



1. What is one thing about your personality, your history, or your daily life that you wish people understood just a little bit better?
2. Share about a time when something was going on “under the surface” that ended up causing some damage in a relationship.
3. In the story of Jesus and the rich young man, we talked about Jesus’ compassion even though the man did not follow Him. Re-tell or re-read this passage (Mark 10:17-23). What do you notice? What can we learn as we seek to understand others?
4. In the passage about Jesus’ disciples falling asleep as He prayed, Jesus understood their whole person. Again, re-tell or re-read the passage (Matthew 26:36-46) and talk about what parallels you notice between Jesus understanding His friends and you seeking to understand yours? How does Jesus’ ability to see their "whole person" (both their intent and their exhaustion) challenge how you view your friends' shortcomings?
5. Finally, we peeked into the story of Barnabas and Saul/Paul in Acts 9:19b-28. Once again, re-tell or re-read this story. Barnabas was an example of someone seeking to understand someone’s story. Is there a relationship in your life where you might be judging someone or keeping your distance because you don’t know the whole story? What could be a next step for you?
6. Identify a relationship where you sense God is inviting you to seek a deeper understanding. Share a bit about that relationship (to whatever extent feels appropriate) and name which trait you need in this relationship: compassion, patience or solidarity? What is a next step you can take toward that?