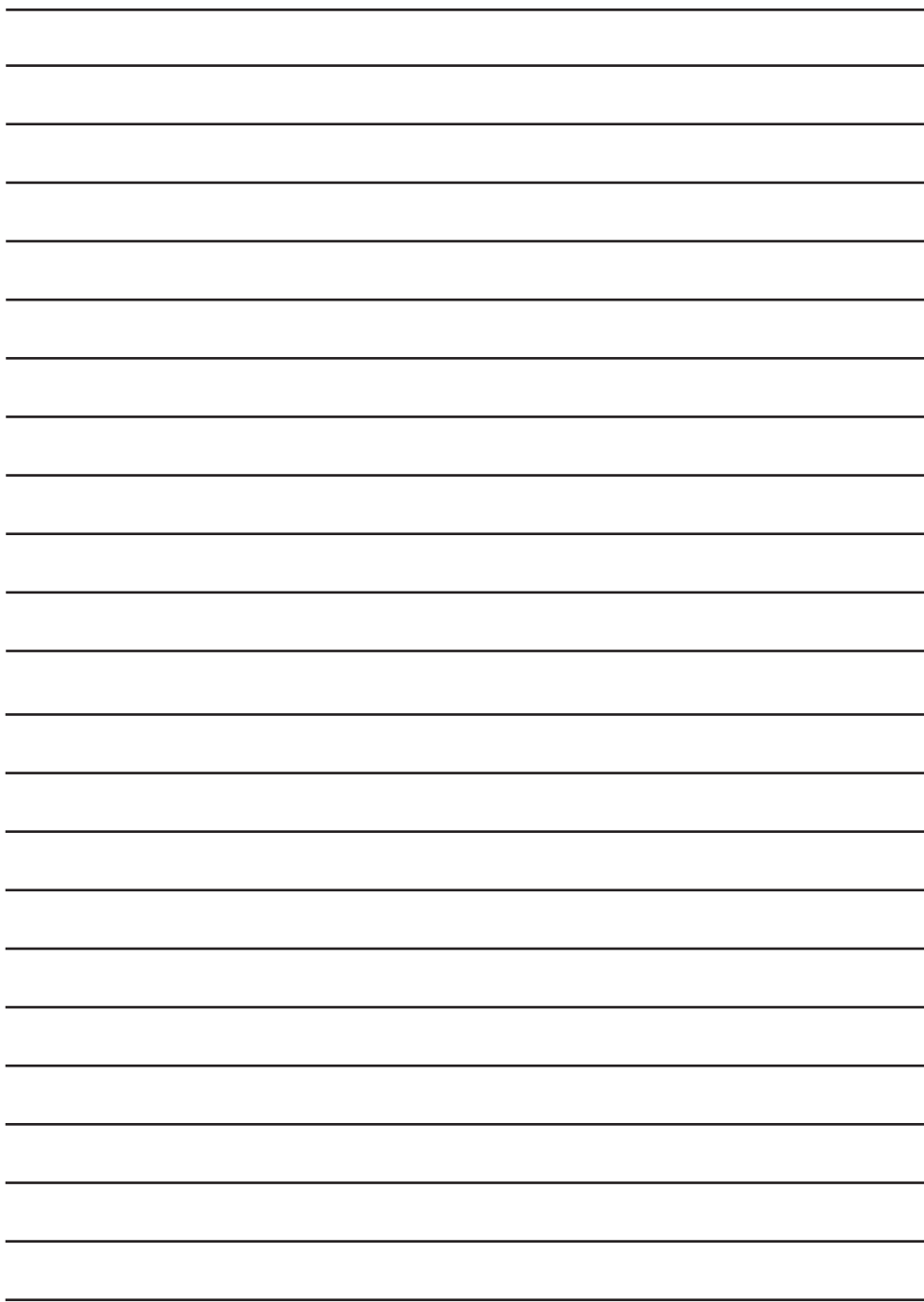
REFLECTION:

Looking back on those middle space times in your life, how can you see how God was working in the background to execute his plan for you?

How does holding onto God's promises in Jeremiah 29:11 give you strength and encouragement?

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JOURNAL & PRAY





GOD HEARS

— middle space —

MAY 14

1 SAMUEL 1:20

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GOD HEARS

So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the LORD for him." (1 Samuel 1:20)

Sometimes, as we navigate the middle spaces of life, it can seem like God doesn't hear us. We pray, pouring our hearts out, but God seems silent and we may begin to wonder if he hears our prayers, does he care for us at all?

Hannah was childless, and for an Israelite woman that was considered a disgrace, or even a punishment from God. The Bible tells us that while Hannah was silently praying at the Lord's house, pouring out her soul to the Lord, she had a conversation with the priest Eli. After hearing her story Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him." (1 Samuel 1:17). Sometime later Hannah became pregnant and had a son whom she named Samuel, which sounds like the Hebrew for "heard by God". God had heard her prayers and answered them.

Although God seemed to be silent as Hannah prayed, the reality was that God was working in the background. Eventually, at just the right time, God would answer Hannah's prayer as he made her part of his greater plan.

As you navigate through those middle spaces of life, take encouragement from Hannah. God hears your prayers, he does care for you, and he will answer your prayers. As you yield your will to his will you'll begin to hear the Holy Spirit giving you encouragement and strength as you navigate the middle space—together.

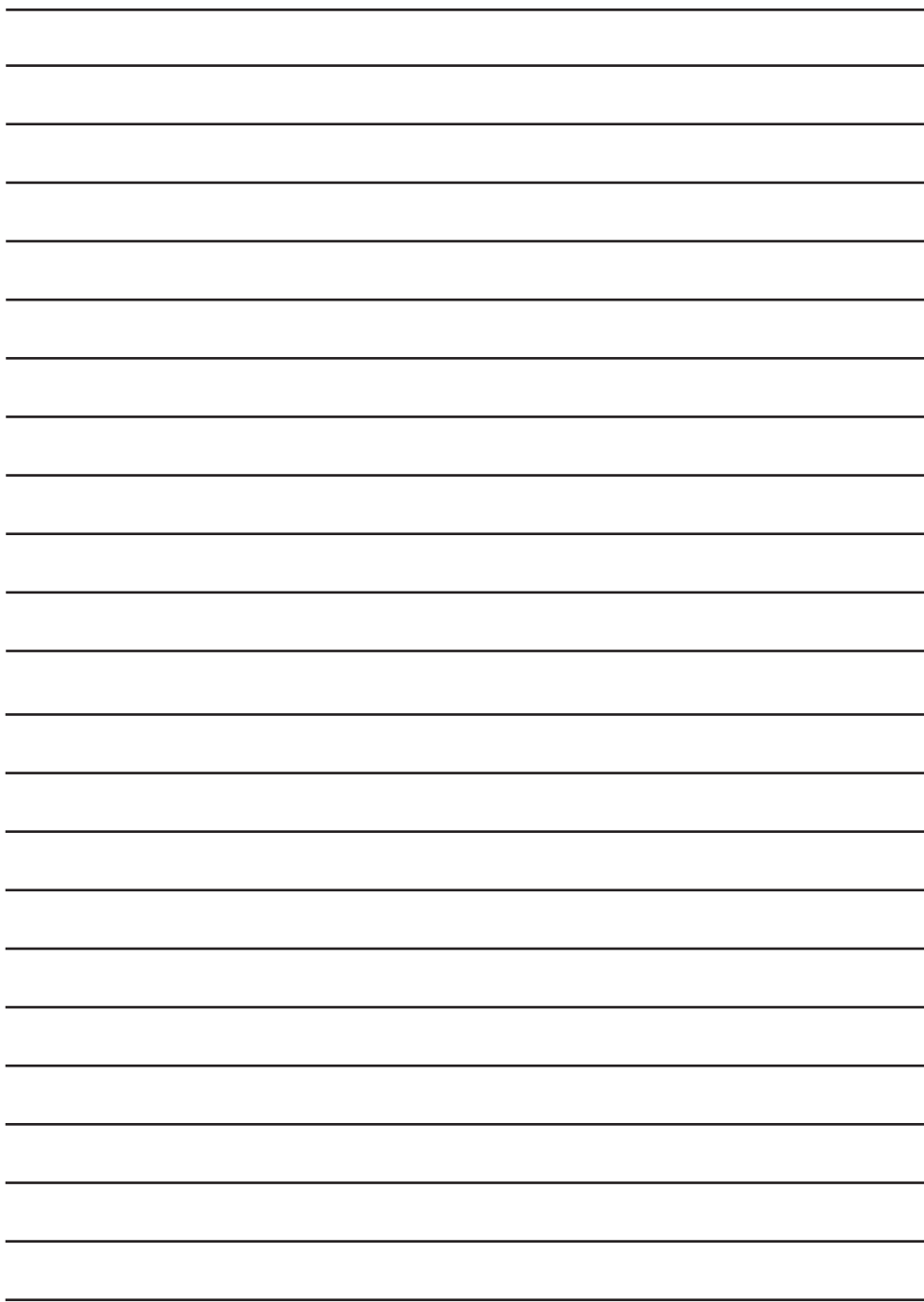
REFLECTION:

Why do you think a person's name was so important in ancient times?

How have you heard the Holy Spirit encourage and strengthen you as you navigate a middle space?

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JOURNAL & PRAY





GOD PROVIDES

— middle space —

MAY 21

MATTHEW 14:19-21

[illegible]

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GOD PROVIDES

And he (Jesus) directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children. (Matthew 14:19-21)

Jesus had been healing the sick and it had been a long day. It was nearing evening and as they were in a remote place the disciples knew that the people would be hungry and need time to go to the villages to get food. The disciples were trying to provide for the people as best they could. But Jesus had other plans. He told the disciples to give the people something to eat (v. 16).

As we navigate those middle spaces of life we can easily begin to feel that we're in a remote place and become concerned about how God will provide for us. And although we trust in God, we can still become anxious. We still can wonder—how God will provide?

That's when we may need to just sit down and wait on God. And waiting can be hard—really hard. But waiting can help us develop patience and perseverance as we fully rely on God to provide. The crowds that sat and waited on Jesus were not disappointed. In fact they all ate and were fully satisfied (v. 20).

If you are navigating through a middle space in your life maybe Jesus wants you to just take a seat and rest knowing he will provide for you in a miraculous, and maybe very unconventional way. But in the end you will be fully satisfied. Far more than you could have ever imagined.

REFLECTION:

How has God provided for you in an amazing way that you would never have imagined?

If you're in a middle space right now how are you resting in Jesus to provide for you?

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