

## **LIFE Group Discussion Questions**

Hebrews 3:7-19

Week of October 4-10, 2009

**Summary:** The Holy Spirit is warning believers against the danger of a hard heart and calling them to share in Christ by holding firmly to the end. Using Psalm 95's references to the Israelites' wandering for 40 years in the desert as his springboard, he urges modern day believers to listen to God's voice, take steps to obey from the heart by faith, and encourage one another along the way against the deceitfulness and prevalence of sin.

### **Discussion Questions**

These questions do not to be covered exhaustively; rather, they are meant as a guide to further exploration on the various applications and observations from the text, so use what is most helpful for your group context.

1. How and when do you hear God's voice most clearly?
2. Describe what you think a 'hard heart' looks like. What makes your heart hard to the things of God?
3. Read Exodus 17:1-7. When are you tempted to ask the final question the Israelites did (v. 7)?
4. What makes your faith weak? Strong? Who exhibits consistent, persevering faith in your life and what does that look like?
5. Does the threat of consequences (for example, God's anger in this passage) motivate you? Why or why not?
6. Did anyone try the so-called "Tongue Exercise?" (A drill in guarding what you say.) What were the results?
7. In general, how do you receive or communicate encouragement? Any creative ideas on how you can encourage a spouse or child?
8. Here are some of the symptoms of unbelief – which do you exhibit, and how do you combat against it/them?
  - Distance
  - Apathy
  - Unreasonable requests and demands
  - Testing and trying God
  - Quarreling
  - Grumbling
  - Complaining
  - Bitterness
  - Resentment
  - Disobedience
  - Refusing to listen to God
  - Refusing to seek God
  - Lack of contentment
  - Pent up anger at unmet expectations
  - Lack of care about consequences
9. Spend some time praying for more faith, and pray specifically for the Spirit to guard your heart for sins to which you are particularly prone.