Hebrews 3:1-19

*“A Hard Heart”*

**Scripture:** Hebrews 3:1-19

**Memory Verse:** *“Today, if you will hear His voice; Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”* Hebrews 3:15

**Lesson Focus:** Beware of unbelief because it can produce a harness of heart!

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring pages, Work Sheet

Craft for 1st and 2nd Graders: “A believing Heart”

1. Give each child two hearts.
2. Tell them to color their heart
3. Staple the sides together
4. Stuff the inside of the heart
5. Close up the heart with staples

**Introduction:**

 “A Hard Heart”

 Make a large heart out of construction paper and staple most of it together. (leave

 room at the top to put stuff into it.) Show the heart to the kids and say the following:

1. Why does God care about what we put in our hearts?
2. Does God want our whole heart?
3. When we believe in Jesus – we give God our Hearts.
4. But when we don’t believe in Jesus – we get a hard heart.
5. (Gather some rocks and start filling up your heart) Drop the rocks into the heart as you mention things that we do in unbelief.
6. Sometimes we doubt God – we do not think that God can help in this situation
7. Sometimes we are mad at God because something happened that we do not like.
8. Sometimes we disobey God because we want to do our own thing
9. Sometimes we don’t believe.
10. Sometimes we don’t care about following God
11. Sometimes we don’t remember what Jesus did for us on the cross
12. Sometimes we cannot believe what the Bible says.
13. All of these things make our hearts harder – our hearts become hardened to the things of God and we move farther and farther away from God. It is a very serious disease of the heart and one that God hates. Today we are going to learn about the warning to keep our hearts soft towards God.

**Bible Study:**

 **Hebrews 3:1-6 – *Jesus and Moses***

√ Who are we supposed to consider in verse 1? (Jesus Christ) This means that we are to

focus or keep our mind on Jesus. He is the one that we have confessed to believe in.

 √ What character quality does the writer of Hebrews give Moses and Jesus in verse 2?

 (Faithful)

 √ What is faithfulness?

 √ Is faithfulness a good characteristic to have? Why or why not?

 √ Why is Jesus more worthy than Moses from Hebrews 3:3-6

1. Jesus built the house

 √ What house are they talking about? (the household of believers,

 Hebrews 3:6)

1. Moses was a faithful as a servant in the house of God
2. Jesus is a son of the house

Jesus built the spiritual house of God and Moses was a great leader in that house.

It is very important to understand that Moses was the most revered of Hebrew men. To a Jewish person Moses is the greatest person in their history.

Why was Moses the greatest to a Jewish person:

1. He was from birth set apart and his life preserved by God (Exodus 2:1-10)
2. He was divinely called by God in the burning bush (Exodus 3)
3. Moses was the deliverer of the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt by showing God power. (Exodus 7-12)
4. God showed His power through Moses when he parted the Red sea (Exodus 14)
5. God spoke to Moses face to face. Numbers 12:6-8; *“Hear now My words; If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house. I speak with him face to face, even plainly and not in dark sayings; and he sees the form of the Lord…”*
6. Moses received the 10 commandments (Exodus 34:29-35)
7. Moses wrote the first 5 books of the Old Testament through the divine inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 3:6: Hold on! What are we to hold on to? (What we believe.) What does that mean? (We are to hold on fast to what we believe in Jesus Christ. That Jesus is God’s Son, sent to earth to live a perfect life and pay the price on the cross for our sins. If we confess our sins and believe in Him we are saved. But we need to continue growing in the faith. That is what it means to hold on to Jesus.

**Hebrews 3:7-11 – *Hardness of Heart!***

√ What are we told to do in Hebrews 3:7? (hear His voice)

√ What are we told not do in Hebrews 3:8? (not harden your heart) What does that mean?

√ What example does the writer give for someone hardening their hearts?

**Hardening Your Heart:**

 √What causes a hardened heart towards God?

1. Rebellion (Hebrews 3:8a)
2. Testing (Hebrews 3:9a)

Hardness of heart is a terrible thing. It always comes about gradually. It starts with unbelief…and then we get mad at God…which turns into grumbling, quarreling and disobedience towards God. It is a scary disease of the heart and one that God will not tolerate.

Israel in the Wilderness: Exodus 17

1. Israel was camped at by Mount Sinai and ran out of water and began to complain to Moses. Moses struck a rock and gave them water. But the people of Israel complained against God and did not trust God. (Exodus 17:7)
2. In Numbers 13-14, we get the story of the 12 spies sent to spy on the Promised Land. The report that the 10 spies gave was that the land was to hard to conquer (there were giants). Only two spies gave a good report and said that God would give them the victory (Caleb and Joshua.) God comes to them in Numbers 14:10-11, focusing on their hard heart (unbelief.) They are punished by never entering into the promise land except Caleb and Joshua. No one over 20 years of age (except Caleb & Joshua) at the time of the Exodus from Egypt entered the Promised Land, they died in the wilderness.

 **Hebrews 3:12- *Protect Your Heart!***

 Hebrews 3:12

 √ What are we supposed to beware of ? (evil heart of unbelief)

 √ What does a unbelieving heart cause us to do? (turn away or depart from the

 living God.)

To turn away from God is to say “no” to God.

 Hebrews 3:13

 √ What are we supposed to do? (encourage each other.)

 √ How often are we supposed to do that? (daily)

 Hebrews 3:14

 √ What does it mean to “*hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the*

 *end.” (*It means to persevere). To keep on believing!

Hebrews 3:15-18

 √ What warning does he give us? (Listen to God and do not harden our hearts.)

 The Hebrew people that rebelled against God at first rejoiced in His victory to

get them out of Egypt and out of slavery. God did it in a miraculous way. He even led them with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. But they soon forgot what God had done for them and began to complain about their conditions. They forgot who God was and they disobeyed.

 3 Questions:

1. Hebrews 3:16: “*For, who having heard rebelled?”* (All who left Egypt with

 Moses)

1. Hebrews 3:17; N*ow with whom was He angry forty years?”* (Those who sinned)
2. Hebrews 3:18; *“And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest…”* (those who did not obey)

Hebrews 3:19

√ What was the main problem? (unbelief)

Unbelief is ultimately saying “no” to God. We all have times of doubt. But we must very quickly pray, ask stronger believers or go to the Bible to help us sort out that doubt. If we let doubt grow we can develop a harness of heart and then we will never have all that God has planned for us.

1 Corinthians 10:1-6 – tells us to remember what Israel did and to learn from their mistakes. They are the negative example of unbelief.

**Conclusion:**

 Go back to class and ask the following questions?

1. Is doubt wrong? How do I deal with my doubt?
2. Do you have someone to talk to about your doubt?
3. Do I believe in Jesus as the only way to God?
4. Why does doubt lead to unbelief?
5. What causes me to have a hard heart?
6. How can you soften your heart towards God?
7. Who can you encourage in their walk with Jesus today?

My

Soft Heart

Hebrews 3:15