[TITLE] HOW TO COMMUNICATE: EMPATHY TOWARD A STRUGGLING GROUP MEMBER, WHAT IF #1

00:00 [ALEX is sitting on the couch in a study lounge looking at a tablet. PAUL enters the room and sits beside her.]

00:01 **PAUL**: Hi Alex.

00:03 **ALEX:** (hesitant) Oh, hi. Hey, um I meant to text you about . . .

00:09 **PAUL**: Yeah. I mean, we’ve missed you at the last couple of meetings. Have you been sick or something?

00:14 **ALEX**: (embarrassed) No. I'm sorry. I really didn't mean to. I just… well…there's a lot, I have a lot going on right now so…

00:21 **PAUL**: Okay. Look, you got a second to talk?

00:27 **ALEX**: Well, I've got class in twenty minutes, but okay. Sure. I really am sorry, Paul. Is everybody really mad at me?

[Paul sits down beside Alex. He smiles reassuringly.]

00:36 **PAUL**: (reassuringly) No, no, and we started on the idea that you had for visuals. But, I was worried when you didn't show up. Is everything okay?

00:46 [ALEX looks down and shakes her head.]

00:47 **ALEX**: Not really. It's not your problem though.

00:51 **PAUL**: Maybe not, but you know, that’s not the point. Is there anything I can do? I’m here to listen if you want to talk.

01:01 **ALEX**: (defensive) Why would I talk to you about my problems? I mean, it’s not like we’re friends or anything, so I don't want to get into my personal stuff with you.