



CORNER FRINGE MINISTRIES

FREEDOM IN MESSIAH*Leadership Guide | Week 5 | The Truth-Dwelling Plan***Dwell Here — How the Mind Actually Changes****01 SESSION OVERVIEW***A leaders snapshot for meeting night*

Theme	Renewing the Mind
Core Focus	Trying to change thinking through willpower rather than through receiving truth at the root
Exodus	Exodus 6:6–8 — God spoke seven “I will” declarations over Israel before they experienced any of them. The word of promise preceded its realization.
Memory Anchor	<i>"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..." — Romans 12:2</i>

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

Last week named the stronghold. This week is about what to do with it. The shift from identification to renewal is one of the most practically significant moments in the curriculum — and also one of the most easily misunderstood. Watch for people who hear 'renew your mind' and immediately translate it into a new discipline or habit. That is willpower dressed up as renewal. The actual mechanism is different: truth received deeply at the root changes the soil, and changed soil produces different fruit naturally.

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. What truth am I currently dwelling in? This is not merely something I understand intellectually, but something I am actually living out.
2. Is there a verse or declaration that has become genuinely formative for me — one I return to when the old voice shows up?
3. Am I still trying to change something in my life primarily through effort? If so, what truth would I need to receive deeply for that effort to become unnecessary?
4. How am I personally modeling the difference between knowing truth and dwelling in it?
5. What does my own mind do in moments of pressure or failure? What does that reveal about the truth I have — and have not — received at the root?

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 the person who has been cycling through behavior management for years and has never experienced genuine transformation. Ask the Spirit to make this week the one where something shifts at the level of belief.
- Pray for the group's engagement with the Memory Anchor this week. Ask God to make Romans 12:2 more than a verse they know — something they actually begin to live from.
- Pray for yourself — that you would be a living demonstration of what renewed thinking looks like, not just a teacher of the concept.

Pastoral Notes (What this session tends to surface):

- By Week 5 the group has enough shared history to go deeper than the first four weeks. You may begin to notice that people are referencing what they shared in previous weeks — that is a sign of healthy community formation. Affirm it.
- The God-speaks-first pattern from Exodus 6 is theologically important for this community. ADONAI declared Israel's freedom before they experienced it. The word precedes the reality. That pattern is directly applicable to how renewal works — truth is spoken and received before it is felt. Help the group understand that the absence of feeling is not evidence that the truth is not working.

- Watch for the person who has been doing this curriculum entirely alone — no one in their life knows they are in this group, or what they are working on. That isolation limits the renewal process. Gently encourage them toward the kind of honesty with at least one trusted person that James 5:16 calls for.

LEADER DEVELOPMENT | SITTING WITH DISCOMFORT

This week develop the habit of pressing for specificity. When someone gives a general answer, such as: “I need to believe God loves me,” ask: what would that look like for you specifically in the situation you are actually in right now? Specificity is not pedantry. It is the difference between a principle that stays in the head and a truth that gets to the root. The most transformative moments in a breakout session almost always follow a question that pushed someone from the general to the particular.

A WORD FOR YOU

Five weeks in and you are beginning to see the cumulative effect. People who were guarded in Week 1 are sharing things in Week 5 they would not have said six weeks ago. That did not happen by accident — it happened because of the environment you have been building week after week. Trust the process. The renewal this curriculum is pointing toward is real. You are seeing the early signs of it. Keep showing up.

04 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	
Willpower disguised as renewal	Watch for people who describe their plan for mind renewal entirely in terms of disciplines — reading more, praying more, trying harder. Gently introduce the question: What specific truth, if you actually believed it, would make that effort unnecessary? Renewal is less about adding effort and more about receiving truth.
Discouragement about lack of progress	Some people will come to this session discouraged that naming the stronghold last week did not produce immediate change. Normalize the timeline. Renewal is a process of repeated, sustained exposure to truth. One week of awareness is the beginning, not the completion.
The specific truth question	Step 3 in the breakout asks each person to identify the specific truth they need to dwell in this week. The quality of this answer matters. 'God loves me' is too general. 'God chose me before the foundation of the world knowing everything I would do' is specific enough to actually change something. Encourage specificity in the debrief.
Accountability forming naturally	When the group commits together to dwell in a specific truth this week, something shifts. Watch for this forming in the breakout — groups that leave with a shared declaration are more likely to follow through. Affirm it in the debrief.

Cynicism about change

Some people have tried and failed to change so many times that they have developed a protective cynicism — it will not work for me. Receive the honesty. Do not argue. Ask: what would it take for you to believe that transformation at this level is actually possible for you, not just for other people?

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

When someone is genuinely stuck on what truth they need:

- Do not supply it for them — ask a question instead.
- Try: what is the lie your stronghold is built on? Now what is the direct opposite of that lie — the truth that completely dismantles it?
- If they are still stuck, suggest they bring that question to God in prayer this week rather than forcing an answer tonight.

When someone is experiencing real spiritual resistance to truth:

- Some people will feel internal pushback when they try to receive truth — a voice that says it is not true, or does not apply to you.
- Acknowledge that the resistance is real and is itself evidence that the truth is threatening something.
- Do not attempt to resolve it in the session. Encourage them to bring the resistance to God exactly as it 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.

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.

- Check in mid-week with anyone who committed to dwelling in a specific truth — a simple message asking how it is going goes further than most people expect.
- Note whether the group is moving toward more specific truth declarations or staying general. Bring that observation to Mike.
- Pray this week for the breakthrough you sensed was close in someone but did not fully arrive during the session.
- Do the Week 6 personal reflection before the session.

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