

WHYZMEN · REWIRE RETIREMENT

Mission & The One Thing

Review of the Session 11 materials and a proposed deck-and-process design

Design note r1 · September 10, 2026 · for Dave

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” — Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*

1. The short version

The men arriving at Session 11 on February 8 are not starting a mission statement. They are finishing one that has been under construction since October. Between their story work, the Values Compass, the Strengths Portrait, the gifts named by the body and by their wives, the Caring Shift, the Meaning Audit, the Threshold, and My Next Chapter, a man walks in carrying roughly eight independent readings of himself that all point the same direction. The intimidation you sense is real, but it comes from a false picture in the man’s head: a blank page and a deadline. The job of the deck is to replace that picture with an accurate one: a harvest already in the barn, and a sentence to be pulled out of it.

Four things need to change in the current material to make that happen, and the rest is assembly:

1. **Decide which Clearness Room you are running.** Two versions exist and they do not fit the same 90 minutes. The Palmer committee (one focus man, four or five listeners, 75–90 minutes) is the real thing and cannot be done for six or eight men in a Monday morning. The Facilitator Card version (triads, 25–30 minutes per man) fits a triad meeting exactly. I recommend the Card version becomes the triad’s February meeting, and the room does a shorter “first hearing” at Session 11 to rehearse the discipline.
2. **Restore the experiments as a named field week, not a homework line.** The idea did not fade because it was weak; it faded because it had no container. Give it one: a “Three Field Tests” card that sits between Session 11 and Session 13, with the T-shirt test as the first and easiest.
3. **Say out loud that Session 11 produces a draft, not a verdict.** The Galatians Test is passed by failing; the Five Gates are a finish line for Session 13, not Session 11; “Cloudy” is a permitted answer. Every one of those permissions already exists in your material. None of them is currently said in the first ten minutes, which is when a man decides whether the morning is safe.

4. **Fix the labels on the Pack deck.** S11_The_Pack_Slides_r1 carries a Session 11 title bar, Session 10 footers, and Session 13 content. The threshold slide belongs at the close of S10 (its own notes say so); the Ten Essentials, the forty-pound rule and the three case studies are the spine of S13. Session 11 needs one callback slide from it: the top pocket, now filled.

2. Where the men stand on February 8

This is the inventory a facilitator should have in his head, and it is worth putting a version of it on the second slide, because most men have forgotten how much they have already produced. A mission is excavated, not invented, and here is the dig.

What he has	Where it came from	What it feeds in §2.1
The through-line of his story; the redemption and continuity themes	S5–S6, McAdams, Three Markers	The for whom — the people his story keeps returning to
Five core values, ranked; the orphan value	S6–S7 Values Compass, VIA	The middle blank in the Jones sentence — the value he stands for
Top 5 Clifton themes; three kept skills; The Signature; the Contribution Hypothesis	S8 Strengths Portrait	The verbs — what he actually does when he is at his best
What his wife and the body see in him; the blank sixth row filled by the triad	S8 homework; S9 Named by the Body	The Signature gate — evidence the sentence is his, not borrowed
The Caring Shift; the Meaning Audit gap sentence (“my largest gap is in ____”)	S8; Feiler appendix	The direction the mission should lean — toward the starved letter
The Threshold: leaving behind / carrying forward / true in five years	S9 Harvest the First Half, §1.0	The first entries in §3.0 and the “No” gate
Faith Foundation §1.4; the ground beneath	S9, finished in the interval	Rung 1 — whose he is, and who sends him
Ten Domain Why’s; My Next Chapter draft; one test action run	The Wilderness Between	The raw sentence, and the first evidence from outside the room

Anthony Burrow’s line is the one to put on the slide: *“If we were to ask somebody, ‘What is your purpose?’ — the you in that sentence requires that they know who they are.”* You have

spent ten sessions answering the *you*. That is why the mission question waited, and it is the honest reason the men can trust the answer when it comes.

3. Review of what exists

I read all thirteen uploads against the Architecture v6 scaffold for S11 (Clearness Room + Purpose & Contribution; outputs §2.1, §2.2, My Next Chapter finalized) and against the Session 8 and 9 guides that promise what S11 will do. Verdicts below, strongest assets first.

3.1 The mission construction set — keep as the spine

WhyzMen_Mission_Slides_2 (three slides) is the best thing in the folder and should not be rebuilt, only relabeled. Buechner's two circles and Leider's arithmetic on one slide, the Three Rungs (Commission / Contribution / T-shirt) with the So-That Ladder and the Gunpoint Test, and the Verb Bank activity with its three-blank Jones sentence. The notes are already facilitator-grade: "most men start on rung 3 because it is the fun one, and that is why so many mission statements are slogans." Two fixes only. The footers say "Session 7 · Harvest of the First Half," which predates the v6 renumbering; and the notes say "eight sessions remain before 2.1 is due," which was true when this was a first-draft exercise in the fall. If the men did draft a verb sentence in S7, Session 11 opens with that draft in hand, which is a gift; if they did not, the 90-second circling still works cold.

The Galatians Test explainer is the second load-bearing piece and the one most likely to be mishandled in the room. Its own instruction is the key: *the test is read at rung 3, applied at rung 2, and answered at rung 1*. All five worked examples fail, including yours, and every one is fixed by the same move — writing the Commission sentence. That gives you a beautiful and slightly dangerous teaching moment. Beautiful because you can stand up and say "mine failed too, here is what I had to write." Dangerous because a man who is not warned will hear "fails" as a grade. The explainer says so; the deck has to say so *before* the exercise, not after.

Richard Bolles, who is on your Purpose shelf, gives you an unexpected confirmation of the three rungs. In *How to Find Your Mission in Life* he argues every person's mission has three parts, in order: first, to stand consciously in the presence of God; second, to make the world a better place by following the Spirit's leading; and only third, to exercise the talent you most delight in using, in the settings that most appeal to you, for the purposes God most needs done. That is Commission, Contribution, T-shirt, written in 1991 by an Episcopal priest whose day job was career counseling. It is worth one line in the participant guide, because it tells a skeptical man the three-rung ladder is not a WhyzMen invention.

3.2 The Clearness Room set — strong, but two designs in one folder

Five documents, all Palmer-derived and all good. But they describe two different rooms:

	The Committee (Guide, Script, Prep Sheet)	The Room (Facilitator Card)
Format	One focus man; 4–5 committee members; timekeeper	Triads; one man in the chair at a time; rotate
Time	75–90 minutes per man	25–30 minutes per man (≈ 90 minutes per triad)
What he brings	One real, open question, circulated days ahead on a prep sheet	A draft mission, or the live question under it
Flow	Silence → question → 45–60 min open questions → mirroring if invited → affirm → double-confidentiality seal	Frame → speaks uninterrupted → 30-sec silence → open questions → mirror & affirm → he refines → close
Success	Hears his own inner teacher; a knot loosened	Refinement, not resolution; both halves of the Five Gates + Felt Sense nod
Fits	A dedicated evening, or a man in genuine crisis of direction	A monthly triad meeting, exactly

Both are right; neither fits inside a 90-minute Monday session that also has to teach mission construction and open with the test-action reports. The arithmetic is unforgiving: three men at 25 minutes is 75 minutes, and that is the whole morning. The recommendation in Section 5 resolves it by moving the Card protocol to the triad's February meeting and giving the room a shorter "first hearing" whose main purpose is to rehearse the no-fixing discipline with a facilitator in earshot.

Two smaller notes. The Prep Sheet's four boxes (your one question, the lay of the land, what you have tried and heard, what clarity would feel like) are the best pre-work form in the set and should be reused for the mission version — the fourth box in particular, because "how will you know the hour did its work?" lowers the stakes from *answer* to *clearer*. And the Card's "Two Traps" — the Fixing Reflex and Borrowed Clarity — are the two things that will actually go wrong; put them on a slide.

On **Reading Palmer as a Curator**: the note is sound and I would follow it. The practice needs no Inner Light; James 1:19, Proverbs 15:22 and Psalm 139:13 carry it cleanly. Keep Palmer's name on leader cards and the shy-soul image in the room; keep his anthropology out of the participant guide.

3.3 The Pack deck — right content, wrong session

S11_The_Pack_Slides_r1 has twelve slides. Slide 3 is the threshold image whose notes explicitly say "near the END of Session 10, not the beginning," and the

S11_Packing_for_the_Second_Climb file is that single slide broken out. The other ten are the Ten Essentials, the forty-pound rule, the Pack Test, eight expert voices, three case studies, and the Jubilee sending — which is Session 13's subtraction and filter work, almost slide for slide. It is excellent material and it is a month early. Session 11 needs exactly one thing from this deck: the pack shown again with the top pocket now filled. "Values in the top pocket where you can reach them; the One Thing goes in beside them." A single callback slide, four seconds of continuity, and the men feel the program holding together across the winter.

3.4 The research backing — use it as facilitator ammunition, not slides

Burrow (Hidden Brain) hands Session 11 five things, and the summary already maps them. The goal-versus-purpose distinction, with Agassi as the man who finished the forty-year goal and found it was never a direction, is the opening frame for why retirement produces the mission question. The three pathways — proactive, reactive, social learning — are the answer to "I still do not know my purpose," and note that none of the three involves sitting on a couch thinking harder; that is your warrant for the experiments. "Purpose cannot be crowdsourced" is the reason the Clearness Room forbids advice. The hill study belongs on one slide. And Burrow's two-question self-check (*Does my life have a clear direction? Are my daily activities engaging and important?*) is worth asking at the top of S11 and again at S15.

Grant (Three Myths of Mentoring) is the case for the mentoring conversations as an experiment. Myth 3 — that mentoring only benefits the mentee — is the fear a retired man brings into a coffee with a younger one, and the research says the giver gains at least as much. Myth 2 (a mentor's job is to ask, not to direct) means the same discipline the Clearness Room teaches is the discipline good mentoring runs on, which lets you say to the men: the skill you are practicing on each other this morning is the skill you will use on the young man next week.

The Meaning Audit reference is already wired into §2.1: "a mission built on your highest current letter will be honest but may simply describe the life you already have; a mission built on your largest gap will stretch you; most good ones lead with the gap and are carried by the strength." That sentence should be read aloud in the room, and the bridge line at the bottom of the audit ("my largest gap is in ____, which suggests my next season should be weighted toward ____") should be required pre-work, with the audit redone in the interval if a man did it in the fall.

Mission statements and vision statements (the corporate .doc) is not room material, and its bureaucratic register would hurt the morning. Two things in it are worth keeping. The distinction itself — mission is present tense and answers *why we exist*; vision is future tense and describes a destination — is the cleanest way to explain to the men why §2.1 comes before the §2.2 domain visions in Session 12. And McNamara's refinement drill ("add or delete one

word from the mission and notice how the scope changes”) is a good five-minute pairs exercise for the field week.

3.5 The reading list — the Purpose shelf and four missing books

The August rev 3 list has 18 titles under Purpose and Calling and it is a good shelf. Bolles, Buford, Palmer, Guinness, Leider, Warren, Kelley and Rath are all there. But four books that Session 11 actually leans on are not on the list anywhere, and a man who goes looking for the source of the Verb Bank will not find it:

- **Laurie Beth Jones, The Path: Creating Your Mission Statement for Work and for Life (1996).* * The three-verb formula, the Gunpoint Test, the twelve-year-old test. This is the method the whole session runs on and it should be the S11 “read deeper” lead.
- **Frederick Buechner, Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC (1973).* * The two circles. It is cited on slide 1 and in the S2 facilitator guide; a two-page entry under “Vocation,” and men will enjoy it.
- **Os Guinness, The Call (1998).* *Architecture v6 lists “Guinness calling framework” as an S11 reference, and the S9 guide recommends it, but the reading list carries The Great Quest and Entrepreneurs of Life** instead. The primary versus secondary calling distinction (called first to Someone, then to something) is rung 1 in Guinness’s own words.
- **Bill Burnett & Dave Evans, Designing Your Life (2016).* * The prototype standard from S2 and S3 and the source of the “Burnett & Evans ch. 8” reference in the S11 scaffold. Chapter 8 is the prototyping chapter, and it is the intellectual home of the field tests.

Two optional additions if you want the science behind the room: Simon Sinek, *Start With Why* (the Galatians explainer explicitly frames the three rungs as the Golden Circle worked inside-out), and Albert Bandura on self-efficacy, which the S2 guide already cites and which turns out to be the best model I know for why this particular sequence should give a man confidence — see Section 4.

4. The design principle: where confidence actually comes from

You said the goal is for men to succeed at this step *with some confidence*. Bandura’s research on self-efficacy, which you already cite in Session 2, says confidence in a specific task comes from exactly four sources, in descending order of power. It is worth designing to them explicitly, because every one of the four is already sitting in your materials, unassembled.

Bandura’s source	What it means here	The WhyzMen mechanism
Mastery experiences — the strongest source	He has actually done a small version of the thing and it	The test action from the interval; the Three Field Tests; the T-shirt reactions.

Bandura's source	What it means here	The WhyzMen mechanism
	worked	Small, cheap, reversible — Burnett & Evans, S3.
Vicarious experience	He watched a man like him do it	Your own failed-then-fixed mission read aloud; Mark, David and Tom; the facilitators who have crossed this country already (Burrow's "social learning" pathway).
Verbal persuasion	Credible people told him, specifically, that they see it in him	Named by the Body (S9), the wife's reading (S8), and the affirmations that close every Clearness round: "something true you saw in him this hour."
Physiological state	His body is not in alarm when he does it	The silence, the no-fixing rule, the permission that Cloudy is an answer, and a room that has been safe for ten sessions. Palmer's shy soul is a physiological claim.

The practical consequence is that the deck should not try to *convince* a man his mission is right. It should arrange for him to have four kinds of evidence by Session 13. The order matters too, and it happens to be Bandura's order reversed: settle the body first (the room and the rules), then the witnesses (the room hears him), then the model (your example), and then send him out to get the one thing no room can give him — a mastery experience with a stranger.

"Hope is not optimism. Hope is the willingness to prototype the future." —
Session 3, slide 19

5. The process — three weeks, one sentence

Recommended shape, mapped to the Cohort 1 calendar. It keeps Session 11 on Feb 8 and Session 12 on Feb 15 as scheduled and uses the triad's February meeting as the Clearness Room proper.

When	What	Output
Feb 1-7 • pre-work (already in v6)	My Next Chapter draft; Ten Domain Why's; §1.4 finished; test action run. Add: the Meaning Audit bridge sentence; the Mission Prep Sheet (adapted from the Clearness prep sheet, four boxes); reread §1.3 The Signature and §1.5 Caring Shift.	Draft sentence + prep sheet to facilitator by Sun Feb 7

When	What	Output
Mon Feb 8 • Session 11 in the room	Re-entry on the test actions → mission construction (rungs, verb bank, So-That ladder live, Galatians Test announced as pass-by-failing) → First Hearing in triads, 12 minutes per man → Field Tests assigned → sending.	§2.1 draft r1, read aloud once and heard; T-shirt card in hand
Feb 8–14 • Field Week	The Three Field Tests (Section 7). Minimum: the T-shirt test with five people. Reactions recorded verbatim on the card.	Five reactions; one door knocked; one conversation had
Week of Feb 8 or 15 • triad meeting = The Clearness Room	The Facilitator Card protocol, 25–30 minutes per man, run by the triad with the Card and the question bank. He brings draft r1 plus the field reactions. Refinement, not resolution.	§2.1 draft r2; “Clear” or “Cloudy” marked honestly
Mon Feb 15 • Session 12 opens	Ten minutes: each man reads r2 to his table; the Five Gates and Felt Sense as a self-check, not a jury. Then Building the Vision — and now the domain visions have a mission to hang from.	§2.1 draft r2 confirmed; §2.2 begins
Mon Feb 22 • Session 13	Essentialism Filter (§2.1b): the three things this mission tells him to decline. The “No” gate closes the loop, and §2.1 is final.	§2.1 final; §3.0 subtractions; T-shirt version sent to print
Mon Mar 8 • Session 15	The sending gift: his four verbs on an actual shirt, handed to him by his triad. Heath’s Power of Moments — a peak, and a physical thing to carry home.	Commissioned, wearing it

The one decision this design needs from you

Whether the triads can be asked to meet in the week between S11 and S12 (their first meeting was Jan 26–Feb 1, so this is two weeks later, not one). If the answer is no, the fallback is to run the Card protocol as the whole second half of Session 12 and push the Readiness Evaluation (§2.0) to homework. The one thing not to do is compress the Clearness Room to eight minutes a man inside Session 11 and call it done — a hurried clearness room teaches the men that being heard is a formality, and that lesson is expensive to unteach.

6. The Session 11 deck — outline and run of show

Ninety minutes, four movements, sixteen slides. Timing follows the S9 and S10 spines: teach in short blocks, put the men to work early, never let the room go more than ten minutes without a man talking. Slides marked ★ exist already and need only relabeling.

Movement 1 · Re-entry: what did you find out? (0:00–0:18)

#	Slide	Min	What happens / facilitator note
1	Cover — *Mission & The One Thing.* Buechner's line. The pack, top pocket open.	1	Up as doors open. Morning language throughout (v6 global edit).
2	The Harvest Is In — the eight readings of you (the Section 2 table, as a graphic: eight arrows into one blank)	4	Say it plainly: you are not starting; you are finishing. Burrow's "the *you* in your purpose." Nobody writes anything yet.
3	Test Action Report — "What did you try, and what did it tell you?"	12	Tables, not the room. Three questions: what you tried · what surprised you · what it made you want to do next. One report-out per table. Men who did nothing report on *why* — that is data about \$3.0, not a failure. Burrow: purpose is found on your feet.
4	Goal vs. Purpose — Agassi; "a goal can be finished, a purpose cannot"; the hill study	3	The frame for why the mission question arrives at retirement. Read the Frankl line if the room is quiet: a task ahead, or a person to be met.

Movement 2 · Construction: three rungs, three verbs (0:18–0:45)

#	Slide	Min	What happens / facilitator note
5 ★	Where a Mission Comes From — Buechner's circles, Leider's arithmetic (Mission Slides 2, slide 1)	3	Fix the footer. Ask the room's question from the notes: which circle can you name — your gladness, or the hunger?
6 ★	Three Rungs: Whose, What, Wearable (Mission Slides 2, slide 2)	5	Read in order. Demonstrate the So-That ladder live with one volunteer; do not rescue him from the silence. Add the Bolles line: three parts, same order, 1991.
7	The Galatians Test — "the only test you pass by failing"	4	Announce before, not after. Read your own: rung 3 unchanged, rung 1 newly written. One fix, five times: do not send a man back to his verbs; send him to rung 1. Cloudy is a permitted answer (Rom 8:1).
8 ★	Activity: Your Three Verbs — the Verb Bank and the Jones sentence (Mission	9	90 seconds circling · narrow to three · 3 minutes drafting · read to the man beside you.

#	Slide	Min	What happens / facilitator note
	Slides 2, slide 3)		Watch for old-job verbs (name it, do not correct it) and for deliverables in the value blank (push once). Men who drafted in the fall revise; men who did not draft cold.
9	Rung 1, in pencil — “I have been sent to _____.”	4	Solo, two minutes, then the Galatians question asked once of the T-shirt. Most will answer yes. Good: that is the honest starting point, and the Clearness Room is where rung 1 gets found. Second screen: would your triad know what to ask you about next Tuesday?
10	The Top Pocket — the pack callback, values and One Thing side by side	2	The only slide from the Pack deck. Buford: one thing in the box. Four seconds of continuity across the winter.

Movement 3 • The First Hearing (0:45–1:22)

#	Slide	Min	What happens / facilitator note
11	The Room’s Covenant — the five spoken lines from the Facilitator Card; James 1:19; Prov 15:22	3	Read aloud, every time. “We are here to listen, not to fix.” Say why: Burrow — purpose cannot be crowdsourced; advice from the outside cannot reach it. Palmer’s shy animal on the leader card, not the screen.
12	Two Traps — the Fixing Reflex · Borrowed Clarity	2	These are men paid for decades to solve things. Name it, set it down. No pairing on projects until each man can recite his own heading.
13	The First Hearing — 12 minutes a man: frame 1 · he reads and says where it wobbles 3 · silence ½ · honest open questions 5 · mirror & affirm 2½	36	Triads, timekeeper rotates, facilitators circulate and intervene only for advice-in-disguise (“can we turn that into an open question?”). Question bank on the table card. This is a rehearsal of the discipline, not the Clearness Room; say so. Sixty-second warnings. Nobody rewrites in the room.

Movement 4 • Send-off: three field tests (1:22–1:30)

#	Slide	Min	What happens / facilitator note
14	Three Field Tests — the T-shirt · Two Doors · Three Conversations (Section 7)	4	Hand out the T-shirt card with his four verbs written on it in the room, now. Minimum this week: five reactions. All three tests by S13.

#	Slide	Min	What happens / facilitator note
			Emerson: all life is an experiment.
15	Your Clearness Room — the triad meets this fortnight; bring r1 and the reactions; the Card runs it	2	Date it before they leave — the S10 rule. The facilitator does not attend; the Card and the question bank do.
16	Sending — Isaiah 6:8 or Jeremiah 1:5; the top pocket closed	2	Benediction. Then the two-question self-check on the way out: clear direction? engaging days? Same two questions at S15.

Cut order if running long, in the S4 style: slide 4 (Goal vs. Purpose — point at the guide), then slide 10 (Top Pocket), then shorten slide 3 to one question. Never cut the covenant, never cut the First Hearing below ten minutes a man, never send them out without the T-shirt card in hand.

7. The Three Field Tests — restoring the experiments

The original idea (call two organizations, have three mentoring conversations) was right and it died of vagueness. An experiment needs three things a homework line does not give it: a hypothesis, a form, and a date it is reported. Here is the card as I would build it, one page, three tests, the first one deliberately easy.

Test 1 • The T-shirt (this week, everyone)

Say your four verbs — nothing else, no explanation — to five people and write down, word for word, what they say back. The five: your wife; one adult child or grandchild; one friend outside this program; one younger man; one person who barely knows you. Then ask each one question: “*What do you think that means I would do?*” The test is not whether they like it. The test is whether the sentence *travels* — whether a stranger can carry it out of the room and hand it back to you intact. A mission that needs a paragraph of explanation has not compressed yet. Jones’s twelve-year-old rule, run on real twelve-year-olds if you have them.

Mechanics: a card-stock “shirt” template with a blank chest, filled in the room at slide 14, reactions recorded on the back. The real shirt — his final four verbs, printed — is the sending gift at Session 15, presented by his triad. Inexpensive, and the Heath brothers would tell you it is the one moment from the program he will still own in five years.

Test 2 • Two Doors (by Session 13)

Call or visit two organizations where the “for whom” of his mission might actually live — a school, a ministry, a trade program, a hospice, a startup, a men’s shelter. The ask is an informational interview, never a volunteer sign-up: “*I am trying to understand what a man with*

my background could be useful for here. What would you actually need?" Two doors, because one is a data point and two is a pattern. Burnett & Evans call it prototype conversations; the Contribution Hypothesis from Session 8 is the thing being tested. Record: what they said they needed, what surprised him, and whether he left more energized or less. The energy reading is the Felt Sense gate arriving early.

Test 3 · Three Conversations (by Session 13)

One with a man five years ahead of him who made a transition he admires (Burrow's social-learning pathway; Bandura's vicarious source). One with a younger man, framed as a coffee, not a mentorship — and afterward, the Grant question: *who learned more?* And one with someone on the receiving end of what his mission promises: if the sentence says "for men who believe their useful years are behind them," go find one and listen. The third conversation is the one that tests whether the "for whom" is a person or an abstraction.

The reporting form (one per test, from the S3 Feiler companion)

What I tried (small, cheap, reversible) · The part of my sentence it tests · What a "fit" would look like — the evidence · What actually happened · What I want to change in the sentence, if anything.

Reported twice: in the triad's Clearness Room and in the Session 12 opener. Failure is data, not verdict — a door that closes is Palmer's "way closing," and it is exactly as informative as one that opens.

8. Doing the Clearness Room properly — a checklist

You are right that it will help if done properly, and the materials already know what properly means. Pulled together in one place, the conditions that make the difference:

- **Time.** Twenty-five to thirty minutes a man, uninterrupted, in a triad — the Card protocol. Never inside a session that has other work to do.
- **Preparation circulated ahead.** The four-box prep sheet, sent to the other two men days before. The Prep Sheet's own line: the clearer the question, the deeper the hour goes.
- **The covenant spoken aloud every time,** including the double-confidentiality seal at the end. The seal is what makes a man willing to come back and do it again.
- **Silence treated as a member of the group.** A full minute to arrive; thirty seconds after he reads; room between questions. Retired executives will find this the hardest rule in the program.
- **One follow-up, then yield.** The Script's intervention lines are the timekeeper's only script: "can we turn that into an open question?" · "let's open it to others" · "let's leave a little silence."

- **Mirroring only if invited; affirmation of the man, not the answer.** “Something true you saw in him this hour” is a Bandura verbal-persuasion event and should not be skipped for time.
- **Refinement, not resolution, is success.** Say it at the start so no one performs certainty. Cloudy, marked honestly, with a ninety-day return, is a legitimate exit.
- **The Five Gates and Felt Sense are a self-check afterward, never a jury in the room.** “Both halves nod, or it isn’t finished” — and unfinished is allowed until Session 13.
- **Biblical warrant on the participant page; Palmer on the leader card.** James 1:19, Proverbs 15:22, Psalm 139:13. The One who knit him is the one drawing him out.

9. Open decisions and small fixes

Item	Recommendation
Which Clearness Room	Card protocol at the triad meeting; First Hearing in S11. Fallback: second half of S12. (Section 5)
Pack deck labels	Slide 3 → close of S10 (already built as the standalone file). Slides 1–2, 4–12 → Session 13 deck. One callback slide for S11.
Mission Slides footers	“Session 7 · Harvest of the First Half” → “Session 11 · Mission & The One Thing”; notes updated for whether a fall draft exists.
Reading list rev 4	Add Jones (*The Path*), Buechner (*Wishful Thinking*), Guinness (*The Call*), Burnett & Evans (*Designing Your Life*). Optional: Sinek; Bandura.
Meaning Audit timing	Bridge sentence required in the Feb 1–7 pre-work; redo the audit if it was done before Christmas.
Feb 15 is Presidents’ Day	Already flagged in v6 — confirm the building. If S12 slips, the Clearness triad meeting gains a week, which helps.
The shirt	Decide now whether it is real cloth at S15 or the card only; if cloth, verbs are final at S13 and print takes two weeks.
Palmer’s name	Leader materials only; participant guide uses the practice and the Scripture warrant. Let Gary read the room.
§2.2 Purpose & Contribution	v6 lists it as an S11 output alongside §2.1. With the First Hearing taking 36 minutes it will not fit; draft it as homework off My Next Chapter and confirm at S12.

“Eventually you must choose one, or else your second half will be pretty much a repeat of the first.” — Bob Buford, Halftime

Sources read for this note: WhyzMen Reading List by Theme r3; S11_The_Pack_Slides_r1; S11_Packing_for_the_Second_Climb; WhyzMen_Mission_Slides_2; the five Clearness Room documents; Reading Palmer as a Curator; the Burrow and Grant “read deeper” summaries; the Meaning Audit reference; Mission statements and vision statements; and from the project, Rewire Retirement Architecture v6, the Cohort 1 calendar, the Galatians Test explainer, the Session 8–10 guides and design notes, and the house style guide.