**Pause Group**

**Hebrews Chapter 3: 14-19**

Begin your time together by sharing highs and lows from the past week. Pray together with gratitude for the joys of the week in the lives of your group members and the world. Pray for those dealing with struggles. Pray for the worlds struggles.

**Study Questions**: Address the questions your group desires.

1. What does it mean to share the life of Christ, the Messiah, in the context of this reading, especially verse 14, and in the context of chapter 3?
2. In verses 16,17 & 18, the writer returns to the desert wanderings with three probing questions. What point is the writer trying to make with these questions?
3. What is the closest you have come to going through a period of dryness when you felt spiritually empty, exhausted or burned out? How would you describe being spiritually empty (what were your symptoms)?
4. Where do you turn when you’re struggling with your faith?
5. Read verse 15. This verse is from Psalm 95. It emphasizes that people face a choice. The challenge becomes more urgent with the word “today” included in the sentence. Along with the other early Christians, the writer believed passionately that God acted once for all people in Jesus the Messiah. As a result, the new day has dawned. The day for which the people of Israel had been waiting. They have been in “tomorrow mode” long enough. Now it is “today mode”, the moment when it is all happening. If they would remember that, they would stay on track and not fall asleep at the wheel.

How is God at work in our world today, bringing glimpses of God’s kingdom to earth? How does recognizing the Holy Spirit’s work in bringing about God’s kingdom help us live more faithfully as followers of Jesus? Does recognizing these changes in the world help us fight spiritual complacency?

Pay attention each day this week to how the Spirit is at work showing us glimpses of the kingdom. How do you know what you see is of God? What is the defining characteristic?

1. The very last verse, verse 14 says that it was their unbelief that prevented them from entering. What did they not believe, who did they not trust?

**Closing Prayer** – The Lords Prayer