



DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM GUIDE

Matthew Season 3: Fear to Faith

Episode 3: Tear Off The Roof

April 2, 4 & 5, 2026

Pastor Joby Martin

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Join the fight against human trafficking: For a volunteer interest night at Arize Together on April 21 [click here to register](#). Or on April 14 gather and write letters of encouragement to survivors just beginning their journey of healing. [Click here to register](#).

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: *"Identify one area of your life where you've been saying, 'Jesus, I'll follow you, but first...' Write it down, confess it to God, and intentionally surrender that area to Him in prayer this week."* How did God answer your prayers? What did you learn about God? About yourself?

The Point: Imagine you being lowered through the roof. If you are a Christian, that's what someone did for you!

Sermon Text: *Psalms 103:1-3; Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 9:1-8; John 15:13-16; Revelation 1:7*

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.

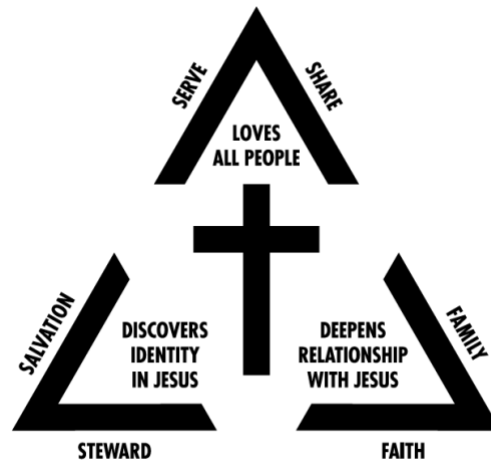
- **Before we read the scriptures, discuss what a mat carrier is.** (A mat carrier is someone you have "life refrigerator rights with," you're fully transparent with, would do anything to help you get to Jesus, you deputize to tell you when you're sinning or not acting like Jesus.)
- **Read Matthew 9:1-8. What stood out to you this week in the sermon, in the Scriptures and what God revealed to you about Himself?**
- **Discuss who wrote the Gospels and who was interviewed by two of the Gospel writers. How does this increase your faith that these are not just stories, but real events?** (There are four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They describe the same events with different details based on what the eyewitnesses reported. It's like how different news networks report the same events differently. Matthew and John were eyewitnesses. Mark interviewed Peter, who was an eyewitness. The "tearing off the roof" happened at Peter's house. Luke interviewed hundreds of eyewitnesses.)
- **Discover:** Who is your one more you would do whatever it takes to get them to Jesus? If you don't have someone in mind, pray about someone and write down their name right now.
Deepen: What are you doing/have you done/can you do to get your one more to Jesus? (Pray for them. Invite them to church. Share your testimony with them. But remember, you share and invite; Jesus saves.)
- **Read Matthew 9:2. Do you have four friends like this – mat carriers? Write down their names right now. If you don't, see the action step below.** (Remember, your mat carriers don't necessarily need to know each other.)
- **Why do you think Jesus forgave the paralyzed man's sins before physically healing him?** (Jesus was showing that healing your sin is the most important need, not merely physical healing. Sin causes death and separation from God. Forgiveness through Jesus leads to everlasting life with God.)
- **Discuss the difference in what the world thinks your problems are, what religion thinks your problems are and what Jesus knows your problems are.** (The world believes your biggest problems are psychological, financial, relational, or political. The solution is therapy, self-improvement, education, medicine, or social change. The "religious" believes the problem is behavior. "If I can just be a better person, I can fix what's wrong and God will accept me." The gospel says the main problem is your sin and separation from God. The solution is forgiveness through Christ.)
- **What is the significance of Jesus calling the paralytic, "son"?** (At that time it was believed your paralysis, illness, etc. was a punishment for your sin. So, the paralytic was called all kinds of names. Jesus says that's not how it works, and he saw him as his son.)
- **Discover:** Read Matthew 9:6-8. Discuss who Jesus is claiming to be here and the way the religious leaders and regular people thought about and responded to that claim. (See Psalm 103:1-3 and Daniel 7:13-14.)
Deepen: Spend five minutes right now doing a search for all the places in the bible Jesus claimed to be the Son of God and/or the Messiah. Share some of those verses with the group.
- **Why does Jesus ask the paralytic to pick up the mat? Why not leave it?** (Because of Romans 8:1. Your greatest mess may be the platform for God's Gospel Message. Jesus can use you as His hands and feet. Jesus can speak through your story and your testimony to save and heal someone else.)

Action Step: If you don't have four mat carriers, pray every day this week for God to bring them to you. You may find some of them in your group. Ask at least one person this week to be one of your mat carriers and deputize them to tell you when you're sinning or not acting like 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 login 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.