

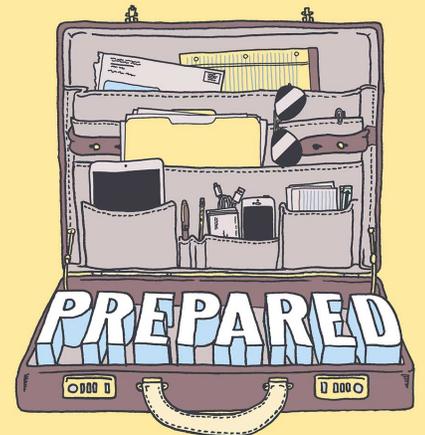
# GROUP STUDY 1: HOPE ON THE ROPES

**Series 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?

---

## ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

- When you hear the word “evangelism,” is what comes to mind positive or negative? Why?
- Who is a follower of Jesus in your life whose faith you admire? What do you admire about that person?



---

## ENGAGING IN THE TOPIC

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?

- Read 1 Peter 3:13-18
  - What do you know about Peter’s experience with Jesus that you can see as a motivator or as part of Peter’s message here?
  - What does it look like for someone to talk about his or her faith with gentleness and respect?
  - In what ways can our attitude and actions help and/or hurt our defense of our faith?
  - What was the reason for Peter’s hope? Can you find evidences of it in the previous couple chapters of Peter’s letter? Find each place he talks about “hope” and list how he references it. What do you notice?

---

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever been asked about your faith? How did that conversation go? Was it about your hope in Jesus, or some other aspect of faith?
- When did you decide to believe that Jesus died for your sins and came to life again? What led you to make that decision?
- In what ways are you full of hope today because of your faith? In what areas are you struggling to stay hopeful? What can this group do to encourage you?
- 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?”

**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.**