



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for your Son giving his life on our behalf so that we could have hope in what sometimes seems like a hopeless world. Forgive us for the times when we betray our faith by being silent. So Father, do something in us during this series that we would have a boldness that's new and fresh to share our faith, and it would be gentle and it would be respectful. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

1 Peter 3:15-16 (NIV)

¹⁵But 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, ¹⁶keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 1 *November 14, 2021*
“Prepared”

INTRODUCTION

From the earliest days of the church until today, people become followers of Jesus in the exact same way: through an invitation. But many people today are uncomfortable sharing their faith for various reasons and they believe that their faith is private. So why does a fully devoted follower of Jesus need to share their faith?

Jesus gave us our marching orders to go and create new followers of His and that we are to be the light of the world. There are tens of thousands of people who live near our church. Many of them don't know Jesus. As fully devoted followers of Jesus, we want them to experience what we've experienced. So, we invest in relationships with them. And when the time is right, we invite them into an environment where they may have a life changing encounter with their Savior.

QUESTIONS

1. When you hear the word “evangelism,” what comes to mind – either 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 on page 1. What does it look like for someone to talk about his or her faith with gentleness and respect?
5. During the message, Eric said, “Selfless, generous, compassionate living cannot be attacked, questioned or defeated.” Do you agree? Why or why not?

FINAL APPLICATION

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?