

# MOVEMENT

A STUDY OF GALATIANS

DEVOTIONAL

## **WEEK I**

### **DAY I**

#### **READ**

Galatians 1:1-10

#### **ENGAGE**

The Gospel was planted in Galatia on Paul and Barnabas' first missionary journey described in Acts 13-14 (roughly 47-49AD). After a period of time, the churches in Galatia had become divided over how much of the Jewish Law the non-Jewish Christians needed to observe. The book of Galatians is written by Paul from a perspective of passionate bewilderment. Paul reminds the Galatian churches that Jesus fulfilled the Law and reconciled--to God and to one another--all who believe in him. He urges the believers in Galatia to remember that we are saved by faith in Jesus alone to be new creations.

#### **PONDER**

What is your initial response to Paul's tone in this first section of his writing? How do you imagine the Galatians felt when they received this letter?

#### **NOTES**

## **WEEK I**

### **DAY 2**

#### **READ**

Galatians 1:11-24

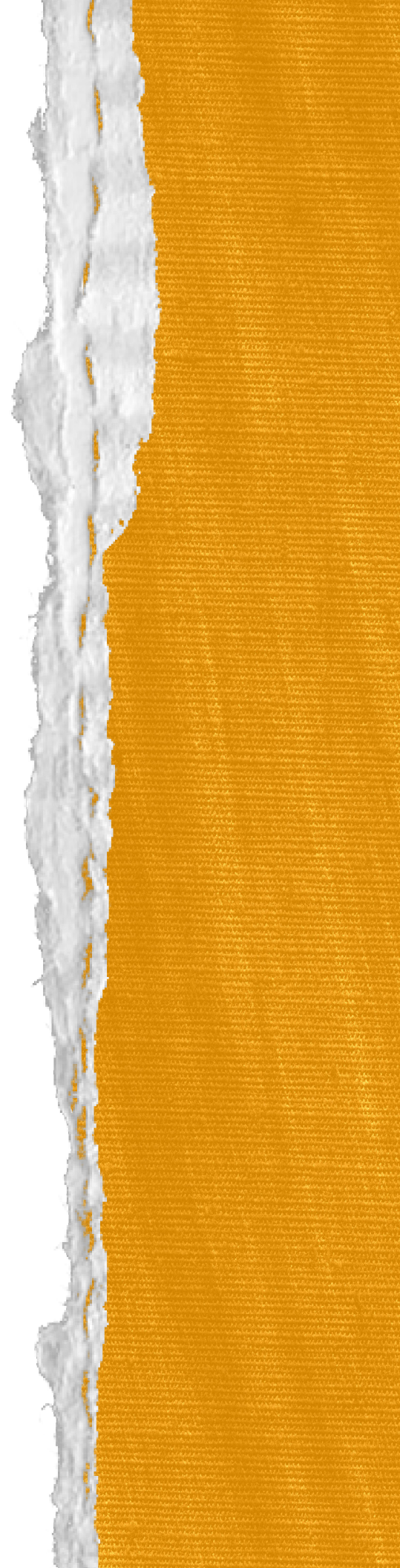
#### **ENGAGE**

Paul desires to make it clear that what he preaches is not of man; it is a revelation to him from Jesus Christ, the risen Messiah. He defends his message and his authority because to receive a message that is contrary to the Apostle's teaching (Acts 2:42) is another message-- what's at stake is the integrity of the Gospel itself! Paul's words remind us that God has the power and desire to transform hearts and minds. Paul often shares his journey of transformation with others because of that reality.

#### **PONDER**

Reflect on where you've seen God transform your own heart through the Gospel, as well as transform the hearts of those around you. Share your story with others and be willing to listen to theirs.

#### **NOTES**



## **WEEK I**

### **DAY 3**

#### **READ**

Galatians 2:1-10

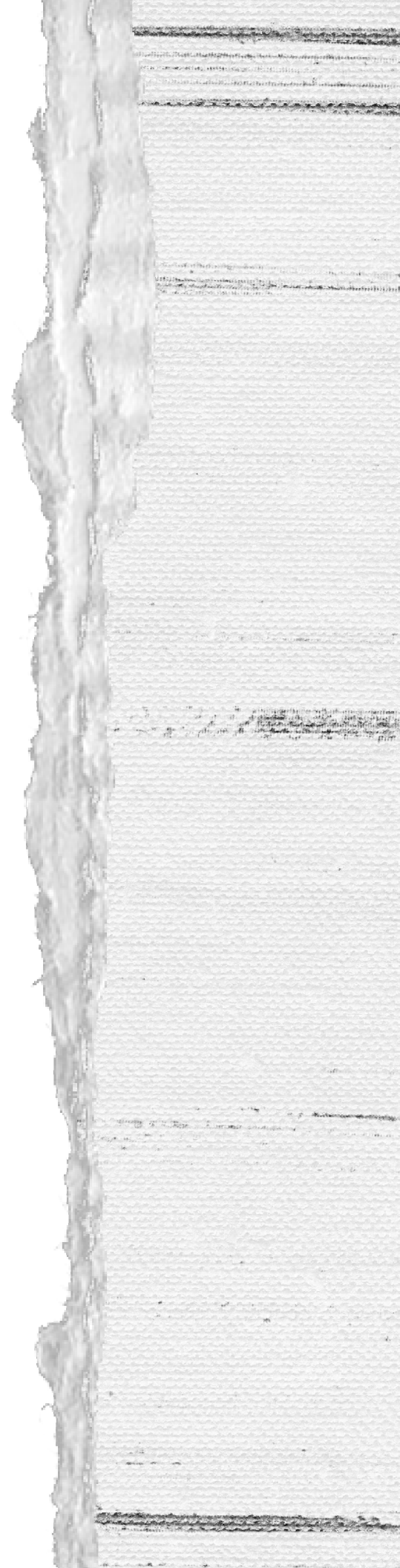
#### **ENGAGE**

Paul's desire for those he preached to, was that they would find freedom through Jesus Christ, and therefore no longer follow Jewish law. Jesus' kingdom was not a replacement, but a fulfillment of the Law. Paul was single-minded in that he went to Jerusalem to preach the gospel as a response to God's calling alone; he was not reliant on the approval of men, even highly influential ones. Paul was hyper-focused on preserving the "truth of the gospel" for those he preached to, because it had been given to him by Jesus himself. It is for Jew and Gentile alike, as the Hebrew Scriptures foretold.

#### **PONDER**

What would it look like for you to follow Paul's example and spend more time pursuing Jesus himself?

#### **NOTES**



## **WEEK I**

### **DAY 4**

#### **READ**

Galatians 2:11-14

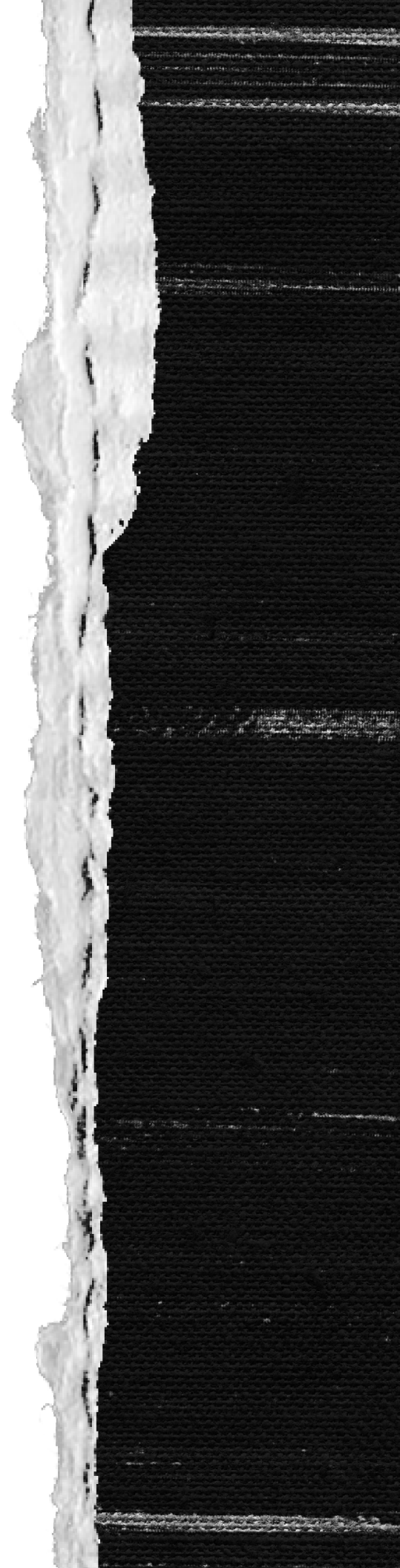
#### **ENGAGE**

Paul provides an example of when Cephas (also known as Peter, a close disciple of Jesus) a Jewish man, refused to associate with Gentiles, or non-Jews. Cephas was afraid of being judged for spending time with Gentiles, because Gentiles were uncircumcised. Other Jews began to join Cephas and alienate the Gentiles, so Paul called Cephas out. To Paul, this plainly opposes the gospel, which says that anyone who has faith in Jesus is justified by their faith alone and are one in Him.

#### **PONDER**

Who in your life would, like Paul, call you out if you were not following God's word? (If you can't think of anyone, challenge yourself to have a conversation this week with a trusted friend, and ask them to hold you accountable to the truth of the gospel.)

#### **NOTES**



## **WEEK I**

### **DAY 5**

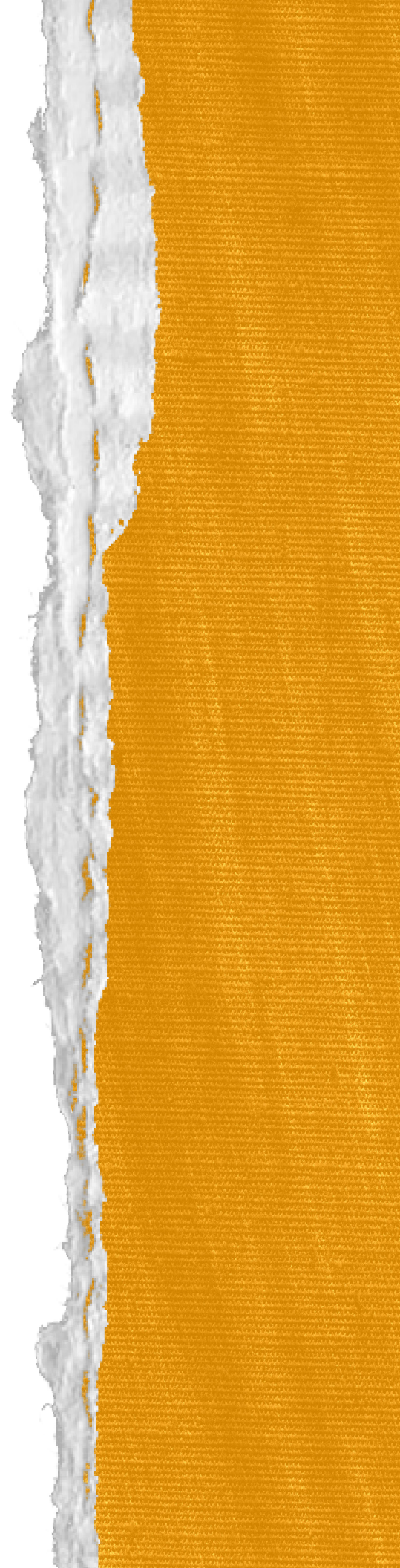
#### **READ**

Galatians 2:15-21

#### **PONDER**

Today, spend some time in prayer. Thank God for the truth and power of His word, and ask God to give you a fresh revelation of what Christ has done. Meditate on verse 20 and consider what God intends for the lives of those who receive his love.

#### **NOTES**



## WEEK 1

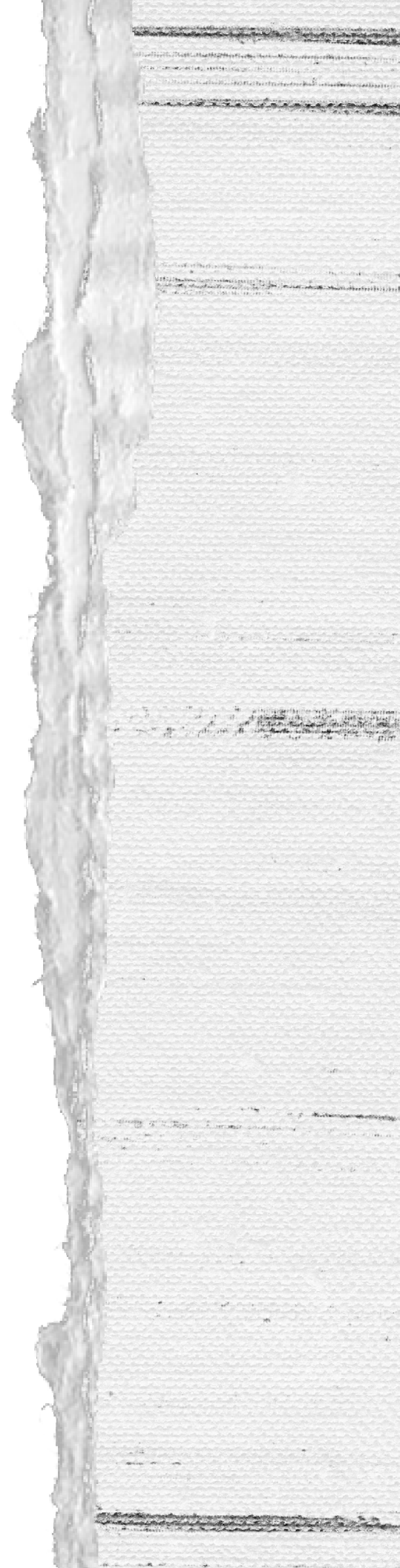
### DAY 6

## REFLECTIONS

### QUESTIONS

- What truths have stood out to you as hopeful this first week?
- We all lean one way or another. Are you wired more as a law-keeper or a law-breaker? Where do you sense God pressing in on your heart through the first two chapters of Galatians?
- What has been the value of spending time in prayer and the Word of God each day this week?
- What has been the best conversation you've had with others about what you're learning? Why?

### NOTES



## **WEEK I**

### **DAY 7**

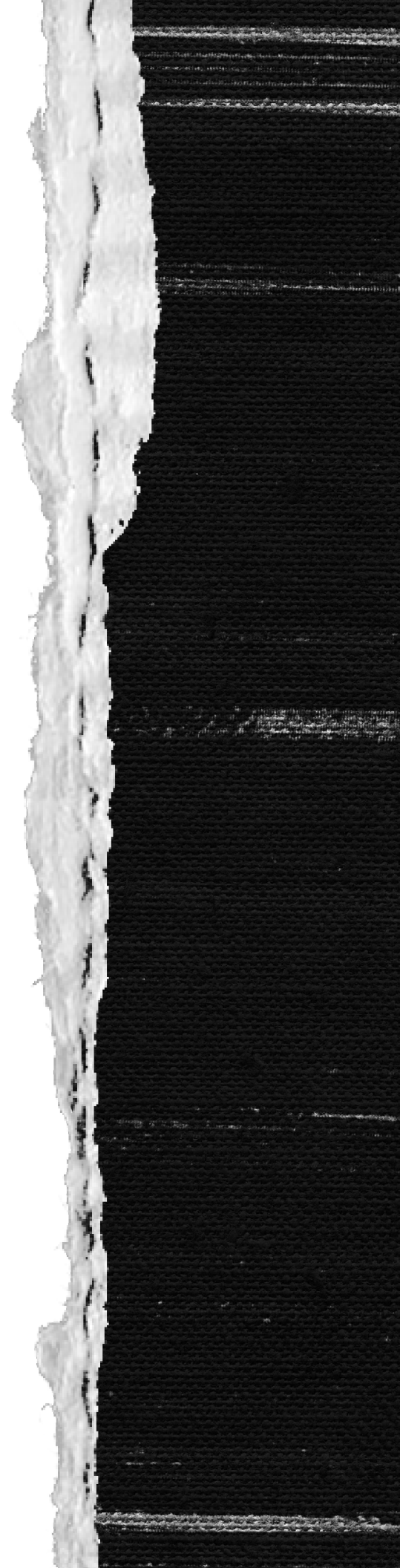
#### **READ**

Galatians 1-2

#### **PONDER**

Consider the implications of the first two chapters of Galatians and where God is both convicting and encouraging you through his Word. Offer prayers of repentance and gratitude accordingly.

#### **NOTES**





## **WEEK 2**

### **DAY 8**

#### **READ**

Galatians 3:1-14

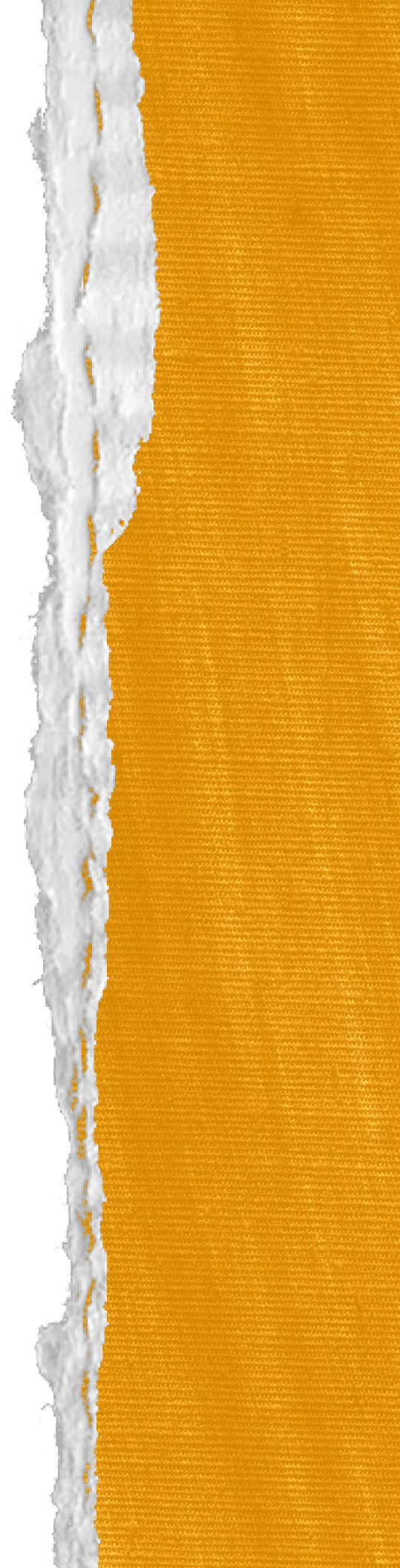
#### **ENGAGE**

Going deeper into the argument, Paul shows that for Jew and Gentile to truly be one, that justification (being declared righteous) by faith has been the clear message since Abraham. The Gospel forms a multi-ethnic community because that was God's vision from the beginning.

#### **PONDER**

Consider the essence and the power of the Gospel to speak into many of the ills in the world that are a result of considering ourselves better than others based on race, language, nationality, gender and socioeconomic status. Where is God seeking to re-form you to be more like Jesus in these areas?

#### **NOTES**



## **WEEK 2**

### **DAY 9**

#### **READ**

Galatians 3:15-22

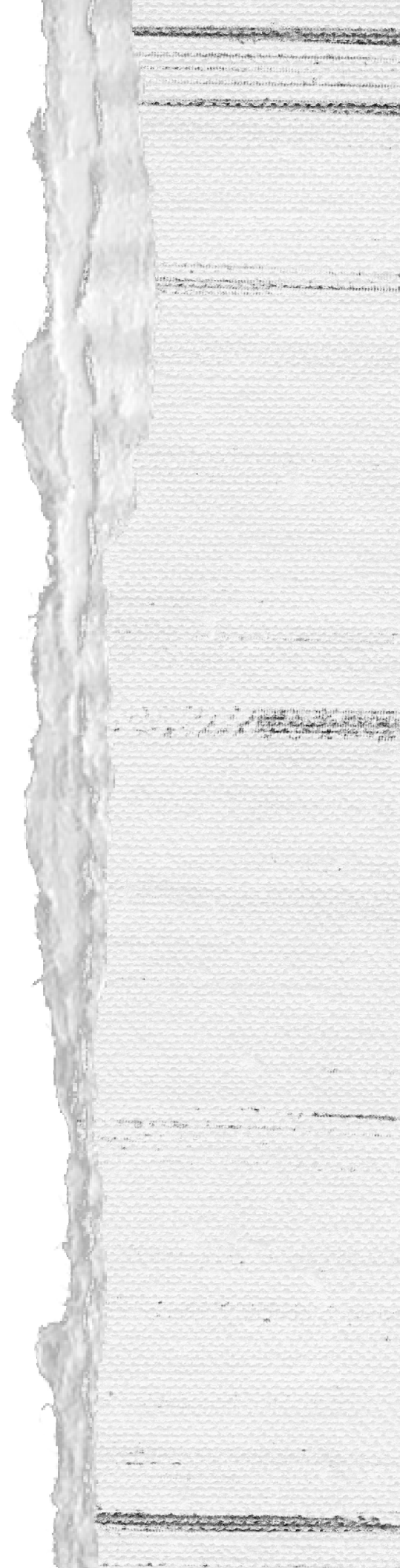
#### **ENGAGE**

The law's original purpose was to reveal God's standards for humankind. It was given to us in preparation for the coming Messiah, Jesus. So the commands of the law aren't opposed to God's promises; Jesus actually came to fulfill the law, not destroy it. Ever since then, following rules and laws can't bring us any closer to God--Jesus himself became our holy mediator. We have direct access to God through faith in Him!

#### **PONDER**

In what ways do you feel distant or disconnected from God? Ask Him to reveal his presence to you.

#### **NOTES**



## **WEEK 2**

### **DAY 10**

#### **READ**

Galatians 3:23-29

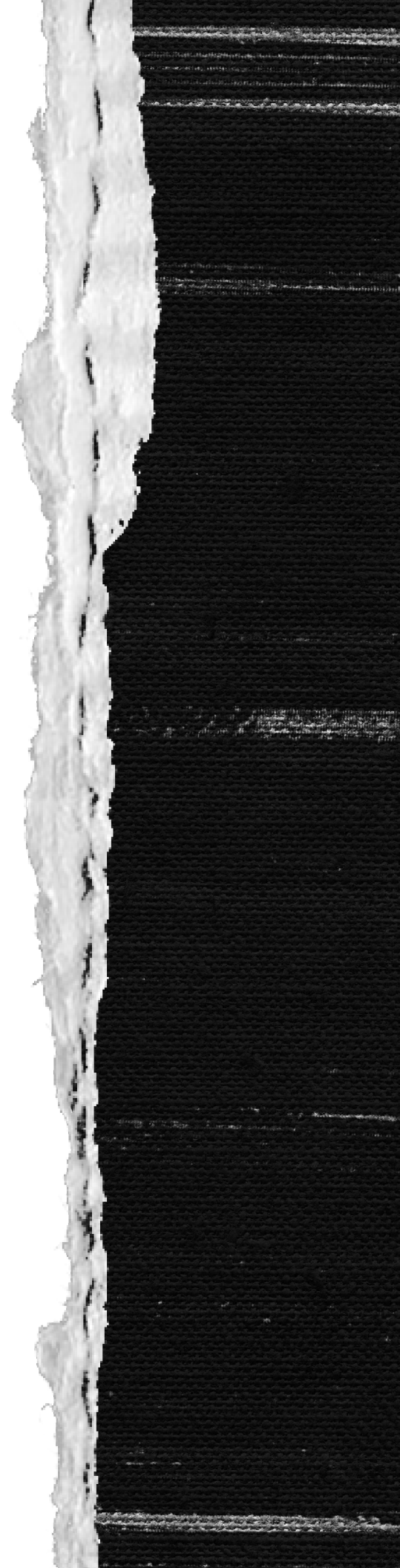
#### **ENGAGE**

Every single person who believes in Jesus is a child of God. While we may come from different upbringings, cultures, or beliefs, we can rest assured that when we choose to follow Jesus, we are all made one in Jesus' name.

#### **PONDER**

Take some time today and think about the people in your life as children of God (especially the ones you don't see eye to eye with). How does that change your perspective of them?

#### **NOTES**



## **WEEK 2**

### **DAY II**

#### **READ**

Galatians 4:1-20

#### **ENGAGE**

Before Jesus came, the rule of the law held people captive to the earthly idea that we get what we deserve -- when we do good things, we deserve to receive good things, and when we do bad things, we deserve to receive bad things. However, Paul encourages the Galatians to remember that Jesus changed everything. We now walk in grace, and God's blessing and favor does not depend on anything we can do, say or think. He freely gives us His blessing by faith. Paul is concerned that the Galatians are forgetting that God redeemed them from the law by adopting them as sons (and daughters).

#### **PONDER**

What is one thing (fear, worry, desire, etc.) that you are holding onto, that you could fully surrender to God?

#### **NOTES**

## WEEK 2

### DAY 12

#### READ

Galatians 4:21-31

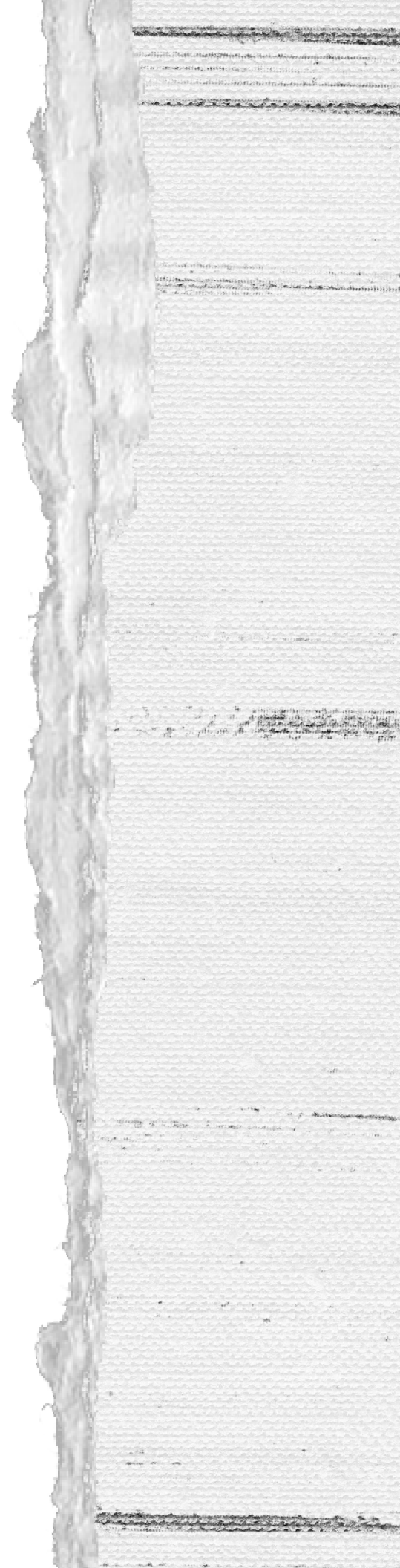
#### ENGAGE

Paul uses a story from the Old Testament (Genesis 16) as an allegory to further his point that the Galatians cannot live under the principles of the law and the principles of grace simultaneously. He paints this picture for them by contrasting the sons born to Abraham -- one born by a slave woman (Hagar), and one by a free woman (Sarah). The son born by Hagar is an example of people taking a situation into their own hands. The son born of Sarah is an example of God's divine promise fulfilled. When we live by laws of legalism or the laws licentiousness (ch.5), the focus is on how we perform and what we produce. When we live by grace, the focus is as it should be: on who Jesus is and what he's done for us, then letting service and mission flow from that place.

#### PONDER

Where is God showing up for you in your life right now? Spend some time praising Him for fulfilling His promises. Then consider how to be a blessing to others because of it. What has God gone done in you that you can then giveaway to be a blessing to people?

#### NOTES



## WEEK 2

### DAY 13

## REFLECTIONS

### QUESTIONS

- Not all laws are inherently bad, but Paul is adamant that we don't live under the rule of law alone. As a Christian, why is that so important?
- What does being a child of God mean to you?
- Go back to Genesis 16 and Genesis 21 and read the full story of Hagar and Sarah. Why do you think Paul chose this example to illustrate the principles of "living according to the flesh" vs. "living according to God's promises"?

### NOTES

## **WEEK 2**

### **DAY 14**

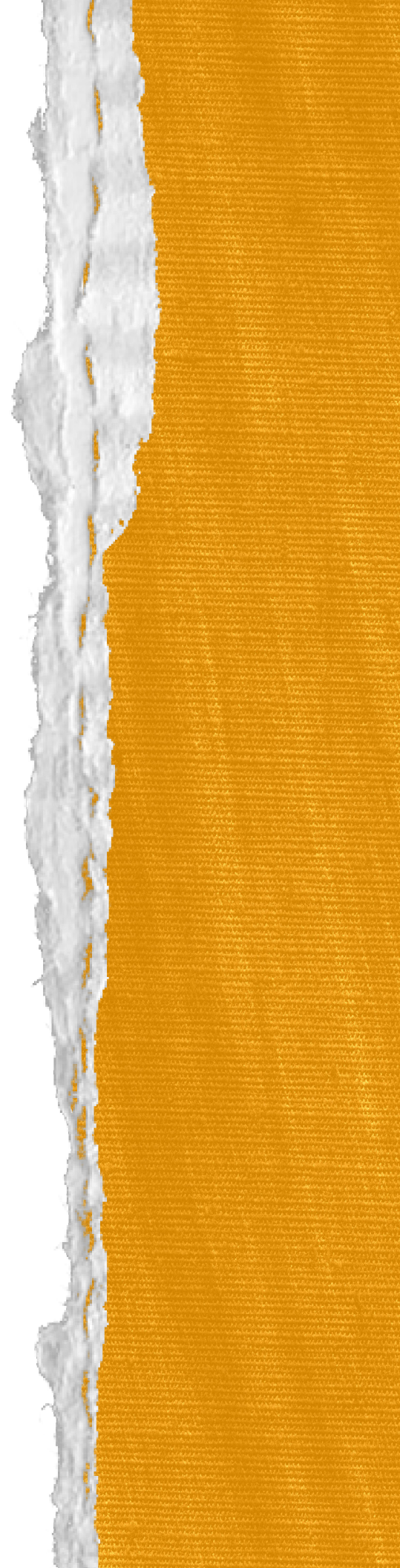
#### **READ**

Galatians 1-4

#### **PONDER**

Consider the implications of chapters of the first four chapters of Galatians and where God is both convicting and encouraging you through his Word. Offer prayers of repentance and gratitude accordingly.

#### **NOTES**



## **WEEK 3**

### **DAY 15**

#### **READ**

Galatians 5:1-12

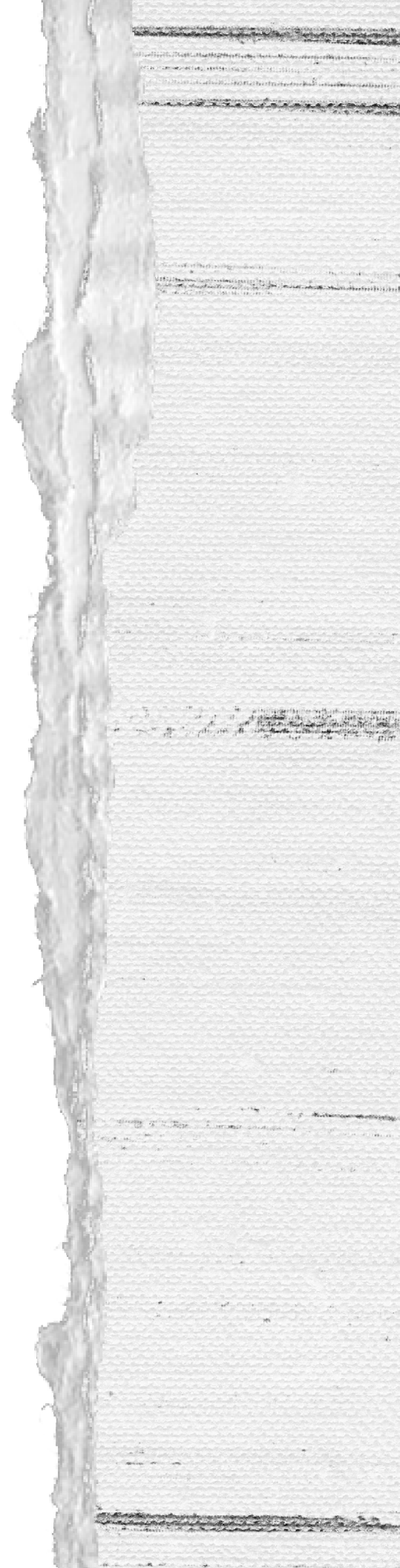
#### **ENGAGE**

Paul declares to the Galatians that their legalism is alienating them from Christ. By trying to earn their salvation, they have ultimately fallen from grace. Whether they are circumcised or not is totally irrelevant; “the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.” He makes it clear: anything that adds to, or takes away from, the Gospel or seeks to craft a ‘performance mentality’ is “not from him who calls you.”

#### **PONDER**

What does it mean to you to express faith through love? How do the two work together? In considering relationship with God, how does grace, joy, love and service work together? How do performance, anxiety and fear work together?

#### **NOTES**





## WEEK 3

### DAY 16

#### READ

Galatians 5:13-26

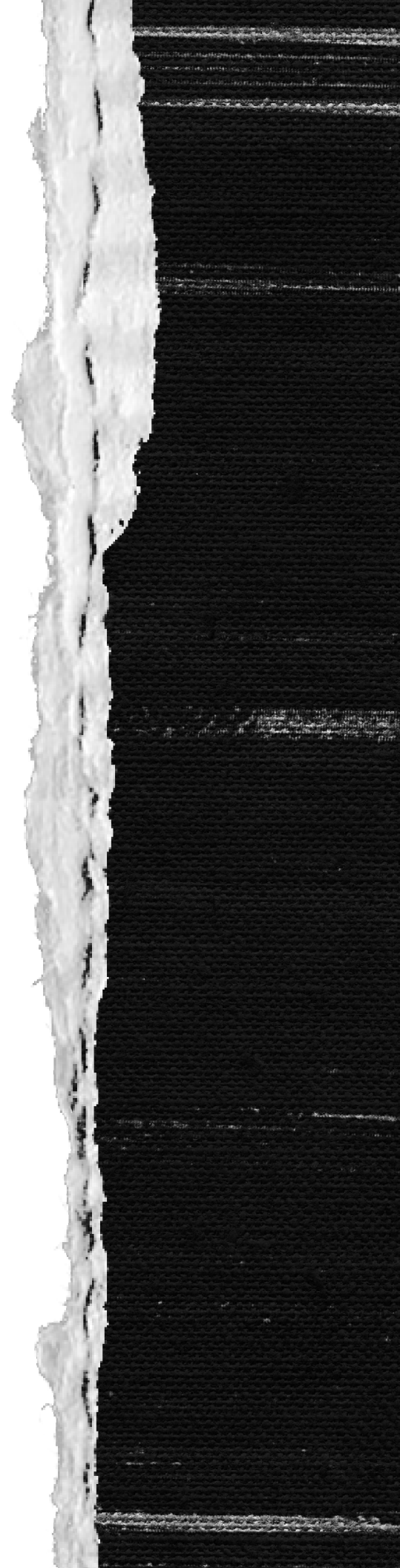
#### ENGAGE

Today's reading is essentially the thesis of the entire book of Galatians. Paul drives home the point that the Christian life is one of freedom. However, that freedom doesn't mean we should indulge our own desires at the expense of others. Instead, we are called to live like Jesus. Jesus walked this earth with more freedom than anyone, and he used that freedom to love and serve other people. Through freedom in Christ and the fruit of the Spirit, we now have the privilege of doing the same.

#### PONDER

Which of the fruit of the spirit (love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) is the most natural for you to put into action? Which feels the most difficult? Why do you think its called the "FRUIT" of the Spirit vs. "FRUITS" of the Spirit? How does the freedom that Paul describes look different from the way our society talks about freedom?

#### NOTES



## **WEEK 3**

### **DAY 17**

#### **READ**

Galatians 6:1-10

#### **ENGAGE**

Paul emphasizes his point one last time here. He tells the Galatians that, if they truly want to fulfill the law of Christ, then they will care for one another and carry each other's burdens. That is what we are called to do as Christians. It is the one rule that matters most. Anything that deviates from 'faith working through love' is seeking to deceive. Bearing burdens and restoring one another when caught in spiritual transgression is one of the fundamental ways we help one another walk in step with the Spirit.

#### **PONDER**

Have you ever helped someone through a battle against sin with the Gospel? What would you need to start? How could you equip others to do so? Do you need help with a sin struggle now? Who could you invite into your life to help?

#### **NOTES**

## **WEEK 3**

### **DAY 18**

#### **READ**

Galatians 6:11-18

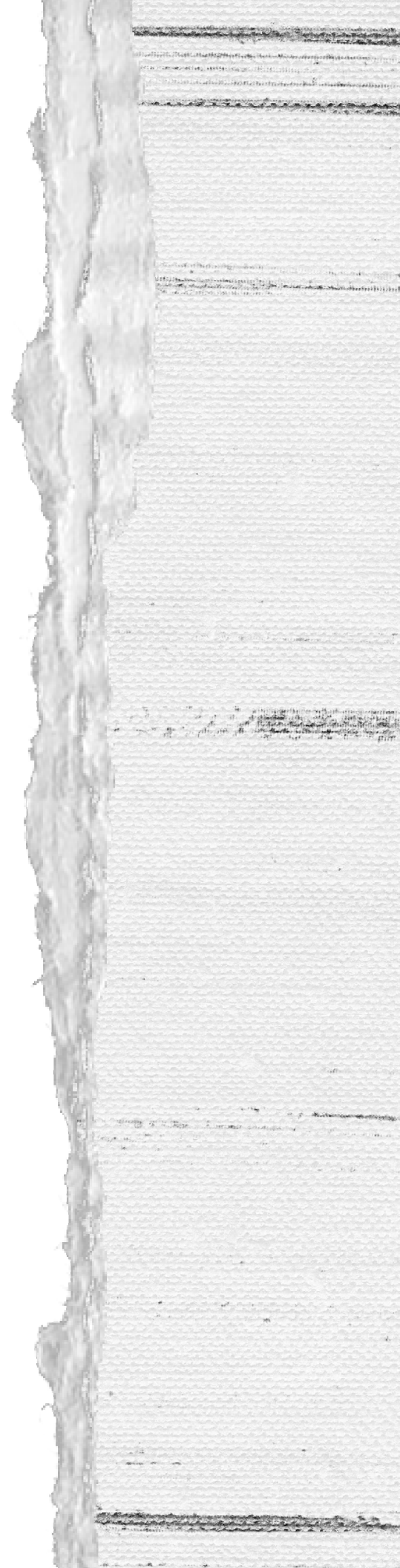
#### **ENGAGE**

As Paul concludes the letter he exposes the motivation behind the message of the false teachers: they wanted to avoid persecution. When the 'end' is off, the 'means' will be too. What counts regarding eternal life isn't whether or not someone is circumcised, but whether or not they are a new creation in Christ. If that is what matters, Paul says, what are a few stripes on my back for the cause of Christ?

#### **PONDER**

Are you tempted to soften the message of the cross to avoid persecution? Or do you carry a 'martyr complex' making the sweetness of the Gospel obscure? How might grace AND truth work itself through love in your life today?

#### **NOTES**



## **WEEK 3**

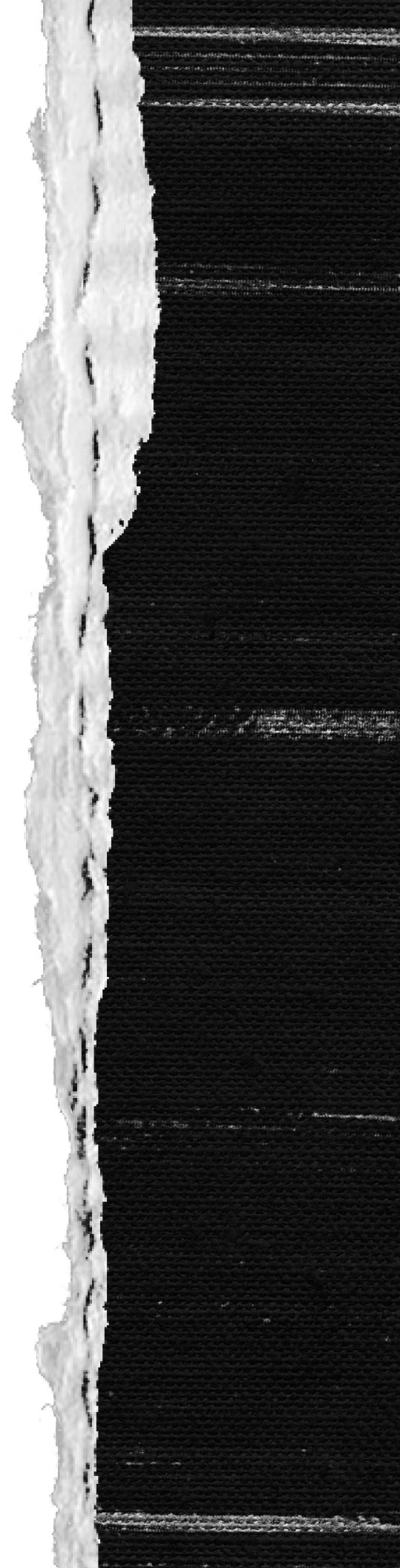
### **DAY 19**

## **REFLECTIONS**

### **QUESTIONS**

- What does Paul say is “the only thing that counts” when following Jesus?
- Why do you think Paul encourages us to carry each other’s burdens?
- What does freedom in Christ mean to you?
- After reading the entire book of Galatians, why do you think Paul wrote to them so urgently and passionately? Why was his message so important at the time that he wrote it, and why is it still important today?

### **NOTES**



## **WEEK 3**

### **DAY 20**

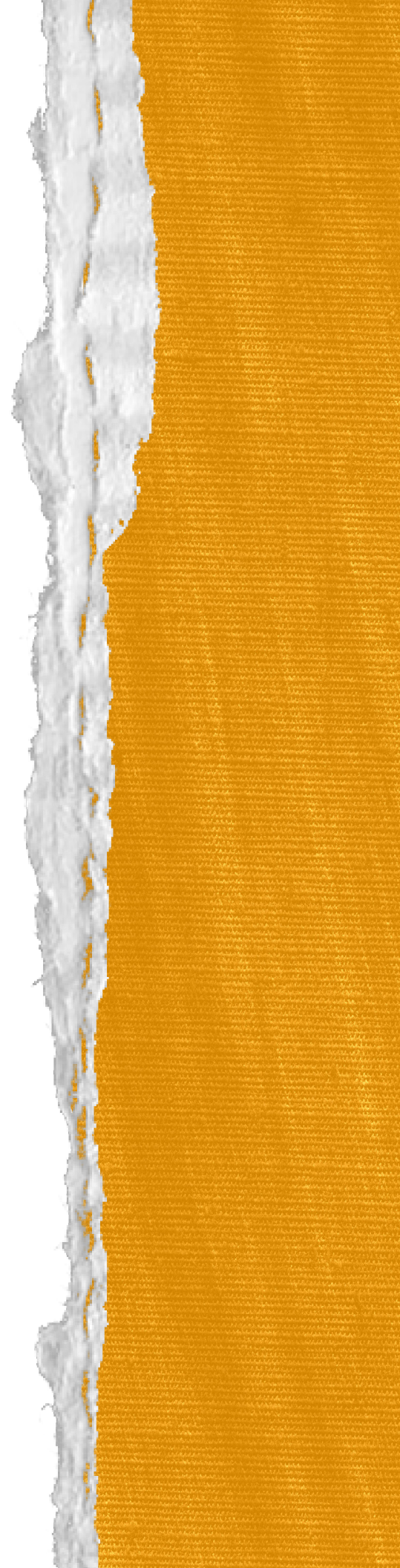
#### **READ**

Galatians 1-6

#### **PONDER**

Consider the implications of the book of Galatians and where God is both convicting and encouraging you through his Word. Offer prayers of repentance and gratitude accordingly.

#### **NOTES**



## **WEEK 3**

### **DAY 21**

#### **PRAY & SHARE**

Pray for God to bring understanding and inspiration to walk in step with the Spirit. Continue to reflect upon the message of the book of Galatians.

Share with someone what you've learned through Galatians. If they are far from God, engage in a spiritual conversation about Jesus and the hope that comes through him regarding many of the ills of the world. If they already follow Jesus, encourage them with the things the Lord has taught you through this study to follow him more closely.

#### **NOTES**

