Instead of studying and discussing, sometimes we need to simply listen and wait. Especially during this season of Lent, we are reminded that we need to slow down, focus, and open ourselves up to hear the still, small voice of God. As you read Hosea chapters 8 and 9 this week, take your time and listen for the voice of God speaking to you through the text. This might mean taking more time, sitting in silence, or removing other distractions that pull your attention away from the things that matter most.

In the service tonight, Leah will be sharing a poem by one of the great men of God in our church history—John Donne, a “metaphysical poet” who lived in England from 1572 to 1631. Poetry this old and complex also requires us to slow down, listen, and concentrate our minds (very similar to the scriptures in that sense!).

Let this be the prayer of our hearts during Lent this year:

HOLY SONNETS. XIV.
John Donne

BATTER my heart, three person'd God; for, you
As yet but knocke, breathe, shine, and seeke to mend;
That I may rise, and stand, o'erthrow mee,'and bend
Your force, to breake, blowe, burn and make me new.
I, like an usurpt towne, to'another due,
Labour to'admit you, but Oh, to no end,
Reason your viceroy in mee, mee should defend,
But is captiv'd, and proves weake or untrue.
Yet dearely'I love you,'and would be loved faine,
But am betroth'd unto your enemie:
Divorce mee,'untie, or breake that knot againe;
Take mee to you, imprison mee, for I
Except you'enthrall mee, never shall be free,
Nor ever chast, except you ravish mee.