

# PREPARED

## PART 2: Reliable Witness

### INTRODUCTION

If you're a Christian, be prepared to defend your decision to follow Christ. Be prepared to defend your hope or confidence in Christ. You believe that Jesus died for your sins and rose from the grave. That's amazing! But you don't have to believe it because the Bible says so. It's better than that . . .

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time in school or at work when you were unprepared for a task, test, or presentation. What happened?
2. Do you know someone who walked away from his or her faith? If so, what caused that person to change what he or she believed?
3. Think about your own faith journey. How has your faith—your view of God, Jesus, and the Bible—changed? What people and circumstances influenced these changes?
4. Talk about a time when something you read in the Bible seemed to conflict with something you believed about the world. Were you able to resolve that tension? If so, how?
5. During the message, Andy said, *“Life causes us to doubt. But the foundation of your faith is not your personal experience.”* To what extent is your faith currently based on personal experience? What are some practical things you can do to begin to reorient your faith toward Jesus?
6. Last week you were given the assignment of beginning to craft a simple statement that answers the question, *“Why are you a follower of Jesus?”* How did it go? How will this week's message help you to refine that statement? What can this group do to help you continue working on that statement?

### MOVING FORWARD

Life causes us to doubt. But the foundation of your faith is not your personal experience. It's better than that. We take the Old Testament seriously because Jesus did. We take Jesus seriously because of the resurrection. We take the resurrection seriously because Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, Paul, and James took it seriously.

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”*

**Matthew 5:17**