



DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM GUIDE

Matthew Season 4: Old to New
Episode 1: The Friend to Sinners
April 9 & 12, 2026
Pastor Matt Carter

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 Eleven22 Production Team - Behind every lyric, note and frame is a team of people creating an environment where others can encounter God without distraction. No experience? No problem. We will equip you! Serve opportunities include audio, visuals, running lyrics and scripture, lighting, camera op and stage crew. You can shadow a team member to see what it's like. [Click here to sign up to serve.](#)

Serve at Beach Baptism – Sunday, May 17, Hanna Park: Help roll out the red carpet for those publicly proclaiming their faith in Jesus! Find a team, pick a shift and join us to celebrate life change together. [Click here for more information and to sign up.](#)

Get Baptized at Beach Baptism on Sunday, May 17: We are offering baptism classes after every service Until May 14.

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: *"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."* How did God answer your prayers? What did you learn about God? About yourself?

Sermon Text: Hosea 6:6; Psalm 139:16; Matthew 9:6-13; Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27

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.

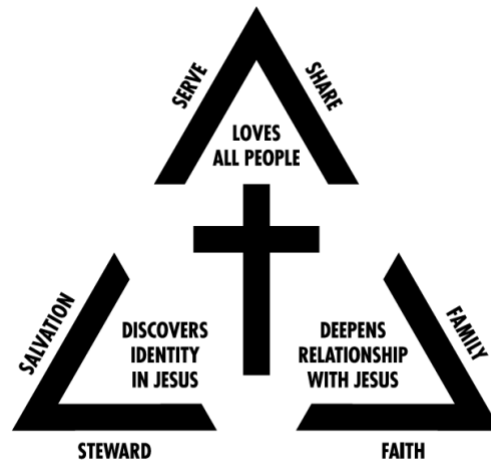
- **Read Matthew 9:9-13. What stood out to you this week in the sermon, in the Scriptures and what God revealed to you about Himself?**
- **Discover:** Why does Matthew wait nine chapters to tell the story of his salvation? *(Matthew wants you to know he isn't the star of the book he's writing, Jesus is. Matthew sets the stage for how righteous Jesus is and then shows He came to save sinners and fulfill the prophecies of the Messiah, including Hosea 6:6.)*
Deepen: How should this impact the way you give your testimony? *(The focus should be on what Jesus has done for you, not about what you did.)*
- **Until the moment in Matthew 9:2 occurred, how did Jewish people have their sins forgiven, and how did that moment change the course of history?** *(Jews had to journey miles to the temple, buy a spotless lamb, and shed its blood as a sacrifice to God. Matthew 9 describes the very first time in the New Testament Jesus publicly forgives someone's sins on the basis of their FAITH. Jesus forgave their sins, by grace, through faith. It was a gift of God.)*
- **Read Matthew 9:6-8. What was the response of the crowd after Jesus forgave the paralytic's sins?** *(The idea that Jesus was given the authority of God to forgive sins filled them with awe. The Pharisees missed what was happening right in front of them and instead were enraged at Jesus for claiming He was God and could forgive sins.)*
- **Discover:** Read Mark 2:14, Luke 5:27 and Matthew 9:1. Matthew was known as Levi before he met Jesus. Discuss why that's important. *(The name Levi was tied to the sacrificial system. It means striving to be attached. The Levitical priests were the ones that killed the lambs and offered sacrifices, striving to earn the love of God. Jesus changed everything about how your sins are forgiven and changed Levi to Matthew.)*
Deepen: Share a time when you felt defined by your sins, yet God was already calling you by a new name and future.
- **What is the significance of Jesus being called "friend of sinners" and what does it tell us about His character?** *(The pharisees used it as an insult. But Jesus said He was sent to show God's grace and mercy to **save** sinners and set them free from sin. No one is too far gone to be saved by Jesus. He knows every messy detail about your entire life and **STILL** chooses to save you.)*
- **Discover:** Read Matthew 9:9. Discuss the meaning and significance of the words "he saw." *(There are three Greek words for "see." 1. βλέπω (Bleh-po) - to notice or to glance. 2. θεωρέω (The-oh-reh) - to observe at a distance. 3. εἶδω (ho-ra-ho) - to recognize and fully know. When Jesus walked by, He didn't just GLANCE at or just NOTICE Matthew, He SAW him. That means Jesus knew every detail about Matthew's life BEFORE Jesus called him to be a disciple. See Genesis 16:13 and Psalm 139:16.)*
Deepen: Think back to the first time you realized Jesus SAW YOU. Share that story to glorify God.
- **Discover:** When you run from Jesus, what are your reasons? *(The enemy tries to use your sin and failure to shame and condemn you. Jesus knew all the ways you'd hurt him and all the ways you'd betray him BEFORE HE SAVED YOU. None of your sins - past, present or your future - are greater than the Grace of Jesus. Stop letting your sins and failures make you run FROM Jesus. When you are tempted, or you sin, run TO Him!)*
Deepen: How do you run to Jesus when you are tempted to sin or have sinned? *(Please share how you pray, rely on Jesus and the Holy Spirit, read the bible, go to your "it is writtens," call one of your mat carriers, etc. You can help other members of your group by giving practical actions they can take.)*

Action Step: Pray for God to show you someone who needs to know that Jesus sees them and loves them. Write down their name and pray for them. Then share this good news with them.

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.