Lapse Learning Without Shame

Addiction Recovery | 30 minutes | 3-12 participants | Adults with appropriate facilitation

Purpose

Use a fictional setback to separate facts, immediate support needs, and future adjustments.

Materials: Paper or a printable handout, Pens or an accessible writing alternative, Optional blank cards or simple drawing materials

Invite and agree - 3 minutes

Name the purpose and the right to pass, observe, write, or use fiction. Agree that people share only their own experiences and do not promise absolute group confidentiality.

Introduce the example - 3 minutes

A character misses a personally chosen recovery goal. Ask what is known and what is still a guess.

Practice: Guided discussion - 17 minutes

Use a fictional setback to separate facts, immediate support needs, and future adjustments. Offer a quiet thinking minute before optional paired or whole-group discussion. Reflect differences without requiring agreement.

Reflect together - 4 minutes

What support matters before analyzing the setback? Ask what fit, what did not fit, and what would make the exercise more accessible. Do not interpret another person's response.

Choose a next step - 3 minutes

Invite one optional action, support request, or question to carry forward. Passing is a valid closing response. Confirm how to seek appropriate support outside the activity.

Facilitator fit and boundaries

Use fictional, low-intensity examples; do not recreate substance-use cues or give withdrawal or medication advice. Follow individualized care plans.

Offer observation, private writing, or a fictional example. Adapt instructions and group size to access needs. No client responses are collected by this page.

Original AI-assisted educational draft; independent clinical review pending. Version 1.0. Conceptual reading: TIP 41: Substance Abuse Treatment: Group Therapy, TIP 57: Trauma-informed Care in Behavioral Health Services, TIP 35: Enhancing Motivation for Change in Substance Use Disorder Treatment. Source links appear on the online activity page.