

# GROWTH GROUPS

October 16, 2011

Hebrews 3:7-19

## Conversation Starter -

As Halloween approaches, consider a prank or scam that you may have played on friends in the past. (or that may have been played on you!) Describe what happened as you recount the path of “deception” that took place. Also, speculate about what caused you (or the other person) to fall for the Halloween prank.

## Understanding -

Hebrews 3:7-19 is a passage of warning for those who follow Christ. Using the Exodus account found in Numbers 13 and 14 as an example, the writer of Hebrews outlines the natural pattern of doubt from initial faith in God to eventual disobedience and abandonment of God. (hope → disbelief → disobedience) In revealing this natural pattern, the writer of Hebrews exhorts the believers, instructing them about how to maintain faith to the end.

## Questions -

1. In the world in which we live, do you believe it is natural to believe in a personal and loving God or is it more natural to doubt the care of a loving God?
2. If you have a personal relationship with Jesus, describe how that began or why you hold that faith today.
3. The Israelites had dramatic reasons to trust God as He miraculously led them out of Egypt and provided for them in the desert. (Numbers 13-14) Yet, as soon as there was reason for doubt, the Israelites began to turn away from God. What do you believe causes someone to begin turning away from God in the present even when God has provided for that person in the past?
4. Hebrews 3:12-14 provides instruction about how we can maintain and grow a vibrant faith in Christ even in a world that seems to cause doubt. What are some of those ways indicated in this passage? How can we help one another in these ways.

First Presbyterian Church of Maumee

<http://fpcmaumee.org> Email [staff@fpcmaumee.org](mailto:staff@fpcmaumee.org)

200 East Broadway, Maumee, Ohio 43537

Phone 419-893-0223 Fax 419-893-0327