



CORNER FRINGE MINISTRIES
FREEDOM IN MESSIAH

Student Guide | Week 6
Counterfeit Fire

THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

Chapter 6 is about this: 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 INTO 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 until you are satisfied by the genuine. 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.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN — A PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take 2 minutes before your group starts. Read the question below and write your honest answer. You will not be required to share this — but you may want to.

HAVE YOU EVER PURSUED SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE, KNOWLEDGE, OR A SENSE OF POWER THROUGH A SOURCE THAT WAS NOT CLEARLY GOD? WHAT DREW YOU THERE — WHAT NEED WERE YOU TRYING TO MEET?

BREAKOUT SESSION

Week 6 | *The Lure of Knowledge and Power*

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 stay — that is the right call. The structure serves the people, not the other way around.

The goal is not to get through all five steps. The goal is that every person in this group leaves having done real work — and none of you leaves alone.

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:

DISCUSS:

Where in your spiritual life have you been seeking something beyond what the simple, sufficient presence of Yeshua provides — and what does that hunger tell you about a need that has not yet been met by the real thing?

MY HONEST ANSWER TO STEP 1:

Now go around the group. Each person shares their answer — as honestly as they are able. No cross-talk while someone is sharing. When everyone has spoken, move to Step 2.

STEP 2 THE ROOT WORK 15–20 minutes

Turn back to Page 1 and look at the Root Question Framework you began filling in. If you have not yet completed it, take 5 minutes now to do so — privately and honestly.

This is individual work first. Do not share yet. Write it down. The act of writing forces honesty in a way that thinking alone does not.

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.

After everyone has shared, reflect on this together:

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?

STEP 3 GO DEEPER TOGETHER 20–25 minutes

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

When you are ready, go around the group. Each person responds. 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. That is what the time margin is for.

DISCUSS:

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

SOMETHING I RECEIVED SPIRITUALLY THAT I HAVE NEVER FULLY TESTED:

HOW I WILL BRING IT TO THE STANDARD OF SCRIPTURE:

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 thing our group needs more of — that could protect us from the counterfeit — is

_____ "

Write it here so you don't lose it:

Our group is taking away:

STEP 5 — CLOSING PRAYER 2–3 MINUTES

Designate one person to open in prayer. Then go around the group — each person prays one sentence if they are willing. No one is required. No one is skipped over without grace.

Suggested focus: Pray the Memory Anchor back to God as a declaration over your own life. Then ask Him to meet the specific thing you named today.

One person closes the prayer when the group is ready.