



DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM GUIDE

Matthew Season 4: Old to New
Episode 4: Sovereign Savior or Circumstances:
Where's Your Faith?
April 30 & May 3, 2026
Pastor Joby Martin

LEADER NOTES – NEW – We created a “Questions Only Curriculum” that you can send to your group if they would like to prepare for your meeting. It's on the group curriculum page right next to the regular “Curriculum.”

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: 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.

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.](#)

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: *“Pray for the Holy Spirit to show you where the “harvest” is plentiful around you right now. Pray earnestly for God to send you. Pray for your one more and invite them to church next week. Identify one area where comfort is holding you back (time, money, fear, routine) and take action by faith anyway.”* How did God answer your prayers? What did you learn about God? About yourself?

Sermon Text: *Matthew 3:11-17, 11, 18:3; John 6:66-71*

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.

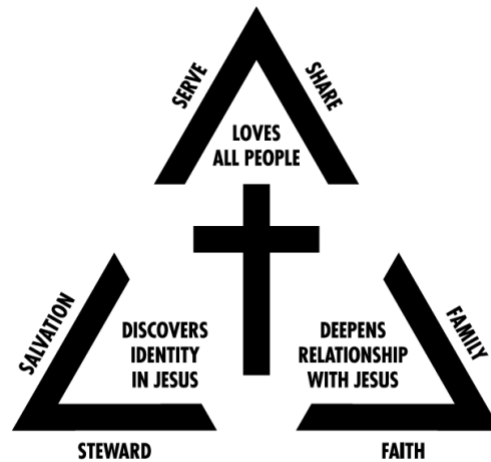
- **Read Matthew 11. What stood out to you this week in the sermon, in the Scriptures and what God revealed to you about Himself?**
- **Discover:** Following Jesus means you have to decide: do you trust HIM or your circumstances? What types of circumstances tend to pull you away from trusting God?
Deepen: Share a time in your life you doubted God and how you trusted Him again. (*Read Matthew 18:3. We are not called to be childish, but to have childlike faith.*)
- **Discover:** Read Matthew 11:2–3. John the Baptist questions Jesus while in prison and facing possible death. What does this reveal about faith during difficult circumstances?
Deepen: Read Matthew 11:4–6. How does Jesus respond to John's doubts? Discuss what that tells you about YOUR doubts. (*Jesus pointed John back to Scripture, not John's feelings. Even though John was in jail, Jesus did not quote, "and proclaim liberty to the captives." Following Jesus may end badly in this world. But take heart, Jesus has overcome the world! You get Jesus now and eternal life with Him! Even with his doubts, Jesus still said of John, "among those born of women there has arisen no one greater." Jesus says pick up your doubts and follow me. Read John 6:66-71.*)
- **Discover:** Read Matthew 11:12. What does this verse mean? (*It means we're in a war. We're called to love God, love people and hate sin. Our battle is not against flesh and blood but principalities and darkness, ideologies, false religions, wolves in sheep clothing and a Christless Christianity. We are to protect the vulnerable and stand for righteousness!*)
Deepen: John was imprisoned and ultimately killed for speaking out against a corrupt and immoral government. Where in your life do you need to call something out and stand up for the name of Jesus?
- **Read Matthew 11:20–24. Why does Jesus rebuke the cities that saw His miracles? What warning does this give us?** (*These cities were judged for their rejection of God and lack of repentance – even after the miracles. Where do you need to repent?*)
- **Discover:** Read Matthew 11:28-29. What are you heavy-laden with? (*Are you chasing after the temporary things of this world and not trusting in Jesus? Secrets, sin, anxiety, approval of man, comparison, the rat race, thinking, "once I get there, I'll be happy"? Jesus says, come to me now and I will give you rest!*)
Deepen: What is the yoke of Jesus? How do you find rest in God? (*A yoke was not just a device for animals and humans to carry a load. It was also the requirements to be a follower of a rabbi. Jesus's yoke was simple: repent and believe. In a restful relationship with Jesus: you're invited and called, Jesus is enough, He shares the weight with you, if you mess up you're still His, He changes your heart, you finally find peace, contentment, meaning, purpose, union and rest in Him.*)
- **How can you come to know Jesus as gentle and lowly in heart?** (*Come to Him honestly. Receive His grace and love instead of resisting it. Practice daily surrender.*)

Action Step: Give one burden to Jesus this week. Trust Him, follow Him, and learn from Him.

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.