



CORNER FRINGE MINISTRIES

FREEDOM IN MESSIAH

Student Guide | Week 6 | The Source-Testing Grid

Counterfeit Fire

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

The enemy does not always tempt us toward obvious sin. Often the most dangerous lure is spiritual — secret knowledge, hidden power, experiences that feel transcendent. People who genuinely hunger for God can be especially vulnerable to a counterfeit.

THE JOURNEY SO FAR

LAST WEEK

We learned how the mind is actually renewed — not by willpower but by receiving truth deeply, at the root. We committed to dwelling in truth, not just knowing it.

THIS WEEK

We look at a more subtle danger — the hunger for spiritual experience that gets redirected toward a counterfeit source. This week we learn to recognize the imitation and return to the real.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY ANCHOR

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God."

1 John 4:1

A THOUGHT TO CARRY THROUGH THE WEEK

The counterfeit is dangerous not because it is powerful — but because it looks real enough to satisfy the hunger that was meant for the genuine. Pharaoh's magicians could replicate the signs. They could not replicate the God behind the signs.

You cannot be safe from the counterfeit spirit until you are satisfied by the genuine Holy Spirit of God. Spiritual hunger that is never fed will find something to eat. The answer is not less hunger — it is a more genuine encounter with the One the hunger was designed for.

RELEVANT THOUGHTS THAT CAME TO MIND DURING THE WEEK:

BREAKOUT SESSION

Week 6 | *The Source-Testing Grid*

Total time: 60 minutes | No facilitator needed — follow the steps

HOW THIS WORKS

There is no leader in this group — everyone follows the steps together. Each step has a time guide. Stay with the step you are on. If someone in the group needs more time on a particular step, the group can choose to continue with it. The structure serves the people, not the other way around. The goal is not to get through all of the steps. The goal is that each person in the group leaves having done real work and no member of the group leaves feeling left behind.

Open your session with prayer. Let the Spirit guide one of you to begin.

STEP 1 LAND THE TEACHING 8–10 minutes

Someone in the group reads this aloud before anyone responds:

The teaching this week named a subtle but serious danger: The enemy rarely presents himself as the enemy. He presents himself as the answer to a real need. The person drawn to a counterfeit source is often a person with a genuine hunger for God — they just looked for the meal in the wrong place.

Take 2 minutes of silence. Let each person answer this question privately before anyone speaks:

Where in your spiritual life have you been seeking something beyond what the simple, sufficient presence of Yeshua provides? Have you ever pursued a spiritual experience, knowledge, or a sense of power through a source that was not clearly God? What hunger drew you there? What need were you trying to meet?

My honest answer to Step 1:

Now go around the group. Let each person share his or her answer as honestly as possible. No cross-talk while someone is sharing. When everyone has spoken, move to Step 2.

STEP 2 GO DEEPER TOGETHER 20–25 minutes

This is the heart of the session. The question is harder than Step 1. It requires more honesty. Take 2 minutes of silence before anyone speaks — let each person sit with their thoughts privately first.

This tool builds the habit of discernment as a practice rather than a reaction. Many people receive spiritual experiences, teachings, or words without ever testing them against a clear standard. Here's what to do:

Step A: In the first column, honestly name something you have received spiritually — an experience, a teaching, a prophetic word, a practice, an influence, or something similar. Write down what the Spirit reveals to you. What comes to your mind does not have to be dramatic.

Step B: In the second column, write the standard you applied to test what you wrote in Step A. If you did not test it, write "untested."

Step C: In the third column, write what you found when you held it up against the standard of God's Word and His character. If you haven't done this yet, do it now.

(Note: If a column is difficult or uncomfortable to fill in, that discomfort is information worth noting.)

What I received spiritually:	The standard I applied:	What I found when testing it:

One thing I need to bring to God for clarification or renunciation:

When you are ready, go around the group and let each person respond. The group listens fully before anyone else speaks. If someone in the group is particularly moved by this question — if the

Holy Spirit is clearly doing something — let the group stay with that person. Do not rush past a real moment to stay on schedule. This is the most important work — what the time margin is for.

How do you currently test what you receive spiritually — experiences, words, teachings, influences? What is your standard of discernment? Is there anything you have received that you have never actually tested?

When everyone has spoken, move to Step 3.

STEP 3 THE ROOT WORK 20-25 minutes

Take 2-5 minutes to complete the Root Question Framework privately and honestly. Write it down. The act of writing forces honesty in a way that thinking alone does not. If you're running out of time in your group, please skip ahead to the group discussion and complete this framework on your own later.

What have you received spiritually that you have never fully tested? What feeling do you get when you address the experience with spiritual discernment? Is there a lie you can name that is keeping you from always testing the spirits? What Truth from Scripture helps you to discern genuine Holy Spirit power in the area of your focus?

THE ROOT QUESTION FRAMEWORK	
<i>Go deeper on what steps one and two surfaced.</i>	
The behavior is:	<i>What do I keep doing — or running to — that I know is not producing life?</i>
The feeling is:	<i>What does it feel like right before I go there? Shame? Fear? Emptiness? Loneliness?</i>
The lie beneath is:	<i>What must I believe about myself — or about God — for this to feel necessary?</i>
The truth is:	<i>What does God actually say about me in this place? (Use scripture if you can.)</i>

After everyone has had time to write, go around the group. Each person shares what they wrote — as much or as little as they are ready to share. The group listens. No fixing, no advising, no jumping to solutions. Just witness what each person brings.

Use most of this time discussing and reflecting on the whole group's testimony:

GROUP REFLECTION

What forms does counterfeit spirituality most commonly take in your generation or community — not just the obvious ones, but the subtle ones that can look like faith?

PREPARE TO SHARE

When you return to the main room, your group may be asked to share. Together, decide on one thing — one insight, one moment, one declaration — that represents what happened in your group today.

Complete this sentence as a group: “The genuine Holy Spirit power our group needs more of that could protect us from the counterfeit is:

_____.”

Here’s what our group is taking away (write it down so you don’t lose it):

STEP 4 CLOSING PRAYER 2-5 minutes

Allow the Spirit to lead one person to close in prayer. Then go around the group — each person may pray one sentence if they are willing. No one is required to pray. No one is skipped over without grace.

Suggested focus: Pray the Memory Anchor back to God. Ask God to show you what spirits are influencing your walk and ask Him to reveal His Holy Spirit's intention for you according to God's Word.

One person closes the prayer when the group is ready.