

DIFFICULT TIMES AND DIFFICULT PEOPLE

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-9

GETTING STARTED

• Talk about a time when you had to deal with someone who was difficult, how did you handle that situation? What did you do to ensure a healthy outcome?

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Before you begin: Open with prayer and spend a minute or two in silence before God. Have multiple people ask the Holy Spirit to enter your time together and illuminate your hearts and minds to scripture.

- Have someone read the passage in its entirety aloud. As a group, summarize
 the passage, and as you do so, note any observations, questions, and exciting
 insights you found while reading through the text. What jumped out at you?
 What was something you noticed now that you didn't see before?
- What do you think Paul means by the phrase "in the last days," and why are difficult times ahead in the last days?
- What do you notice about the list of qualities in v.2–5? How does the church stay together?
- What is Paul talking about regarding the weak women in v. 6-7? Is he making a statement about gender? What is it about this group that places a target on their back?
- Who are Jannes and Jambres? How come Paul included this example from Israel's history?

WRAPPING UP

• What do you think appropriate church discipline looks like? Why do you think we are often afraid to think about it?