

## **Small Group Questions: Be Prepared**

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### **Read**

Proverbs 16:9; Matthew 25:1–13 and 26:31; and Ephesians 4:11–13

### **Reflect**

Let's use this new year as a time of conscious preparation. In the parable of the ten virgins, Jesus talks about how five were foolish and five were wise. Five took extra oil with them for their lamps as they waited for the bridegroom, unsure how long it would take for him to appear. Those who had not prepared, ran out of oil and were not present when the bridegroom arrived. Who is Jesus in this parable? Who are we?

Guest speaker, Andi Andrew, helps us prepare for the new year.

#### **1. Be prepared for anything.**

- a. What is Jesus telling us we need to prepare for?
- b. If Jesus were to come today, in what ways, do you feel prepared? In what ways, do you not?
- c. What step can you take to become more obedient to God and better prepare?

#### **2. Don't live on borrowed oil.**

- a. How were the ten tested by the delay of the arrival of the bridegroom?
- b. The ten virgins were all invited, but the unprepared ones found themselves left outside. What presumptions did the foolish ones make?
- c. What delays have tested you?
  - i. What have these delays shown you about yourself?
- d. What are you expecting from others that only God can give you?

#### **3. Stay alert, don't hit snooze.**

- a. What have you delayed or ignored? Today, how can you seek out God more?
- b. What will you do with the oil given to you?

**Respond:** Where is God leading you? What are you going to do about it? How can your small group support you?