A Pause with an Exit - Shared Pattern Map

25 minutes | 3-12 people | Adults with trained group facilitation

Create a short pause plan that includes a way to leave a difficult situation safely.

Open with choice - 3 minutes

Explain the purpose, privacy limits, and the option to observe, use fiction, adapt, or pass. Check access needs and group readiness; do not promise absolute confidentiality.

Meet the fictional case - 4 minutes

A fictional member is invited to stay in a setting that feels unhelpful. Ask what is known, what is assumed, and what the person in the case wants.

Practice: Mapping - 11 minutes

Create a short pause plan that includes a way to leave a difficult situation safely. Each person privately maps the fictional case. Offer optional contributions to a shared map, then compare where context, access, and support change the picture. Do not interpret another person's map.

Reflect and compare - 4 minutes

What makes leaving feasible rather than theoretical? Ask what fits, what does not, and what external conditions or supports affect the options. No personal disclosure is required.

Close and integrate - 3 minutes

Invite an optional observation, support request, or small next step. Passing is welcome. Agree how to revisit questions and seek appropriate help outside the exercise.

Practice output

A map with at least two possible support or choice points.

Scope and care

Use ordinary or fictional examples, not graphic substance-use stories or cue exposure. No competitive abstinence scoring, forced disclosure, or required pathway. These plans do not manage intoxication, overdose, withdrawal, or medication changes; follow individualized care and appropriate medical assessment.

Original AI-assisted educational draft; independent clinical review pending. Version 1.0. Background references: GP01, GP02, GP03, RF-SUR. Full source links: library.morethantherapy.org/group-activities/GRP356