

**Small group questions – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2016**  
**Healthy heart – a soft heart**

Read Hebrews 3: 7 – 4: 13

1. What are the symptoms of hard-heartedness?
2. What is the relationship between hearing the Word of God, faith and obedience?

The reading above refers to the time in the Exodus when God decided that none of the original Israelites freed from slavery in Egypt would enter the promised land. Read the story together here: Numbers 13: 21 – 14: 12, 19 – 24. It's quite long but gives some important background!

3. Why was God so angry with the Israelites? Where particularly had they gone wrong?
4. How can we insure that our hearts are kept soft and receptive to the voice of God?
5. Think about whether there is any influence in your life that might have the reverse effect and cause you to become more hard-hearted towards God.
6. Heb. 3: 13 says "encourage one another daily, as long as it is called 'Today', so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness". Encouragement is a great way of helping one another to stay soft hearted. Think of ways to encourage the members of your group this week!

This idea will probably work best if people take it away and use it in their own time with the Lord. Ask God to show you if there are any areas of your life that have become hardened to his voice. Ask for his forgiveness and then ask him to soften your heart. Receive his forgiveness and rest in His presence!

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