1. Peter's inspired testimony
   a) 2 Peter 3:9-18 What encouragement do you find in this inspired testimony by the apostle Peter?
   b) Why do you think Peter admits that some things written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit by his fellow apostle are hard to understand? (v.16)
   c) How should we respond when we encounter texts in the Bible that are hard to understand?

2. Paul's admonition to Timothy
   a) 2 Timothy 1:5-7 What encouragement do you find in this admonition for your life today?
   b) 2 Timothy 2:15-16 What God-given resources are available to us when we are seeking to rightly interpret the word of truth? John 16:13, Psalm 119:105, Jeremiah 33:3
   c) How does a careful study of the Word of God help us to “shun vain and idle babblings” (2 Timothy 2:16 NKJV)?
   d) Share a time when the Holy Spirit guided you through the Word of God to shun a vain and idle babbling.

3. Strategies for dealing with difficult passages
   a) 1 Timothy 4:12-16 What important insights do you find in Paul's counsel to Timothy?
   b) James 4:6-10 Why is a humble and teachable attitude important when studying the Bible? (see Psalm 32:8-9)
   c) James 1:5-6 Why is prayer so important when studying the Word of God, especially when examining passages that are hard to understand?

4. Examples of difficult passages
   a) Luke 23:43 Did the repentant thief go to Paradise that day?
   b) Exodus 10:20,27, 11:10 Why would the LORD harden Pharaoh's heart? Doesn't He want everyone to repent and be saved? (See also Exodus 8:15,32)
   c) Share a Bible passage that you find difficult to understand. Based on our study today, what approach would you suggest in order to comprehend the text more fully?

5. Discussion questions
   b) What God-given promises give you encouragement when you come across difficult passages in the Bible?