

## News Story Summary

September is National Preparedness Month in the United States. This emphasis is sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help Americans prepare for and respond to emergencies including natural disasters and possible terrorist attacks. Surveys show that 57% of Americans have supplies set aside for natural disasters and 44% have an emergency plan. Residents are encouraged to explore potential hazards; we should research what hazards have taken place in our local areas in the past such as earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires, floods, volcanoes, etc. We should also sign up for free alerts, have supply kits and emergency plans, and become involved in community preparedness. A PrepareAthon took place on September 30 with drills, group discussions, and various activities to encourage preparedness. On October 20, there will be a drill in many states and countries to help people know how to respond to earthquakes. At precisely 10:20 a.m. local time, people will “drop, cover, and hold on” to demonstrate and practice the technique. Anyone interested can go to the shakeout website to sign up to participate.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase “National Preparedness Month.”)

## Focus Attention

Relay the news story. Ask: *What disasters have you personally witnessed? How have you been affected by them? What do you do to prepare for future disasters? Should we allow fear about upcoming disasters disrupt our lives and happiness? Why or why not?*

Point out that today’s lesson, *Always Ready*, teaches us the importance of being prepared to respond to the world concerning our Christian faith. Christians can be verbally attacked or even suffer physically because we are different from the world. Invite the group to delve into 1 Peter 3 to see what the Scripture says about being ready to share the gospel.

## Challenge

Remind the group of the news story. Highlight prepared actions encouraged in the news story. Lead the group to determine one step they can take toward being better prepared to defend their faith when asked to do so.