

HAND
Lettering
to help you
Memorize
God's Word

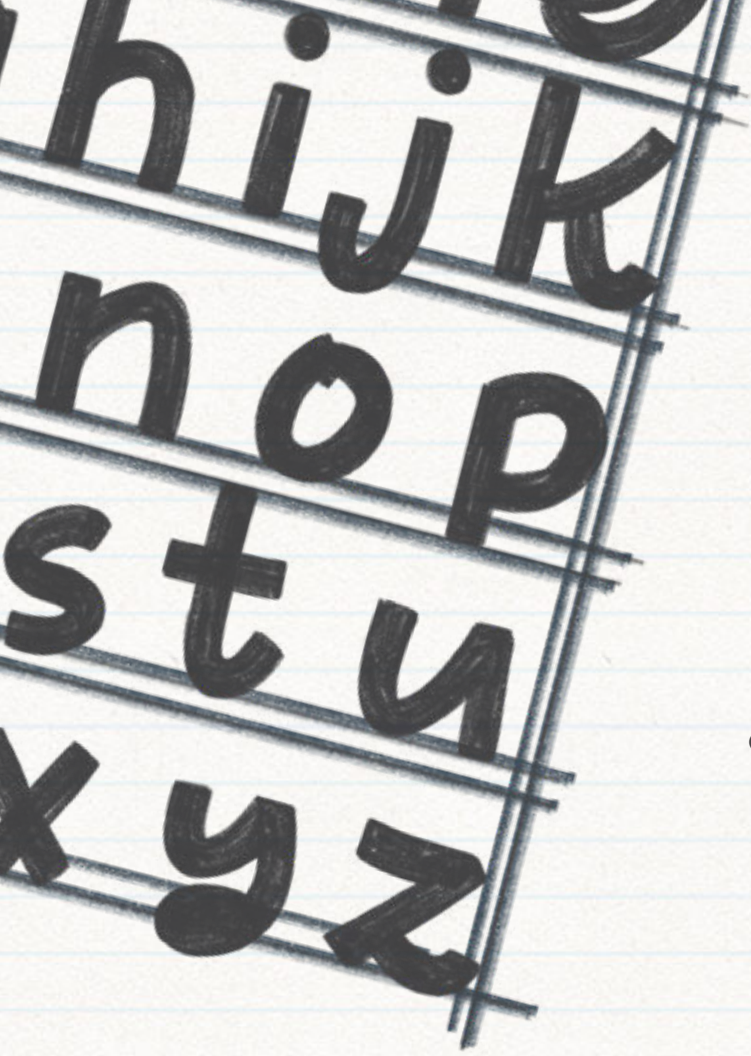
A SIMPLE GUIDE TO
HELP YOU GET STARTED

BY THE BRIO TEAM

Brio

forgive
as
the LORD
forgave
you. 3

COLOSSIANS 3:13 NIV



AT A GLANCE

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Are you ready to have fun memorizing Scripture? Hand-lettering Scripture isn't just the creation of art. It's also a fun way to meditate on God's Word and can be a memorization tool. As you begin your hand-lettering journey, reflect on the meaning of each word you write, mulling it over and connecting it to the verse as a whole. Don't worry about making mistakes. Instead, relax and enjoy the experience.

Are you ready to get started? Grab the supplies listed in the next column, and go to the next page.

GATHER:

PENCIL

A standard No. 2 pencil works well, but if you can get your hands on a softer lead such as an 8B, you'll find it's easier to make thicker lines.

ERASER (OPTIONAL)

A good, white eraser is handy to have on hand because everyone makes mistakes. However, not having an eraser can be good practice. Then you have to work with your "mistakes," which may turn into a unique part of your piece.

PAPER

Print this guide or use a separate sheet of paper. Any paper will work, so it's a good exercise to use whatever paper you have on hand.



BASICS

letters and words

A B C D E
F G H I J K
L M N O P
Q R S T U
V W X Y Z

SINGLE LETTERS

Practice drawing the alphabet by using these sheets as guides. Start with a single letter. Write it several times, keeping each letter consistent with the first one. Then create that same letter in a heavier weight by adding lines evenly around the single-stroked letter and filling them in. Repeat, repeat, repeat. Try to keep each letter as identical as possible.



YOU TRY

Choose a letter, and practice drawing it by using the steps on the previous page. The goal is to practice writing each letter of the alphabet on a separate page. Focus on repetition, not on creating different versions or styles of a letter.

The page contains 12 sets of horizontal lines for handwriting practice. Each set consists of three lines: a top line, a middle line, and a bottom line. These lines are spaced evenly down the page to provide a guide for letter height and placement.

SINGLE WORDS

Now that you've practiced single letters, it's time to move on to single words. Take what you've learned from drawing letters, and simply apply those skills to words. Try to draw each of the words below several times by mimicking the style and keeping all letters as consistent as possible.

JOY

LOVE

PEACE

SINGLE WORDS

Now, add some weight to your words. Draw each word. Then create each letter as a heavier weight by adding lines evenly around the single-stroked letter and filling them in. Use the space to practice again and again.

JOY

LOVE

PEACE

YOU TRY

Time for some fun! Continue experimenting with joy, peace and love, or practice with your own three favorite words. Write each word across two sets of lines. Then add weight to them. Remember, the goal is consistency. Try to repeat the same letterforms over and over.

1

2

3

FLOURISHES

bounce and movement

Faith
& Love
AND
Hope

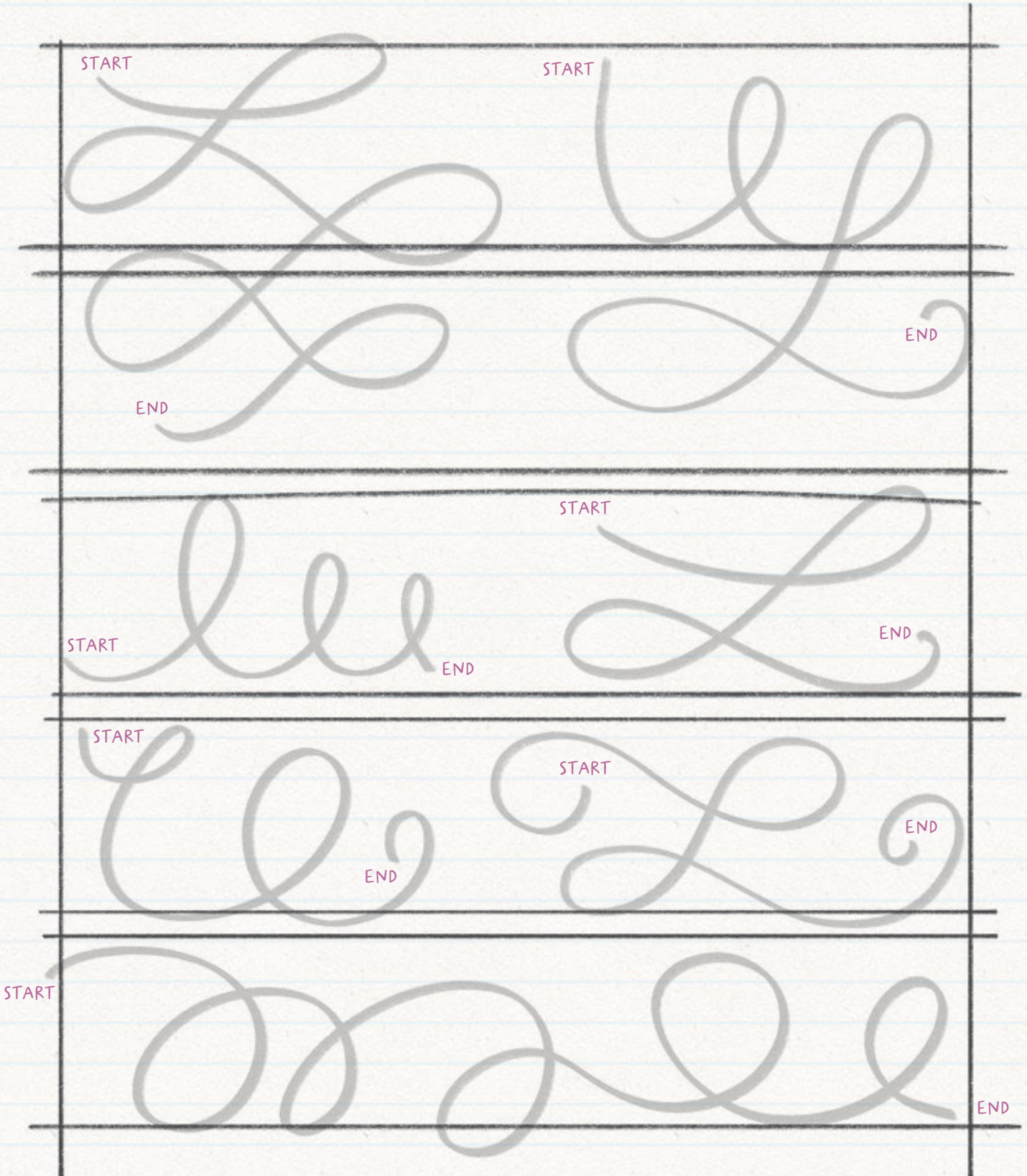
FLOURISHES

Add bounce, movement and flow to your letters by adding flourishes. These fancy strokes can help guide the reader from word to word. Start by making simple loops by using a single stroke. Let your hand flow, and don't worry about perfection. Practice going up, down and across. You can trace the flourishes on this page and the next page as many times as you want.



FLOURISHES

Trace these flourishes as many times as needed to get a feel for them.



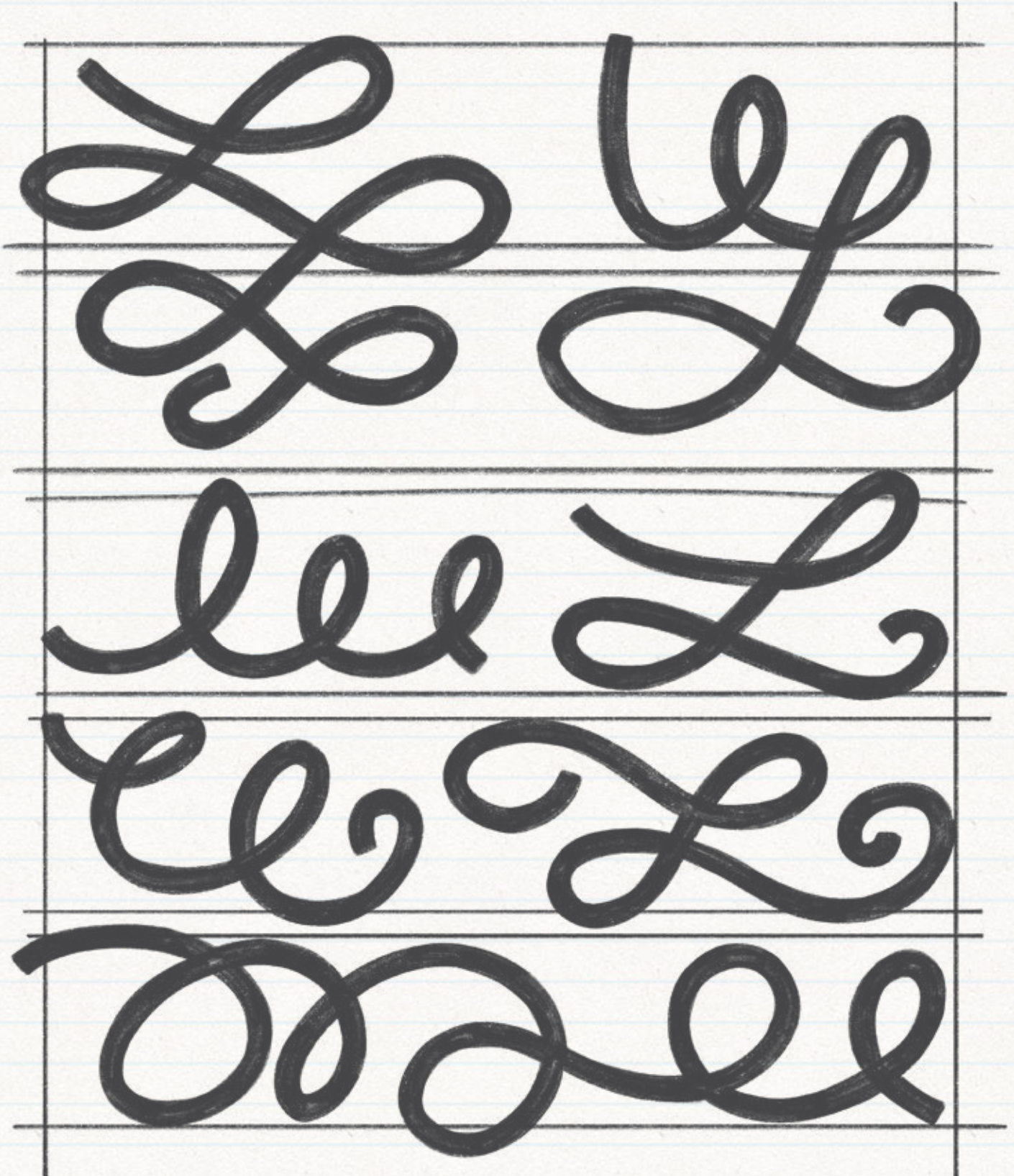
YOU TRY

Come up with unique flourishes of your own.

A large rectangular frame is drawn on the page. It consists of two vertical lines on the left and right sides, and several horizontal lines that create a grid of empty space. The horizontal lines are spaced out vertically, providing a structured area for the user to draw their own unique flourishes. The background of the page is lined with light blue horizontal lines.

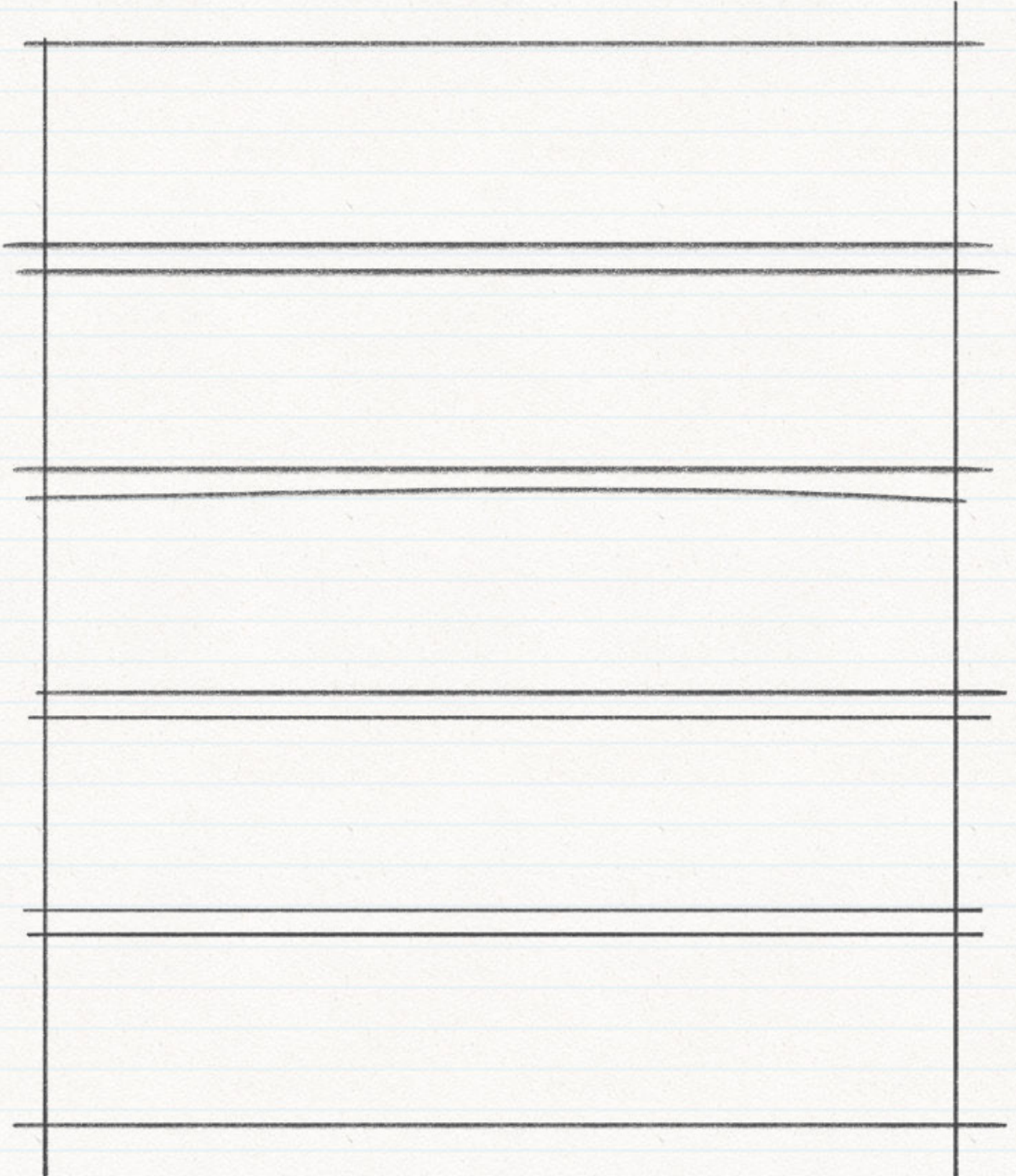
FLOURISHES

Now take your flourishes and add weight to them just as you did with single letters and words.



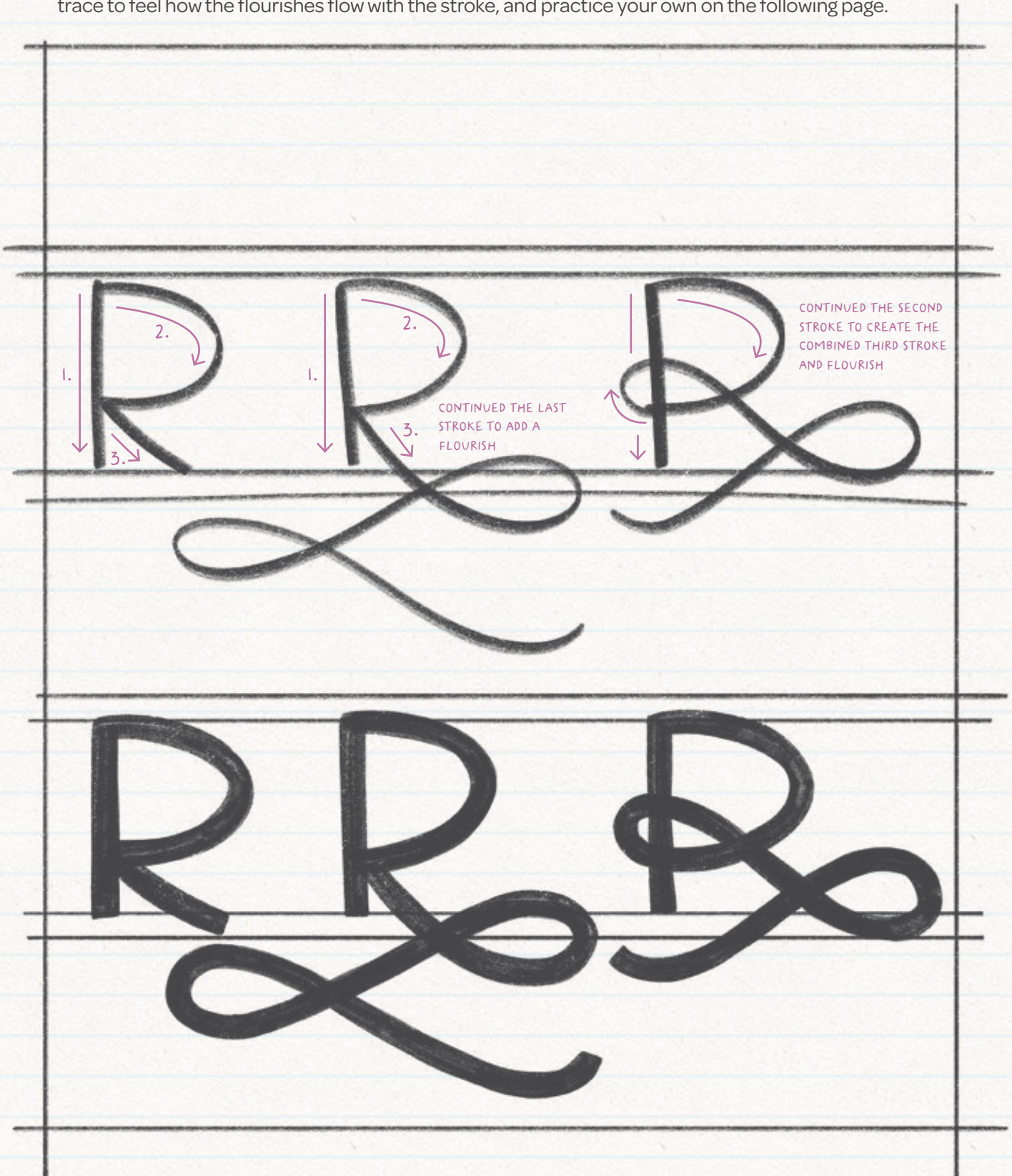
YOU TRY

Add weight to your own flourish designs.



FLOURISHES TO LETTERS

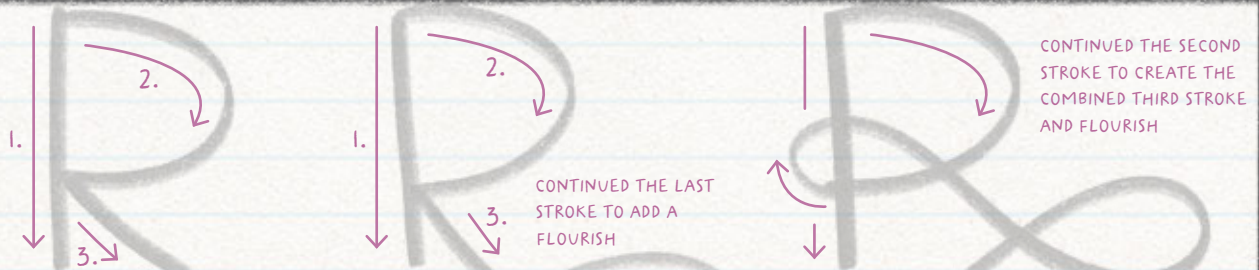
Now for the fun part. It's time to add flourishes to letters. Write a single letter that you've previously practiced, and evaluate how you can add a flourish. Before ending a stroke, ask yourself, *Can I continue a stroke with a flourish?* Notice how flourishes were added to the letter "R" below. On the next page, trace to feel how the flourishes flow with the stroke, and practice your own on the following page.



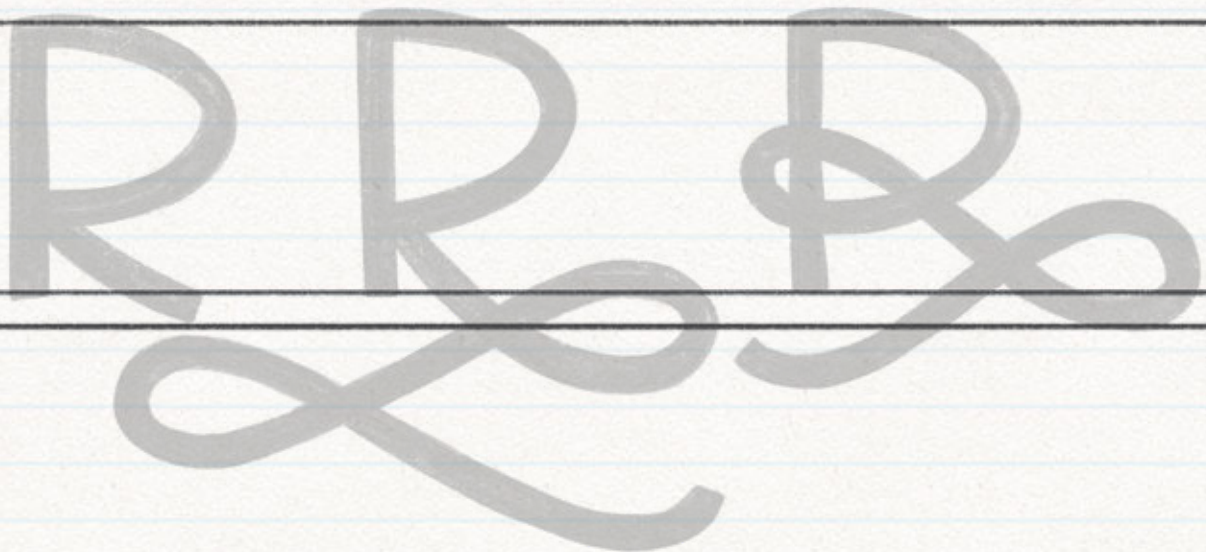
FLOURISHES TO LETTERS

Trace to feel how the flourishes flow with the stroke, and practice your own on the following page.

TRACE.

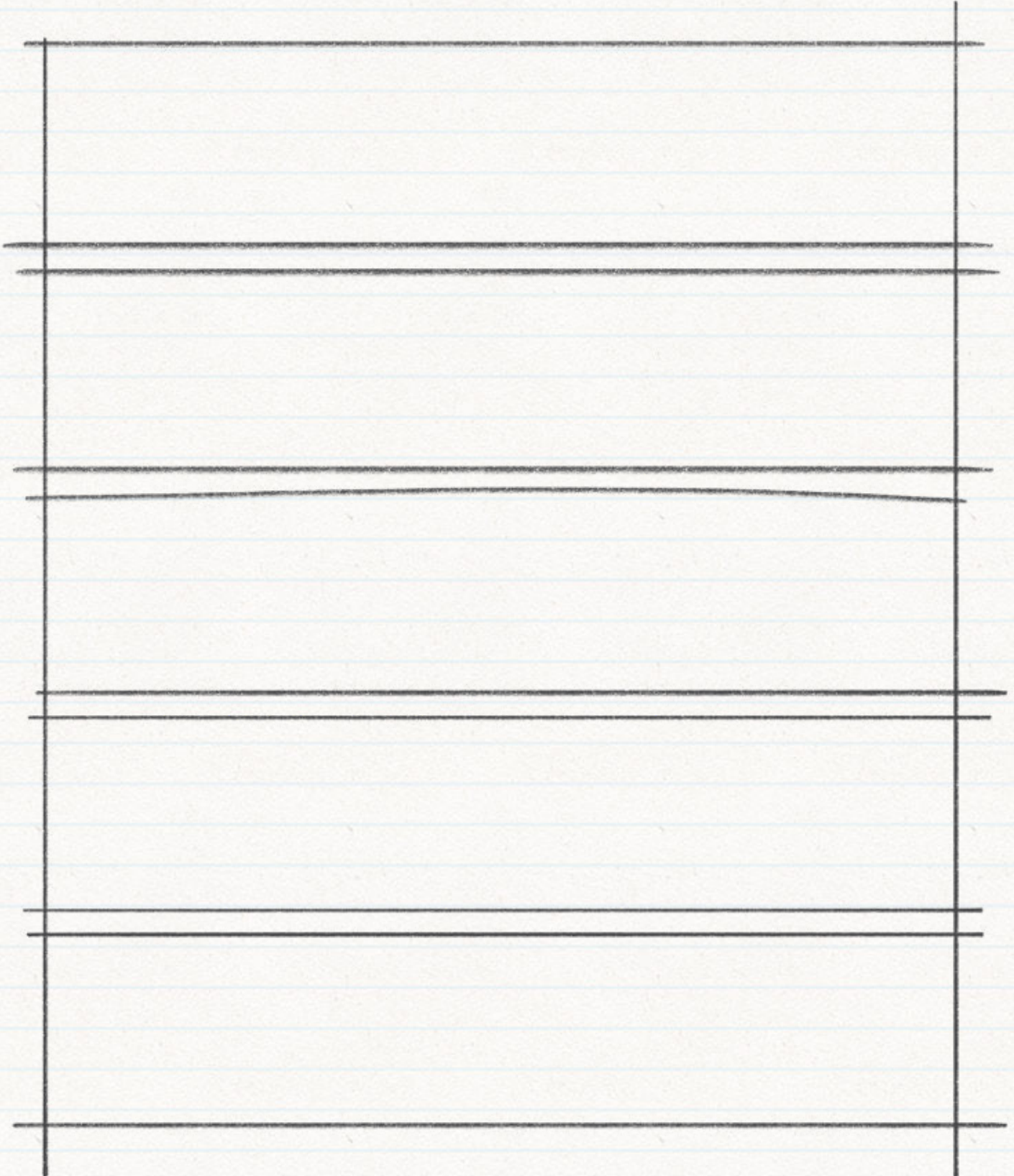


ADD WEIGHT AND THICKNESS.



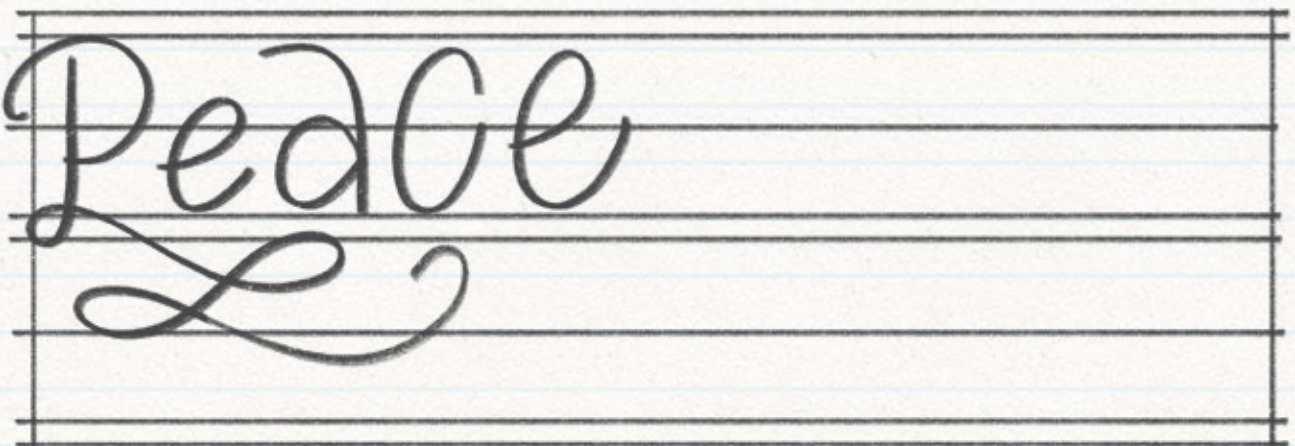
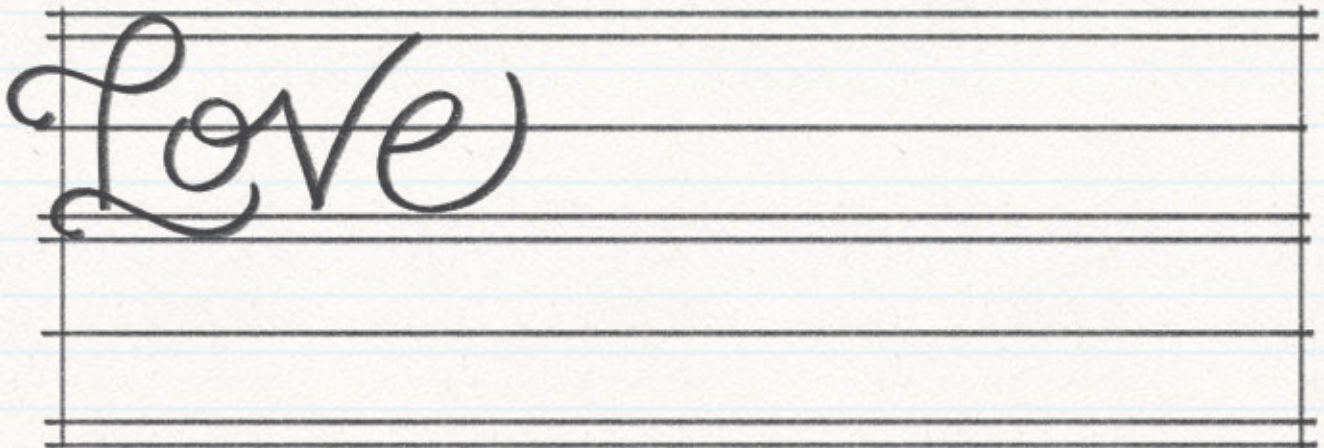
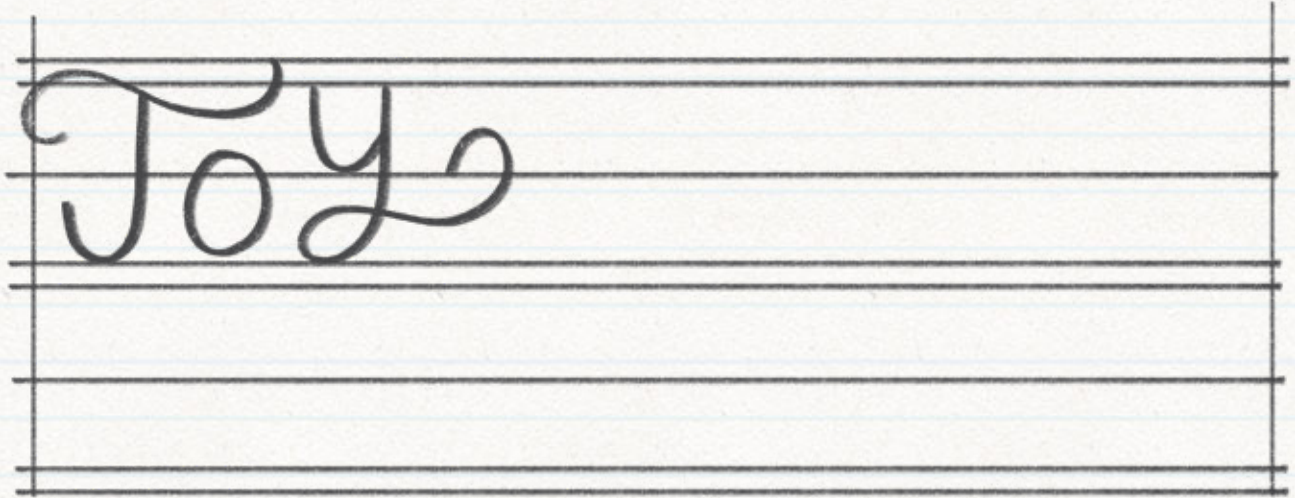
YOU TRY

Write a letter, and see how many ways you can add a flourish to it. Get a little crazy, and see if you can add more than one flourish to a single letter. When you draw a letter you like, refine it by adding weight and thickness.



FLOURISHES TO WORDS

Remember these words that you've already practiced? Let's add some flourishes. Try to draw each of the words below several times by mimicking the style and keeping all letters as consistent as possible.



FLOURISHES TO WORDS

Now take your words and add weight to them.

Joy

Love

Peace

YOU TRY

Write your own words, and add flourishes. Draw the words several times, trying to stay as consistent as possible. When you have a word you like, refine it by adding weight and thickness.

1

2

3

STARTING A VERSE

exercise one: write and sketch

BE
STRONG
AND
COURAGEOUS

BE
STRONG
AND
COURAGEOUS

BE
STRONG
AND
COURAGEOUS

BE
STRONG
AND
COURAGEOUS

BE
STRONG
AND
COURAGEOUS

BE
STRONG
AND
COURAGEOUS

BE
STRONG
AND
COURAGEOUS

BE
STRONG
AND
COURAGEOUS

BE
STRONG
AND
COURAGEOUS

YOUR VERSE

Pick a verse, any verse from this list of chapters, passages and verses. For the first exercise, we've chosen Joshua 1:6: "Be strong and courageous."

CONSIDER A VERSE FROM ONE OF THESE PASSAGES:

JOSHUA 1:9

MATTHEW 28:19-20

1 CORINTHIANS 13

PSALM 8

MARK 12:30-31

GALATIANS 5:16-26

PSALM 23

JOHN 1:1-4

EPHESIANS 2:8-10

PSALM 139

JOHN 10:10

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-8

PROVERBS 3:5-6

JOHN 14:6

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

ISAIAH 26:3

ROMANS 8:38-39

1 TIMOTHY 4:12

ISAIAH 40:31

ROMANS 10:9

1 JOHN 1:9

LAMENTATIONS 3:21-26

ROMANS 12:1-2

1 JOHN 4:7-18

OR CHOOSE YOUR OWN:

PATTERN

Write a Bible verse in your own handwriting. Then draw a box around each word. Color in those boxes. Place those colored-in boxes in the same order but in different patterns. This will help you see the size of the words and how their shapes work together. When you're happy with the shape of a pattern, write the words of your verse in the pattern you've created.

1 Be STRONG AND COURAGEOUS ← VERSE

2 Be STRONG AND COURAGEOUS ← DRAW BOXES AROUND EACH WORD.

3 ← FILL IN EACH BOX.

MAKE DIFFERENT PATTERNS FROM THE BOXES TO DETERMINE THE BASIC LAYOUT.

4

WRITE THE WORDS OF YOUR VERSE IN THE PATTERN CREATED.

5

Be
STRONG AND COURAGEOUS **A**

Be STRONG
AND COURAGEOUS **B**

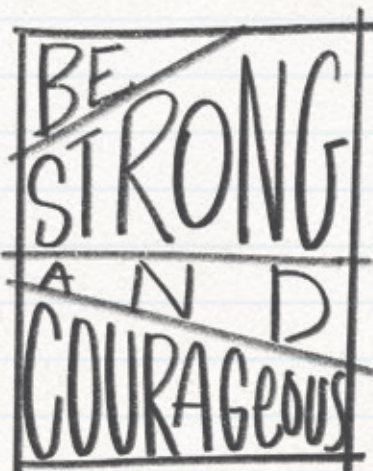
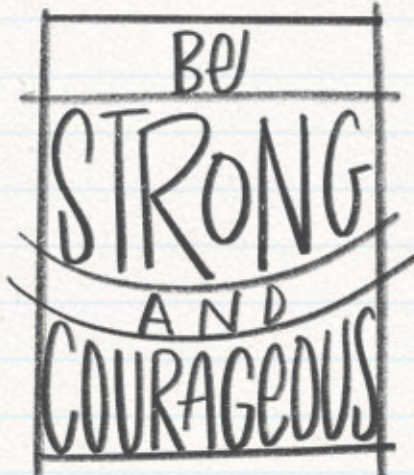
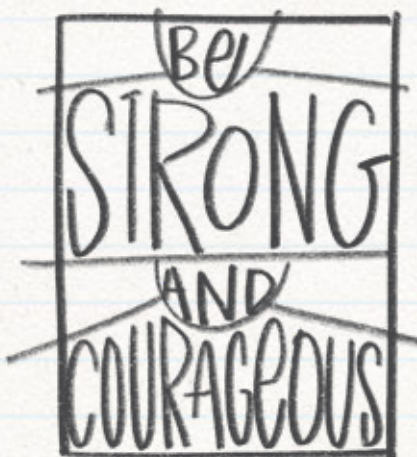
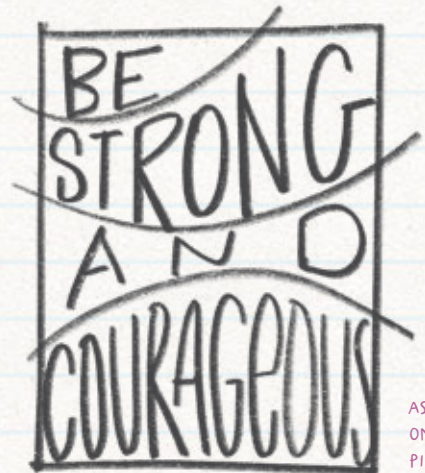
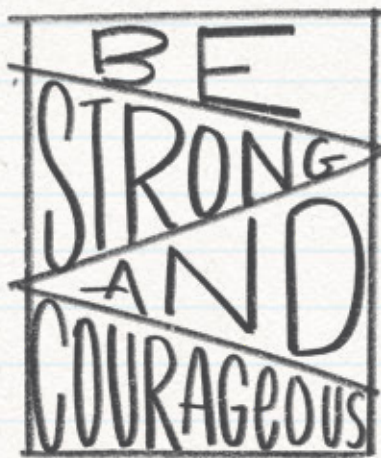
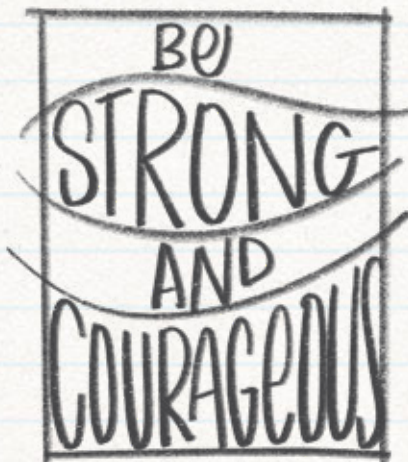
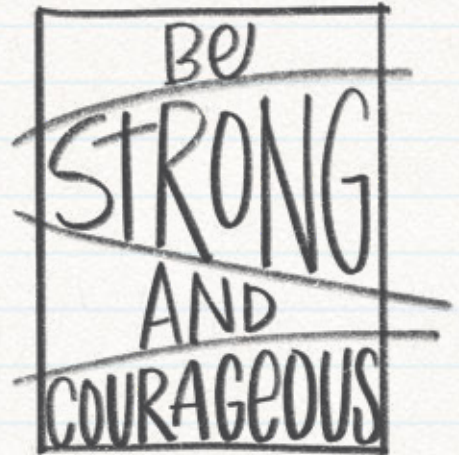
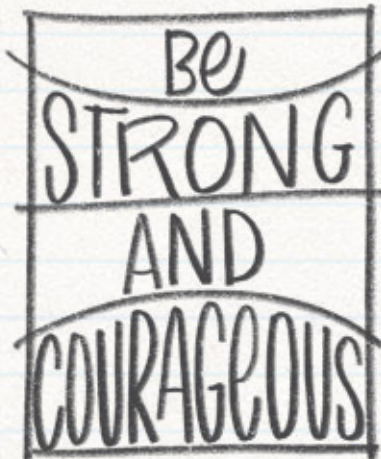
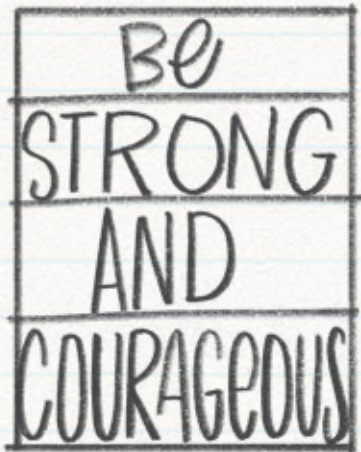
YOU TRY

Using the instructions on the previous page, create a pattern for the verse you chose.

A large rectangular grid for creating a pattern. It consists of 15 horizontal lines and 2 vertical lines, one on the left and one on the right, forming a frame. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across most of the page width.

THUMBNAILS

Now that you have the basic pattern for your verse, it's time to experiment. Use thumbnail sketches to help you decide your final layout. Start by drawing small thumbnail boxes. Then, add horizontal lines to separate the words in your verse. Experiment with different angles and curves—anything goes. Quickly write the verse on the lines to get a feel for how it will look in each layout.

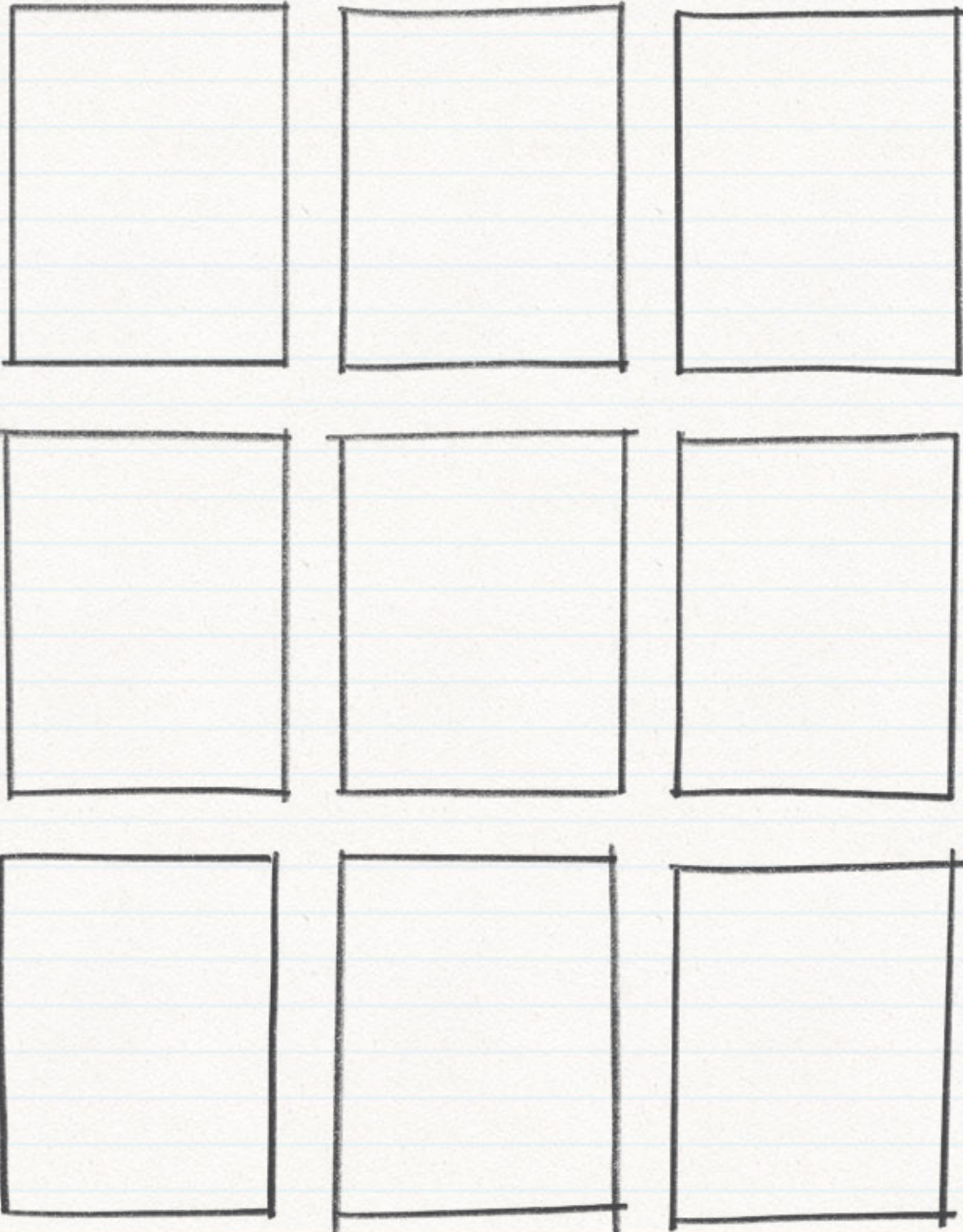


AS YOU CAN SEE ON PAGE 23, WE PICKED THE FIRST LAYOUT. NOTICE HOW EACH WORD IS STACKED AND THE LAYOUT IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR SECTIONS, JUST AS THE CHOSEN BASIC PATTERN DETERMINED.

YOU TRY

The thumbnail boxes are created, but you need to draw the horizontal lines based on your initial pattern.

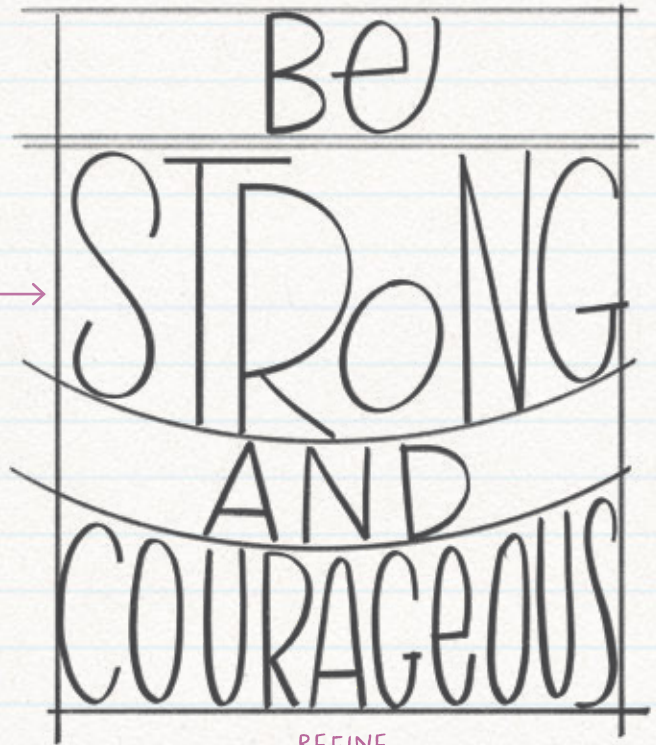
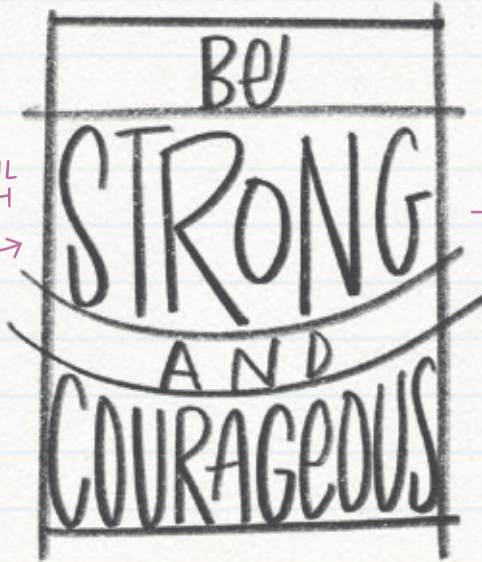
Write the verse within the lines, experimenting with different layouts. Do this again and again. The repetition not only helps you memorize, but it also allows you to play with various designs. There are no strict rules—just a process that helps your creativity shine. You can never do too many thumbnails!



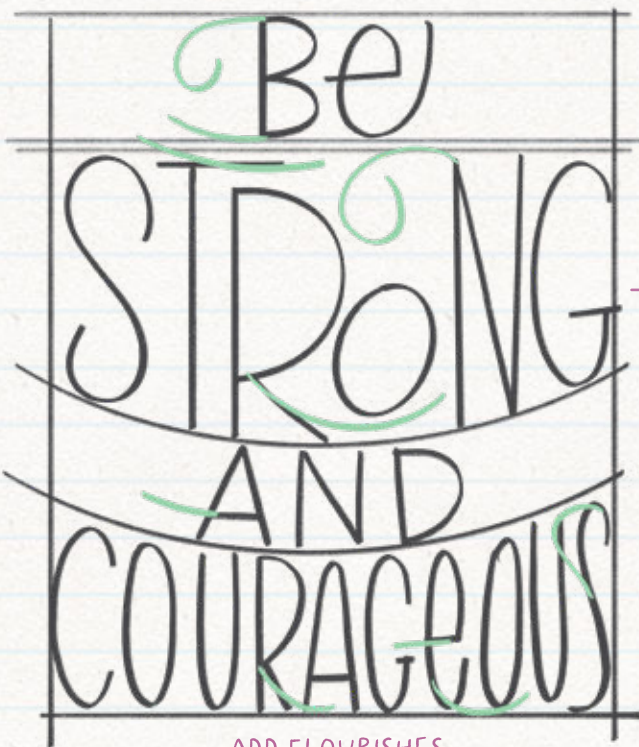
FLOURISHES

You now have nine thumbnail sketches. Which do you like the best? We chose our eighth thumbnail for this example. Choose your favorite, and begin to clean up the grid and letterforms. Identify where you can add flourishes, and include those in your letters.

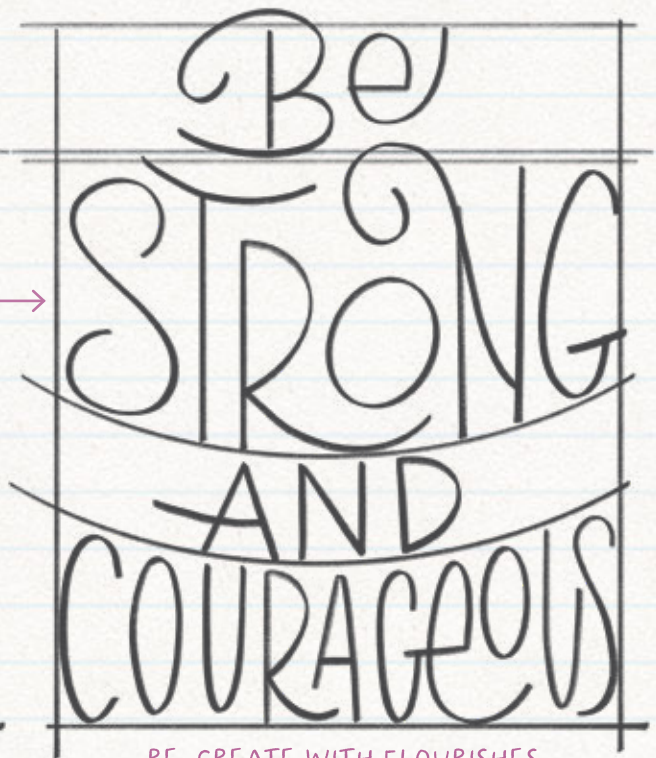
THUMBNAIL SKETCH



REFINE



ADD FLOURISHES

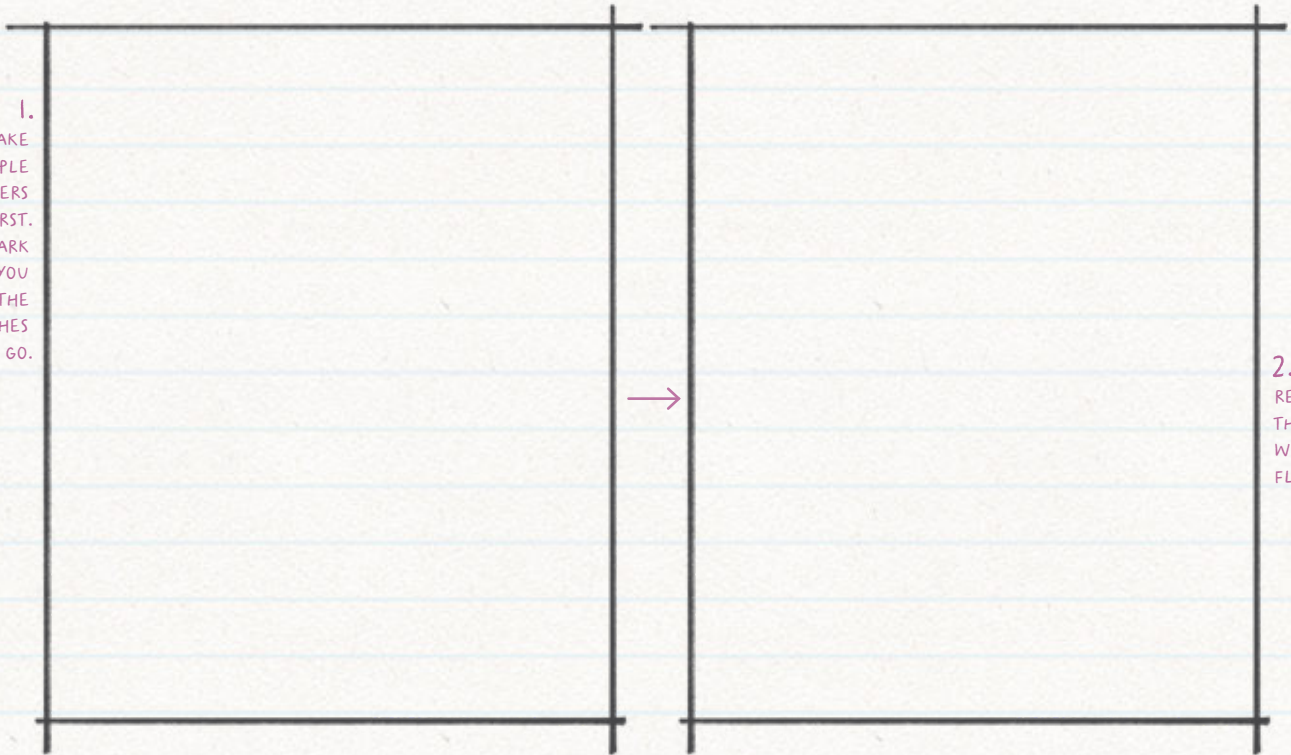


RE-CREATE WITH FLOURISHES

YOU TRY

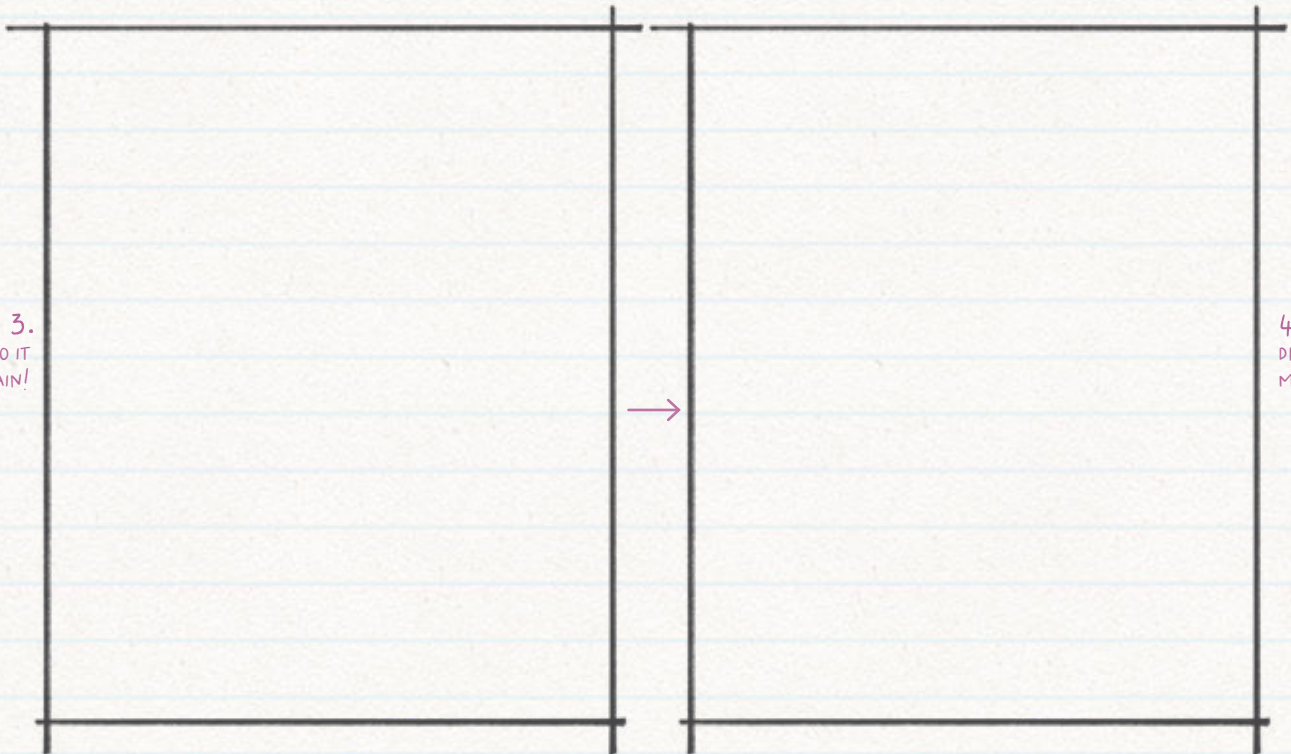
Use your chosen thumbnail sketch and begin to refine it by adding flourishes.

1.
MAKE
SIMPLE
LETTERS
FIRST.
THEN MARK
WHERE YOU
WANT THE
FLOURISHES
TO GO.



2.
RE-CREATE
THE VERSE
WITH THE
FLOURISHES.

3.
DO IT
AGAIN!



4.
DRAW IT ONE
MORE TIME.

STARTING A VERSE

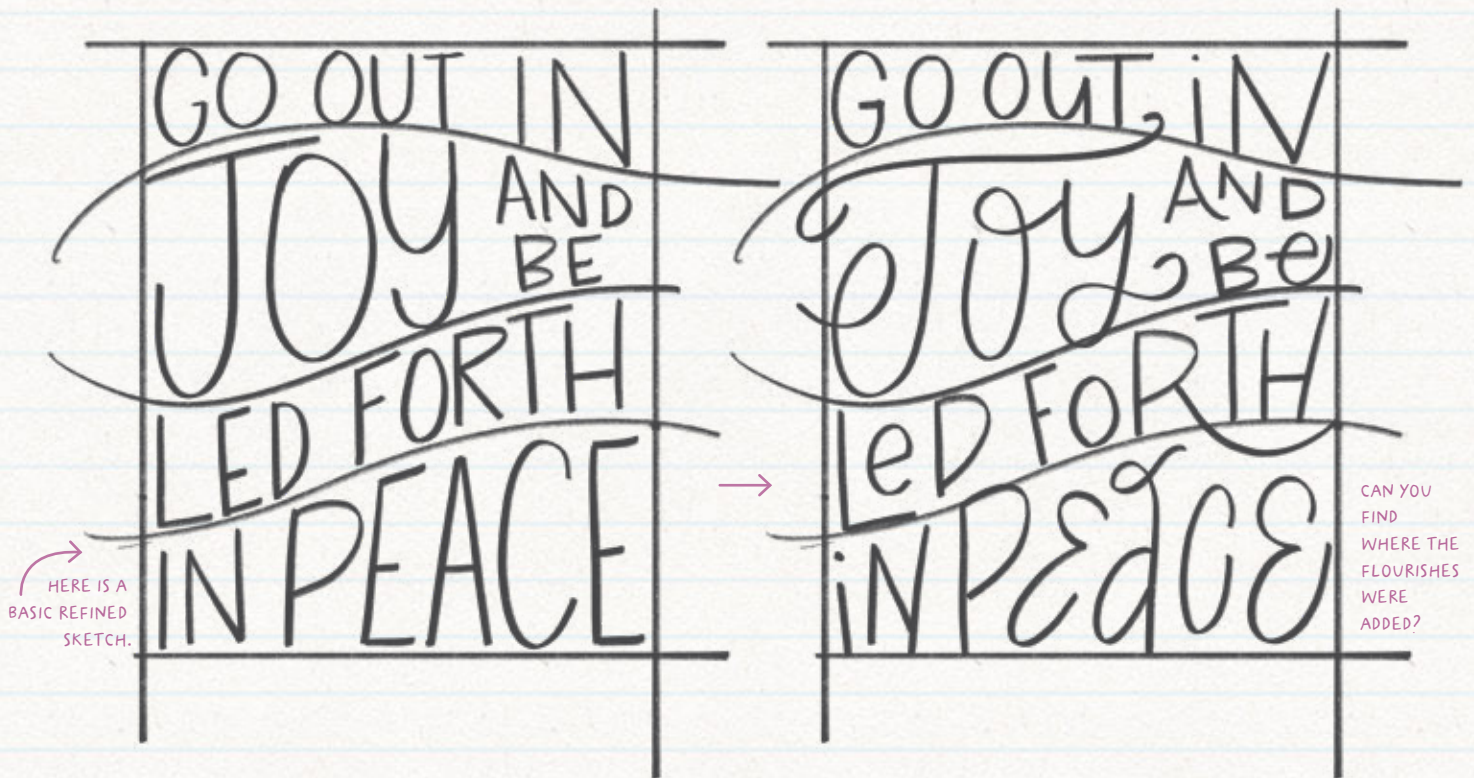
exercise two: trace and draw

GO OUT IN
AND
Joy Be
led forth
in peace

ISAIAH 55:12

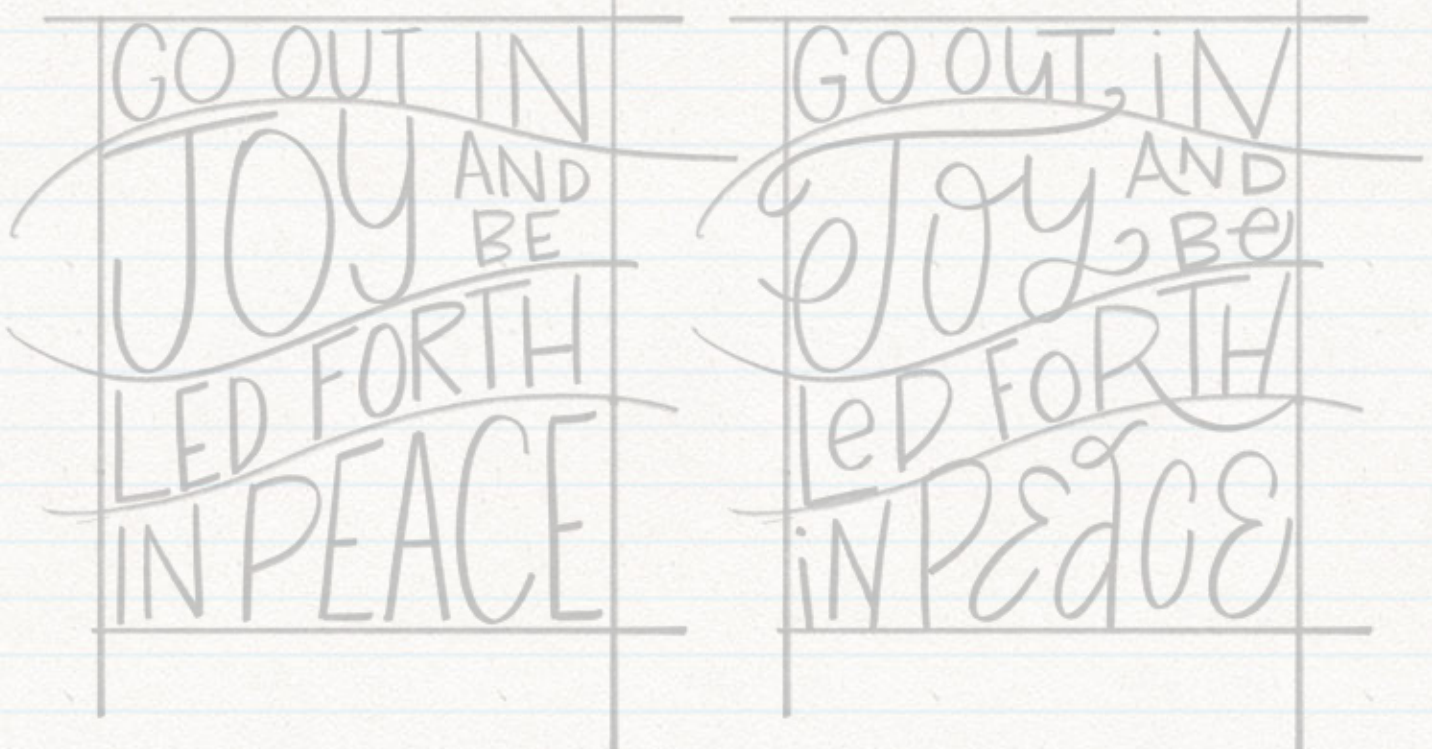
FINAL LAYOUT

For this exercise, we're going to use Isaiah 55:12 and walk you through the process of turning a thumbnail sketch into a final layout. Notice how we've added flourishes to our basic refined sketch. Trace to get a feel for this process.



TRACE

TRACE



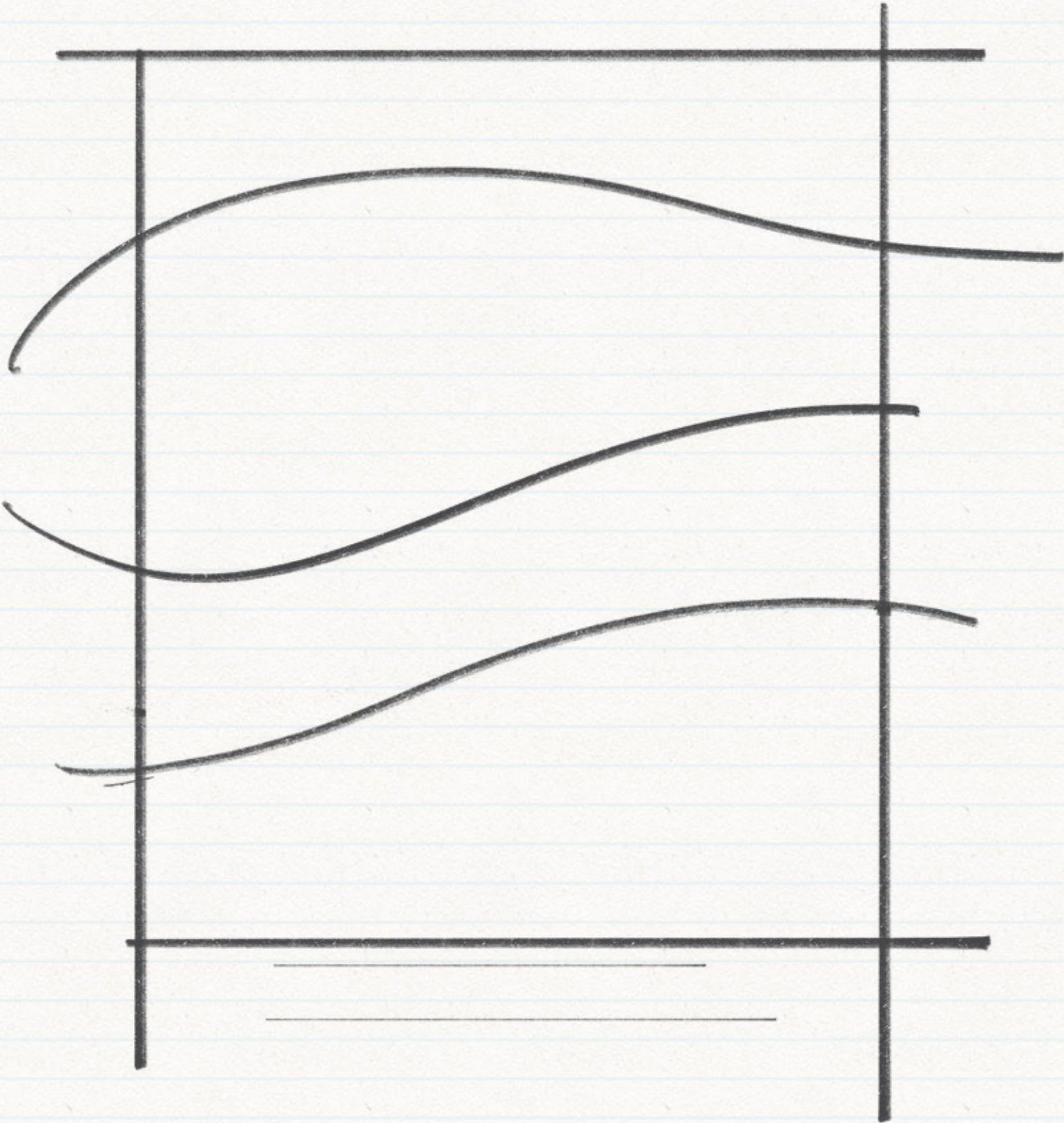
YOU TRY

Trace the grid and letters to help get a feel for how a Bible verse might come together. Then add weight and thickness to each word.



YOU TRY

Hand-letter Isaiah 55:12, using the previous page as your guide.



YOU TRY

Draw the guides from the previous page. Hand-letter
Isaiah 55:12, using the previous page as your guide.



STARTING A VERSE

exercise three: refine and add details

for give
as
the LORD
FORGAVE
YOU. 3

COLOSSIANS 3:13 NIV

SKETCH

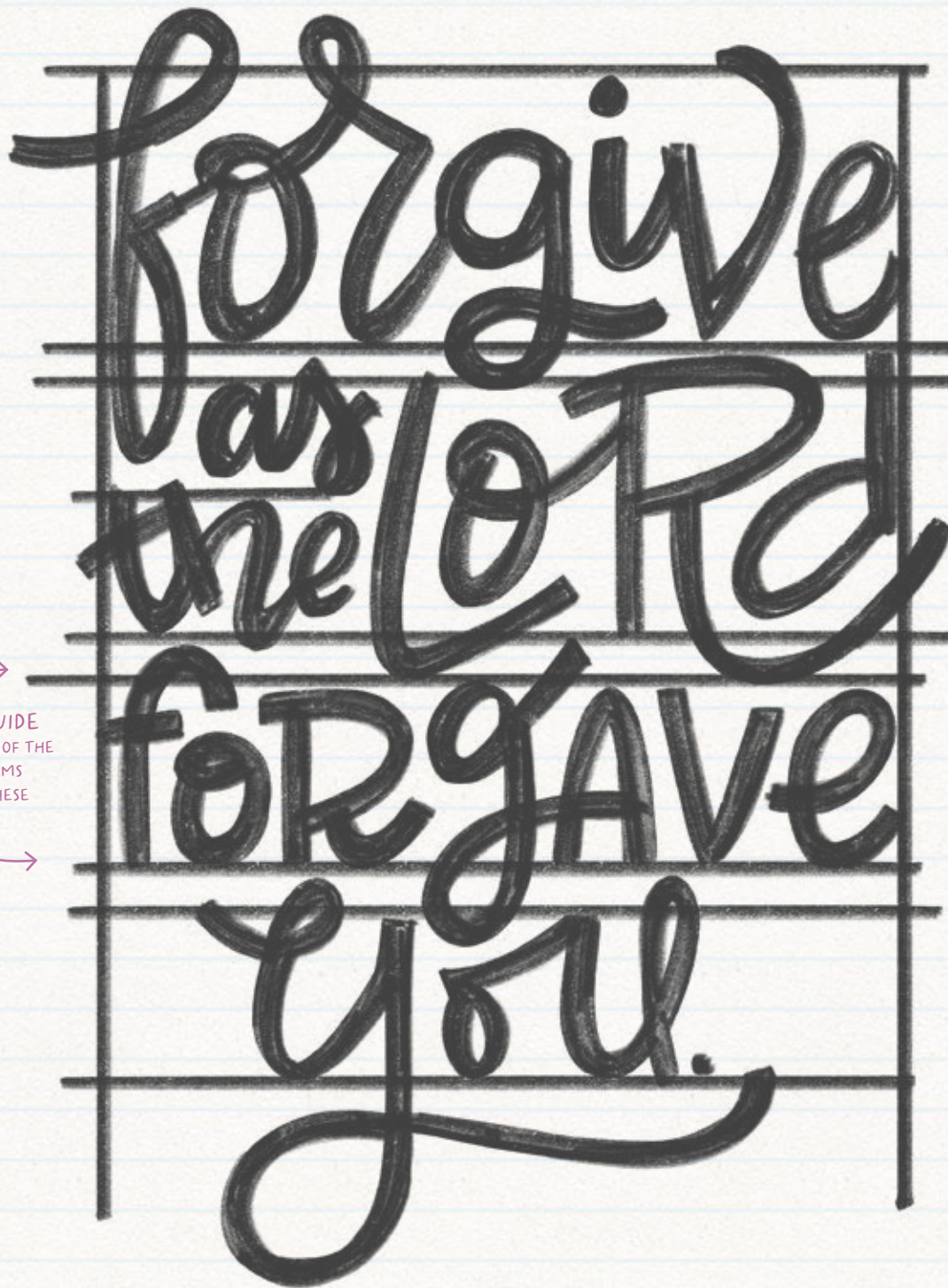
Pick your favorite verse, and experiment with a few different word patterns. Here, we've selected Colossians 3:13. Draw small thumbnail boxes with horizontal guidelines to fit the words in your verse. Write the verse in your handwriting within the lines, experimenting with different layouts. Do this again and again—the repetition not only helps you memorize, but it also allows you to play with various designs.



YOU TRY

REFINE

Pick your favorite thumbnail. For this example, we've chosen sketch No. 1. Start by cleaning up the guides (making your lines more exact and straight) so you have a cleaner space to work with. In our example, we've added gaps between the main blocks to allow for that extra letter bounce when you add flourishes. Now, play with those letter shapes, adding more weight to the letters and flourishes to the words. Experiment with various forms and sizes of each letter. And have fun!



MAIN GUIDE
KEEP MOST OF THE
LETTER FORMS
WITHIN THESE
GUIDES.

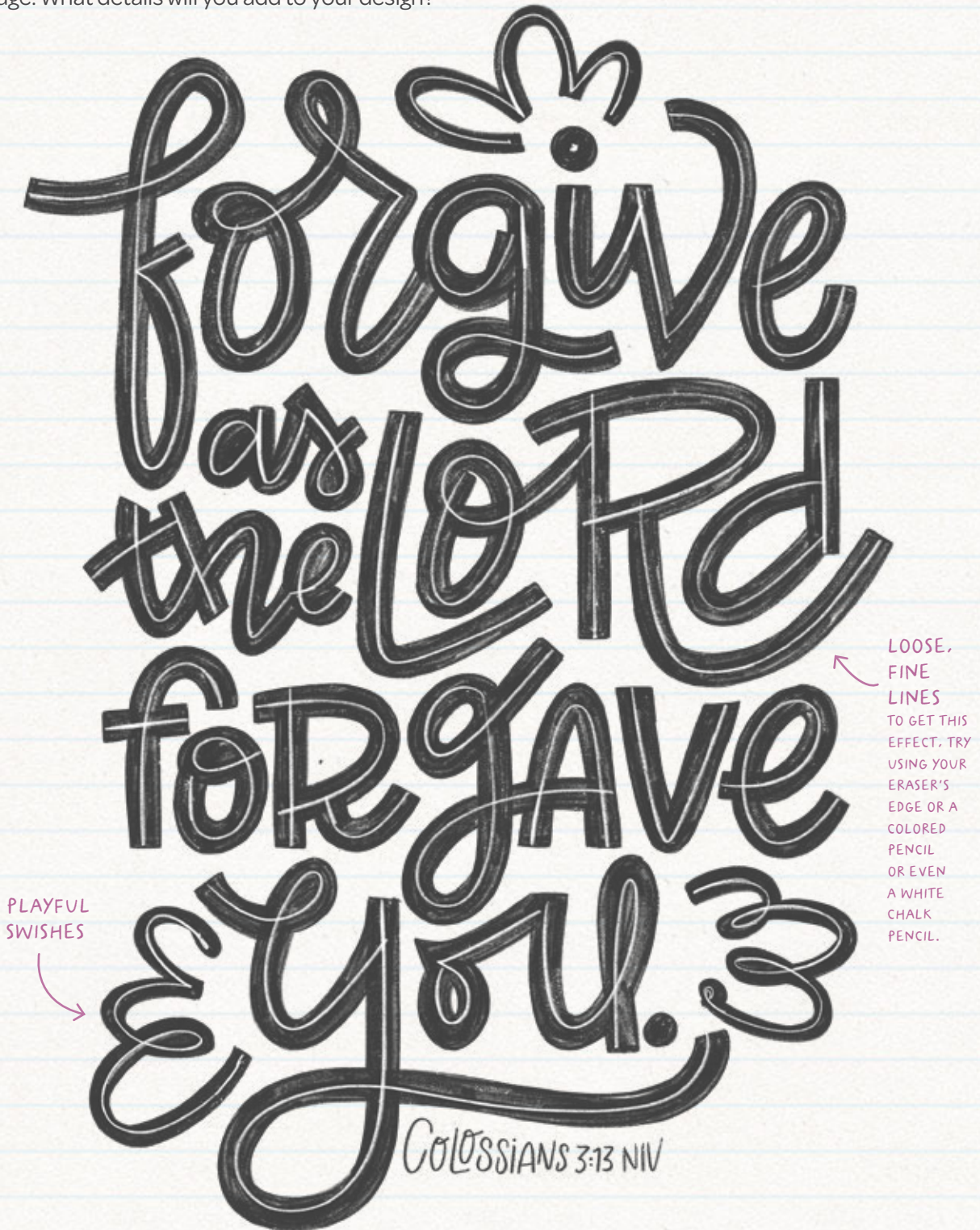
ADDED GAPS
OCCASIONALLY
PUSH LETTERS
PAST THE MAIN
GUIDES TO GIVE A
LITTLE BOUNCE
TO YOUR LETTER
FORMS. FOR
EXAMPLE, THE
LETTER R IN
"LORD" IS RAISED
AND LOWERED
BEYOND THE MAIN
GUIDELINES.

CONNECTING
LINES
EXPERIMENT WITH
THE WAY LINES
CAN CONNECT
TWO LETTERS.
FOR EXAMPLE,
NOTICE HOW THE
"G" AND THE "A"
IN "FORGAVE" ARE
CONNECTED.

YOU TRY

ADD DETAIL

You've added weight to the letters and defined their forms. Now, let's bring it all together by adding details. In this example, clean strokes have been used to give the letters a little more weight and definition, resulting in smoother edges and letter forms. Additionally, playful swishes have been introduced in the negative (empty) spaces, accompanied by loose, fine lines in the center of the letters. The verse is then completed with its reference. Now it's your turn. Draw your verse on the next page. What details will you add to your design?



PLAYFUL SWISHES

LOOSE, FINE LINES TO GET THIS EFFECT. TRY USING YOUR ERASER'S EDGE OR A COLORED PENCIL OR EVEN A WHITE CHALK PENCIL.

YOU TRY

CLOSING

tips and more

A

R

Z

W

G

K

TIPS

OBSERVE

Look around and notice all the wonderful fonts and letters around you. Look for different letterforms in your school textbooks, Instagram posts, posters, business signs, etc. Take note of the different shapes and styles.

EXPERIMENT

This guide walks you through one technique for hand-lettering, but there are many more. Experiment and find what works best for you—you'll probably discover your own technique, and in return, create your own unique style!

SMALL

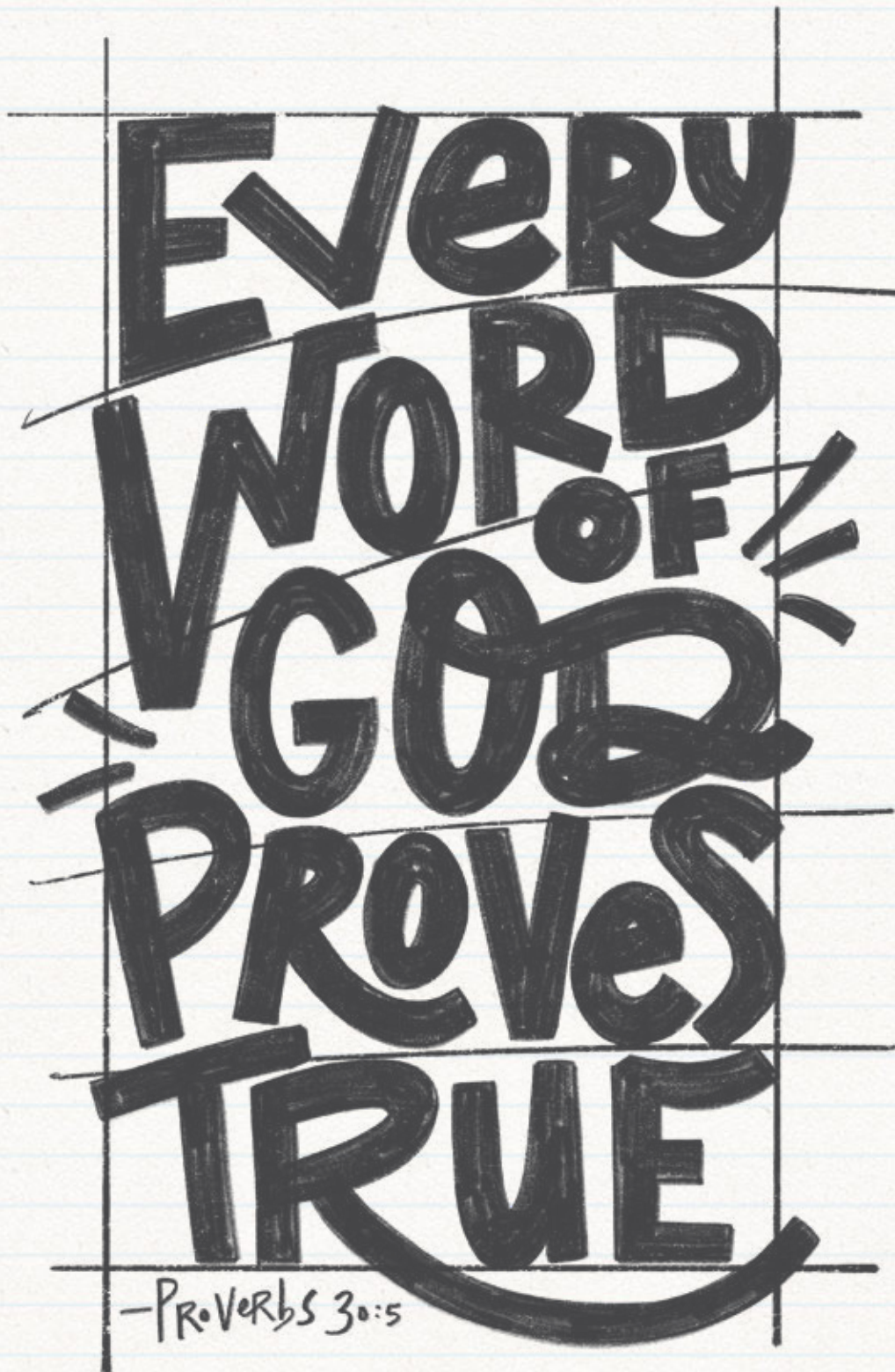
Start small. Use what you've learned while journaling or taking notes. Don't feel you have to create something large in order for it to be beautiful.

REPETITION

Repeat, repeat, repeat. Yes, it can be boring, but it also creates muscle memory. After repeated practice, writing letter shapes and styles will become easier and less cumbersome.

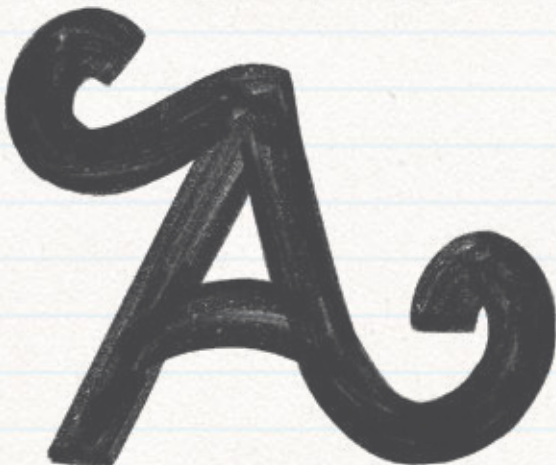
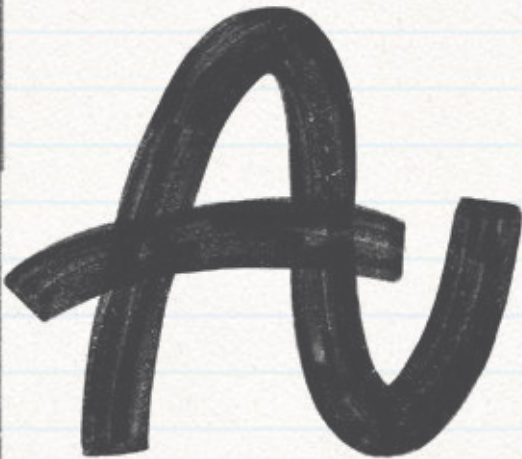
PURPOSE

Always keep in mind the purpose of this exercise—memorizing God's Word, not creating the perfect masterpiece. So, don't fret about perfection. It's about having fun while memorizing Scripture.



LETTER STYLES

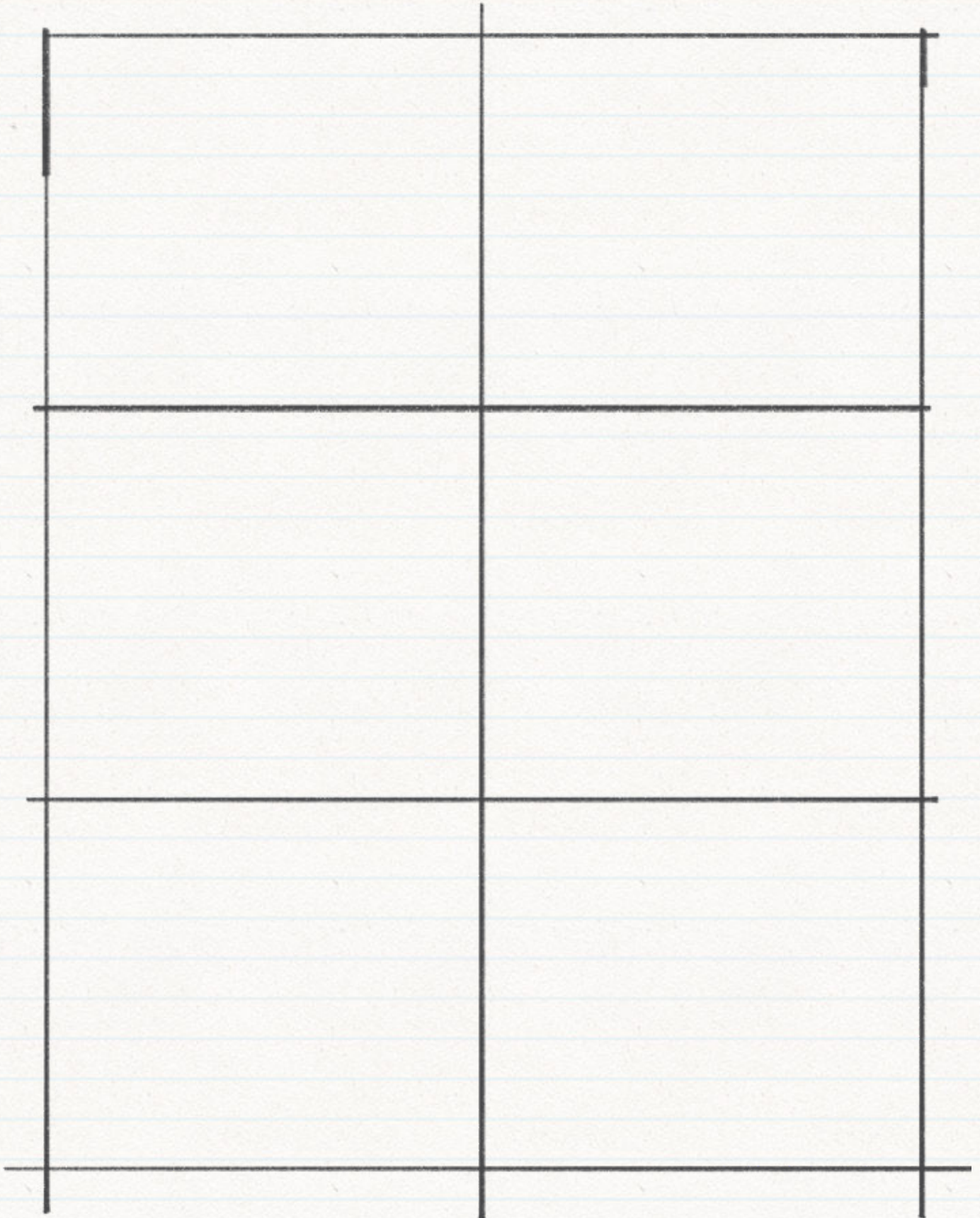
Pick your favorite letter in the alphabet. Can you draw it in six different styles? Use this page for inspiration, and draw your own on the next page. This exercise is a great way to challenge yourself to see letters differently.

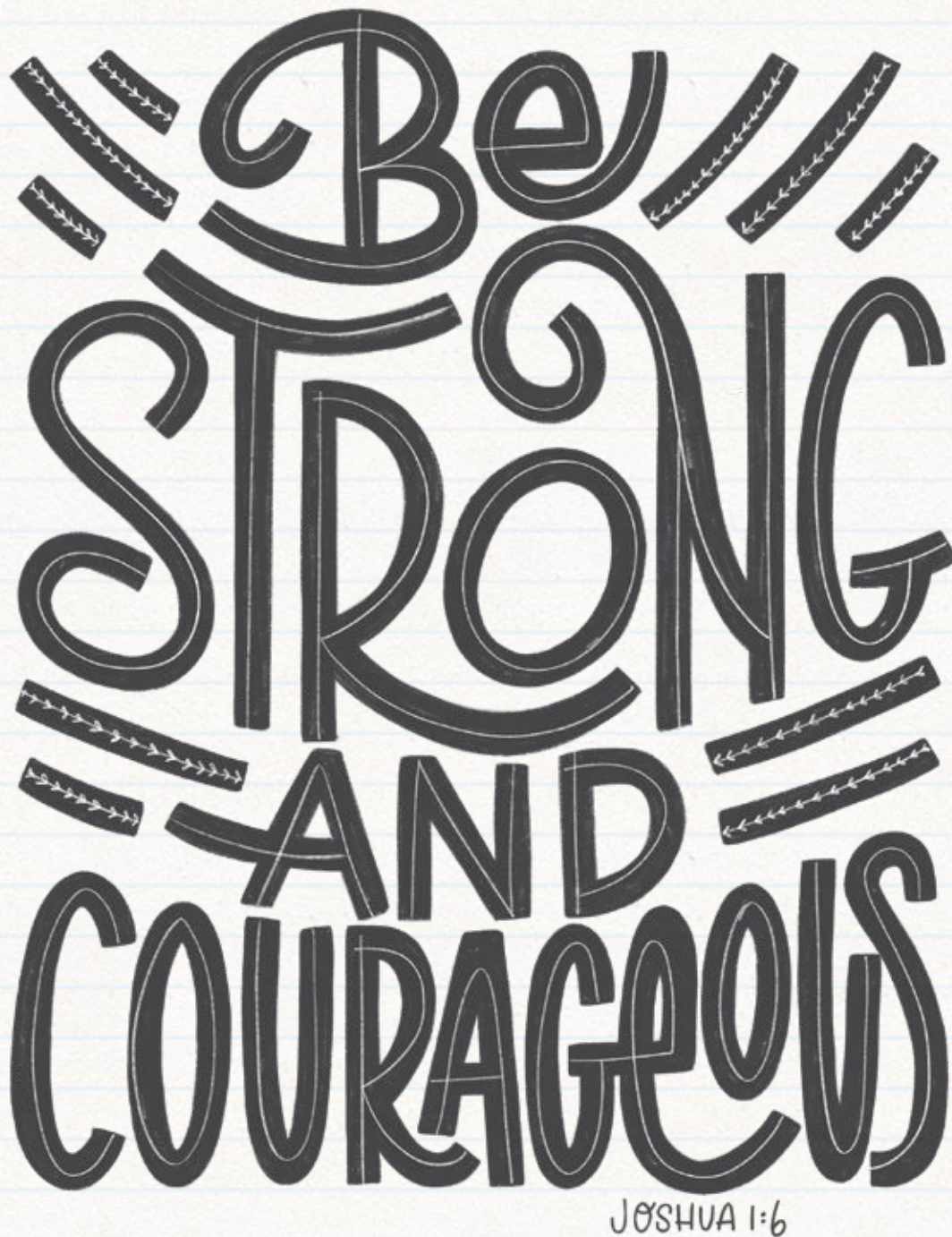


TIP:
THINK
OF THE
INDIVIDUAL
STROKES
THAT MAKE
UP THE
LETTER.
HOW CAN
YOU CHANGE
ONE STROKE
TO MAKE THE
LETTER LOOK
DIFFERENT
BUT
LEGIBLE?

YOUR TRY

Pick a letter, and see if you can draw it in six different styles.





BE ENCOURAGED. YOU'VE GOT THIS!

Continue digging in God's Word and lettering the verses that are meaningful to you. With practice, lettering and memorizing God's Word will become second nature and a skill you won't want to quit.

With love,



Unless otherwise noted, Scriptures are from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV).



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encouragement,
crafts and fun.