



CORNER FRINGE MINISTRIES

FREEDOM IN MESSIAH

Leader Guide | Week 12 | The Testimony Builder

A Witness, Not A Rescuer

01 SESSION OVERVIEW

A leaders snapshot for meeting night

Theme	Wounded Healers & Witness
Core Focus	Moving from recipient of freedom to carrier of it — without becoming a rescuer
Exodus	Exodus 18:13–26 — Jethro's counsel to Moses. True leadership multiplies freedom by equipping others, not by becoming indispensable.
Memory Anchor	"And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony." — Revelation 12:11

SESSION TIMING

Welcome & Open	5 min	<i>Cameras on, welcome people, frame the evening</i>
Teaching Video	9–11 min	<i>Play the recorded lesson — give relevant context</i>
Breakout Groups	60 min	<i>Student Guide drives the session (Breakout Tool secondary)</i>
Main Room Recap	15–20 min	<i>Groups share, leader guides discussion</i>
Close & Prayer	5 min	<i>Use the Memory Anchor, send with purpose</i>

WHAT THIS MEETING IS REALLY ABOUT

This is the final session. Twelve weeks of work culminate tonight in a sending — a movement from recipient to witness. The goal is not to close something but to open something: The beginning of each person's life as someone who carries a testimony and knows how to point others toward the door they walked through. Your role tonight shifts slightly. Rather than creating space for personal work, you are calling out what these twelve weeks have built and sending new disciples to carry it forward.

02 LEADER SELF-CHECK

Think about this ahead of time

You cannot lead people into territory you have been unwilling to enter yourself. Take five minutes alone with these questions in preparation for meeting night.

Sometime before the meeting, honestly contemplate these questions:

1. What is my testimony from these twelve weeks — the specific thing God did in me through this curriculum?
2. Have I moved from being primarily a recipient of what happens in these sessions to being a genuine contributor to the community's growth?
3. Is there a person in my group that I have been trying to rescue rather than witness to — someone whose journey I have taken personal ownership of?
4. Am I prepared to close this season well — to name what happened, honor it, and send the group forward with clarity?
5. What does this community need from me after the curriculum ends — and have I talked to Mike about it?

WHY THIS MATTERS

A leader who has not done their own work will unconsciously steer the group away from the places they themselves have avoided. You do not have to be perfect or fully healed to lead this group. But you do have to be honest — with yourself and also with God. If you feel unsettled about any of the questions above, please spend some more time with additional preparation and prayer.

03 BEFORE AND DURING THE SESSION

Reference the Week 1 Leader Guide for more detail

A well-prepared leader creates a well-prepared room. Please review the Week 1 Leader Guide for a reminder of how to prepare.

Prayer Focus This Week

- Pray for each person in your group by name — not for what they still need to work on, but with gratitude for what God has done in them over these twelve weeks. This prayer is different from the others. It is a closing blessing.
- Pray for the community's future — that what was built in these twelve weeks would not dissipate after the curriculum ends but would continue to deepen and multiply.
- Pray for yourself — with gratitude for your own journey through this curriculum as a leader. You have been changed by this too.

Pastoral Notes (What this session tends to surface):

- Week 12 is a closing and a sending. Give it both dimensions — honor what happened over twelve weeks and release the group forward. Neither dimension alone is sufficient.
- The Jethro passage has a leadership dimension worth noting in the debrief. Moses had to stop being the center for the people so they could develop their own capacity to stand. That principle applies to you as well. A group that has developed genuine community, genuine honesty, and genuine accountability does not need you to remain at the center. Releasing them well is part of leading them well.
- After the final session, schedule a debrief with Mike. Twelve weeks of observation across multiple breakout rooms is significant pastoral intelligence about this community. What you observed, what themes emerged, what individuals may need follow-up — all of that matters for what comes next.

LEADER DEVELOPMENT | RELEASING WELL

The final leadership skill of this curriculum is releasing well. A good closing does three things: it names what happened honestly, it honors it with appropriate weight, and it releases the group forward with clarity about what comes next. A closing that only honors without releasing produces sentimentality. A closing that only releases without honoring feels abrupt. Practice holding both: What God did here was real and significant — and that reality is not contained by the twelve weeks. It goes with you.

A WORD FOR YOU

Twelve weeks. You showed up. You prayed specifically. You followed up. You observed and listened and held space for things that are not easy to hold. You did not know how to do all of it when you started — and you grew into it week by week. That is not a small thing. A community that goes this deep together is rare. The ground that was taken in these twelve weeks was taken in part because you were faithful to prepare, to show up, and to stay. Go well. The testimony you carry from these twelve weeks is your own. Tell it. Point to the door. Let Yeshua do the rest.

04 DURING THE BREAKOUT

How to observe, analyze, and respond as a shepherd

WATCH FOR LISTEN FOR RESPOND WITH	
People minimizing their journey	Some people will arrive at Week 12 and downplay what happened to them — I did not get as much from it as others, I still have a long way to go. Gently push back: The testimony is not that you are finished. It is that you started, you showed up, and something moved. That is the testimony.
Rescuer language in the room	Watch for people who describe their calling to help others in ways that center themselves — I am going to fix this person, I am going to save them from what I went through. Gently redirect: Your story is a signpost, not a solution. The goal is pointing, not carrying.
Grief about the curriculum ending	Some people will feel genuine grief about this community closing its twelve-week structure. That grief is appropriate and worth acknowledging. Do not rush past it or minimize it — and also do not let it dominate the closing session. The grief is real and the sending is also real.
Testimony forming clearly	When someone articulates their testimony in the breakout — specifically, personally, and simply — that is the moment the curriculum has been building toward. Receive it in the debrief. Ask them to say it again if they are willing. Let the group witness each person's testimony.
Reluctance to identify a specific person	The Step 2 question asks each person to name one person their testimony is meant for. Some people will resist this — it feels too presumptuous or too vulnerable. Normalize it: You are not being asked to fix anyone. You are being asked to consider who in your life might benefit from knowing what God did in yours.

Use this framework for the situations most likely to arise this week:

When someone feels they did not get enough from the curriculum:

- Acknowledge their honesty without immediately arguing.
- Ask: What specifically feels unresolved or unaddressed?
- Some things require more than twelve weeks. What began here may need to continue through one-on-one pastoral care, counseling, or additional community.

- Connect them with Mike before the session ends

When the group does not want to end:

- This is a good problem. Honor it.
- Point toward what comes next rather than closing the door: the curriculum ends but the community does not have to.
- Work with Mike to create a clear next step for people who want to continue.

ON THE DOMINANT VOICE — A CONSISTENT REMINDER

The person who dominates is rarely doing it maliciously. But their volume creates quiet for everyone else — and in that quiet, the people who most need to speak stay silent. Address it privately after the session, never in front of the group. The Student Guide structure — writing before speaking at every step — is the tool. If the dominant voice is skipping the writing, that is the specific pattern to address.

05 GUIDING THE RETURN, CLOSING THE SESSION, AND BETWEEN SESSIONS

Reference the Week 1 Leader Guide for more detail

Please refer to the Week 1 Leader Guide for the proper tips and procedures on what to think about and do relative to the return, closing the session, and what to do in-between sessions. Don't forget that the Week 1 Leader Guide also explains when difficult moments require escalation and how to refer to Pastor Mike. Please reference it when needed.

What happens after the Zoom ends is part of your leadership. This week specifically:

- Schedule your debrief with Mike within the week after the final session.
- Follow up personally with every person in your group — not just the ones who had significant moments, but every person. A final individual touchpoint closes the season with care.
- Pray with gratitude for what God did in these twelve weeks — in the group and in you.
- Rest. You have been faithful. What you planted will grow.

ENCOURAGING WITHOUT ENABLING

Healthy encouragement honors honesty and points toward the next step. Enabling stops at the wound and goes no further — over time it teaches people that their story is their identity, which is exactly the lie this curriculum is breaking. When in doubt: affirm the honesty, point to the Memory Anchor, let the Word do the work.

Thank you again for your service to Corner Fringe Ministries and the Kingdom of God!