1. The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus  
   a) Luke 16:19-31 What details in this parable make it clear this story should not be taken literally?  
   b) What are the key lessons we should learn from this fictional story?  
   c) How does the true story of the raising of Martha and Mary's brother shed more light on what happens when a person dies? John 11:11-14, 23-27, 38-44.  
   d) What can we learn from the silence of Lazarus of Bethany regarding his experience in the grave?  

2. The testimony of Jesus to a dying thief  
   a) Luke 23:39-43 Why is it important where we place the adverb “today”?  
   b) Was Jesus in Paradise that day? John 20:17  
   c) What promise made by Jesus to His disciples was also a promise for the dying thief? John 14:1-3  
   d) How does this story illustrate the fact that salvation is by God’s grace alone through faith in Jesus our Savior and not by works? (See also Ephesians 2:8-9)  

3. To depart and be with Christ  
   a) Philippians 1:21-24 What did Paul mean when he spoke of desiring “to depart and be with Christ”?  
   b) How does Paul’s inspired testimony, received from the Lord, help us to understand his desire to be with Christ? 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17  
   c) When did Paul understand he would be with Christ and receive a crown of righteousness? 2 Timothy 4:7-8  
   d) How would you respond to someone who says, “I just want to close my eyes, fall asleep in death, and the next thing I know I’ll see Jesus!”?  

4. Preaching to the spirits in prison  
   a) 1 Peter 3:18 When Jesus died on the cross and was buried in Joseph’s tomb, what was his condition in death?  
   b) What did Jesus Himself teach about death? John 11:11-14  
   c) 1 Peter 3:19-20 If Jesus was in the sleep of death in the tomb, how could He go and preach to anyone?  
   d) How then did the Spirit preach to those who were in the prison of sin before the flood? 2 Peter 2:5  

5. The souls under the altar  
   a) Revelation 6:9-11 Are the souls crying under the altar literal or symbolic?  
   b) Where else do we hear of someone’s blood crying out? Genesis 4:9-10  
   c) Discussion question: Why is it important to study all the Bible teaching about life, death, resurrection, and eternal life?