



CORNER FRINGE MINISTRIES
FREEDOM IN MESSIAH

Student Guide | Week 7
The Pull Toward Egypt

THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

Chapter 7 is about this: one of the enemy's most effective strategies is convincing us that being tempted proves we are disqualified. This week we separate temptation from sin and restore people to the honest community where the battle can actually be won.

THE JOURNEY SO FAR

LAST WEEK

We looked at the lure of counterfeit spiritual experience and learned to test what we receive. We established that spiritual hunger is God-given — the direction it takes is the question.

THIS WEEK

We deal with one of the most shame-producing lies in the room: that being tempted means something is fundamentally wrong with you. It does not. This week we reclaim the ground of honest struggle.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY ANCHOR

"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

A THOUGHT TO CARRY INTO THE WEEK

Yeshua was tempted in every way as we are — yet without sin. If being tempted were a sin, He would not be sinless. Your temptation does not disqualify you. It qualifies you for His empathy.

The enemy has two moves with temptation. The first move is the temptation itself. The second move — often more damaging — is the shame that follows, whether you yielded or not. Both moves produce the same result: isolation. And isolation is where the enemy does his best work.

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.

WHAT TEMPTATION HAVE YOU BEEN CARRYING ALONE — CONVINCED THAT ADMITTING IT WOULD DISQUALIFY YOU FROM THIS COMMUNITY? WHAT HAS CARRYING IT ALONE COST YOU?

BREAKOUT SESSION

Week 7 | Temptation — It's Not a Sin to Be Tempted
 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 confronted the shame-silence cycle: being tempted produces shame, shame produces hiding, hiding makes the temptation stronger because shame and secrecy are the conditions in which it grows best. The enemy does not need you to yield. He just needs you to stay alone with it.

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

DISCUSS:

What is the difference between bringing your temptation into the light and being defined by it? And what would it take for you to trust this community with the real battle?

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

Why do most people in faith communities struggle to be honest about temptation? What does that cost us individually and as a community — and what would change if we actually practiced James 5:16 together?

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:

Is there someone in your life with whom you can be fully honest about your real struggles? If not — what has kept that kind of relationship from forming, and what is one step you could take this week to change that?

THE STRUGGLE I HAVE BEEN CARRYING ALONE:

ONE PERSON I COULD TRUST WITH THIS — AND WHAT I WOULD SAY:

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: "If we were fully honest with each other about our temptations, the first thing that would change 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.