



CORNER FRINGE MINISTRIES

FREEDOM IN MESSIAH*Leadership Guide | Week 7 | The Shame to Light Map***The Pull Toward Egypt****01 SESSION OVERVIEW***A leaders snapshot for meeting night*

Theme	Temptation & Shame
Core Focus	The shame-silence cycle: Treating temptation as a disqualifying experience and carrying it alone rather than bringing it into community for healing in Yeshua.
Exodus	Exodus 14:10–12 — Trapped at the Red Sea, Israel's first response is a desire to go back to Egypt. The pull toward the familiar was not sin. The pattern of yielding to it becomes sin if we allow it.
Memory Anchor	<i>"For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin." — Hebrews 4:15</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 breaks the shame-silence cycle around temptation — one of the most practically significant sessions of the curriculum. The group will be asked to bring into community what most of them have been carrying alone. The level of honest sharing that happens this week will largely depend on the trust that has been built over the previous six weeks. If the community is healthy, people will name real struggles. If it is not yet safe enough, they will stay general. Your job is to gauge the room and create as much safety as possible before the breakout begins.

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 temptation am I carrying right now that I have not named to another person?
2. Do I experience shame about being tempted — or have I genuinely received the truth that Yeshua's temptation qualifies Him to sympathize with mine?
3. Is there a member of my group whose struggle I am anticipating with judgment rather than empathy? Have I brought that to God?
4. Am I prepared to model honesty about struggle tonight — not exposing everything, but demonstrating that real leaders are real people?
5. Do I have someone in my own life with whom I can be genuinely honest about my struggles — and if not, what does that tell me?

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 specifically for the person in your group who is carrying something alone and has been for a long time. Ask the Spirit to give them the courage to name it tonight — even partially.
- Pray for the group's capacity for empathy. Ask God to fill the room with the same quality of understanding that Yeshua extends — full knowledge, zero condemnation.
- Pray for yourself — that you would be a leader whose own honesty about struggle creates permission for others to be honest.

Pastoral Notes (What this session tends to surface):

- Week 7 is the week the group's trust level becomes visible. You will see clearly this week whether the previous six weeks have built genuine safety or surface community. Whatever you observe — receive it without judgment and use it to inform how you lead the remaining weeks.
- The James 5:16 principle — confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed — is the theological foundation of this week. Effective prayer follows honest confession. Some

people in your group have been praying for years for change in an area they have never named to another person. Tonight may be the first time.

- Watch carefully for the person who shares something and then immediately minimizes it, saying something like: “never mind, it is not that big a deal.” That minimizing is almost always shame operating. A quiet, warm response might be: “actually, I think that is significant, and I am glad you named it” Such leadership can make a real difference.

LEADER DEVELOPMENT | RECEIVING VULNERABILITY WELL

This week the most important leadership skill is how you receive what people share. When someone names a real struggle — especially one that surprises you or makes you uncomfortable — your face, your tone, and your first words will determine whether others feel safe to follow. Practice a simple response: Thank you for trusting us with that. Then be quiet. Do not add reassurance, explanation, or advice immediately. The quality of your reception is more formative than anything you say.

A WORD FOR YOU

This week asked your group to do something that most communities never attempt — to bring real struggle into the light of community. Whatever happened in your session tonight, something shifted. You held space for that. You showed up prepared, you prayed, and you created the conditions for people to be honest. That is leadership. The results belong to the Spirit — but the faithfulness was yours. One more observation: if something in your group's sharing tonight landed in you — something that resonated with your own story — that is worth paying attention to. You are not exempt from the work. Talk to Mike if you need to.

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	
Sanitized sharing	When people share struggles that are vague or socially acceptable, such as “I struggle with worry, I sometimes get impatient,” without naming the actual temptation, they are still protecting themselves. Do not call it out in the room but in the debrief gently note: Real honesty sounds more specific than that. What would it mean to name the actual thing?
One person going very deep	Sometimes one person's honesty gives the whole group permission. When someone names something specific and significant, receive it with care and without alarm. The group will take their cue from how you respond. If you receive it well, others will follow.
Shame spiraling after disclosure	The moment after someone names a real struggle is vulnerable. Watch for the person who immediately follows their disclosure with self-condemnation. Gently interrupt the spiral: You just did something courageous. The shame response is the enemy's second move. You do not have to receive it.

Group moving from temptation to sin

Watch for conversations that slide from the experience of temptation to cataloguing sin. The distinction matters. This week is specifically about the pull — not about whether the person yielded. If the conversation slides, gently redirect.

Meaningful silence after a disclosure

Sometimes after someone shares something significant the group goes quiet. Do not fill that silence immediately. It is often the most pastoral moment of the session — the group holding together what one person named. Let it breathe before you move on.

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

When someone discloses an active addiction or serious ongoing struggle:

- Receive it without alarm or an immediate action plan.
- Acknowledge the courage it took to name it.
- Do not problem-solve in the group. The naming itself is significant work.
- Follow up privately and bring it to Mike — active addiction often needs support beyond what a small group can provide.

When someone expresses hopelessness about their struggle:

- Do not minimize or rush to reassurance.
- Ask: how long have you been carrying this alone? Often the isolation itself has amplified the hopelessness.
- Point toward community — not as the solution, but as the environment in which real help becomes possible.
- Follow up with Mike if the hopelessness seems significant

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.

- This is the most important week for follow-up. Anyone who named something significant needs to hear from you within 24 hours.
- Bring any significant disclosures to Mike promptly — do not process this alone.
- Pray specifically for each person in your group by name this week, with what you know about what they are carrying.
- Do the Week 8 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!