



DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM GUIDE

Matthew Season 1: Heaven to Earth
Episode 2: Baptism of Jesus
January 15 & 18, 2026
Pastor Joby Martin

LEADER NOTES – Last Chance to Register - Coach and Leader Gathering Saturday, January 24, 2026, from 8am – Noon, San Pablo campus: We will have a continental breakfast, worship, pray, be equipped during breakout sessions, and fellowship together. Doors will open at 8:00am. Childcare is provided. [Click here to register.](#)

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

2026 - Spring trimester: 1/5 - 5/11 **Summer trimester:** 6/1 - 7/27 **Fall trimester:** 8/17 - 12/7

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Night To Shine - Friday, Feb 13th, 6-9 PM, Prime Osborn Convention Center: Share God's love and celebrate our friends with special needs, all while having the time of your life! Whether it's by cheering in the crowd, doing hair and makeup, serving food or being a buddy and hanging out with a king or queen all night— there is a spot for you to serve! Visit Nighttoshinejax.com for more information and to register.

Two Serving Opportunities for Disciple Group Members - Email gregory.knapp@coe22.com if you're interested. 1) Help set up and serve the continental breakfast at the Coach and Leader gathering at our San Pablo campus from 7-9am on Saturday, January 24. 2) **Serve on the Curriculum Team:** Meet via Zoom on Fridays at 9am to help write the curriculum questions. (You do not have to serve every Friday to be on the team. We take turns.)

NEW Services Launching: We are making room for One More. [Click here](#) to view our new weekend service times.

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: *"Take One Step of Obedience: Like Mary, Joseph, and the Magi, commit to doing what God tells you to do without waiting for perfect clarity."* How did God answer your prayers? What did you learn about God? About yourself?

Sermon Text: *Malachi 3:1-3; 4:5-6; Matthew 3:1-17; Luke 1:12-17; Romans 6:3-4; 8:28-30; 1 John 4:10*

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.

- **Read Matthew 3:1-17. What stood out to you this week in the sermon, in the Scriptures and what God revealed to you about Himself?**
- **Why did Jesus get Baptized?** (*Jesus did not get baptized because He needed repentance. Even though He was sinless and lived the perfect life, Jesus got baptized to fulfill righteousness, identify with sinners, begin His ministry, and reveal the triune God.*)
- **Read Matthew 4:17 and 3:1-2. What do you need to repent from?** (*The kingdom of heaven is an upside-down kingdom – especially when it comes to success, stuff and sex. God's way is not the world's way. What in your life is keeping you from doing it God's way and experiencing the abundant life He promises?*)
- **Read Luke 1:12-17 and Matthew 11:11. Discuss what John was like, what his mission was and what Jesus said about him.** (*John didn't play by the traditional rules. He called out religious leaders and politicians, confronted society and always pointed to Jesus. Jesus said John was the greatest of all men. Matthew connects the New Testament to Elijah, prophesied by Malachi. See Malachi 4:5-6.*)
- **John left the comfort and safety of the city to preach the coming of Jesus in the uncomfortable, dangerous wilderness. Where do you need to be uncomfortable for Jesus?** (*John lived outside the religious norms and expectations of his time, yet he was faithfully fulfilling God's mission for his life. Where do you feel tension between following God's calling and fitting in with the world's cultural or religious expectations? What fears keep you from walking in full obedience?*)
- **Discover:** In following Jesus, we are called to have a critical mind, not a critical spirit. What's the difference? (*A critical mind is vital. Test every spirit. Study the word to make sure what you're being taught is true. A critical heart is cancer. Suspicion of motives will rob you of joy and will not allow you to celebrate God's work in the lives and ministries of others.*)
Deepen: Where do you find yourself suspicious or critical of others' motives instead of celebrating God's work in their lives?
- **Discover:** Read Matthew 3:11-12 and Malachi 3:1-3. What are two interpretations on what it means to be baptized by fire? (*1. The separation of the sheep and goats at judgement - heaven and hell. 2. Fire is the process of sanctification. Sometimes you are in the fire so God can refine you like silver.*)
Deepen: Share a time God refined you through a trial, tribulation or hard season.

Action Step: John understood the point of his life was to point people to Jesus. This week, intentionally point someone to Christ — through prayer, a conversation, an invitation to church, or by sharing your testimony.

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 login or create an account to view RightNow Media content.)



Go to coe22.com/resources/discipleship-journey/ and click “Download Tool” 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.