

WAYS

DEVOTIONAL

What are the Ways?

From reflecting on Scripture and on lives lived with God, FPCM's Staff and Session have distilled 25 Ways that God calls us to live our faith in community and in devotion to Him.

These Ways are meant to help us create an "atmosphere thick with love," and a culture where God's character is evident in all we do. In short, they show who we aim to be.

How do I Devote?

1. Pick your Best Time and Space

Give God your best time, not your leftovers. Look for a time in your day when you are alert and uninterrupted. It can be helpful to find a location which feels prayerful to you.

2. Be Attentive to Yourself

Before you Devote, be attentive to your own heart and mind. Are you feeling preoccupied... disappointed... resentful? Your personal state will impact your prayer life. Make it known to God.

3. Be Attentive to God

This is your time with God. It is personal and relational. Jesus is listening and the Spirit is present with you. Be with God in this time. Even in silence you can know and enjoy His presence.

4. Read. Think. Pray.

Devoting yourself to God is simple. **Read** scripture, **Think** about what it means and means to you, and **Pray** about it. This can be a time to engage your heart and mind toward God's calling. Don't rush it. Savor your time in the word and in prayer with God.

5. Live it Out

Now do something about it.

Rest and Reflect

Each Sunday is an opportunity to Rest with God and Reflect on His presence and power in the previous week and how you will respond in the next.

Sabbath can be a powerful force in your life. Take a break and recline into God's grace. Let work take a back seat to joy and peace. Remember all that God has done for you this week. *God* is in control.

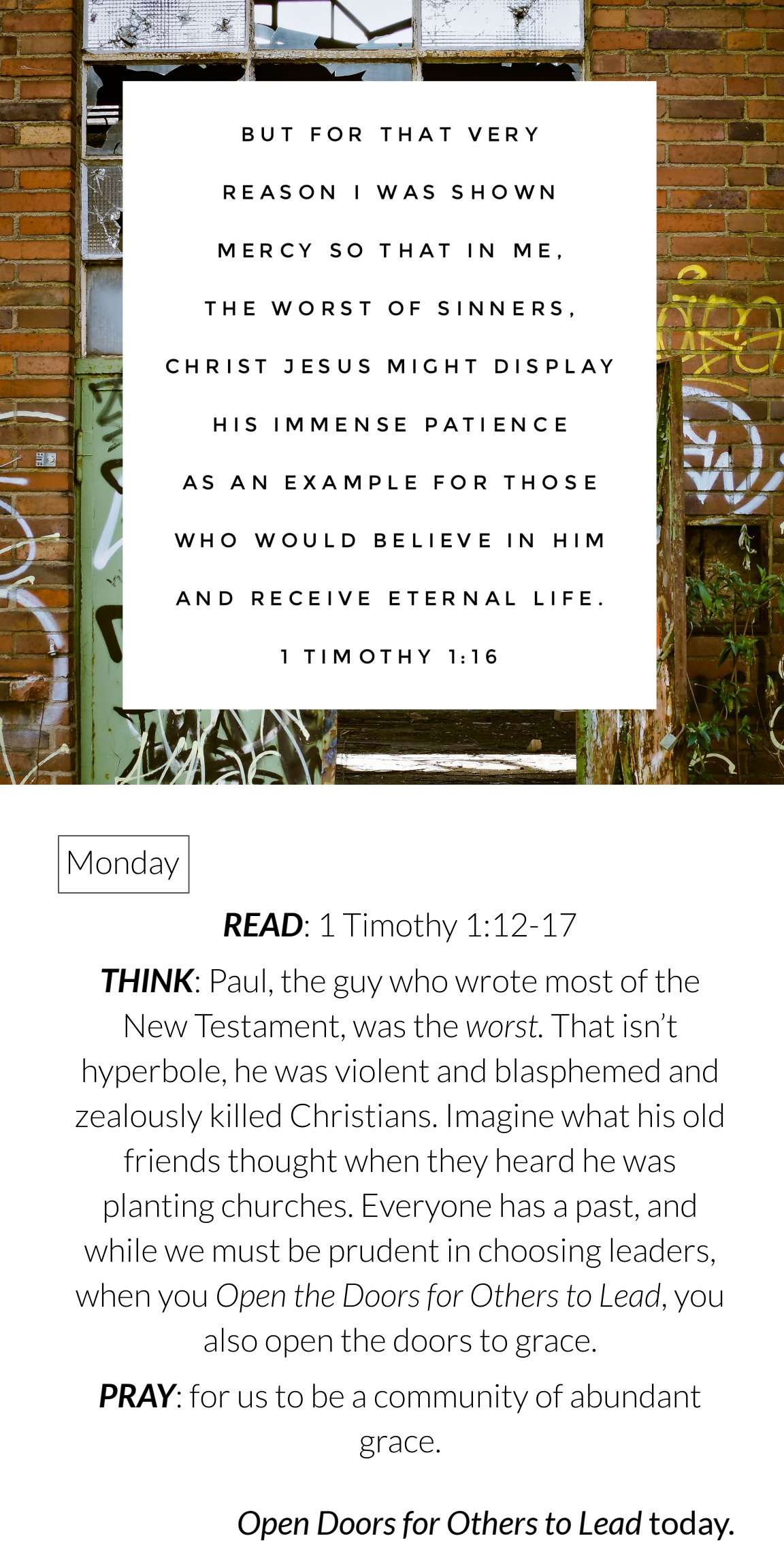
OPEN DOORS

FOR OTHERS TO LEAD

Sunday

Encourage others to step into leadership by sharing responsibilities and mentoring. Let go of the jobs you've always done and allow new leaders to emerge. Remember that our youth and young adults are not the future of our church but are vitally important for our present.

Remember to Rest and Reflect on God's goodness and how you can *Open Doors for Others to Lead* this week.

A photograph of a brick wall with a window. The window has a metal frame and some broken glass. There is graffiti on the wall, including yellow and white tags. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing text.

BUT FOR THAT VERY
REASON I WAS SHOWN
MERCY SO THAT IN ME,
THE WORST OF SINNERS,
CHRIST JESUS MIGHT DISPLAY
HIS IMMENSE PATIENCE
AS AN EXAMPLE FOR THOSE
WHO WOULD BELIEVE IN HIM
AND RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE.

1 TIMOTHY 1:16

Monday

READ: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

THINK: Paul, the guy who wrote most of the New Testament, was the *worst*. That isn't hyperbole, he was violent and blasphemed and zealously killed Christians. Imagine what his old friends thought when they heard he was planting churches. Everyone has a past, and while we must be prudent in choosing leaders, when you *Open the Doors for Others to Lead*, you also open the doors to grace.

PRAY: for us to be a community of abundant grace.

Open Doors for Others to Lead today.



what you are doing
ISN'T GOOD.

YOU WILL END UP TOTALLY
WEARING YOURSELF OUT.

BOTH YOU AND THESE

people who are with you.

the work is too

DIFFICULT FOR YOU.

you can't do it

alone. exodus 18:18

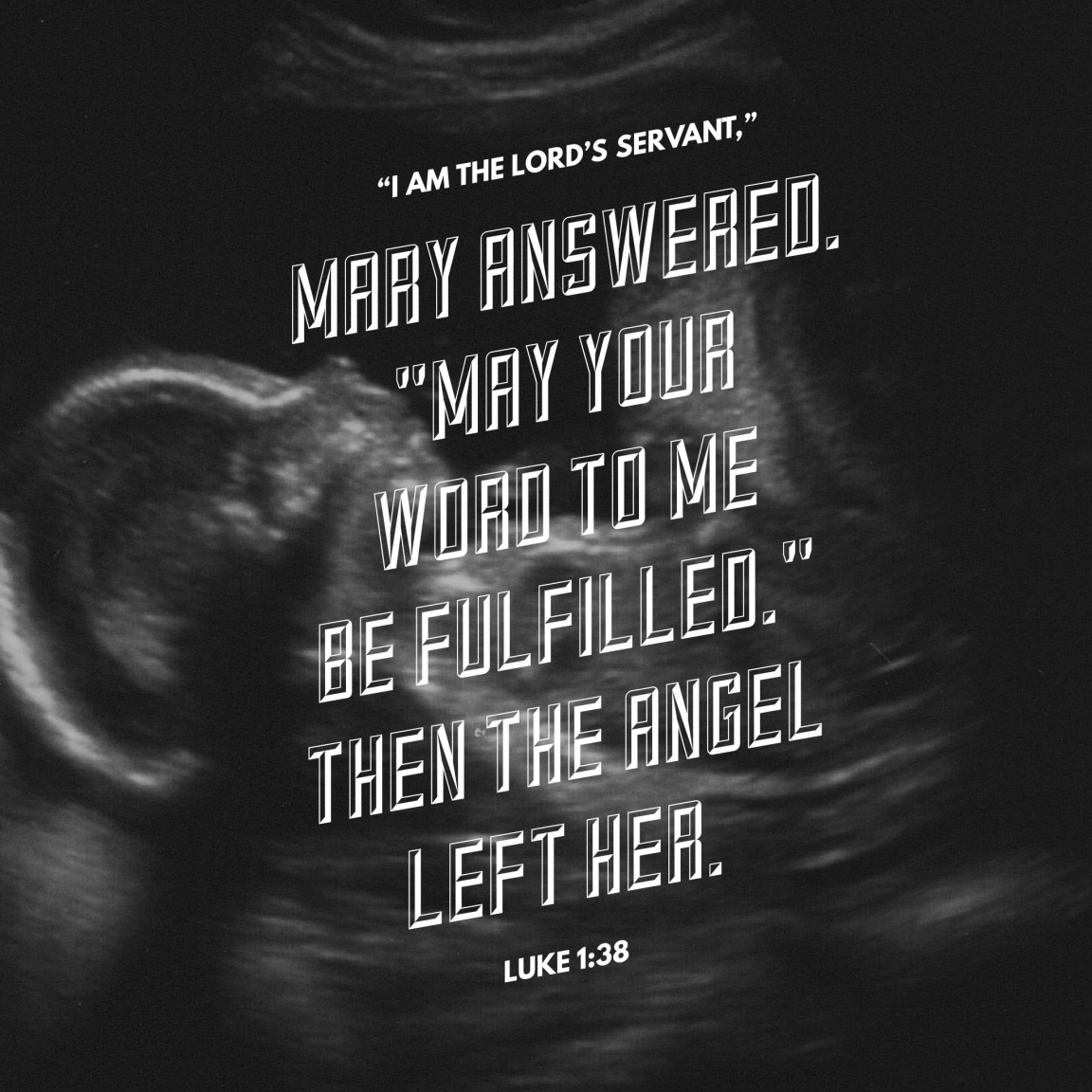
Tuesday

READ: Exodus 18:13-23

THINK: The work ahead of us as a church is too large for any leader. Just as Moses had to trust judges to adjudicate disputes, we must trust new leaders with the mission of our church. As our church increases its reach into our community and grows in depth and breadth, we must *Open the Doors for Others to Lead* and trust new leaders and the judgements they make.

PRAY: for the Spirit to be preparing new lay leaders to carry us forward.

Open Doors for Others to Lead today.



"I AM THE LORD'S SERVANT,"
MARY ANSWERED.
"MAY YOUR
WORD TO ME
BE FULFILLED."
THEN THE ANGEL
LEFT HER.

LUKE 1:38

Wednesday

READ: Luke 1:26-38

THINK: Mary was around 13 when she said this. At 13, Mary makes a vital decision for the history of our faith and the world. Where would we be without that faithful 13 year old girl? When you *Open the Door for Others to Lead*, you open the door to a 13 year old girl who might seemingly have nothing else to offer than faithful obedience, yet can change the world.

PRAY: we would be ready to respond to the Spirit's leading as Mary did, "May Your word to me be fulfilled."

Open Doors for Others to Lead today.



Focus on working on
YOUR OWN DEVELOPMENT

and on what you teach.

If you do this,
YOU WILL SAVE YOURSELF
AND THOSE
WHO HEAR YOU.
1 TIMOTHY 4:16

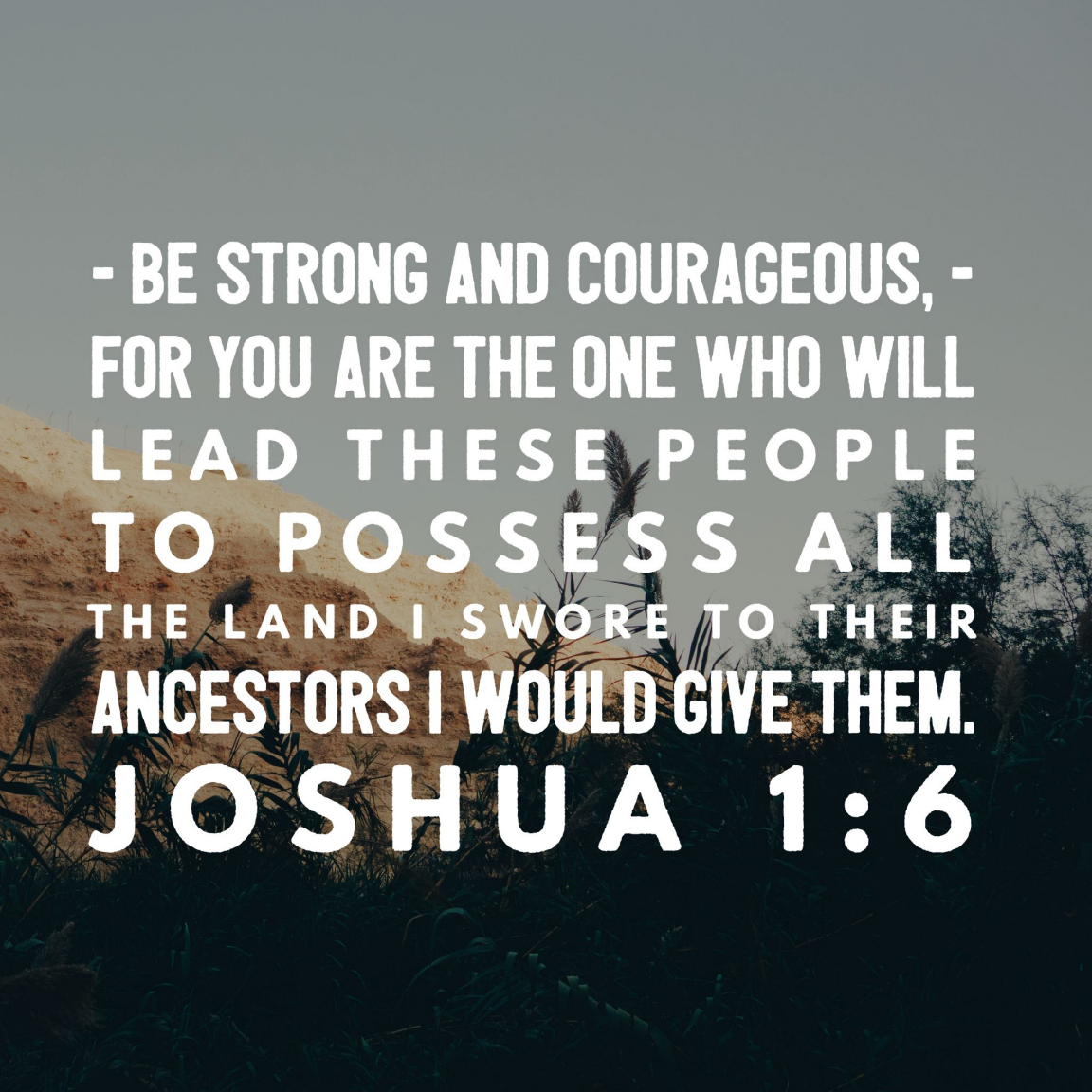
Thursday

READ: 1 Timothy 4:6-16

THINK: Youth for youth's sake is not our goal nor is change for the novelty of it. We look for a new generation to carry the torch with diligence and perseverance. *Opening Doors for Others to Lead* involves wisdom and discernment to find those who would lead us in step with God's will and then allowing those new leaders to make the faithful changes which are needed.

PRAY: that God would help us discern who will be the right new leaders.

Open Doors for Others to Lead today.



- BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS, -
FOR YOU ARE THE ONE WHO WILL
LEAD THESE PEOPLE
TO POSSESS ALL
THE LAND I SWORE TO THEIR
ANCESTORS I WOULD GIVE THEM.
JOSHUA 1:6

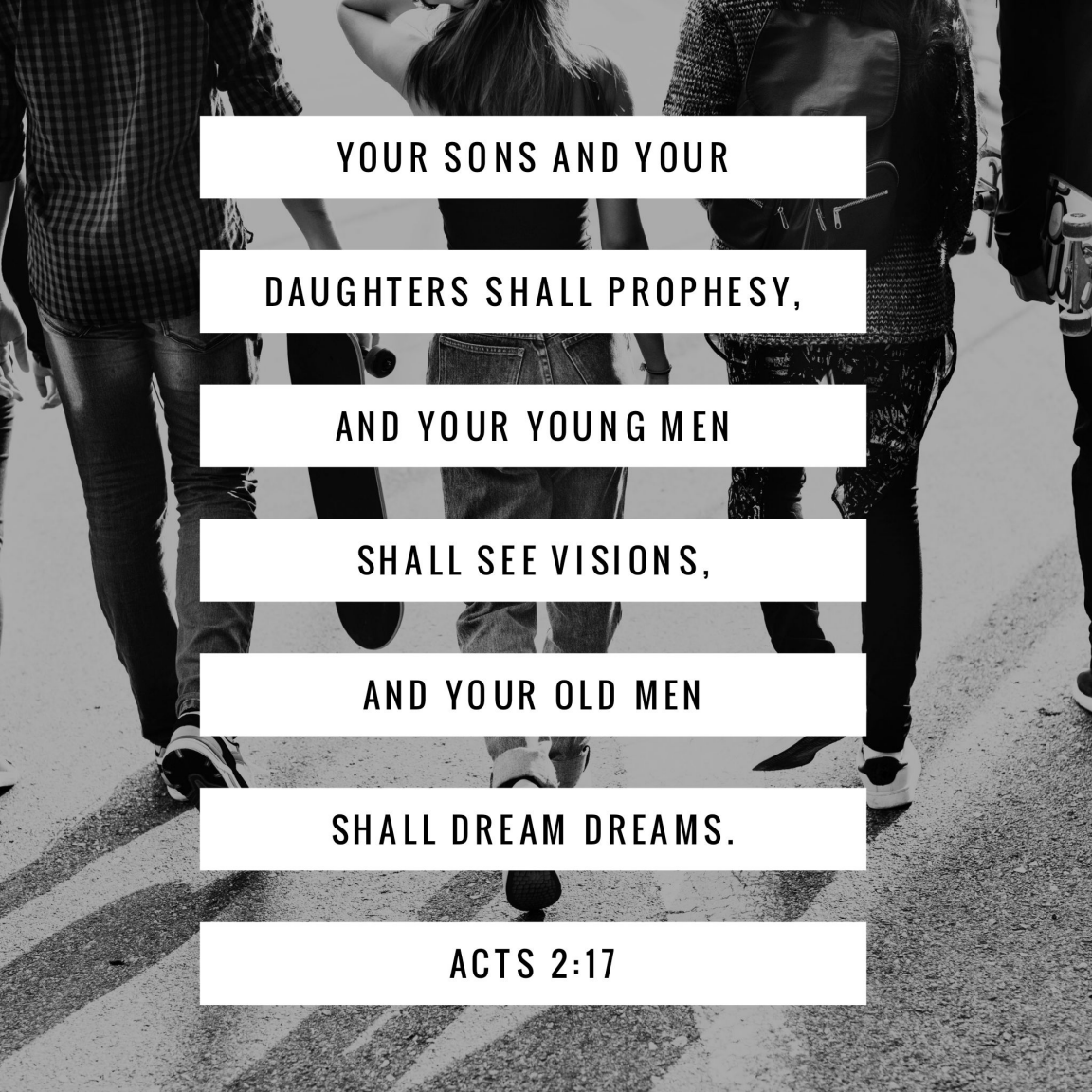
Friday

READ: Joshua 1:1-6

THINK: As new leaders step up, there will be opposition and discouragement and sometimes sabotage. Be ready for it. Just as God encouraged Joshua, we must encourage our leaders in the gifts and calling they have. A large part of *Opening Doors for Others to Lead* is reiterating God's call into their lives and encouraging leaders as they experience opposition.

PRAY: the Spirit would give you the words of encouragement to say to our leaders both new and not new.

Open Doors for Others to Lead today.



YOUR SONS AND YOUR

DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY,

AND YOUR YOUNG MEN

SHALL SEE VISIONS,

AND YOUR OLD MEN

SHALL DREAM DREAMS.

ACTS 2:17

Saturday

READ: Acts 2:14-21

THINK: This is the vision of the days when the Spirit is poured out. In those days, both young and old see visions and dreams. In those days, both young and old are empowered together by the Spirit of the living God. These are those days! The same Spirit is at work within both the young and old; and when we *Open the Door for Others to Lead*, we can see more of the Spirit's work.

PRAY: the Spirit is poured out in power and might on the people of our church.

Open Doors for Others to Lead today.