



WEEK OF

PRAYER

2023

# Purpose



**Loving** Our Community

**Sharing** God's Love

**Seeing** Lives Transformed

## We Value



**Generosity**, because we want to honour God with all that He has given us: our time, our talents & our resources...

**Risk-taking**, because it increases our reliance on God as we partner with Him to build His Kingdom...

**Authenticity**, because true discipleship begins when we are real with God and each other...

**Participation**, because nobody's perfect, but everyone's welcome and together we build God-centred communities...

**Expectation**, because God is always at work and we refuse to limit Him...

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# Introduction



Our Week of Prayer has always been a really significant marker in the year and a time when God has spoken really clearly to us in the past - even if it takes some time for us to truly realise what He was revealing.

*Nothing can be more powerful than when a church gathers to wait and hear from God together.*

*Week of Prayer 2020*

*It's been a thought provoking, challenging and encouraging week.*

*Week of Prayer 2020*

The themes of our daily prayer times, personal and gathered, will be based on the following Scripture:

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

**Acts 2:42-47**

# Praying Together



It is important for us to prioritise connecting with God, and whilst we can pray on our own wherever we are and whenever we have time, it can be especially powerful to be together when praying. So during the Week of Prayer we will have two daily prayer times where we can gather together to pray - one in-person, and one online:

## **Daily Prayer Times (Mon-Fri)**

**Lunchtime: 12:15-1:15pm at RBC**

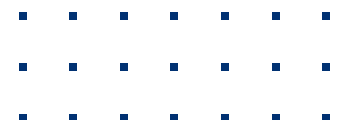
**Evening: 8:00-9:00pm via Zoom**

But we know that those times won't work for everyone's work or family lives. Which is why we've produced this booklet to aid your own personal & family prayer times.



We also want to encourage you to gather together to pray with others at times which are convenient to you. Get together with a few friends and go for a prayer walk around your area, meet in your homes, or even in your favourite coffee shop.

# Growing & Going



Our theme for this whole academic year is "Growing & Going" which will keep our focus firmly on discipleship & evangelism - two pillars of the Christian faith which are (or should be) inseparable. We want to unpack and demystify what we mean by 'evangelism' and reclaim the word & practice.

Our growth as disciples of Jesus should be an ongoing process. We should grow as disciples together, and we should go into our community together. As we grow, we should go; and as we go, we should also grow! We should do both with God, in fellowship, and within our community.

A key verse for growing and going is Matthew 4:19:

**Jesus said "follow me, & I will make you fishers of men"**



# Up In Out :::::

We are called to be followers of Jesus, so what can we learn from His balanced approach to life, ministry & relationships? What can we learn that will help us to be better three-dimensional Disciples? The outline below is taken from Luke 6:

## **UP** Leaning into God

*"One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God." v12*

No matter how busy He was, or how short of time, Jesus prioritised time with His Father.

## **IN** Learning Together

*"When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles" v13*

Jesus selected those He wanted to journey with and they grew as disciples together on the way.

## **OUT** Loving Others

*"He went down and large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over, who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases." v17*

After time with His Father and the Disciples, they went out together to be Good News (evangelism).

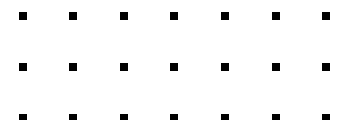
# Three Dimensional Christians

We are called to follow the example of Jesus, which means that we should mirror his priorities and practices, and aspire to be three-dimensional Disciples.



Relationship with	Focus on	Commitment to
God One Another Our Community		

# Everyone Everywhere Everyday



As a Christian, a follower of Jesus, whatever life throws at you and whatever circumstances you find yourself in, you are an **ambassador of Christ** ([2 Corinthians 5:20](#)). And as a representative of Jesus on earth we are never off-duty. Every one of us is called to be a disciple everywhere and everyday.

*Pray that God will open a door for our message, so we can proclaim the mystery of Christ. That we will proclaim it clearly, and be wise in the way we act towards others, making the most of every opportunity. May our conversations always be full of grace. - **Colossians 4:2-6** [paraphrase]*

There are divine appointments around every one of us every day and we're never off-duty. May we open our eyes and seek everyday divine opportunities, everywhere!

# Monday 20th

# Devotion

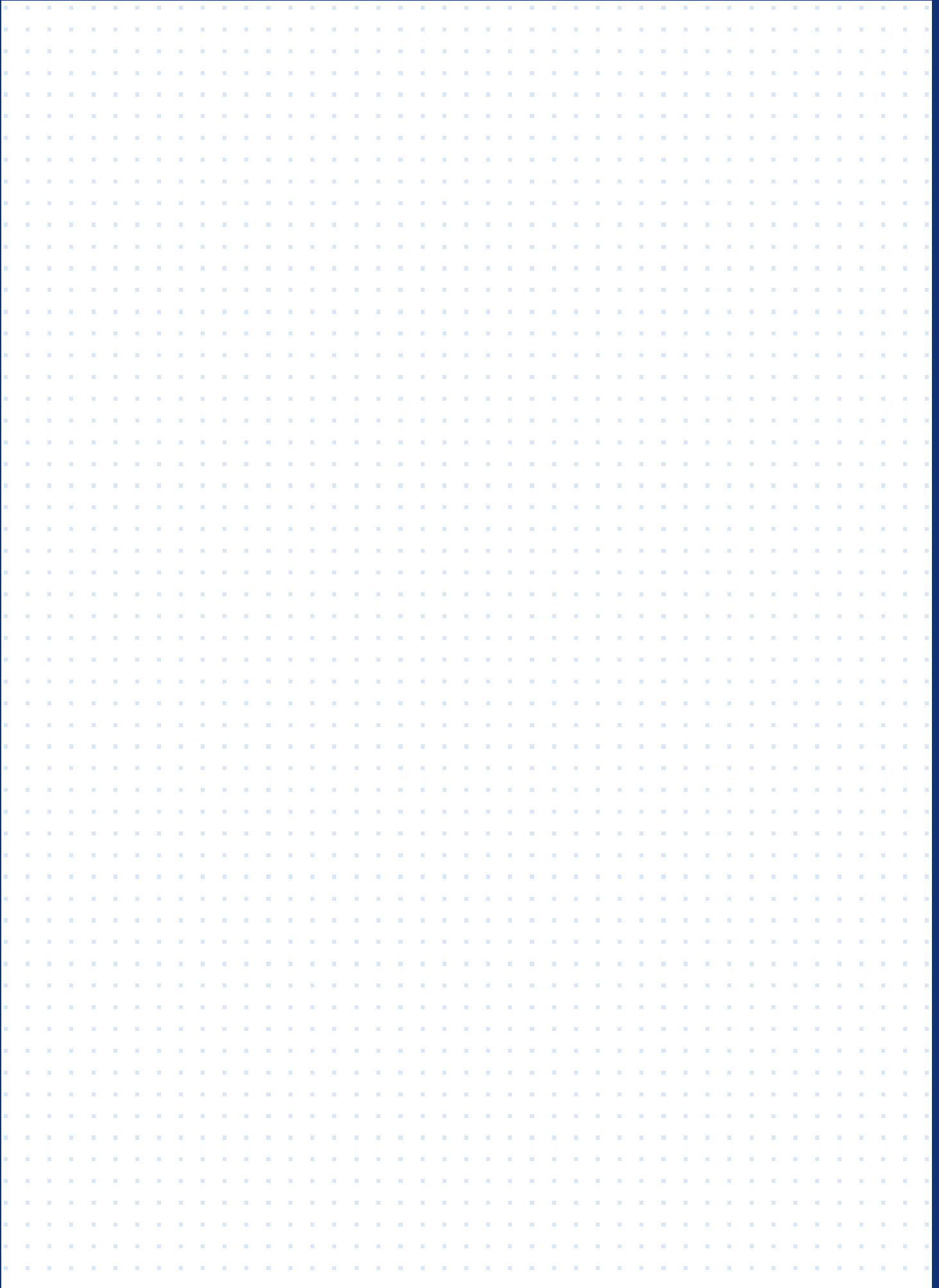
**v42** *"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."*

From the birth of the Church we see the disciples setting their priorities early and sticking to them. We too need to prioritise well, which means putting the most important things first, and fitting everything else in around them. Occasionally we have re-evaluate and reset - the pandemic provided a much needed opportunity to do that.

We should devote ourselves to God, Family, & Church (in that order) before everything else.

## Prayer Pointers:

- What are you devoted to?
- How do you spend or invest your time?
- How can you develop your Prayer life?
- Devote yourself to Communion & Fellowship...



# Tuesday 21st

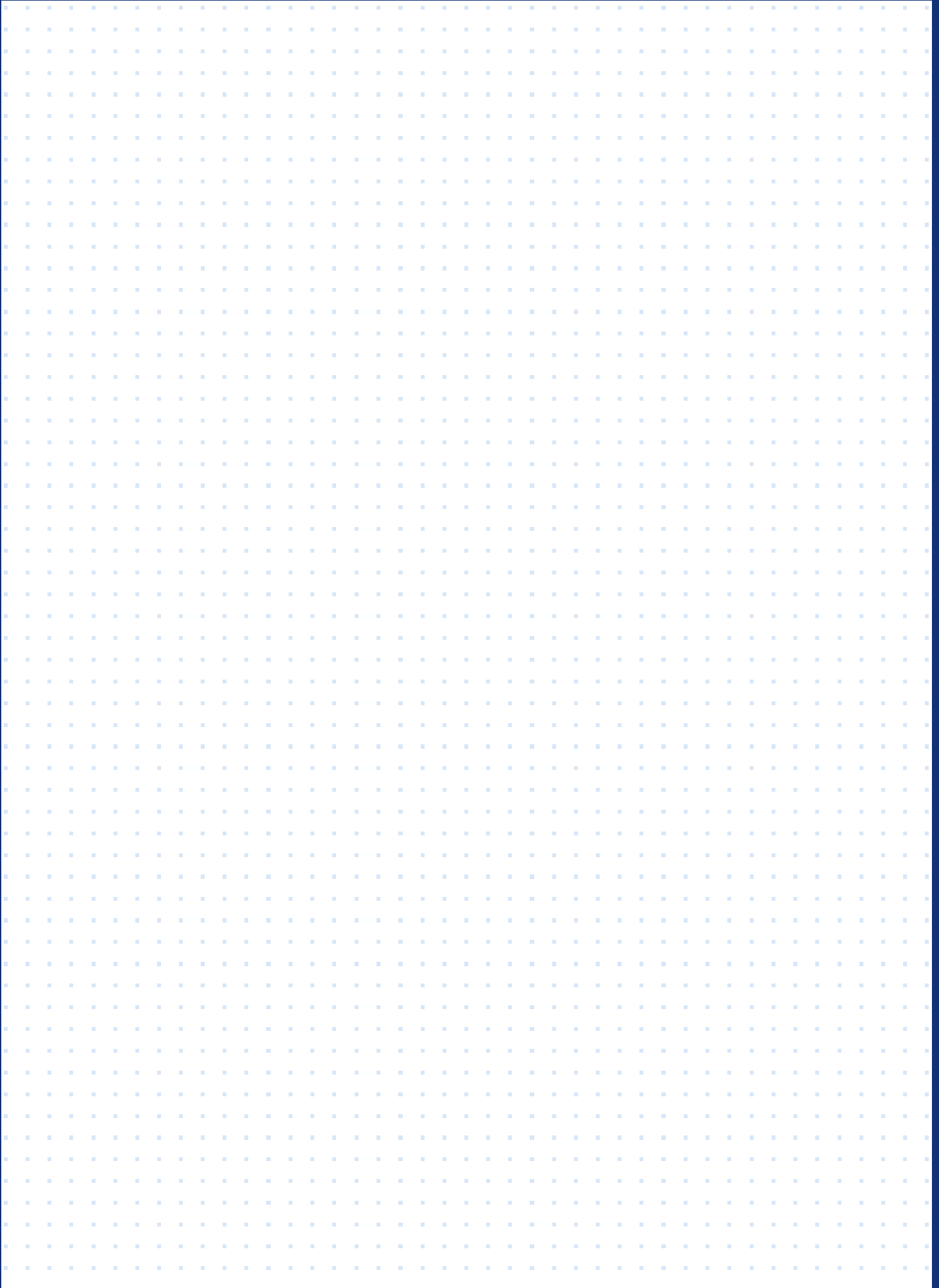
# Awe & Wonder

**v43** *"Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles."*

What signs and wonders have you witnessed recently? When was the last time that you were filled with awe and wonder at what God had done? Are you expectant that He will do something which produces that response in you? Spend time today thinking about what God has done, what He is doing in the different areas below. Then share with God what you'd like to see Him do.

## Prayer Pointers:

- Personal relationship with God
- Family & friends
- Church family & ministries
- Neighbours, colleagues & strangers



# Wednesday 22nd

# Unity

v44

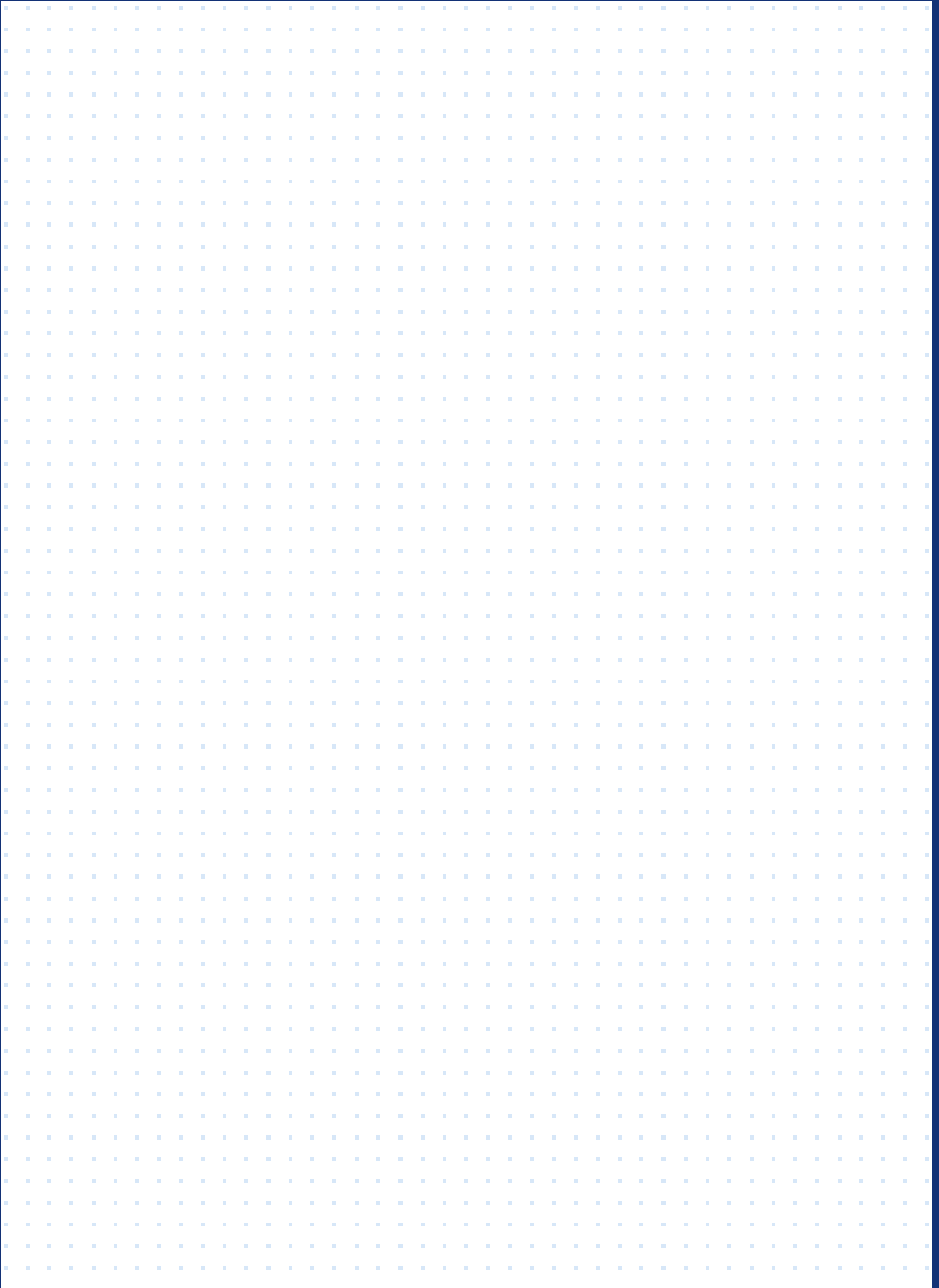
*"All the believers were together and had everything in common."*

What does it look like for the believers to have everything in common? Not just the sharing of possessions/wealth (see tomorrow), but today think about what we have in common with each other as a Church family.

After the turbulence of the pandemic there is once again a general sense of unity across the fellowship, both when we gather together, but in conversations too. Over the last 18 months our votes at the Church Member's meeting have been unanimous or very close to it - possibly the most measurable indicator of what we have in common.

## Prayer Pointers:

- Outward focus of the Building project
- Christian Organisations & Churches in Rayleigh
- Unity not uniformity: "*unity in diversity*" 1 Cor. 12



# Thursday 23rd

# Generosity

v45

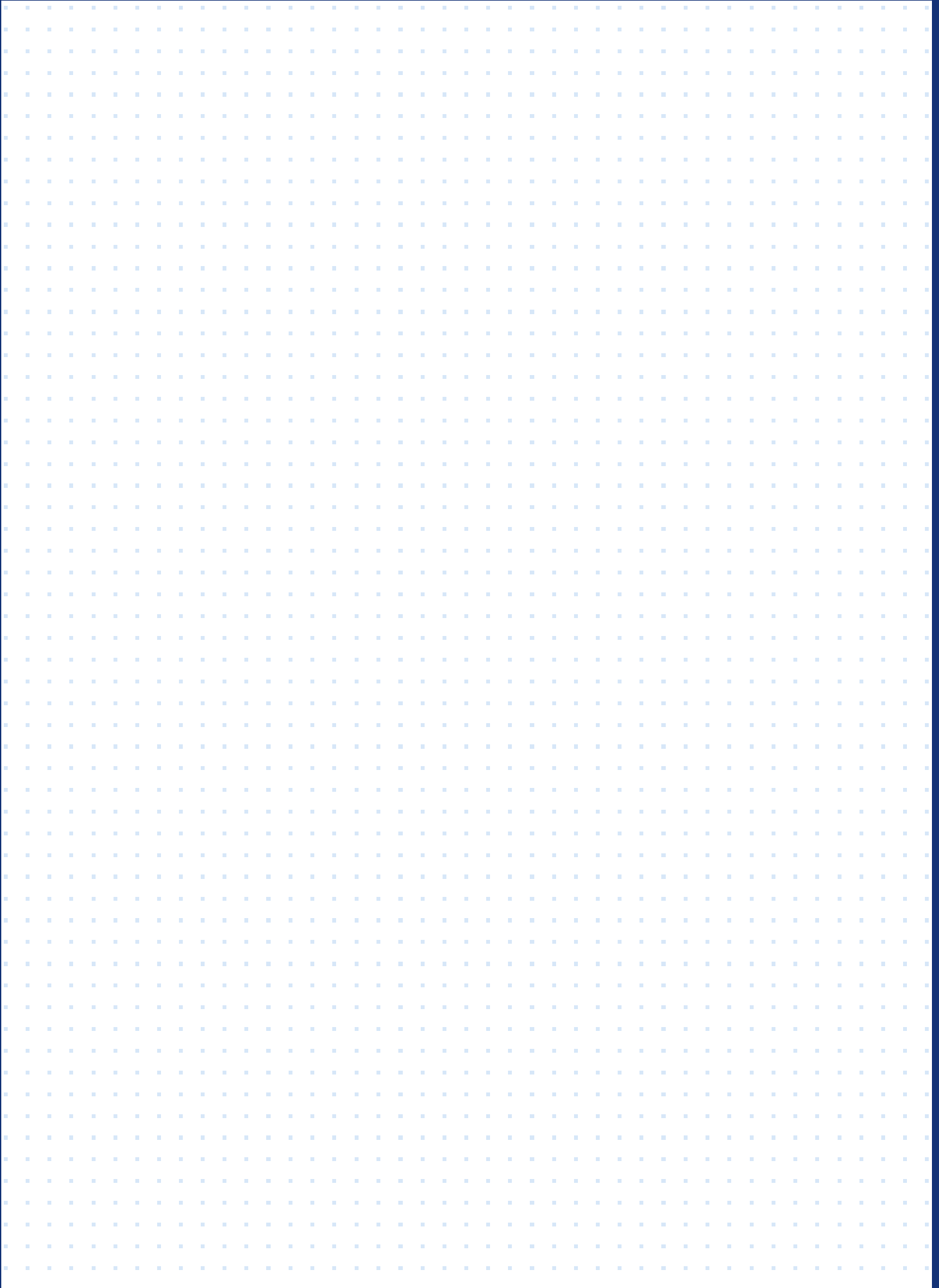
*"They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need."*

This verse provides a huge challenge. But we have a history of putting it into practice. Perhaps not by selling property and possessions, but certainly by making personal sacrifices in other ways for the benefit of others.

We see this regularly through giving to the Fellowship Fund which enables us to support one another in moments of need/crisis in particular. But we've seen this even more powerfully recently with the financial response to the Building Project.

## Prayer Pointers:

- What are the needs in our community?
- Which are we called to meet/serve?
- What would generosity look like?
- How can we each practice daily generosity?



# Friday 24th Gathering

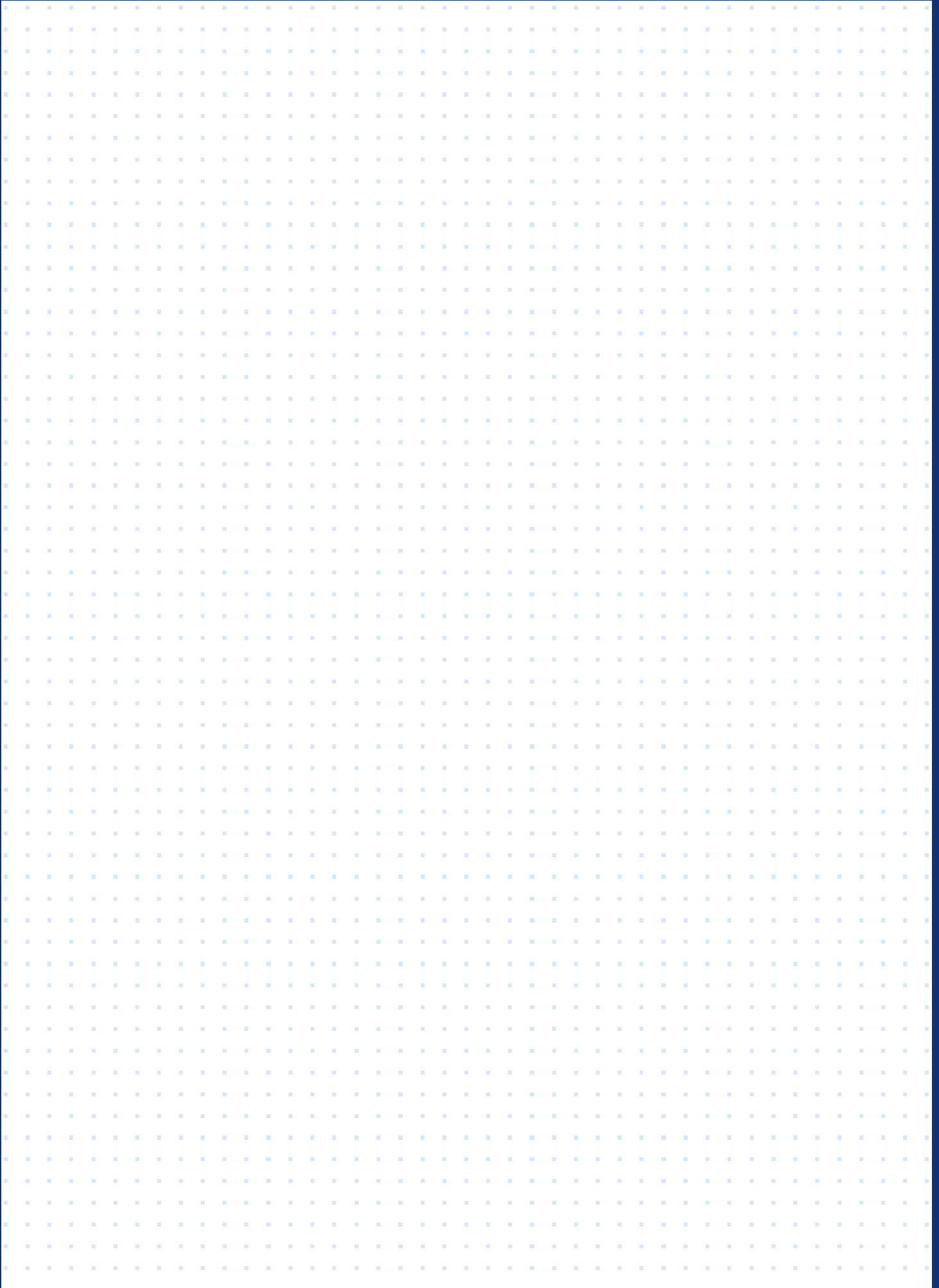
v46

*"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts..."*

As we started to regather for in-person worship we've focussed in particular on intergenerational worship/teaching. We have a common teaching programme across all ages in the Church family. This focus has been bearing fruit recently. And when we gather together as a family we are seeing the Holy Spirit at work through our Gatherings. We're beginning to hear testimonies about what God is doing, and receive prophetic words/pictures as part of the new Encounter gatherings too.

## Prayer Pointers:

- Intergenerational teaching & worship
- Life Groups & Connect Groups
- Those housebound or in Care homes
- Inviting friends & neighbours



# Saturday 25th

## Expectation

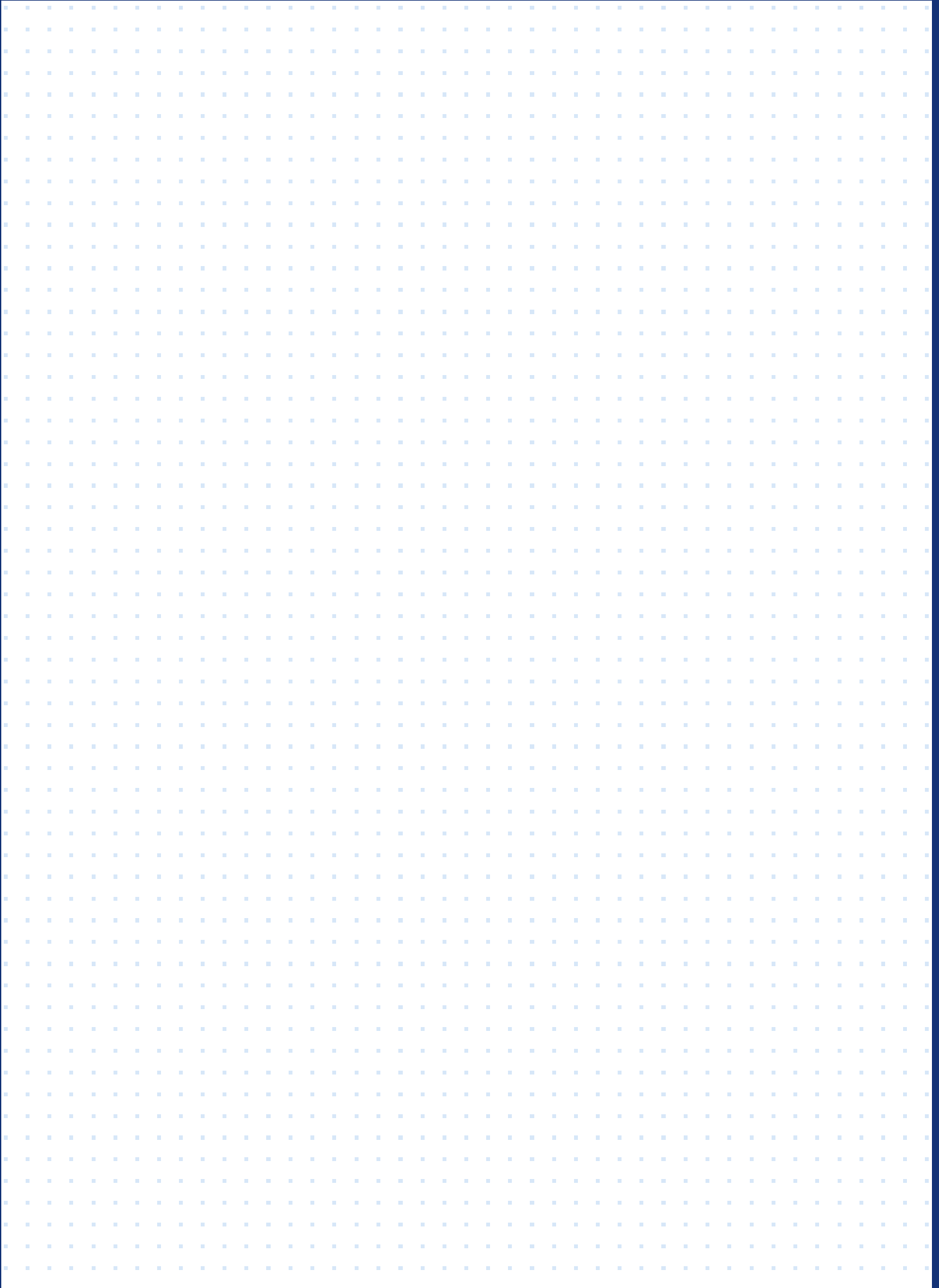
v47

*"...praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."*

We have been so blessed to see some growth over the last year, mostly by transfer from other Churches and some returning to RBC after some time away. But let's be expectant about what God has in store for us. Let's be praying for, and playing our part in working towards seeing new people come to faith, being transformed, being Baptised, and coming into Membership. Let's pray that God will quickly fill the newly extended buildings, on Sundays and throughout the week!

### Prayer Pointers:

- Growing & Going - theme for the year
- Church weekend
- Easter Weekend & 123 Go!





# ▶▶ **EVERYDAY ANGELS** ▶▶

**3RD-5TH MARCH CHURCH WEEKEND**

CHRIS DUFFETT / CONNOR WINSTON / SUE & CHRIS GOVUS

In line with this year's theme of "Growing and Going", the weekend will focus on encouraging us to grow, and empowering us to find new ways to go and connect with our contacts & our community.

The weekend will feature teaching & workshops led by Rev. Chris Duffett and a team from the Light College & Collective, worship led by Connor Winston from Lighthouse Church, Sheringham (& RBC), and children's activities led by Sue & Chris Govus, we're looking forward to an inspiring and challenging weekend for all ages!

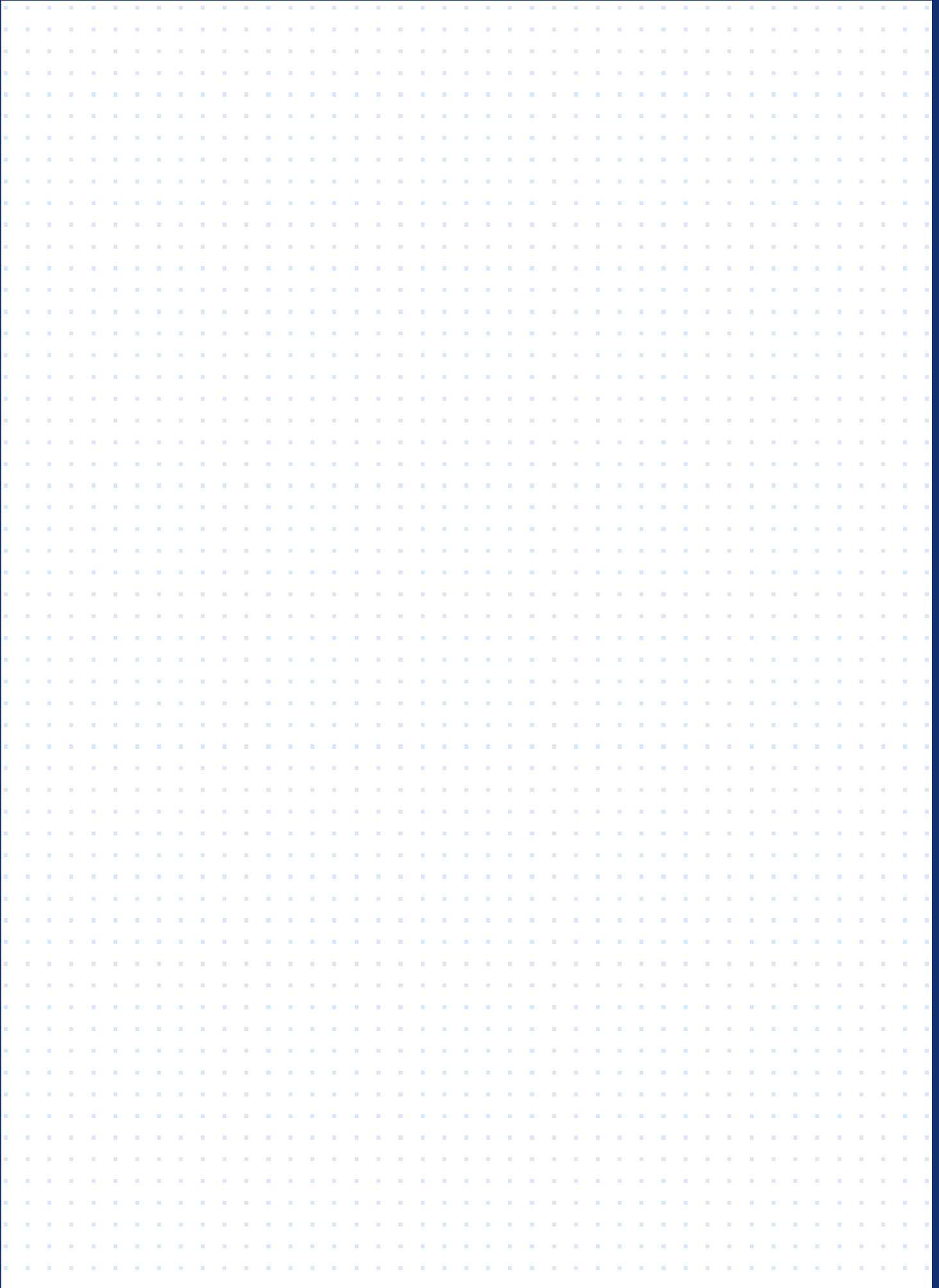


**CHRIS DUFFETT  
AND A TEAM FROM  
THE LIGHT COLLEGE**



**CONNOR WINSTON  
FROM LIGHTHOUSE  
SHERINGHAM**

**SIGN-UP NOW ON OUR WEBSITE:**  
**RAYLEIGHBAPTIST.ORG.UK**



# ACORN



## ASK

Lord, today is there someone you want me to connect with outside the RBC family?



## CALL

Listen for God's call;  
He may put someone on your heart,  
or place someone in your way..



## OBEY

Respond obediently to God  
with a call, text, email or chat  
and simply ask: *'how are you?'*



## REPORT

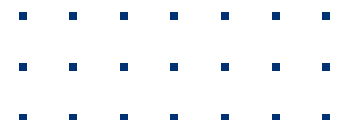
Give testimony to  
what you've experienced  
God doing.



## NOTICE

What is God doing in you?  
What is God doing through you?

# What Have You Heard?



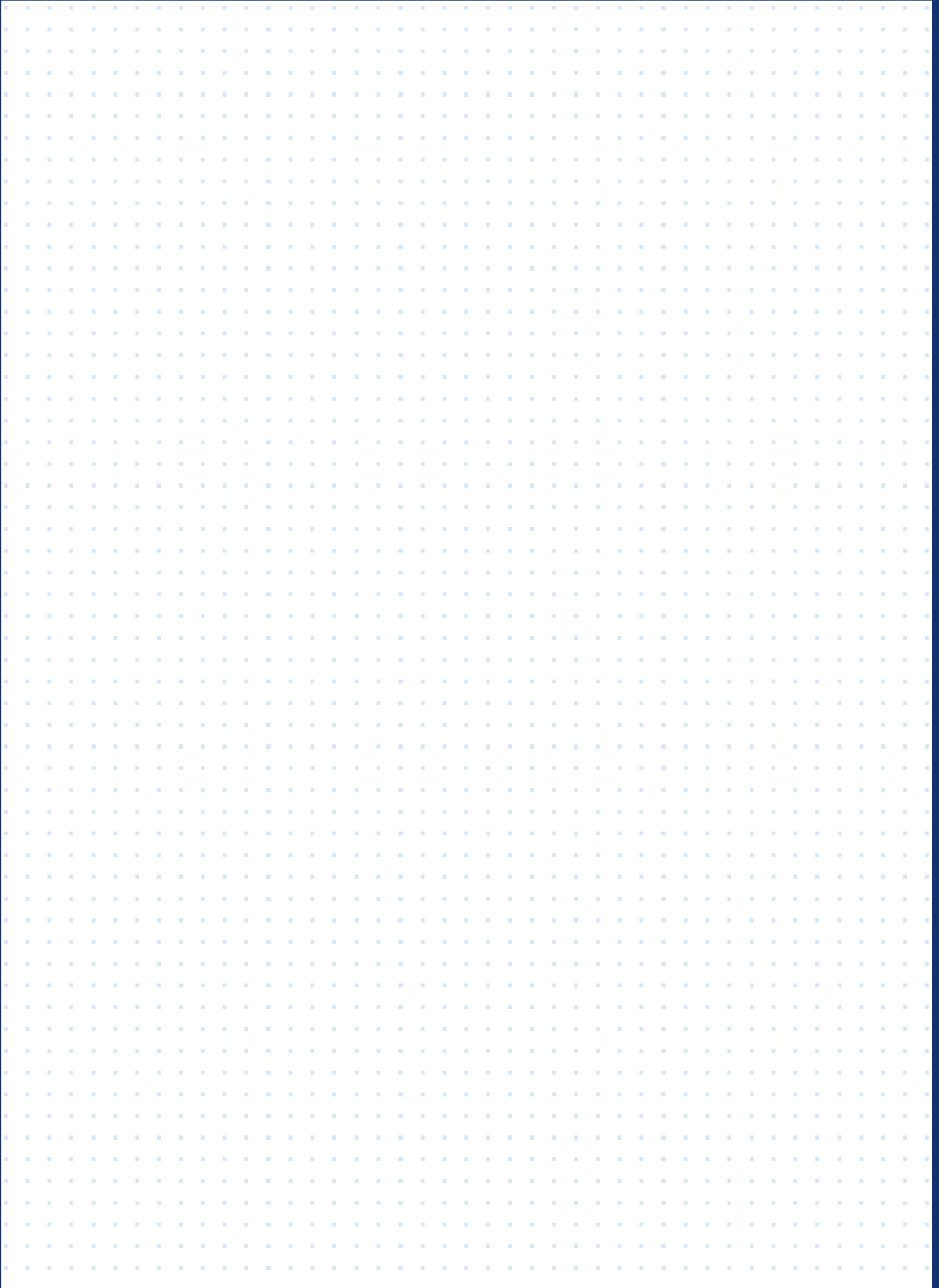
Our prayer lives should be as much about listening to God as they are about talking to God (arguably we should listen twice as much!). So we've left space for you to note down what you believe God has said during your prayer times. Some things will be very specific to you, and some things will be for the Church family.

After the Week of Prayer each year we collate what we believe God has said to us during the different gatherings, and the Elders reflect and discern what we believe God is saying to the Church family as a whole, and share it with everyone.

At the end of the week, please take some time to reflect on your notes and email the Elders with anything you'd like to share (via the address below).

If anything comes up during the week which feels particularly significant, please feel free to send it before the week concludes.

**[testimony@rayleighbaptist.org.uk](mailto:testimony@rayleighbaptist.org.uk)**



# Ongoing Prayer



When the week of prayer has concluded, the praying doesn't have to stop (and nor should it). There are a number of regular prayer times in the life of the Church family:

## Regular Prayer Times

**Sunday: 10:00am pray for our Gathering**

**Monday: 7:15pm via Zoom**

**Life Groups (throughout the week)**

**House of Prayer at Holy Trinity**

There are other regular times of prayer throughout the week in specific groups:

## Other Prayer Times

**Staff Prayer: 9:30am Monday & Thursday**

**Elders Meetings (fortnightly)**

**Churches for Rayleigh (monthly)**

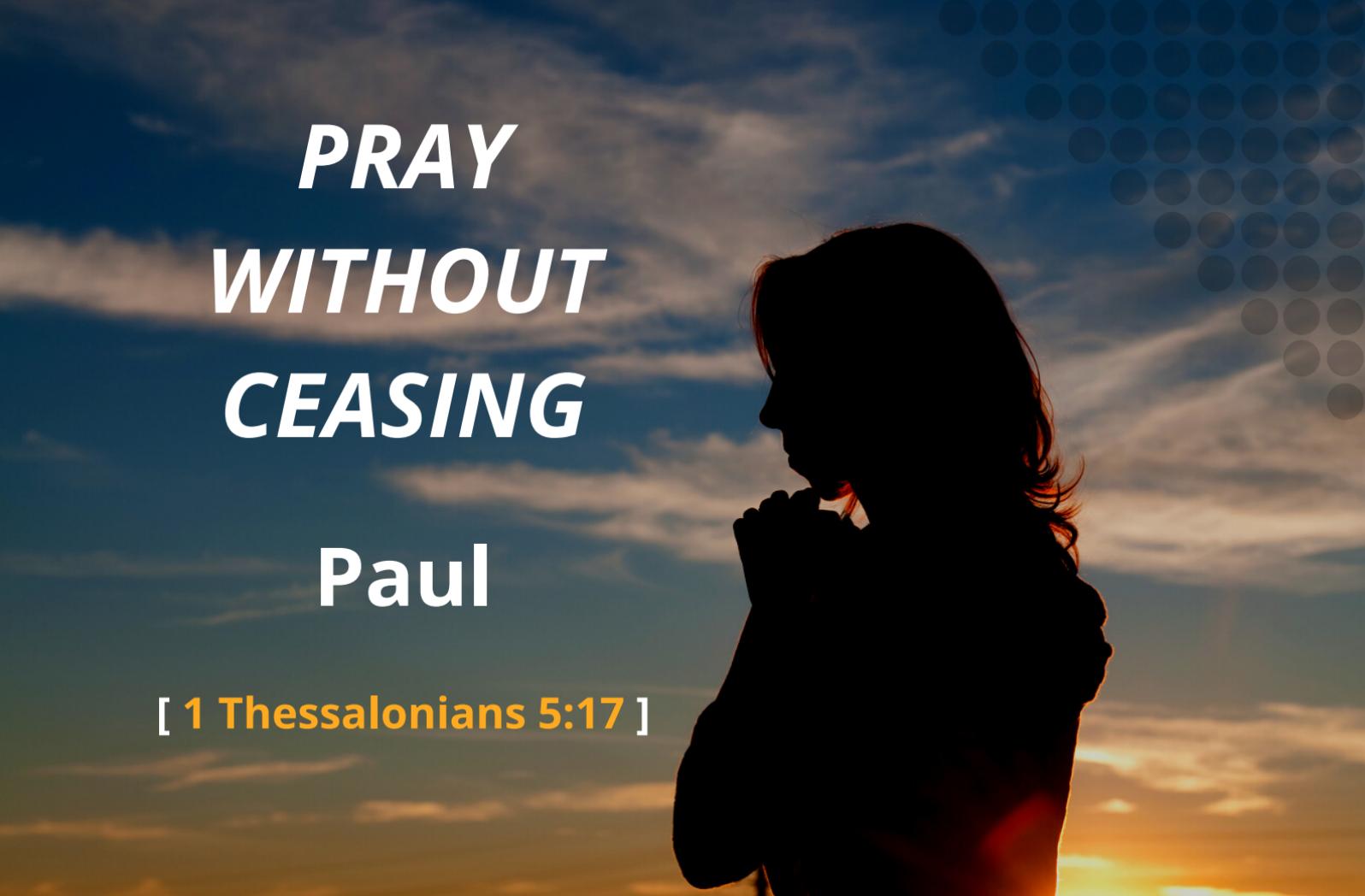
**Schools Prayer Group**



**MY HOUSE  
SHALL BE CALLED  
A HOUSE OF  
PRAYER**

**Jesus**

[ **Matthew 21 14** ]



***PRAY  
WITHOUT  
CEASING***

**Paul**

[ **1 Thessalonians 5:17** ]

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