

DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM GUIDE

Matthew Season 5: Impossible to Possible
Episode 2: Death of John the Baptist
June 4 & 7, 2026
Pastor One Mokgatle

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 – **NEW EPIOSODE – All About Mat Carriers:** Listen to ALL episodes for free on [Spotify](#) or [Apple](#).

2026 - Summer trimester: 6/1–7/27 **Fall trimester:** 8/17–12/7

ANNOUNCEMENTS: New - Men's Bible Study, June 3–August 5, 6:00am–7:00am: Join us on Wednesday mornings as we go deeper into the Matthew series through an early-morning Bible study led by Pastor Joby and our teaching team. Campus locations: Fleming Island, Jesup, North Jax, Palatka, San Pablo, St. Augustine, St. Johns

Summer Book Study, 1825/Senior Adults, Sundays (excluding Fourth Sunday) June 7 – end of summer, 6:30pm, San Pablo campus: Join us in a study of *A Purpose Driven Life*, by Rick Warren. Please buy a copy of the book and bring it to the first meeting. [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: *“Pray to Jesus and ask Him what you’re treasuring more than Him. Write down one competing treasure and surrender it to God in prayer.”* How did God answer your prayers? What did you learn about God? About yourself?

Sermon Text: *Isaiah 40:1-5; Malachi 3:1-5; Matthew 14:1-12; Hebrews 4:15-16*

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.

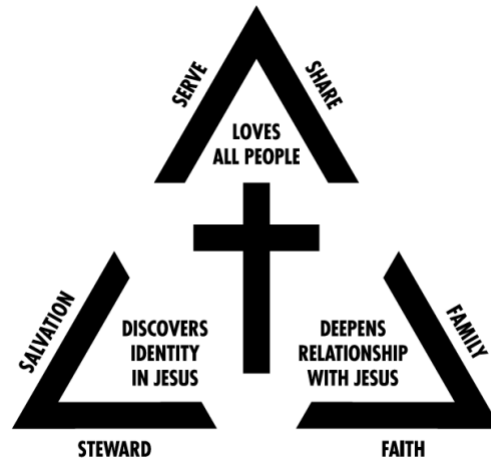
- **Read Matthew 14:1-12. What stood out to you this week in the sermon, in the Scriptures and what God revealed to you about Himself?**
- **Discover:** How does the text demonstrate that Herod was conflicted about the death of John the Baptist?
(Unrepentant sin left alone for a long time will create a false narrative with full conviction instead of facing the truth.)
Deepen: Share a time when the shame of unrepented sin led you to write your own version of the truth. Where are you currently experiencing internal conflict? *(Don't let sin paralyze your faith. Confess your sins to Jesus and trust that He paid for them through His death on the cross. See 1 John 1:9.)*
- **What two factors did Pastor One share to show that the "fear of man" held too much weight in Herod's life?**
(Herod used his mouth to make reckless oaths, and Herod gave weight to the approval of his audience and rejected what he knew was right.)
- **What reckless promises or oaths have you made that you need to renounce?**
- **Who are you trying to please more than following the Word of God?** *(Confession is the first step of healing. See James 5:16. There is only one fear that makes every other fear small, and that fear is the fear of God.)*
- **Pastor One shared that evil did not show up to the party, but that it was already waiting in the room. What dormant areas of brokenness such as unforgiveness, grief, lust, or jealousy are you ignoring that may be fermenting?** *(Unforgiveness ferments to the point where it poisons the soul and wrecks relationships. Greed ferments to the place where it sacrifices people and integrity at the altar of accumulation. Lust ferments to the point where it commodifies image bearers and will pay whatever cost to feed a sick and twisted appetite. Jealousy ferments into sabotage, dressed up as concern. Prejudice ferments into contempt where the only categories you have for people are that they are a threat and lesser than me. Bitterness ferments into rage that has forgotten its original address. Unaddressed sin never sits still.)*
- **Read Isaiah 40:1-5 and Malachi 3:1-5. What is the prophetic tradition reflected in the life of John the Baptist?**
(He is the hinge between the entire Old Testament story and the arrival of Jesus. He is the last prophet of the old order, and the first herald of the new. John the Baptist was fearless in the power God gave him.)
- **Discover:** John the Baptist passed away with only silence and a grave, though he was faithful to his calling. What "quiet arrangement" do you have with God in your heart that may not be based in His Word or His promises but on your actions? *(Jesus says that John the Baptist was the best man born among women and yet his death was tragic from the outside. A tragic ending is not reflective of a purposeless life. Be careful not to tie your obedience to outcomes – outcomes belong to God alone. See encouragement in 1 Corinthians 10:13.)*
- **Deepen:** Where in your life have you stopped expecting God to move? (e.g. "If I am faithful, God will keep me from pain." Or "God will change His mind and open this closed door if I stand in front of it long enough.")
(Pastor One shared that sometimes people pull back from God in their heart because bringing pain to Him without an answer hurts more than carrying it alone. Don't let an unanswered prayer keep you from the One who holds all the answers.)
- **Read Hebrews 4:15-16. How does this text and the death of John the Baptist impact what we can/should expect as faithful followers of Jesus?** *(Jesus doesn't see your pain from a distance and weigh in – He entered it fully, suffering experientially all the way to death. He knows every layer of your unrepentant sin or dormant brokenness from the rock bottom and loves you enough not to leave you there.)*

Action Step: Ask the Holy Spirit to help you continue to renounce and repent of the reckless oaths of the tongue and quiet arrangements of the heart that you confessed in group and to replace those things with the peace and grace of Christ.

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.