



**Hebrews – Encourage One Another
Pastor Joseph Zwanziger 06.18.2023**

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Hebrews 3:7–19, NIV]

⁷ So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸ do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the wilderness, ⁹ where your ancestors tested and tried me, though for forty years they saw what I did. ¹⁰ That is why I was angry with that generation; I said, 'Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.' ¹¹ So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.' " ¹² See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. ¹⁴ We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end. ¹⁵ As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion." ¹⁶ Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? ¹⁷ And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies perished in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did God swear that they would never enter

his rest if not to those who disobeyed? ¹⁹ So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.

[Hebrews, 3:8, NIV]

Do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the wilderness.

[Hebrews, 3:13, NIV]

So that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

[Hebrews, 3:15, NIV]

As has just been said: 'Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.'

[Hebrews, 4:7, NIV]

God again set a certain day, calling it 'Today.' This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted: 'Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.'

σκληρύνω (sklērynō) = "to harden morally, to be stubborn"
--

[Acts 19:9, ESV]

But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him

[Romans 9:17–18, ESV]

For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, 'For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.'

¹⁸So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

[Joshua 5:6, ESV]

For the people of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, the men of war who came out of Egypt, perished, because they did not obey the voice of the Lord.

[Hebrews 3:12-13, NIV]

¹² See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Sin, disobedience, and unbelief cause our hearts to be hardened and keep us from entering the rest and promises of God

1. The Deceitfulness of Sin

Sin =

- Breaking God's law/will (1 John 3:4)
- Unrighteousness (breaking relationship with God) (1 John 5:17)
- Not doing good (James 4:17)
- Unbelief (Rom. 14:23)

Sin...

- Separates us from God (Isa. 59:2)
- Disqualifies us from a revelation of God (Isa. 59:2)
- Leads to death

[James 1:15–16, ESV]

¹⁵ "Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers."

2. Disobedience/Rebellion against God's Word & Commands

[Hebrews 3:16-18, NIV]

¹⁶ Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? ¹⁷ And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies perished in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed?

3. Unbelief

Mounce – “The consequences of living in such a state are acting out of ignorance (1 Tim. 1:13), impeding the miraculous (Matt. 13:58), and, at its worst, leading one to reject God and suffer the consequences (Heb. 3:12, 16).”

[Hebrews 3:13, NIV]

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called ‘Today,’ so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

[Hebrews 10:24-25, ESV]

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.

[1 Thessalonians 5:11, ESV]

Encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Encourage one another daily! We can’t stay the course without encouragement from the community of Believers

Key Points:

1. The Deceitfulness of Sin
2. Disobedience/Rebellion against God's Word & Commands
3. Unbelief

Applications for the Week:

This week make it a priority to get into the Bible to receive encouragement. Take that encouragement you received and encourage others around you. Remember, you could be a catalyst to someone's breakthrough.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you experienced encouragement from someone during a challenging time? How did that impact you?
2. How can a hardened heart keep you from walking in God's promises for your life?
3. What three areas can causes our hearts to be hardened? How can these areas impact your relationship with God and others?
4. How can you tell if you're being deceived or not? What is deception and what is truth?
5. What is the antidote for a hardened heart (See Hebrews 3:13)?
6. What is the rest and promise God has for us? How can we live in this place continually?
7. Pastor Joseph said, "Words create a reality." Why is it important for us as believers to speak life over one another?

Group Action:

Take 3 minutes at the conclusion of your time together to have everyone encourage and speak life over each other. **Instructions:** Turn to the person next to you and share one encouraging word or thought.