

WEEK OF PRAYER

LET
THEM
HEAR



FOCUS

The purpose of this week is to focus the collective church body in prayer as we press-in on our calling to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to those around us, and to all the world. The theme for this week is coming from Mark 4:9, when Jesus says "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." We are praying this week, collectively as the church, to have the courage to go, the guidance of the Holy Spirit who empowers, and the words to speak in due season. We are praying that as we ask our community, "Have You Heard?", they will indeed hear and respond to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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DAY 01

Let us go.

DAY 02

Let us be empowered.

DAY 03

Let us not be afraid.

DAY 04

Let us have the words.

DAY 05

Let them hear.

DAY 06

Let them respond.

DAY 01

LET US GO

Welcome to this WCC Week of Prayer! It's so good for us to be praying together as a church in a more concentrated way at the beginning of the ministry year. Our focus this prayer week is on proclaiming the Gospel—the good news of Jesus, the greatest news of the present and eternal hope we have in Him.

Hundreds of millions of people were glued to their devices this summer to watch the Olympics. In every event featuring a race, participants took their marks, readied themselves to launch, and waited for the sound of the gun that signaled “Go!”

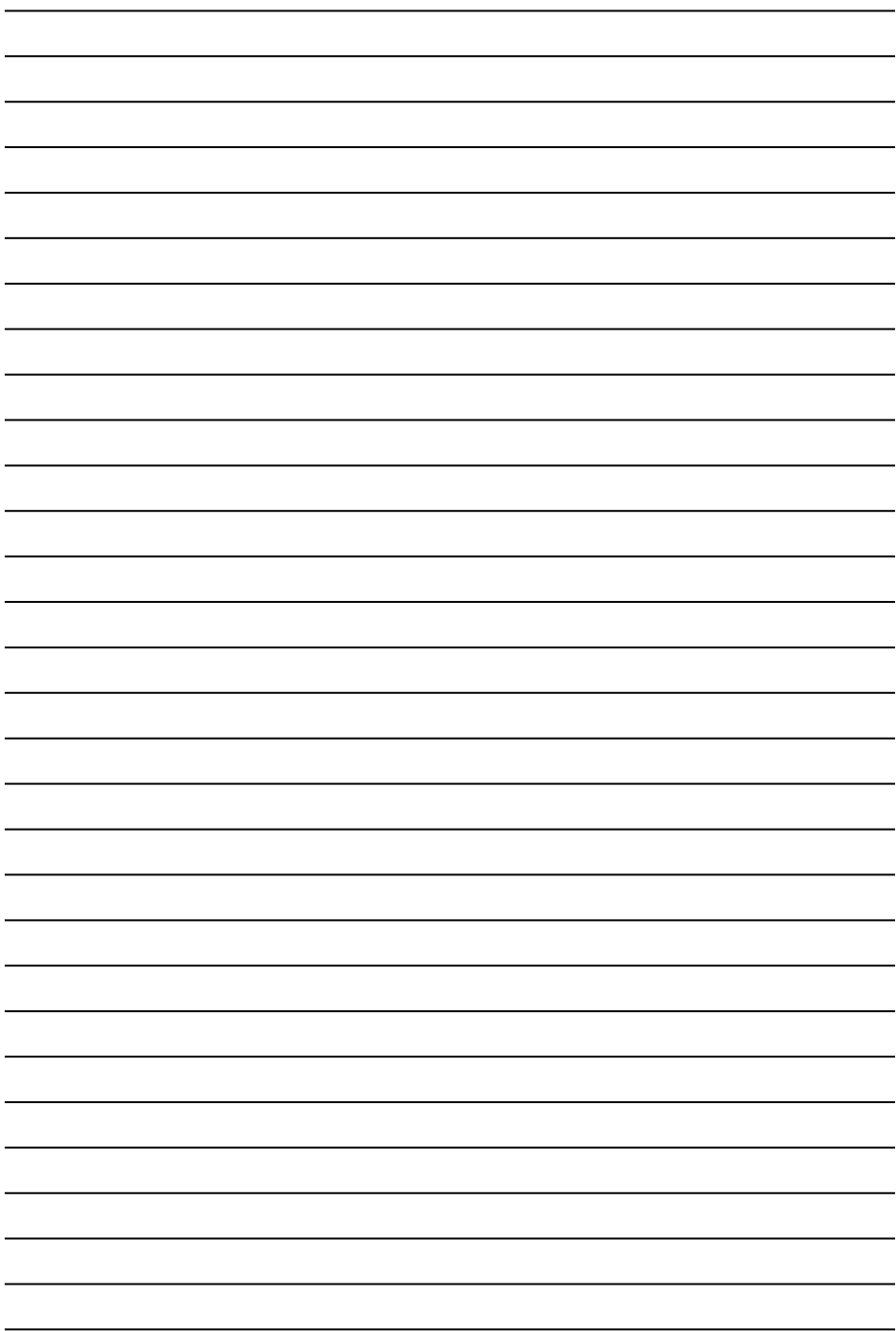
Hundreds of millions of people, and more, need to meet Jesus, who instructed His disciples, following His resurrection, to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Mt. 28:19-20)

At the outset of this week, I encourage us to prayerfully reflect on what difference Jesus and His good news have made in our lives. Greater purpose? Joy? Strength through trials? Victory over a bad habit? The list is long! Then pray and look for Spirit-led opportunities to share with someone who needs to hear that from you. And God bless you in all your conversations with the Lord!

PS RANDALL REHKOPF

PSALM 96:3

Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous deeds among all peoples.

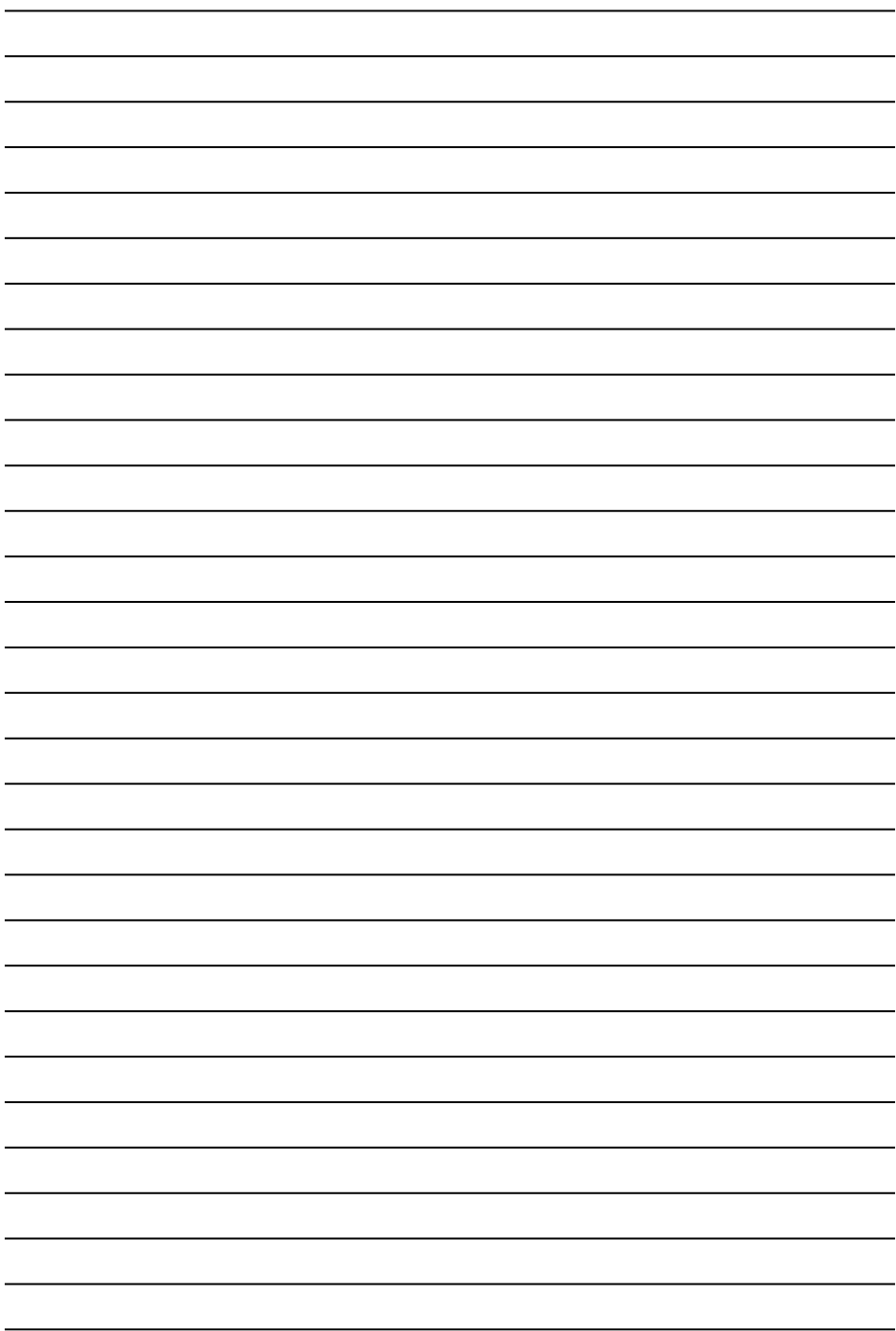


DAY 02

LET US BE EMPOWERED

I remember like it was yesterday when I first accepted Christ. It was right after I learned about the Holy Spirit during Alpha. My life took a complete 180 degree turn; my perception about the world and what it all means, about my life and its purpose, completely changed. With the knowledge of the Truth—and the filling of the Holy Spirit—I was instantly in love with Jesus and I wanted to tell everyone about Him! And, so I did. I didn't wait to have years of biblical study or an exegetical analysis of why telling people about Jesus was important—I was just thrilled to tell everyone in my life about the new love of my life. Was it perfect? No. I just shared from my heart. When I look back now, I know it was the Holy Spirit who empowered me, who gave me the passion to begin with, who gave me the words to say. You may not have had such a dramatic experience as me but the same Spirit is at work in all of us. So today, I ask you to ponder a time in your life where you were in love with Jesus...maybe it's now or maybe it was some time ago. Remember your first love; remember His goodness. And, let's pray today for the continued filling to overflowing of the Holy Spirit so that we can passionately go out and share the Good News from the heart just as it says in Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Let us pray: "Heavenly Father, remind me of my first love; remind me of your goodness and glory. Holy Spirit fill me so that I overflow with your love and purpose and give me your power to share about You with those around me. In Jesus' name, Amen." Now, let us go out in faith to share the Good News—even with fear and trembling—by the power of the Holy Spirit.

ALLIE PARK



DAY 03

LET US NOT BE AFRAID

Today, here is a key verse to not only read but to memorize as you meditate on this devotional during the week of prayer: “God did not give us (me) a spirit of timidity (or fear), but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord...” (2 Timothy 1:7, 8a).

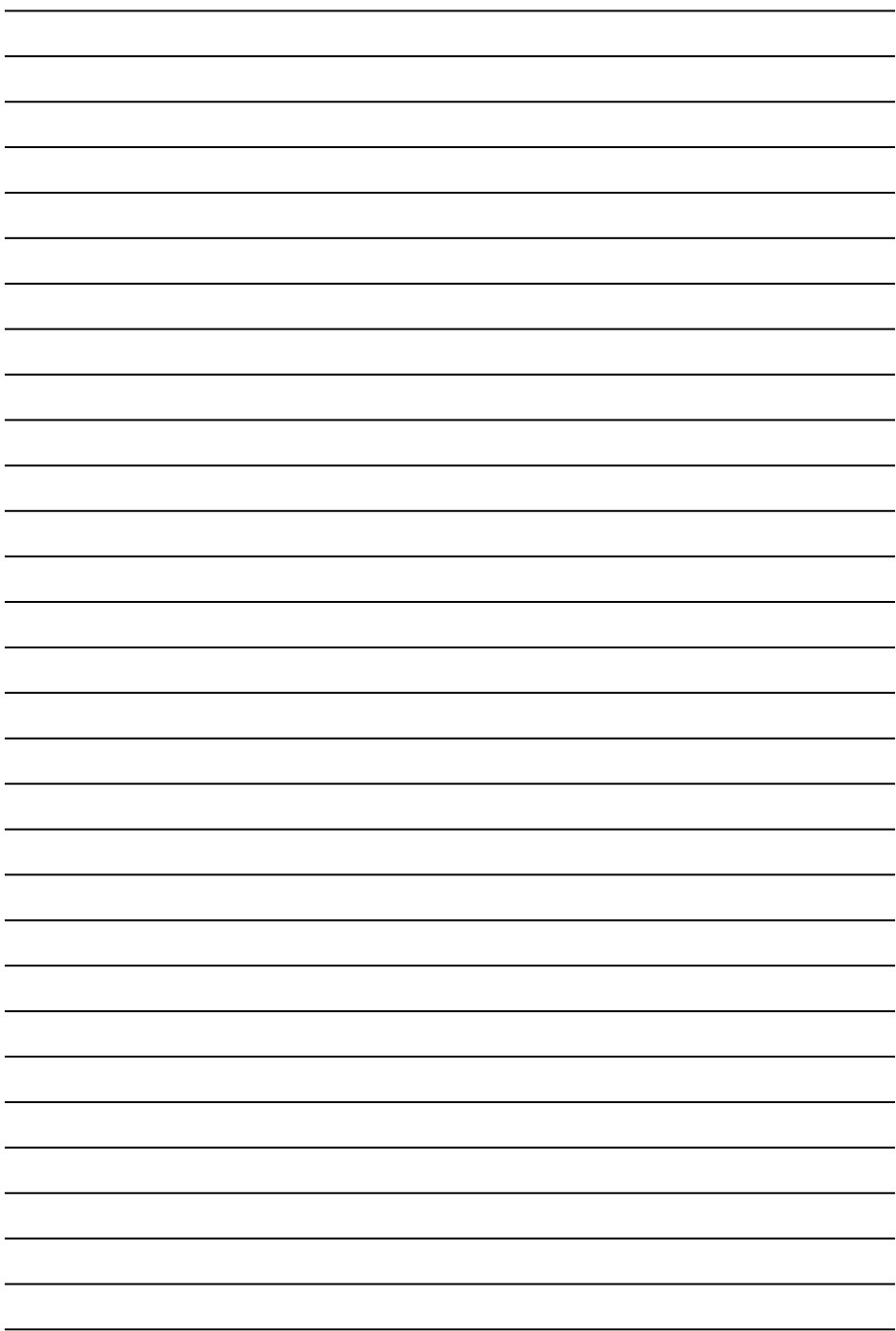
Today, welcome to the battlefield of fear and faith! Even though Peter, the disciple of Jesus, denied Jesus 3 times, Jesus’ love and grace empowered Peter to become a powerful instrument in God’s hands “to testify about our Lord”. Even though you may feel afraid, or you might compare yourself to someone else and come up short, it is so important to know that God’s love and grace will strengthen you just like He did for Peter. Under the influence of fear, it loudly says, “You can’t do it!” as it makes you feel small, insignificant and powerless.

But under the influence of faith, God says, “With Me, all things are possible because you are on a divine appointment for Me and with Me as you share your faith & story with the person that the Holy Spirit has brought across your path today”.

As these two forces of fear and faith are at war with each other, remember the great news that Jesus has already overcome your enemy of fear which enables you to be victorious also with His spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

Be fully aware that a testimony is waiting for you on the other side of fear because you faced this great test on this battlefield and you won because of Jesus! So, share empowered by the Holy Spirit even if you feel afraid.

PS WAYNE DOMM



DAY 04

LET US HAVE THE WORDS

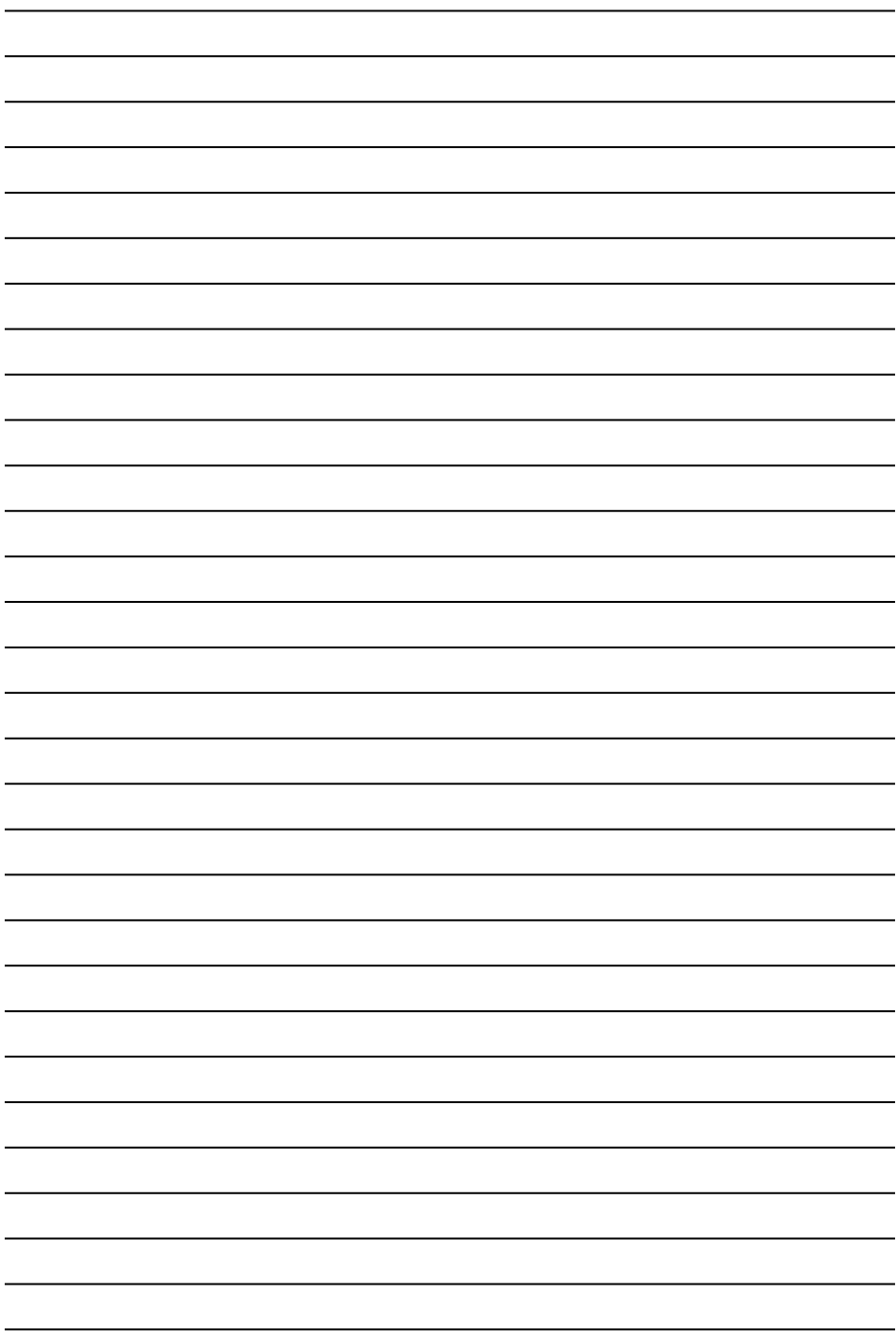
The Bible calls us to be ready to share the gospel at all times, in all circumstances, and with people from all different walks of life and backgrounds. That's a lot of unique situations, people, and personal experiences to relate to! Using one approach for every person and situation may not be an effective use of our words. The message of the gospel never changes, but sometimes our delivery needs to. Just as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9:22-23: "To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some [...]."

The good news is that we don't need to come up with the right words on our own. It's through the power of God and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit that we are given the words needed. Jesus gives His followers this encouragement: "[...] do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say" (Luke 12:11-12).

The Bible also gives us some sound wisdom on using our words to share the gospel with others: "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone" (Colossians 4:5-6). Read also 2 Timothy 4:2.

The way we deliver messages matters. Our attitude should reflect the patience that Jesus Christ extends to each one of us. It's not about trying to win an argument or prove someone wrong. We are called to be wise in the way we interact with those who don't know Christ. Our words should always be gracious, showing love and respect towards others - like Jesus. Let's pray together for wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit as we use our words to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

STACEY MUSSELMAN



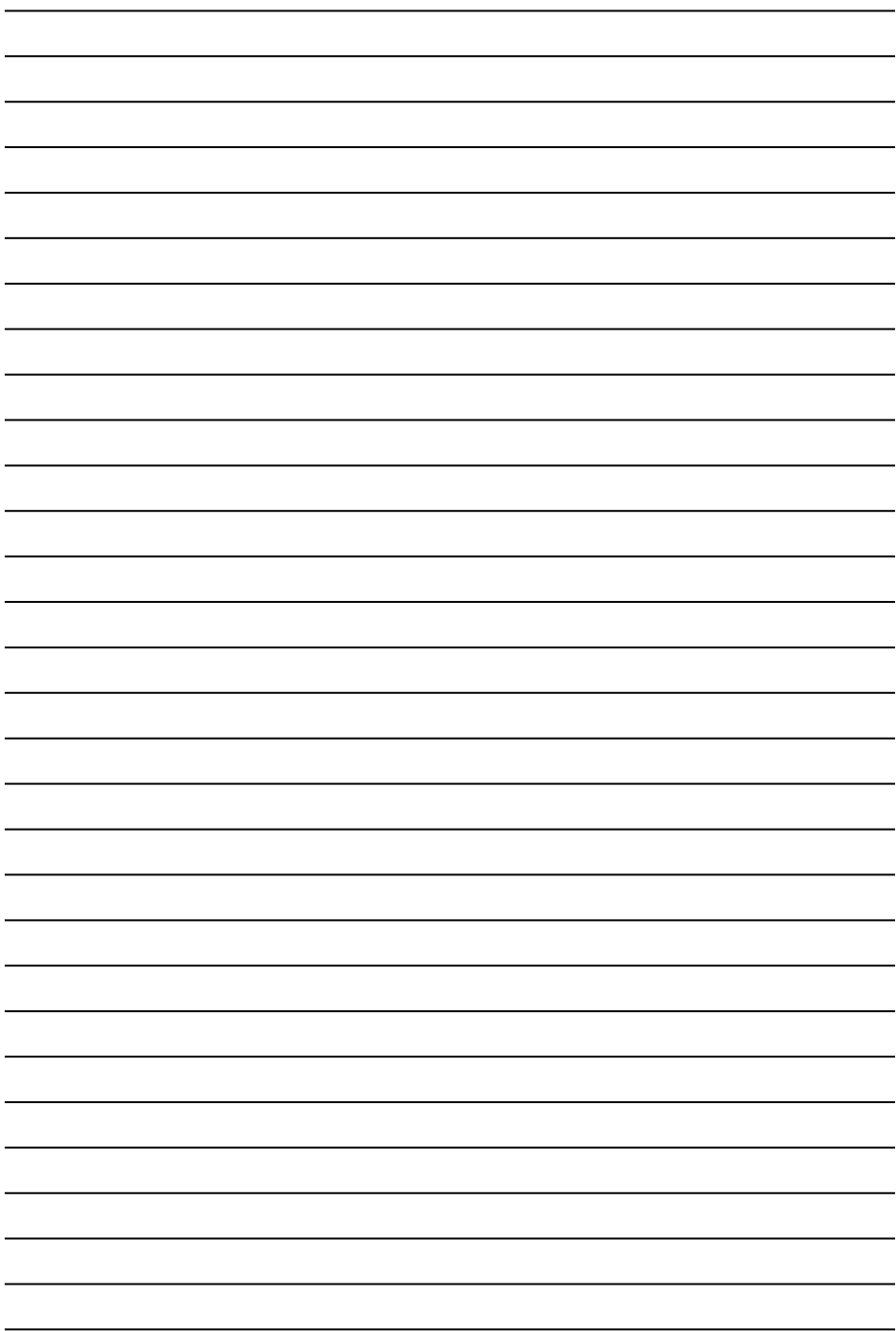
DAY 05

LET THEM HEAR

One summer, while counseling at Camp Mishewah, I counseled a young boy who had hearing difficulties and could only hear with hearing aids. During one of our waterfront sessions, we were assigned to go sailing. This young boy would not be able to wear his hearing aids due to the water, so we would have to be able to communicate with our hands. As we began our trip out onto the windy lake, I realized that he was seated in a way that his back was to me and he was facing out enjoying the view of the lake. It didn't matter how loud I yelled to warn him of the incoming sail, he could not hear me. Thankfully, there were no injuries and he really seemed to enjoy himself, while I nearly had a heart attack. You see, it didn't matter that the warning signs were being belted out from behind. Because he could not hear it, it meant nothing to him.

This memory reminds me of the verse Romans 10:14. "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" We look at the world around us and ask why don't they believe in Jesus and why don't they follow Him?" Have we ever then asked ourselves if anyone has ever told them about Jesus or have they ever heard the Good News? If no one has shared the Gospel with them, then they will never hear it and they will never believe in Him. Now like my story above, I could have yelled all day at that camper, and since he would never have heard me, he would still have been hit with the sail. In order to reach people for Christ, we have a mandate to share the Good News with them. We need to take the time to get to know them, to develop a relationship with them, so that they can hear the Good News and believe! Who in your circle of influence needs to hear the Good News today?

CHRIS RUTLEDGE



How do you feel about being in control? If you're anything like me you prefer it. You prefer sitting in the driver's seat, or picking the restaurant you go to for dinner. It's not because you love being controlling, it's because you don't love the feeling of helplessness. Which is why today's prayer point can feel so frustrating.

Today we are praying that those we are ministering to will respond to the Good News of the Gospel. That in the words of Paul, they would declare with their mouths that "Jesus is Lord," and believe in their heart that God raised him from the dead, so that they will be saved (Romans 10:9).

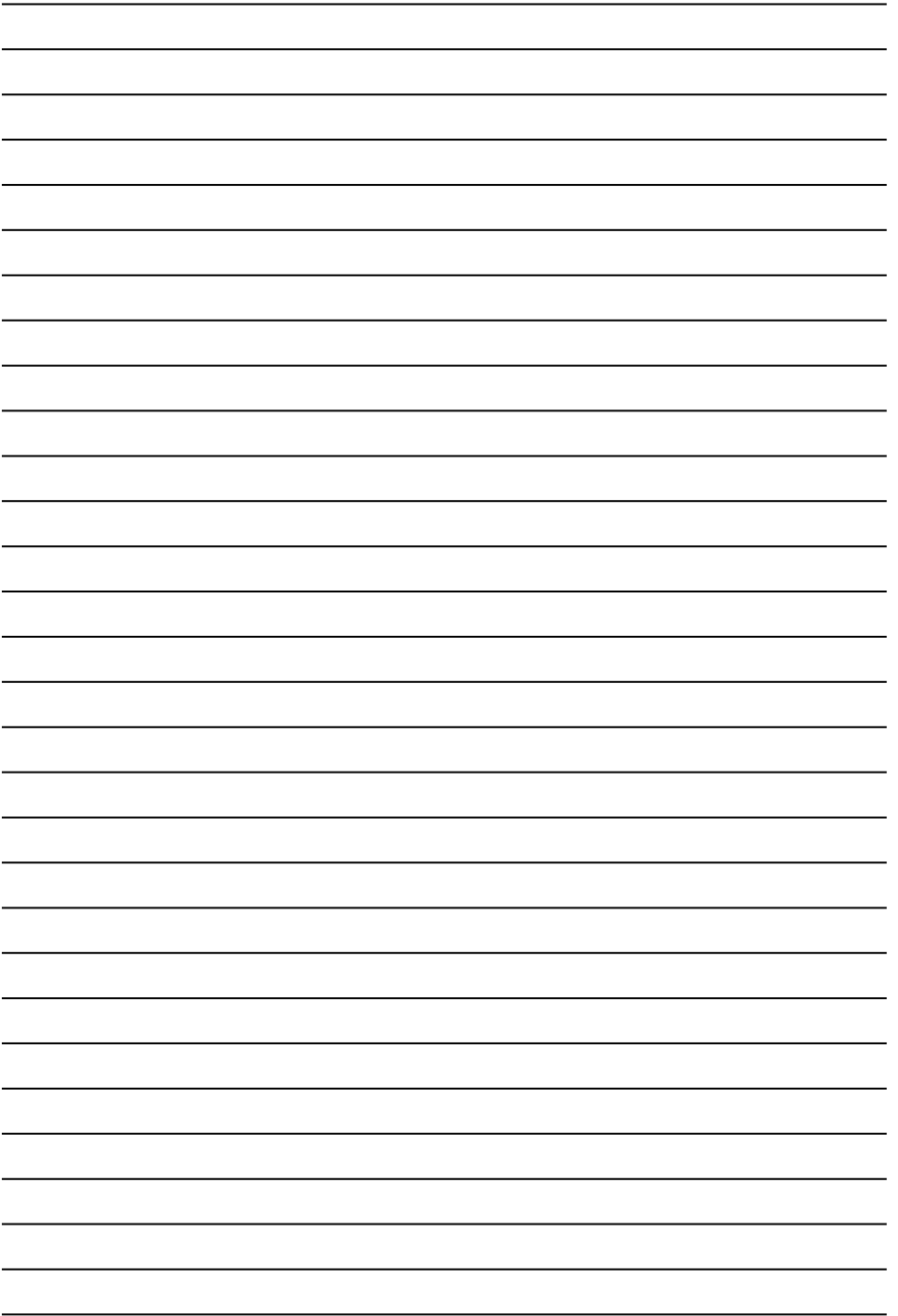
This response is not within our control. We could answer all of their questions, spend hours talking about Jesus together, or offer countless bible studies. At the end of the day, the decision to follow Jesus is their own.

What we can do is step out in obedience to share and hand the rest over to God in prayer. Here are 4 reminders for us as we pray today:

1. Be Confident: God longs to hear and respond to our prayers, so we can begin praying with confidence, knowing our prayers are important to God.
2. Be Specific: What is it that you want God to do in the situation, or for the person? An example might be: *"Help _____ respond to your love."*
3. Be Expectant: God loves our friends, family and community more than we do, so be expectant!
4. Be Persistent: Sometimes we need to ask and keep asking. (Matthew 7:7)

PS MICHAEL TABET

Suggested Resource: 24/7 Prayer. "Petitioning God for others."
https://www.24-7prayer.com/prayer_guide/petitioning-god-for-others/



MATTHEW 28:19-20

“THEREFORE GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND SURELY I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE.”

