

ON THE ROAD TO REAL



SPEAK UP!

**REAL**ATIONSHIPS

MG<sup>3</sup>



**C1-Community** ■ **C2-Congregation** ■ **C3-Caring**

The Point: *REALating means we confront to protect from hurt*

Ephesians 6:1a

### Discussion Generators

- . **Read Galatians 6:1a.** What are two things that stood out to you from this week's Point? (they can be silly, serious, stupid, or spiritual)
- . In your mind, did this week seem to contradict at all what we talked about last week or do you see how someone may think that they may contradict one another? Please expand on that.
- . **Read Matthew 18:15-17.** Do you think this is often how we approach someone that has hurt us or offended us? Why or why not? Have you ever taken this approach or known someone to take this approach? How did that work out? How would you feel being on the receiving end? When would you not approach someone one on one from the get go? Okay, now hold onto those thoughts for later.
- . **Read Ephesians 4:15.** What do you think Paul means here in verse 15? (*PG Leaders please read the beginning of Ephesians 4 in advance so you can fill in the group a little on what Paul is writing leading up to verse 15....i.e. church unity and spiritual maturity as a church family*) Now **read Ephesians 4:25-27.** From your own experiences in life what would you say the pros and cons are with following through on what Paul is teaching us here? Do you think the pros outweigh the cons? Why or why not? Why do you think that is important for our relationships with our....children, spouses, other family members, co-workers, fellow believers, or even people who are watching our lives and know that we claim to be a Christian? What can and or will happen if we don't?

## Discussion Generators

- . Thinking of what we have read in Galatians, Matthew, and Ephesians it seems like there is a consistent message here about addressing issues head on, but with the right spirit and in a gentle loving way. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being not so much and 10 being very much so, how critical do you believe it is to follow these principles with people who are outside of a church family? Using the same scale how critical do you believe it is to follow these principles with people who are inside a church family? Is there any difference? What is at stake in both scenarios?
- . Read I Corinthians 5:9-13. Again, what do you think Paul is saying here? ***(PG Leaders: You may want to even read a different version of this passage, but tread carefully!)*** Does this mean that every time someone sins we clean house? How do you think the previous passages we read apply to this? Most versions of this passage use the word “judge” one another. What do you think is meant by “judge” in this passage? Why do you think it is important for a church family to address issues with sin inside the church family? Do you think this is part of loving one another? Why or why not? How important do you think it is for us to do this right? Why or why not?

## Thinking Outside the Box

If you are or ever have been in sales, you will probably cringe when you hear the me say, let's role-play what approaching someone in a loving way might look like. I know it sounds cheesy to do, but approaching one another in love as a church family is so vital to our health as a church and this is one of the hardest things to 1. Do and 2. Do the right way.

*( PG Leader's Instructions: So with that being said: as a group, come up with a common scenario that you would possibly have to address with a fellow believer at some point and then have two people play the parts of the approacher and the approachee. After you complete the scenario have the observers constructively critique the approacher. Switch it up and let another pair go. Do this as many times as you want or after the first role play for the group, break up in trios and practice that way. This will take courage on you part and be careful to not let this exercise get out of hand or turn into an opportunity for gossip.)*

## Bible References

### Galatians 6:1a (NIV)

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently.

### Matthew 18:15-17 (NLT)

"If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

### Ephesians 4:15 & 25-27 (NLT)

Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

### I Corinthians 5:9-13 (MSG)

I wrote you in my earlier letter that you shouldn't make yourselves at home among the sexually promiscuous. I didn't mean that you should have nothing at all to do with outsiders of that sort. Or with crooks, whether blue or white-collar. Or with spiritual phonies, for that matter. You'd have to leave the world entirely to do that! But I am saying that you shouldn't act as if everything is just fine when a friend who claims to be a Christian is promiscuous or crooked, is flip with God or rude to friends, gets drunk or becomes greedy and predatory. You can't just go along with this, treating it as acceptable behavior. I'm not responsible for what the outsiders do, but don't we have some responsibility for those within our community of believers? God decides on the outsiders, but we need to decide when our brothers and sisters are out of line and, if necessary, clean house.

