

PREPARED

Hope on the Ropes

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Note: The following content is a raw transcript and has not been edited for grammar, punctuation, or word usage.

00:00 Speaker 1: Well, we're starting a new series today, but if you're watching us online or for those of you who joined us that are at other Atlantic campuses, we just had a little Kleenex fest here. So, pardon us if you hear lots of sniffing, it's not allergies, it's baptism.

[laughter]

00:15 S1: Hey, we're beginning a brand new series today called "Prepared", and basically here's the subtitle. "Prepared. Defending your faith without losing your mind." Defending your faith without losing your mind. Here's a situation that many of us who are Christians have, and if you're not a Christian by the way, this is the perfect Sunday to be watching or the perfect Sunday to be participating because we're gonna talk to each other and you just get to listen in, you don't have to do anything. This is like application-free Sunday. And this may explain why Christians are a little odd so this is a great Sunday for you to be here. But one of the odd things or one of the difficult things about being a Christian, is you know what you believe and you're excited about what you believe, and maybe you grew up believing it or it's new to you. So we got all this kinda information running around in our heads, and every once in awhile somebody kinda takes a shot. It's like a hit and run kind of thing about your faith.

00:58 S1: And they're not trying to open up a conversation, they just say something like, "So you're like a Bible person, right?" And you're sort of thrown off balance. And then, they move on to the next subject. It's like, "Wait, wait, wait, wait". But they're not really interested, it's just kinda like, "So you're like that Bible... You're religious. Oh, I forgot, you're religious". Or, "Frank won't be there. You'll probably be at church, right Frank?" "Yeah". And then, the subject moves on. It's like you don't get to say, "Well, wait a minute. Let me tell you about my church". It's just kinda like a hit and run comment about faith. They're not asking a real question or you mention church. They go, "Oh yeah, I used to go to church". They tell you about their bad church experience, and right before you can tell them about your good church experience the subject changes, and you're just kinda left off balance a little bit.

01:37 S1: Again, they're not asking for a conversation, they're just kinda making a comment and you don't ever know what to say, I don't ever know what to say. It just throws you off balance, you kind of chuckle, the conversation moves on, and you feel like you just are about 'this' big. 'Cause they've just sort of made a comment about your whole Christian religious experience but they're not gonna read a book, they're not trying to engage in a conversation, they just move on. And then, the worst case scenario with this particular dynamic is family. 'Cause your father-in-law has never really accepted the fact that you're a Christian, and you dragged his daughter to church or whatever