



## DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM GUIDE

Matthew Season 2: Mountain to Mountain  
Episode 4: In the Secret  
February 26 & March 1, 2026  
Pastor Joby Martin

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**LEADER NOTES – *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

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS: Hour of Prayer, Wednesdays, February 25–April 1, 6–8am and 12–1pm:** To create space for you to draw near to the Lord our Arlington, Baymeadows, Fleming Island, Jesup, Mandarin, North Jax, Orange Park, Palatka, San Pablo, St. Augustine, St. Johns and Online campuses will be open for you to pray. (Jesup and Online open from 12–1pm only.)

**40 Days of Fasting, Wednesdays, February 25–April 1:** As a church, we will fast from food on Wednesdays from sunup to sundown.

**Get Baptized:** We will be doing baptisms at the end of every Easter Service April 2, 4 and 5. We are offering baptism classes after every service from March 5–29.

**Serve with your Disciple Group:** [Click this link](#) and sign up to receive emails when one of our Outreach Partners has a need for disciple groups to serve together. It's a great way to live on mission and grow in community.

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**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:** *"Jesus says love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you (Matthew 5:44). Ask Jesus to help you identify one person you struggle to love. Pray for their good every day this week and ask God to bless them."* How did God answer your prayers? What did you learn about God? About yourself?

**The Point:** When we give, pray and fast, the point is not performative. The point is to point our hearts to HIM because of what He has done for us.

**Sermon Text:** *Matthew 5:48; 6:1-17; 25:31-40; John 15:1-5; James 4:8*

## 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 6:1-17. What stood out to you this week in the sermon, in the Scriptures and what God revealed to you about Himself?**
- **Discover:** Three ways to prepare your heart for Easter are praying, fasting and giving. Which one is easiest for you, and which one is the hardest? (*Money, attention and our flesh are all in competition for the throne of your heart. Praying, fasting and giving can change your heart towards God.*)  
**Deepen:** How can you ask God to help you do all three things this lent season? (*Share what's helped you do all three with a heart posture to God.*)
- **Discover:** Read Matthew 6:2-4. How can you give in a way that pleases God? (*God loves a cheerful giver, not trying to put Him in your debt. Intention and motive matters to God. The same activity could bring reward or regret. It could warm God's heart or stir his anger.*)  
**Deepen:** What are the rewards of generosity? (*We're called to give our time, talent and treasure to God. Tithing helps reorder your life. When you learn to live on less than you make, you'll always have enough. Guilt dissipates and you can enjoy all you have. God will do more with 90% than you can do with 100%. Giving to the needy is evidence you know and love Jesus. See Matthew 25:31-40.*)
- **Read Matthew 6:5-13. What is the wrong way and the right way to pray?** (*Jesus's ministry and the early church were built on prayer. It's our connection to His power. Pray with God as your focus. Your reward is you get Him! The human heart is corrupt and can confuse the MEANS and the ENDS. If fasting, praying and giving becomes the end - and not the means - it's a Christian form of idolatry.*)
- **Discuss what "The Lord's Prayer" (Matthew 6:9-13) means to you, which verses challenge you and which verse comfort you.**
- **How you see and define God determines how you relate and pray to Him. How do you see God most of the time? What facial expression does he have?** (*If you see God as a judge, you'll constantly try to make your case. If you see Him as distant, you'll keep your distance. If He's just "the man upstairs," faith becomes ritual without heart. If you see Him as angry, you'll live in constant apology. If you see Him as a vending machine, you'll try to get things from Him. God wants you to see him as your holy, perfect Father.*)
- **Discover:** Read Matthew 6:14. Why do you think Jesus said this? (*This verse should be jolting to you. Pastor Joby said forgiven people forgive. Based on the rest of the Bible, the verse is evidence of receiving forgiveness - not a precursor to being forgiven.*)  
**Deepen:** Where in your life, or who in your life, are you struggling to forgive?
- **Read Matthew 6:16-18. How and why should you fast?** (*Fasting is telling your flesh NO so that you can tell Jesus YES. It helps you draw near to Him and abide in Him. See James 4:8; John 15:1-5.*)
- **Discover:** Jesus repeatedly says the hypocrites "have received their reward." In what areas of your spiritual life are you most tempted to seek the applause of people rather than the approval you already have in Christ?  
**Deepen:** What would it look like to live for an audience of just Jesus this week?

**Action Step Challenge In This Lent Season:** 1) Be super generous in tithes, offerings and gifts. Pray that God will show you who to give \$20-\$100 to before Easter – and don't tell anyone. 2) Join us for an hour of prayer every Wednesday and fast from sunup until sundown.

## 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](http://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/growthtrack](http://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.