



CURRICULUM GUIDE

Matthew Season 6: Religion to Redemption

Episode 1: How To Be Great

August 6 and 9, 2026

Pastor Joby Martin

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Neighborhood Nights: This fall, Neighborhood Nights is coming to every Eleven22 campus—an unforgettable in-person experience with Pastor Joby in your neighborhood. Join us for a powerful evening of worship, storytelling, vision and fellowship as we lean into what God is calling us to in this next season. [Learn More.](#)

Growth Track: Designed to equip you as a disciple-making disciple. You'll learn practical skills and deepen your understanding of core Christian principles so you can continue to grow in your walk with Jesus. Growth Track is a hybrid course with two on-demand online sessions (20-30 minutes each) exploring the Discipleship Triangle, followed by a final in-person gathering at your local campus. [Learn More.](#)

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: *This week, celebrate one person who receives a blessing, opportunity or WIN you wish you had. Thank one person that you have been taking for granted. Start your gratitude list and share two things on your list with your group next week.* How did God answer your prayers? What did you learn about God? About yourself?

The Point: True greatness is not found in Position, Possessions or Power but in the PERSON and Work of Jesus. And that greatness is accessed by PRAYER.

Memory Verse: *Galatians 6:2*

Sermon Text: *Proverbs 24:17; Matthew 20:20-34; John 13:1-20; Philippians 2:1-11; Galatians 6:2; 1 Peter 5:5*

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. **The answers in parentheses** are simply possible responses you can use after your group has shared their thoughts to help keep the discussion going. They are not intended to be the only or "correct" answers.

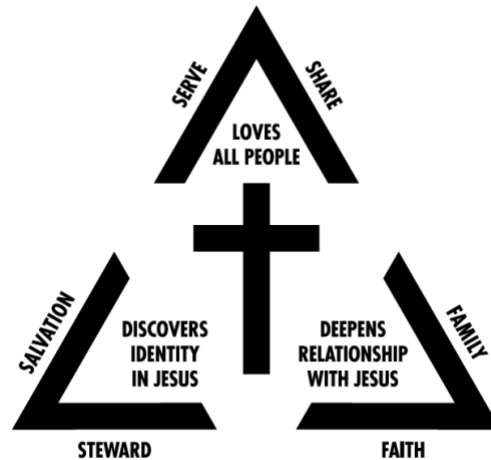
- **Read Matthew 20: 20-34. What stood out to you this week in the sermon, in the Scriptures and what God revealed to you about Himself?**
- **Read Matthew 20: 20-21. How does Jesus respond and what does that tell us about His character and what He wants for us?** *(Jesus doesn't scold them for their desire, He redefines and redirects it. God is merciful, purposeful, humble and sovereign. Jesus willingly goes to Jerusalem knowing He will suffer, die and rise again. He does not use His authority to serve Himself, but to ransom sinners and show compassion to the overlooked.)*
- **Discuss the similarities and differences between the two sons of Zebedee and the two blind men.**
- **Discover:** Did you ever want to be great at something? What and why?
Deepen: How does Jesus redefine what greatness is? *(The world says greatness comes through power, position and possessions. Jesus says greatness begins by bending your knee to Him and making Him first in every area of life.)*
- **Discover:** Discuss how you need to bend your knee to Jesus to be great. *(A rightly ordered life knows that Jesus is before all things. He deserves your first and best of your time, money, affections and worship. Are you spending your most precious commodity (time) on the most important things?)*
Deepen: What would it look like to arrange your life so that Jesus is before all things? *(Take a look at your calendar, spending and affections to see what is truly first.)*
- **Discover:** Discuss how you must endure pain to be great. *(The thing that makes you great is not that you experience pain, but that you can endure and persevere through the pain in accordance with what God has called you to do. You will take responsibility for things that are not your fault. You're called to bear one another's burden – Galatians 6:2 – and to stand on the truth, not your feelings.)*
Deepen: How has God used suffering, disappointment or hardship to grow your faith or make you more like Christ?
- **Discuss how you need to learn to live under authority to be great.** *(Following Jesus means submitting to God's authority and trusting Him even when obedience is difficult. God opposes the proud – 1 Peter 5:5. Do you know how to submit to authority, or are you grabbing for power? Are you constantly self-promoting, or do you trust God with your life?)*
- **Discuss how you need to humble yourself and serve to be great.** *(Jesus demonstrated true greatness by humbling Himself, serving others and ultimately giving His life as a ransom for many. We are called to do the same. See Philippians 2:1-11 and John 13:1-20. In Christ, our goal is not to rise to the top of the heap, but to kneel down and lift others up.)*
- **Share how you've witnessed true greatness that resembles Jesus in one of your group members.**

Action Step: Before checking your phone or beginning your day, spend at least ten minutes with Jesus in prayer and Scripture. Ask Him to help you order your entire day around His priorities instead of yours.

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.