



CORNER FRINGE MINISTRIES

FREEDOM IN MESSIAH*Leadership Guide | Week 6 | The Source-Testing Grid***Counterfeit Fire****01 SESSION OVERVIEW***A leaders snapshot for meeting night*

Theme	Counterfeit Spiritual Experience
Core Focus	Spiritual hunger being met by a counterfeit source rather than the genuine presence of God
Exodus	Exodus 7:10–13; 8:18–19 — Pharaoh's magicians replicate the signs but cannot sustain the power. Eventually they recognize: "This is the finger of God."
Memory Anchor	<i>"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God." — 1 John 4:1</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

This week's meeting addresses some of the most personally sensitive territories of the curriculum. Many people have a history with counterfeit spiritual experiences, such as astrology, occult involvement, spiritually abusive communities, or dependency on prophetic words. Many have felt the lure of such experiences, but have never grappled with them honestly in a loving faith community. The goal tonight is not to produce guilt about past counterfeit spiritual involvement, but to name the hunger beneath it and point clearly toward genuine Holy Spirit power. Create space for honesty without creating space for shame.

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. Is there anything in my own past — even something I engaged with before coming to faith — involving counterfeit spiritual sources that I have not fully renounced or processed?
2. Am I genuinely satisfied by the simple, sufficient presence of Yeshua — or is there a spiritual hunger I have been managing rather than bringing to Him?
3. Do I have a real standard of discernment for what I receive spiritually — experiences, prophetic words, teachings — or do I tend to receive without testing?
4. Am I prepared to hold space tonight for someone who may disclose involvement in something significant without reacting with alarm or judgment?
5. Have I prayed specifically about the spiritual dynamics this topic may surface?

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 freedom and gentleness — this week may surface past involvement that carries significant shame or confusion. Ask the Spirit to create an atmosphere of grace, not interrogation.
- Pray for discernment for the group — that they would begin to develop a genuine capacity to test what they receive spiritually.
- Pray specifically for anyone you know or suspect has history with counterfeit spiritual sources. Ask God to make tonight a moment of clarity and release, not judgment.

Pastoral Notes (What this session tends to surface):

- Week 6 is the week most likely to surface history that predates the group's involvement in this community. Some people have never told anyone about past occult involvement, spiritually abusive relationships, or experiences they could not explain. Treat whatever surfaces with pastoral seriousness and confidentiality.

- The magicians-and-Moses dynamic is important for this week — the counterfeit can look convincing. Help the group understand that discernment is not about being suspicious of everything but about having a clear standard. The standard is the Word and the character of God.
- If nothing significant surfaces this week, do not read it as a sign that this topic is not relevant to your group. It may simply mean people are not yet ready to name it. What you can do is create an atmosphere that says: "If this is part of your story, this community is safe enough to bring it here."

LEADER DEVELOPMENT | SITTING WITH DISCOMFORT

This week you may encounter something that you do not know how to respond to — a disclosure of past involvement in something outside your experience, a spiritual history that is more complex than you expected. The leader skill to develop here is holding without fixing; staying present, acknowledging what was shared, and resisting the impulse to immediately provide an answer, a prayer, or a resolution. Sometimes the most pastoral thing you can do is simply stay — not leave the person alone with what they just named, and not rush to close the space their honesty opened.

A WORD FOR YOU

This week's class asks you to hold space for territory that most communities never enter. This is not insignificant. Some of the most powerful moments in a person's journey toward freedom happen when they name something for the first time in a safe community. You may not know for weeks or months what happened in someone's heart tonight. Trust the work of the Holy Spirit. Keep being the faithful leader you were called to be in service to our LORD Messiah Yeshua.

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	
Disclosure of occult involvement	Receive it without alarm. Do not probe for details in the group setting. Acknowledge that the hunger that took them there was real and God-given; the direction was wrong, not the desire. Follow up privately after the session and bring it to Mike.
Minimizing past involvement	Some people will mention involvement in counterfeit sources in a casual way — horoscopes, tarot, other occult practices — as though it was trivial. Do not overreact but do not under-react. In the debrief, gently note that the curriculum this week takes these things seriously as genuine spiritual doorways, not just superstition.
Dependency on prophetic words	This is one of the subtler forms of counterfeit spiritual experience and it is common in Spirit-filled communities. Watch for people who seem to be seeking external validation of every decision rather than developing their own capacity to hear from God. Do not address this in the group — note it for private follow-up.

Spiritual pride in the room	Some people will engage this topic from a position of superiority — I have never been involved in anything like that. Watch for this quietly. Pride is itself a form of spiritual vulnerability, and this week is not about comparing spiritual histories.
Genuine hunger surfacing	The person who becomes most engaged by this week's topic is often the person with the deepest unmet spiritual hunger. That hunger is good. If it surfaces in the room, point it toward the genuine — not with a list of correct spiritual practices but with the simple reality that Yeshua is sufficient and present.

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

When someone discloses significant occult involvement or spiritual abuse:

- Stay calm. Do not react with alarm — alarm will shut the conversation down.
- Acknowledge what they shared: that took courage, and what you experienced was real.
- Do not attempt to minister deliverance or engage in extended prayer in the group setting.
- Contact Mike the same evening. This is a referral situation.

When someone is defensive about a practice they are currently engaged in:

- Do not argue or confront directly in the group.
- Ask the question from the Student Guide: How do you currently test what you receive spiritually?
- Let the question work. Do not force a conclusion tonight.

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.

- Contact Mike the same evening if anything significant was disclosed in a breakout room — do not wait until the next session.
- Follow up personally with anyone who shared past involvement in counterfeit sources.
- Pray this week for the spiritual protection of your group — naming these things can intensify spiritual activity.
- Do the Week 7 personal reflection before the session.

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!