



## Preface

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In the previous weeks...

- Week 1: Jesus Christ is God's ultimate revelation to the world. He is the promised Son of God who is superior over angelic beings, deserving of our utmost attention.
- Week 2: Jesus Christ's sharing in our humanity is essential for the atonement of our sins; to fulfill God's redemptive plan, make us holy, and welcome us into His family.

This week...

- Jesus Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house (Heb. 3:6), superior to Moses, who was a faithful servant in God's house. As members of God's house, we are warned to guard against hardened hearts and exhorted to firmly place our hope and confidence in Jesus, unlike those in the exodus generation.

## Observation

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1. Based on Heb. 3:1-6, how was Jesus being compared to Moses?
2. Based on Heb. 3:6 and Heb. 3:14, what were the instructions for those who were in God's house?
3. What is the repeated warning throughout the passage?
4. How was the state of the hearts of those who rebelled or turned away from God?
5. What was the consequence for those who disobeyed and whose hearts went astray?

*Leaders' note: This is the **second warning** written in the book of Hebrews. The author used the failure of the exodus generation as a familiar example to the audience. The Israelites hardened their hearts and stopped believing that God was with them. Their unbelief led them to test God, and as a consequence, God condemned them by denying them entry into the promised land.*

## Interpretation

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1. How did Moses and Jesus demonstrate faithfulness? (Note: will need cross-references)

*Leaders' note: **Moses:** Exodus 3:10, Exodus 40:16 | **Jesus:** John 17:5, Colossians 1:13-14*

## 2. What is the significance of the comparison between Jesus' and Moses' faithfulness?

*Leaders' note: Jesus is greater than all created things and all Old Testament institutions, including Moses. Moses was faithful in God's house as a servant, but Jesus is the Son over His own house. Moses was an esteemed great leader and prophet, but Jesus is superior, being our apostle and High Priest.*

## 3. Comparing the experience of the exodus generation with that of the original audience, what were similar or different?

*Leaders' note: **Similarity:** The exodus generation faced difficulties in the wilderness and were tempted to go back to Egypt, while the original audience faced persecution due to their beliefs in Jesus and were tempted to return to Judaism. **Differences:** The promised rest for the Exodus generation is different from the promised rest in Jesus. Moses was the mediator then, while Jesus is the new mediator.*

## 4. How does the exodus generation's hardened heart, unbelief, and failure to enter God's rest point to both the warning of falling away and the hope we have in Jesus Christ?

*Leaders' note: The author warned the original audience not to repeat the same mistake as the exodus generation. Unbelief is different from a lack of faith, as it involves an active rejection of God. It may occur through a gradual process, beginning with the hardening of the heart and eventually leading to unbelief. Making a conscious decision to firmly hold onto the confidence and hope we have in Jesus helps us guard against a hardened heart and unbelief that may hinder us from entering God's rest.*

# Application

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## 1. Reflecting on the past and our current way of living, what are the signs of a hardened heart or unbelief in the way we think or act?

## 2. In what ways have we allowed our difficulties to take our attention away from Jesus?

## 3. What spiritual disciplines or practices, both personally and communally, can help us cultivate a tender heart towards God and firm confidence in God?

### Optional Prayer Exercise: Confession Prayer

The main Greek word for "confess" is **homologeō**, which means to "agree or say the same thing as". Confession is a means to restore a broken relationship between us and God, as it verbalizes our yearning for forgiveness and desire to repent. Praying a confession prayer will increase our love for Jesus and help us to not get stuck in old patterns of sin.

Examples: **Nehemiah 1:5-7** for corporate repentance and **Psalms 51:1-4** for personal repentance

Some practical steps to pray a confession prayer:

1. Come to God with a humble and contrite heart
2. Acknowledge specific sins, confess it to God, humbly admit that we are wrong
3. Declare an affirmation of God's character to remind us of His grace and mercy
4. Recall God's promises and His assurance of forgiveness