

PREPARED

PART 1: Hope on the Ropes

INTRODUCTION

One of the most frustrating things about being a Christian is the questions people ask about what you believe. If you had fifteen minutes, you could answer. But what are you supposed to say in just a few seconds? How do you defend your faith without losing your mind?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you hear the word “evangelism,” is what comes to mind positive or negative? Why?
2. Who is a Christ follower in your life whose faith you admire? What do you admire about that person?
3. Talk about a time when someone shared his or her faith with you. Did that person defend a Christian worldview, the Bible, or church doctrine, or did that person explain his or her personal hope in Jesus? How did you respond?
4. Read 1 Peter 3:15-16. What does it look like for someone to talk about his or her faith with gentleness and respect?
5. During the message, Andy said, “Selfless, generous, compassionate living is unassailable.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
6. What can you do this week to begin to craft a simple statement about the resurrection that answers the question, “Why are you a follower of Jesus?” What can this group do to help you?

MOVING FORWARD

When someone wants to know why you chose to follow Jesus, his or her question will probably focus on lifestyle choices, the church, Old Testament stories, or miracles. But the question you should answer is, “Why Jesus?” Give the answer Jesus’ followers have been giving since the first century: the reason you’re a Jesus follower is the resurrection. If there were no resurrection, there would be no faith.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15