



WEEK 5

INTRODUCTION:

By seeking to understand people we don't easily get along with, we can begin to form deeper connections with people and better friendships.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Icebreaker: What are some of the unlikely friendships portrayed in TV shows, movies or books? (Sherlock & Dr. Watson, Legolas and Gimli from *The Lord of the Rings*, and characters from *Remember the Titans*, etc.) What bonds the characters together? Would you say they understand each other?

READ: James 1:9 & 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; watch week 5 video, "Seek to Understand"

1. From Karena's story, have you ever been through difficulty and felt alone? What got you through that hardship?
2. What does it mean that everyone in our lives is fighting a "hidden battle"?
3. Noting James 1:9, how have people made snap judgements about you without knowing you or the full story. How does it make you feel when people are quick to speak and slow to listen?
4. Thinking about your close Christian friends, how has Christ bonded you together in a unique way?
5. In one of Kevin's favorite books, "*The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*", Dr. Stephen Covey notes the 5th Habit: **Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood**. As we come to grips with the "stuff" in our life, is it easier to extend grace knowing that everyone is dealing with something in their life? Why?

MOVING FORWARD:

Read and reflect on Romans 12 this week. Reflect on a friendship you've had with someone. Write down three ways they've personified the Romans 12 passage from this session. Remember to thank them this week.

UNLEASH THE GOSPEL:

Which command from the Romans 12 passage would you like to see lived out in your life? How could you implement that truth this week? What could you do this week to seek to understand one brother or sister in Christ? Write down one way you could sacrificially love someone this week and put it into action.