CORNER FRINGE MINISTRIES

FREEDOM IN MESSIAH

Leader Guide | Week 1

You Were Named Before Egypt Touched You

01 SESSION OVERVIEW
A leaders *snapshot for meeting night*

Theme	Identity & Bondage
Core Focus	Living as a prisoner of a past that Yeshua has already paid to free us from
Exodus	Exodus 1:1–14 — Israel named by God, living as slaves. The gap between identity and experience.
Memory Anchor	*"If anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation..." — 2 Corinthians 5:17*

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

WHAT THE FIRST MEETING IS REALLY ABOUT

This is the first session. You are not just expanding upon the lessons of Chapter 1 — you are creating the conditions for the next eleven weeks. The teaching will confront people with a gap they may have been avoiding for years: the distance between who God says they are and how they are actually living. Some people will feel seen for the first time. Others will feel exposed. A few will keep it theoretical. Your job is not to resolve that tension. It is to hold the space while the Ruach HaKodesh does what only He can do.

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 first meeting, honestly contemplate these questions:
1. Have I gone through the exercises on the student guide for myself — not just read through them, but actually sat with and contemplated them personally?
2. Is there anything in this week's focus — the gap between who God says I am and how I am actually living — that I need to address personally?
3. Will I be able to enter this session from a place of rest and readiness, or will I be depleted or distracted in a way that could make me less present?
4. Is there anyone in this group I am already anticipating being difficult or vulnerable, and have I prayed specifically for them by name?
5. Do I genuinely believe the Ruach HaKodesh will be present and active in the meeting, or am I running on my preparation alone? Have I prayed for the Spirit to come and to lead?

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 THE SESSION

Preparation makes the difference — do this before people arrive

A well-prepared leader creates a well-prepared room. On Zoom, people feel the difference between a leader who walked in cold and one who prayed and prepared.

Prayer Focus This Week:

- Pray for the person carrying the most shame about their identity — the one who has been answering to a name God never gave them for the longest time.
- Pray for the person who will want to keep it theoretical tonight — that the Spirit would make it personal and safe at the same time.
- Pray for yourself — that you will be present, unhurried, and genuinely curious about what God wants to do.

Leaders Arrive Early

- Make sure everyone understands their roles and what they're going to be doing.
- Test Zoom capabilities and make sure the settings are correct.
- Pray for the session, the group coming in, and one another.

Further Zoom Setup:

- Have breakout rooms pre-assigned using a spreadsheet or other tool to help you organize groups of 3–5 men or women, separated by gender, and groups of up to 3 couples (6 people) on Zoom.
- Test that you can move between breakout rooms silently.
- Have the Student Guide open so you can reference it during transitions and track progress.

Pastoral Notes (What this first session tends to surface):

- The person who keeps it theoretical will not self-identify. Watch for language that stays in the third person — they, people, Israel — rather than I. Do not confront it this week. Let the community build first.
- The Root Question Framework is being introduced for the first time. Some people will struggle with the lie beneath row. That is expected and appropriate — Week 1 is supposed to leave people aware that there is a root they have not yet reached. The curriculum will get them there.
- This is Week 1. People are assessing whether this community is safe enough for honesty. Everything you do tonight either builds or reduces that trust. Lean toward warmth, patience, and unhurried presence.

LEADER DEVELOPMENT | CREATING SAFETY
The most important leadership skill this week is not facilitation — it is atmosphere. A group that feels safe will go deeper than any question can push them. Safety is created by how you respond to the first vulnerable thing someone shares. If you receive it with warmth and without immediately trying to fix or explain it, the whole group learns that this is a safe room. Practice receiving before responding.

A WORD FOR YOU: TO THE ONE DOING THE LEADING
You stepped into this role because you care about people and believe in what God is doing in this community. That matters more than you know. Leaders rarely feel fully equipped for what they are asked to carry. If you are walking into this role with a sense of inadequacy — that is not a disqualification. It is an invitation to depend on the One who actually equips. The people in your group do not need a perfect leader. They need a real one. Lead well.

04 OPENING THE SESSION

Welcome, frame the evening, launch the video

Your opening sets the tone. Keep it to 3–5 minutes — the video will do the heavy lifting. Your job is to orient people and create expectation, not to pre-teach.

- Welcome people warmly and by name where you can.
- Make a brief, warm ask for cameras to be on. Frame it around connection — being able to see each other helps us be present to each other. Model it yourself.
- Give a few orienting thoughts about the course:
    - Explain how “the Bondage Breaker” book serves as a foundation for principles of deliverance and how the classes will put the concepts of the book into action using all-new material that will be delivered in an upcoming instructional video.
    - Explain how reading the book and materials ahead of class is essential for growth.
    - Explain how each class with have a one-hour breakout session that will follow a Student Guide during which participants will practice breaking free of their past and embracing our identity in Messiah Yeshua. Explain how participation is key.
    - Explain how an optional Breakout Tool is available for those who prefer a simpler format.
    - Explain how everyone will return to the main room for a debrief and prayer.

- Give a general frame of reference for the course. Let the video do the rest.
- As you prepare to launch the video, encourage active listening rather than excessive note taking.
- Play the video and allow everyone to silently watch. Mute anyone with background noise coming through.

05 LAUNCH THE BREAKOUT

Transition from video to groups with clarity

Let everyone breathe before you explain what's coming next and send people into groups.

- After the video ends give the room 30 seconds of silence.
- Direct people to their Student Guide. The document guides the conversation — no leader needed.
- Explain that the Breakout Tool incorporates the main tools from the Student Guide without the key instructions and may be used by members who prefer a simpler format.
- Encourage the groups to follow the steps in order. The structure protects them from small talk and ensures every person has a chance to participate.
- Encourage the groups to begin and end their breakout sessions with prayer.

INFORMING GROUPS ABOUT ROOM MONITORING

Before opening the rooms, let the whole group know that you will be moving between rooms with your camera off and mic muted. Frame this as pastoral support — you are there to listen and care, not evaluate. Most people respond well when it is framed with warmth. It raises the sense that what happens in the breakout matters — that someone cares enough to pay attention.

06 DURING THE BREAKOUT

How to observe, analyze, and respond as a shepherd

Moving through the rooms is active listening with a purpose. Here is what to look for this week:

- Groups working through steps in sequence. People writing before speaking. Personal and specific conversation rather than abstract and theological.
- No single voice dominating. Genuine listening — not just waiting to speak. Moments of silence that signal real engagement.

WATCH FOR | LISTEN FOR | RESPOND WITH	
One person dominating	Note it — address it one-on-one after the session. Affirm their engagement privately and raise awareness that others need space. The writing-before-speaking structure is the tool — if they are skipping it, that is the specific pattern to address.
Group staying abstract	If the group is discussing general theological principles or Israel rather than their own lives, they are not doing the real work. Note it. The shift to personal usually happens when one person goes first. You may gently name the pattern in the debrief without exposing the group.

Someone visibly moved	Stay present. Do not make their emotion the group's focus. A quiet acknowledgment is enough. Follow up privately after the session.
Strong theme across rooms	If you hear the same struggle or lie in multiple rooms, note it specifically. It likely shapes what you address in the debrief and possibly even the report you bring to Mike.
Group stuck on Step 2	The Root Question Framework is a powerful tool introduced this week, and it takes students deeper than Question 2. Some people will struggle to identify the lie beneath the false name they've assumed. Encourage them with a private text message to write something — even an incomplete answer. Resolution is not the goal tonight. Honest engagement is.

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.

07 GUIDING THE RETURN

Main room discussion — 15 to 20 minutes

When groups return your job is not to debrief every room. It is to draw out what the Holy Spirit surfaced and let it land on the whole group.

- Invite groups to share what they wrote in the Prepare to Share box. One to two sentences per person/group as time allows.
- Listen for themes across groups and name them without exposing anyone.
- Do not over-teach in the debrief. Affirm, connect, and point back to truth.
- Ask one follow-up question if the room needs it. Your voice should be the smallest in the debrief, not the largest.

ENCOURAGING WITHOUT ENABLING
Healthy encouragement honors vulnerability 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 honesty and humility, point to the Memory Anchor, and let the Word do the work.

08 CLOSING THE SESSION

Send them with purpose

Land the Memory Anchor!

- Bring the group back to the Memory Anchor. Read it aloud. Ask the group to say it together if they're willing.

- Give one brief closing thought — not a mini-teaching, but a word that honors the evening and points forward.
- Close in prayer — pray the Memory Anchor back to God as a declaration over the group.
- Remind people the Student Guide is theirs to keep and return to during the week.
- Remind people to read the next chapter of "Bondage Breaker" and to look for the next week's Student Guide and Breakout Tool, which will be distributed.

09 HANDLING DIFFICULT MOMENTS

Simple responses for complex situations that might come up

You are not a counselor and you do not need to be. Use this framework for the situations most likely to arise this week:

When someone discloses something serious:

- Acknowledge without fixing — thank them for their honesty and let the group witness it.
- Do not counsel in the group setting.
- Follow up privately with the person the same evening.
- If there is active risk, contact Mike immediately.

When someone goes too deep too fast:

- Let them share what they choose. Do not probe with follow-up questions.
- Acknowledge that what they shared matters and that you will follow up.
- Week 1 can open locked doors. Treat it as an opportunity for pastoral care, not a group processing event.

How to refer well so people can get help without feeling dismissed:

- Frame the referral as an addition, not a replacement — you are expanding care, not closing a door.
- Be specific: ask permission to connect them with Mike rather than saying vaguely you should talk to someone.
- Follow up within 24 hours if you committed to making a connection.
- If you are unsure whether a situation warrants a referral, contact Mike first. You do not need to have it figured out before you reach out.

WHEN TO REFER — WHO TO CONTACT

When something surfaces that is beyond the group's capacity or yours — reach out.

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10 BETWEEN SESSIONS

The 48 hours after the session matter

What happens after the Zoom ends is part of your leadership.

This week specifically:

- Follow up personally with anyone who was visibly moved or shared something significant.
- Note themes observed across rooms and bring them to Mike within 24 hours.
- Pray for each person by name before the next session.
- Do the Week 2 personal reflection yourself before the session and continue to follow this model.

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