



CURRICULUM GUIDE

Matthew Season 7: Death to Life

Episode 4: You Believe the Resurrection. Have You Surrendered?

October 15 & 18, 2026

Pastor Matt Carter

LEADER NOTES – We're about to begin our two-year Neighbors to Nations initiative, with a goal of growing from 1,000 to 2,500 Disciple Groups to **make room for one more**. We hope most new leaders will be raised up from within existing groups. Our [Leader's Guide to Multiplying Disciple Groups](#) explains why we multiply and provides a step-by-step process. Please designate a Future Leader on your group page by October 14. Here's a [video tutorial](#) showing you how. Questions? Reach out to your campus Discipleship Minister. (This does not apply for 1825 leaders.)

Leading Well in 7 Minutes or Less: Listen to ALL episodes for free on [Spotify](#) or [Apple](#).

2026 Fall trimester: 8/17–12/7 2027 - Spring: 1/4 - 5/17 Summer: 6/7 - 7/26 Fall: 8/23 - 12/6

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Serve Opportunities with Our Partners: All Nations Adult Soccer League is looking for Ministry Leaders to build relationships with players, share the gospel, encourage teammates in their faith and help connect them to the local church. [Learn more](#). **Pray for your city:** Head downtown to prayer walk with Disciples of God Sent. [Learn more](#)

Work at Eleven22: If you'd like to join our team, we invite you to [view our open roles](#) and see if there is one where your skills, talents and passions meet. **Highlighted open role:** [Vision Engagement Lead](#)

THIS WEEK'S READING PLAN: Download our app for [Apple](#) or [Android](#). Click the "Daily" icon at the bottom of the app for our daily Bible reading plan.

Share Wins, Praises and Prayers: Where did you see God move this week?

Action Step Review: *Last week's action step: Every day this week, pray and thank Jesus for willingly taking the punishment for your sins. Identify one person who needs to hear the good news. Pray for that person daily and look for an opportunity to share the gospel with them this week. We're having Easter in October! Invite your one more to sit with you at worship this week (10/15 and 10/18). How did God answer your prayers? What did you learn about God? About yourself?*

Memory Verse: *Isaiah 53:3*

Sermon Text: *Matthew 27:57-66, 28:1-15; John 19:29-30; 2 Corinthians 5:17*

Discussion Questions

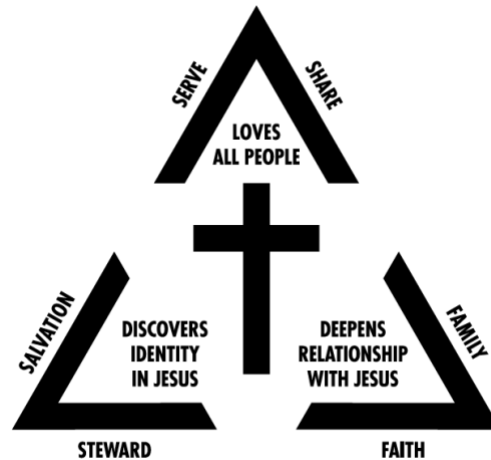
Leaders: Please use the questions in the curriculum to facilitate discussion of the sermon and the Scriptures. **But there's no need to answer every question.** The goal is to get your group members talking more than you and to get them going deeper. **The answers in parentheses** are simply possible responses.

- **Read Matthew 27:57-66 and 28:1-15. What stood out to you this week in the sermon, in the Scriptures and what God revealed to you about Himself?**
- **What are some potential reasons the angel rolled away the stone, and Mary was the first to witness the empty tomb?** *(Pastor Matt suggested the stone wasn't rolled away to let Jesus out, but so Mary could see that He had risen! A woman could not give testimony in a court of law. If you were going to lie about Jesus's resurrection, you wouldn't choose a woman as your first witness. Jesus continually elevated the status of women. Before meeting Jesus, Mary had been possessed by demons, and church history suggests she had been a prostitute. The resurrection is proof that if He can make a former demon-possessed prostitute a brand-new creation, He can do that to you!)*
- **Discover:** There were two groups who were witnesses to the angel and the empty tomb, and they responded very differently. Discuss how you can believe Jesus is risen and still not be saved. **(See Matthew 28:1-15.)** *(Knowing the facts about Jesus is not the same as knowing Him, believing in Him, and surrendering to Him as Lord and Savior. Mary Magdalene and the other women responded to the resurrection with joy and worship. The guards and religious leaders, however, sought to protect their own interests. Rather than surrender to Jesus and risk losing their livelihoods and way of life, the guards accepted money to spread a lie.)*
Deepen: Read Matthew 28:5-10. What do the women's responses teach us about how we should respond to Jesus? *(We should respond with reverence, gratitude, joy, worship, trust, and obedience. The resurrection isn't simply a historical event to acknowledge; it's a reality that should transform how we live. When we recognize who Jesus is and what He's done for us, worship and obedience become loving responses to His grace.)*
- **Jesus said, "It is finished." The angel said, "He is risen." Discuss what the fulfilled promise of Jesus's resurrection demonstrates.** *(It demonstrates the power of God, the faithfulness of the Word of God, the trustworthiness of God and changes everything for those who put their faith in Jesus. We can believe everything Jesus said and every promise He made! The sinless Son of God has shed His blood for your sin debt. The veil of the temple separating you from the presence of God is torn and you can now go boldly before the throne of God covered in the righteousness of Jesus.)*
- **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. What does it mean to be "in Christ"?** *(By grace, through faith you belong to Jesus and the Holy Spirit is in you. Your relationship with God is now defined by Jesus—His death for your sin and His resurrection to new life. Jesus is making you new from the inside out!)*
- **Share a way Jesus has changed your desires, priorities, attitudes, or behavior since you began following Him.**
- **In Group Action Step:** Break into twos or threes, identify one promise from God's Word that you've struggled to believe or trust. Write it down, pray for each other and ask God to help you live in the promises of Jesus.

Your Discipleship Journey

- **RightNow Media:** Find *an unending supply of resources* by signing up for a FREE RightNow Media account. Go to coe22.com/rightnowmedia or text “RightNow” to 441122.

(Note: You'll need to log in or create an account to view RightNow Media content.)



Go to coe22.com/growthtrack, scroll down to “What’s Growth Track?” and click the words, “Discipleship Triangle” to download or print a discipleship journey tool with questions for you to ask yourself and others. Please share the link and directions with others in your group.