

CURRICULUM GUIDE

Matthew Season 6: Religion to Redemption
Episode 4: No More Games
August 27 and 30, 2026
Pastor Ryan Britt

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

Fall trimester: 8/17–12/7

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Join our team at **The Church of Eleven22, The Retreat Center, or Hope's Closet:** View our open roles and see if there is one where your skills, talents, and passions meet. Here's one possibility: [Campus Minister, Disciple Groups](#)

Serve with our partners through Outreach at your campus: [Click here](#) to see all the opportunities.

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: *Pray every day this week: "Pray and ask God to reveal one area where you have been saying the right things but not walking in obedience. Confess it to God and take one specific step in a new direction."* How did God answer your prayers? What did you learn about God? About yourself?

Memory Verse: Matthew 22:20-21

Sermon Text: *Genesis 1:27; 1 Samuel 16:7; 1 Chronicles 29:11; Psalm 110:1, Matthew 10:32-37, 16:24-25, 22:15–46; John 5:24, 14:15, 17:3; Romans 1:16, 6:23, 13:1,6-7; 1 John 2:3-6, 5:11-12*

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.

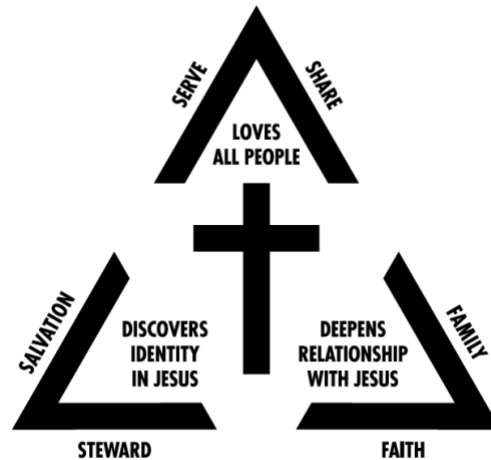
- **Read Matthew 22:15–46. What stood out to you this week in the sermon, in the Scriptures and what God revealed to you about Himself?**
- **Discover:** Describe the Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians and Scribes and why each group was challenging Jesus. *(The Pharisees emphasized strict obedience to religious law and challenged Jesus because He threatened their authority. The Sadducees were powerful religious leaders who denied the resurrection and opposed Jesus' teaching. The Herodians supported Herod and Rome and viewed Jesus as a political threat. The Scribes were experts in the law who challenged Jesus because His teaching and authority confronted their interpretations.)*
Deepen: Which group's behavior do you tend to lean toward and need to be aware of? *(If you're not sure, ask someone close to you.)*
- **Discover:** Read Matthew 22:15-17. What were the Pharisees and Herodians trying to get out of questioning Jesus? *(They were buttering Him up to try and get Him in trouble. If He said yes, the Jews can say He loves Rome over God. If He says no, He's saying they shouldn't pay taxes and they can turn Him into Rome. They were more interested in their power, authority, ideology and trapping Jesus than knowing truth. See 1 Samuel 16:7 and Matthew 6:21.)*
Deepen: Share a time you were more transactional or tried to negotiate with God. *(Religious transaction is you give obedience to get blessing; money to get prosperity; morality to get God's approval; religious activity to get a clear conscience; sacrifice to get God to owe you. You give God your best behavior to get control over your circumstances. But, when you're in Christ you realize it's about a relationship with Jesus. His commands are what He has given to you for your joy and His glory.)*
- **Read Matthew 22:19-21. Discuss these verses and what "render" means.** *(Render means to bring back or handover what is rightfully owed. Whose image is on the coin? Caesar, give it to him. Whose image is on you? Give your life back to Him. You must realize whose you are before you can know who you are. See Genesis 1:27, Romans 13:1,6-7 and 1 Chronicles 29:11.)*
- **Discover:** The Sadducees didn't believe in the resurrection. When you think of heaven, what do you picture?
Deepen: Do a Bible search on heaven and share a few things you find with the group right now.
- **Read Matthew 22:32-40. What makes these two commandments the most important ones?** *(All the other commandments flow out of these two. If you love God and love others, you are obeying God for your joy and His glory. To know God is to love God. To love God is to trust God. You will become more and more like Jesus, live the abundant life now and spend eternity with Jesus in heaven!)*
- **Discover:** Read Matthew 22:41-46. How does Jesus' question get to the root of the religious people's problem? *(They didn't have a leadership problem; they had a Lordship problem. Religion's offer is: do this and that to get what you want from God. Jesus' invitation is: surrender everything. Give Me your life, hopes, dreams, past, sins, future, family, finances—give it all back to Me—and you will see what it means to truly live.)*
Deepen: What would it look like to surrender everything to Jesus Christ?

Action Step: Ask God to reveal one area where you have been negotiating rather than surrendering. Write it down and identify one concrete act of obedience you can take this week. Share it 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.