We devote ourselves to understanding, obeying, and delighting in God's Word.

1. Walter Brueggemann said the following about Lent: "I imagine Lent for you and for me as a great departure from the greedy, anxious anti-neighborliness of our economy, a great departure from our exclusionary politics that fears the other, a great departure from self-indulgent consumerism that devours creation. And then an arrival in a new neighborhood, because it is a gift to be simple, it is a gift to be free; it is a gift to come down where we ought to be."

Have some discussion on these perspectives about Lent. What stands out to you and why?

- 2. Following the above, what are other areas in your life from which you could "depart"? What might you confess or share among your group in order to aid your turning away from these things to turn anew unto God?
- 3. Why do you think so many Christians struggle with fits and starts in being devoted to the reading and learning of Scripture? What is your personal experience in this way?
- 4. Read aloud Acts 2:42-47, which follows right after the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples. Reread it aloud, provided you have time. What was the early church devoted to in Acts 2:42-47?
- 5. Discuss this wording "devoted" or "continued steadfastly." Imagine your group or church with a similar, wholehearted commitment to Scripture at all times. What might God do in the church through that collective and continuous devotion to seeking Him by way of understanding and obeying His word?

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- 6. The UCM value of Rooted in Scripture is, "We devote ourselves to understanding, obeying, and delighting in God's Word." Please take a moment to ponder further whether there is any hindrance to you embracing this value together with the family of God. Then continue the discussion regarding some ways your group might become more intentional in embracing this value with UCM.
- 7. Pray for one another and UCM that we would be a family of disciples making disciples who are rooted in Scripture and bearing good fruit for God's kingdom and glory always.

