



DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM GUIDE

Matthew Season 4: Old to New
Episode 5: Legalism Kills
May 7 & May 10, 2026
Pastor Joby Martin

LEADER NOTES – 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: *“Give one burden to Jesus this week. Trust Him, follow Him, and learn from Him.”* How did God answer your prayers? What did you learn about God? About yourself?

Sermon Text: *Deuteronomy 23:25; Matthew 12; Romans 10:9*

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.

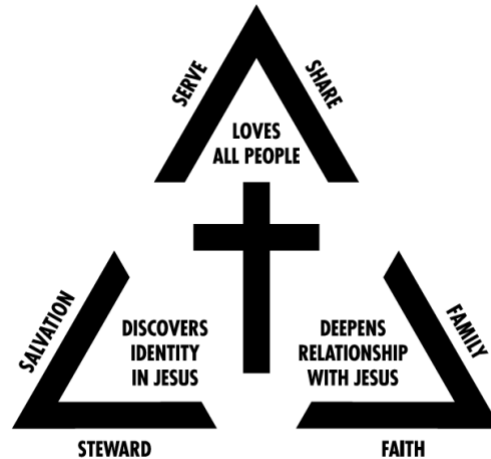
- **Read Matthew 12.** What stood out to you this week in the sermon, in the Scriptures and what God revealed to you about Himself?
- **Discover:** Discuss what legalism is and the legalism of the Pharisees. *(Legalism is going beyond the law God gave, treating your preferences as God's precepts and when what's wise for you is salvific for everyone else. The Pharisees added to what God commanded to appear more righteous. They were trying to find Jesus breaking their law and missing who He was! They even got God's law about grain wrong. Read Deuteronomy 23:25.)*
Deepen: What preferences have you added to God's law or where do you tend to be legalistic and end up missing Jesus and the gospel?
- Share a time when you've been tempted to hunt for an offence in someone rather than an opportunity to know and love them.
- **Read Matthew 12:7-8.** Discuss what these verses mean and what they show about God's character. *(God is merciful. He wants your heart. He wants you, not your religious activity at the expense of others. The law of the lord is perfect; it protects and shows that we are sinners in need of a savior. Jesus is saying I am god. I set the rules.)*
- **Discover:** Read Matthew 12:9-14. What does this show about the Pharisees' priorities? *(They care more about their laws than the love of God or their fellow man! They're willing to shame this man and use him as a pawn. Jesus knows the exceptions the Pharisees give themselves because sheep = money.)*
Deepen: The man's hand wasn't healed until he obeyed Jesus and stretched it out. What's "withered" in your life that you need to stretch out to Jesus? *(Notice how Jesus stretches out His hand in Matthew 12:49-50.)*
- **Read Matthew 12:31-32.** What does it mean to blaspheme the Holy Spirit? *(Pastor Joby explained the role of the Holy Spirit is to point people to Jesus. So, to blaspheme the Holy Spirit is to not know and believe in Jesus. Not believing in Jesus and who He says He is before you die is the only unpardonable sin. You only have to repent and believe Jesus forgives ALL your sins.)*
- **Read Matthew 12:38-40.** Discuss the parallels and differences between Jonah's story and Jesus's resurrection. *(Jonah, the reluctant prophet, stayed in a fish for three days, brought a word from God and the people repented. Jesus, the Word of God didn't come reluctantly, but for the joy set before him endured the cross, died, was resurrected and lives!)*
- What is Jesus's main point to the Pharisees, and how is it a warning to you? *(Religious pride and legalism can keep you from salvation even when Jesus and the gospel is right in front of you.)*
- It's trendy for online commentators to state that Jesus never claimed to be God. Discuss the three different times in Matthew 12 where Jesus is saying, "I am God."

Action Step: 1. Ask Jesus to reveal any areas of legalism, pride or self-righteousness in your heart and confess them to Him honestly. 2. Pray for God to help you love people with mercy instead of judgment and look for one opportunity this week to love someone the way Jesus loves you.

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.