



MORE  
**REAL**ATIONSHIPS

#MOREREALATIONSHIPS **MG**<sup>3</sup>



**“SOFTEN UP”**

**The Point: REALating Means We Accept Instruction**

**Don't forget to make the announcements to your group this week!**

**Discussion Generators**

- What has stood out to you so far from the **More REALationships** Point series?
- The theme on Sunday was “are you open?” in football. Take a fun (or, perhaps, awkward) moment to stroll down memory lane. Share a funny or goofy story from your childhood in sports, on a team, or in gym class (a fall? miss the ball? forget to run? etc.). Or, go to <http://tinyurl.com/mc3SoftenUp> to watch an NFL blooper clip.
- Read Hebrews 3:12-15.** In the Point, Sean shared that it is the church's [Christ-followers] job to turn each other toward Jesus. Have you ever considered this to be your responsibility?
  - Why or why not?
  - Why do you think God designed the church this way?
- According to Hebrews 3:14-15, our job is to be open to receiving instruction from other Christ-followers, however, that doesn't always feel pleasant at the time. If this has happened to you, describe your feelings when you've been confronted. Be honest about the emotions that you've felt, good or bad.
  - Why do you think we feel this way?
  - How can this lead to hardened hearts?



- Sean shared that age can be a “Blocker” to receiving confrontation. Why does someone’s age make us not want to listen to what they have to say?
  - How does **1 Timothy 4:12**, change this attitude?
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- Another “Blocker” is spiritual maturity. Have someone from your Pr1me who was in the Point on Sunday, explain how **1 Samuel 24:16-21** teaches us that we can learn from those who are “less mature”.
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- A third “Blocker” to receiving confrontation is arrogance and pride--the idea that we already heard or already know what someone is telling us. Have you ever felt this way?
  - Share a time when you have been taught something over and over and until it finally sunk in (it doesn’t have to be spiritual)
  - What does **James 1:21-22** teach us about being humble?
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- The final, and usually most intense, “Blocker” is truth/sin. When someone confronts us with truth, our sin nature doesn’t want to hear it, so we make excuses. Have you ever done this?
  - 2 Timothy 4:3-4** shares the tragic results of this kind of thinking. Without naming specific people, have you seen this happen to someone you know?
  - How did that work out? Are they better off ignoring truth?
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- Go around the room and be transparent with your Pr1me: which of the 4 “Blockers” is the biggest struggle for you?
  - Close your time by praying for each person’s struggle in this area.



## Bible Verses

### **Hebrews 3:12-15 (NLT)**

Be careful then, dear brothers & sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. You must warn each other every day, while it is still “today,” so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ. Remember what it says: “Today when you hear his voice, don’t harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled.”

### **1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV)**

Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

### **1 Samuel 24:16-21 (NIV)**

When David finished saying this, Saul asked, “Is that your voice, David my son?” And he wept aloud. “You are more righteous than I,” he said. “You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly. You have just now told me about the good you did to me; the Lord delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me. When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the Lord reward you well for the way you treated me today. I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands.

### **James 1:21-22 (NIRV)**

So get rid of everything that is dirty and sinful. Get rid of the evil that is all around us. Don't be too proud to accept the word that is planted in you. It can save you. Don't just listen to the word. You fool yourselves if you do that. You must do what it says.

### **2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NLT)**

For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths.