

# FRENEMIES

## Part 2

**Key Scriptures: James 4:1-3; Matthew 7:8-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17**

### **1. Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.**

- Have you ever been blamed for something you didn't do? What happened?
- What is the silliest thing that you blamed someone else for?
- If you were to rank your ability to fight with someone you love (parent, kid, spouse, boy/girlfriend) between 1 (a puppy) and 10 (Bruce Lee) where would you fall?

### **2. Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.**

- Is there any time when fighting is the right choice? Why or Why not?
- Is it circumstances, or motives that initiate most fights? What kind of motives cause us to fight with one another?
- Why do we see others as the barrier to what we want? Should they change, or should our desires change? Why or why not?
- What desires should and can be fulfilled by asking God for them? Can God fulfill your desire to feel important? Heard? Considered? Loved?

### **3. Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.**

- What is the ROOT CAUSE of most fights with your parents/kids/spouse?
- What is the ROOT CAUSE of most fights with your friends/co-workers/acquaintances?
- Compare and contrast any differences.
- How would your wants change if they were all motivated by what God wanted for you ?
- Brandon said, "Rejection is protection". Have you ever said "no" to someone to prevent them from getting hurt? Or in order to offer something better than they requested? Why is it hard to trust God when we get a "no" from Him?

### **4. Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.**

- Ask God to change your desires to be for what is best for all eternity instead of just pleasant now.
  - To love others first instead of conditionally.
  - To give graciously instead of demanding of others.
  - To be an example of Christ in all relationships through love.

### **5. Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.**

- Examine your relationships and find one this week that you can sow peace into... especially if fighting is the norm.
- Choose to be patient with that person now... because your attempts to bring peace may be questioned, feared, or otherwise challenged. Choose peace now before they potentially push any buttons.
- Ask someone to keep you accountable in this challenge this week. (Tell them who you are engaging, pray together, and report trials and successes to them!)