

CURRICULUM GUIDE

Matthew Season 5: Impossible to Possible
Episode 6: The Faith of a Child
July 2 & 5, 2026
Pastor Matt Carter

LEADER NOTES – Leading Well in 7 Minutes or Less: Listen to ALL episodes for free on [Spotify](#) or [Apple](#).

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

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.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Riverside Campus Vision Night, Sunday, July 12, 5:30pm, Jacksonville Classical Academy: Join us for a night of prayer, worship and vision for our Riverside campus. Text "Riverside" to 441122 for more.

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.

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: *“Each morning this week, pray: ‘Jesus, I believe. Help my unbelief.’ Ask Him to strengthen your faith in one specific area where you are struggling to trust Him. Declare that you are a believer, and you trust that if He can calm the winds and waves, and if the tomb is empty, that anything is possible!”* How did God answer your prayers? What did you learn about God? About yourself?

Sermon Text: *Matthew 17:22-27, 18:1-5; John 12:27-28*

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.

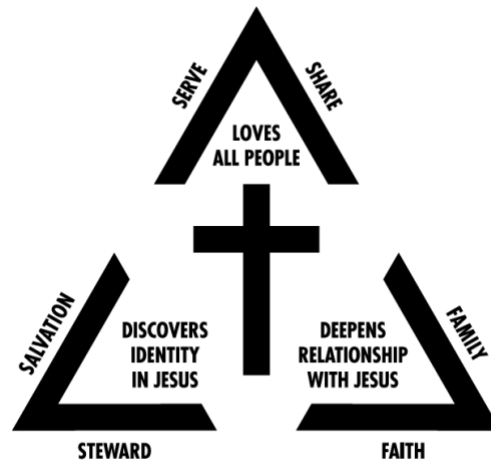
- Read Matthew 17:22-27, 18:1-4. What stood out to you this week in the sermon, in the Scriptures and what God revealed to you about Himself?
- **Discover:** Read Matthew 17:1-13 After God spoke on the Mount of Transfiguration, what was the disciples' response? (They fell on their faces and were terrified.) God's Word is the modern-day voice of God. How do you respond to God's voice and what leads you to that response?
Deepen: How can you increase your reverence for God's Word? (God's Word is just as powerful as being in the presence of God and hearing His voice. See 2 Peter 1:16-21.)
- Storms reveal the foundation of our faith. Think back on a difficult season in your life. What did that storm reveal about what/who you were trusting in most? Share how you've seen your response to storms change as your faith has grown.
- How does it impact your relationship with God when something in your life doesn't turn out the way you pictured it? How do you respond in that moment? (Is Jesus the center of my story, or am I the center of my story? Is Jesus the most important thing in my life, or am I the most important thing in my life?)
- **Discover:** Read Matthew 17:22-23. Why were the disciples "greatly distressed" when Jesus foretold His death and resurrection? (They were so preoccupied with their own plans and desires that they completely missed God's better plan.)
Deepen: While it is easy to criticize the disciples' blindness, we also tend to miss God's better plan for our lives. Discuss how we tend to focus on our own plans and desires and miss God's plans because they might be "uncomfortable." (Remember that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. Entitlement is not a part of the Kingdom of God.)
- Where are you most tempted to expect God to accomplish your plans instead of surrendering to His? How does living a life focused on God's glory give you freedom as opposed to a life focused on you? (Career, finances, family, health, relationships, ministry, retirement, comfort, timing, or unanswered prayers)
- **Discover:** Read Matthew 18:1-4. What does Jesus mean when He says that unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven? (We must humble ourselves, turn, repent, and trust like a child. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.)
Deepen: What changes do you need to make in your life to become like a child?
- **Discover:** According to John 12:27-28, what is the reason Jesus walked to the cross?
Deepen: How can making God's glory your highest priority change the way you approach suffering, success, or unanswered prayers? (We begin asking, "How can God be glorified?" instead of "How can I be comfortable?" This shifts our perspective from temporary circumstances to God's eternal purposes.)
- Pastor Matt talked about the Lord's Prayer. How can you begin to pray this prayer in a more meaningful, sanctifying and transformative way?

Action Step: When challenges, disappointment, frustration, or anxiety surface this week, ask yourself, "Is Jesus still enough if this situation never changes?" Then thank Him for one specific evidence of His faithfulness in your life and share that testimony with someone in your group.

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.